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Reed-Custer 255U sees 11 COVID-19 cases so far

Cases are not assumed to be linked to school transmission

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK
STAFF WRITER

Cases of the novel coronavirus were inevitably expected to crop up at school districts having in-person instruction, and Reed-Custer School District 255U is no exception.

The Reed-Custer district has seen 11 cases since the start of the school year one month ago on Aug. 18. It is currently believed that none of the cases have been connected to the school.

"It was assumed that at this point none were directly connected to each other or to school which is a good thing," Superintendent Mark Mitchell said at the Sept. 16 Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting. "A lot of people had a suspicion of where they might have contracted it, but that's obviously speculation."

Mitchell later said there was a possibility that two of the



Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

REED-CUSTER SCHOOL District 255U is reporting since Aug. 18, 11 people in the district (six students, five teachers) tested positive for COVID-19 who were either asymptomatic or experienced cold- or flu-like symptoms. Of those individuals, only one is still quarantining.

early staff cases from August could have been connected,

but there is no way to confirm it. The cases were a few weeks

apart and both staff members are back working.

At the meeting he reported that all but one of the 10 peo-

ple who were positive were either asymptomatic or recovered after experiencing cold- or flu-like symptoms.

Since the meeting, there was an additional student who tested positive, bringing the number of total cases the district has seen since the start of the school year to 11.

Six of those COVID-19 positive cases were students and five were teachers.

At the time of publication there was just one person, a student, who was still quarantining.

The district reports cases to the Will County Health Department, and parents are notified about COVID-19 cases when they are brought to light.

"From the beginning we said that we would just be completely transparent and inform everyone of what's going on, inform people that we're following protocol for close contacts," Mitchell said.

SEE CASES, PAGE 2



Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

EVEN THOUGH MANY businesses have taken a hit due to COVID-19 — some greater than others — recent numbers reported by the Illinois Department of Revenue are showing a positive sign for local towns. Braidwood, Wilmington and Coal City have all collected more in sales tax revenue in April, May and June of this year than during the same time last year.

Local sales tax revenue up

Despite pandemic closures, towns are bringing in more sales tax profits

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK
STAFF WRITER

While statewide business shutdowns to mitigate the spread of the novel coronavirus have undoubtedly hurt some businesses, recent numbers released by the Illinois Department of Revenue indicate that, at least in terms of sales tax revenue, local municipalities are doing better than at the same time last year.

Each quarter of the calendar year, the Illinois Department of Revenue releases sales tax reports for municipalities, the county and the state in its Standard Industrial Classification Report.

Numbers show that the municipalities of Coal City, Braidwood and Wilmington have actually experienced an increase of sales tax revenue brought in for each city during the second quarter of 2020 (April, May and June) as compared with Q2 of last year.

Coal City led the pack compared with neighboring Wilmington and Braidwood.

The village had the highest increase in sales tax dollars during the second quarter of the year, seeing an increase of \$19,526. During Q2 of 2019 the village retained \$133,092 in sales tax dollars, and this year that number was \$152,618 — or a 14.67% increase.

While Coal City faired the best in new revenue generated, Wilmington beat out surrounding towns with the amount of sales tax brought in for the city overall. The city racked in \$265,493 in the Q2; an increase from last year's revenue by \$12,304, which is a 4.63% increase.

Meanwhile, Braidwood came in last in both the amount of new sales tax dollars brought in and overall.

During the second quarter, the city of Braidwood collected \$123,581 in sales tax revenue, up \$4,416 from Q2 of last year, or a 3.7% increase.

It should be noted that each municipality saw an increase in the number of businesses reporting retail sales in Q2.

Compared with the same time as last year, Coal City had an increase in the number of taxpayers from 101 to 117; Braidwood saw an increase of taxpayers from 80 to 117; and Wilmington saw an increase of taxpayers from 160 to 175.

Sales tax revenue generated from grocery stores was the area with the largest growth for Coal City and Braidwood.

There was a jump of \$11,754 in dollars collected at Coal City grocery stores from Q2 of 2019, bringing this quarter's totals to \$62,007.

In Braidwood, there was an increase of \$7,275, which brought the total to \$39,715.

Grocery stores in Wilmington didn't have as noticeable of an increase, with \$5,367 generated from sales taxes from these businesses, totaling \$62,009 for the city.

The biggest jump in revenue for Wilmington was actually from the automotive

industry, which includes gas stations, car dealers, repair shops and others. This sector saw a \$9,337 boost from Q2 last year, a total of \$95,354.

Growth in the automotive industry in Coal City was minimal at just \$781 in new sales tax dollars, a total of \$19,805.

In Braidwood, there was less money generated in this sector this quarter than during Q2 last year, falling \$1,321, down to revenue of \$40,331.

Some sectors certainly did see shortfalls. In particular, restaurants, bars and hotels saw the biggest fall in sales tax revenue generated for city collection.

Bars and restaurants were restricted to delivery, pickup and drive-thru only services beginning in mid-March when Illinois entered a Stay-At-Home order. It wasn't until May 29 that the state saw loosened restrictions to incorporate outdoor seating at restaurants and other businesses began to open back up.

During second quarter, this sector — which encompasses restaurants, bars and hotels — saw a decline in sales tax dollars by just \$1,573 in Coal City, bringing the total down to \$15,322.

Meanwhile, in Braidwood, there was a decline of \$816, bringing the amount of sales taxes generated by restaurants in Q2 to just \$10,609.

Wilmington's loss of sales taxes generated by restaurants and hotels was the largest, which dropped by \$6,177, down to \$24,989.

On the state and county levels, Coal City and Wilmington both contributed more in Q2 this year in sales taxes than the same time last

year.

State sales tax revenue generated in Coal City increased from \$453,778 to \$521,310, a total of \$67,532. Sales tax dollars brought in for the county increased from \$22,689 to \$26,066, a total of \$3,377.

Wilmington helped out the state, increasing taxes generated from \$1.05 million to \$1.07 million, an increase of \$22,317. Taxes collected for Will County there grew from \$52,267 to \$53,384, which is an \$1,117 increase.

On the other hand, in Braidwood, even though sales taxes generated increased for the municipality, both state and Will County revenues fell.

Businesses in the city brought in \$440,883 for the state during Q2 of 2019, but it was just \$430,000, or \$10,882 less this year.

There was only a slight dip in dollars generated for Will County from \$22,044 in Q2 of 2019 to \$21,500 this year, a decline of \$544.

Taxes down at county level

In Q2, Will County government brought in \$5.17 million in countywide sales tax revenue that was generated. Compared with last year's Q2 revenue of \$5.61 million, there was a 7.9% decrease.

In Grundy County, the county collected a total of \$554,304 in countywide sales taxes during Q2, which is a 18.83% fall from last year's \$658,696 at the same time.

The general merchandise tax rate in Braidwood and Wilmington, both largely in Will County, is 7%.

This is broken down into a

SEE REVENUE, PAGE 2

Will County seeing success in managing COVID-19 crisis

Recovery rate is at 96%

Across the State of Illinois, the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) is reporting a recovery rate of 96% for individuals contracting COVID-19, even with the state also reporting a record number of tests being performed and more positive cases. Meanwhile, Will County is also seeing a higher compliance among residents for

wearing masks and social distancing.

"The best news for local businesses in Region 7 (Will and Kankakee Counties) was the lifting of the ban on indoor service for bars and restaurants," said County Executive Denise Winfrey. "I applaud Sue Olenek, executive director of the health department, and her staff for their continued dedication to managing this pandemic and keeping our residents

SEE SUCCESS, PAGE 2



Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

EIGHT YEARS AFTER video gaming became legal in Illinois in areas outside of casinos, such as restaurants and bars, the city of Braidwood has 27 terminals throughout the city and it has collected a total of \$190,746 in profits. Photo taken at Rockee's Gaming Cafe in South Front Street.

Video gaming, eight years later

STAFF REPORT

Video gaming went live in Illinois eight years ago in September 2012, and since then players in Braidwood haven't been shy about hitting the machines.

Numbers released in a monthly report by the Illinois

Gaming Board reveal that over the last eight years, players have bet a total of \$46.4 million and won \$42.6 million — a net

SEE GAMING, PAGE 2



Cases

A recent schedule adjustment for middle and high school students has also been helping, Mitchell said.

Beginning Sept. 8, new procedures were put in place to help mitigate the close contact cases.

Students in the high school alternate between in-person and remote learning days, so on any given day only about half the population of the school on site.

At the middle school, in classes where maintaining a distance of six feet between each other isn't possible, students remain on campus but go to a different area of the school to complete assignments related to in-person instruction remotely.

At the meeting last week, the board also passed a resolution that allows Mitchell the authority to make adjustments to the Transition Plan or Remote Learning Plan as needed.

This will allow the superintendent to be able to implement any new guidance provided by the Illinois Department of

Public Health (IDPH) regarding when students should quarantine and when they are able to return.

Mitchell said the district is following this interim guidance provided by IDPH, which was updated on Sept. 10, which is the second time it has been updated since the school year started.

"The main revision for this chart was that the local health department felt way too much pressure in providing a return-to-school letter for every student that was quarantined," Mitchell said.

The update to the interim exclusion guidance will allow the district to be able to grant students or staff members the ability to come back after their quarantine period, as long as they are following guidance from the state, without needing a letter of release from isolation from the local health department.

Parents seem to be responding well to efforts from the school to remain open for in-person instruction this year, as Mitchell reported receiving good messages..

"I received an incredible amount of positive feedback from parents in this community for having students in school.

It's been every week, it hasn't really slowed down. They really appreciate everything that we're doing here and the board's initiative to keep it in place as much as we can," Mitchell said.

He also reported to the board that someone from the Regional Offices of Education was going to come to the district to tour the schools.

"They want to see how we're doing things. They've heard positive things. I'm hoping that relays to Will County and some of those ideas start to relay to some other schools and make people feel more comfortable with that onsite model," Mitchell said.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Coal City, two positive cases of COVID-19 that could possibly be linked as a result of close contact caused the district to temporarily close Coal City High School for 14-day period at the recommendation of the Grundy County Health Department.

In-person instruction and extra curricular is on pause at that school until Sept. 30. During this time, students there have transitioned to fully remote learning.

Donations tripled in flu shot campaign

A vaccine can become a shot in the arm for local charities

STAFF REPORT

With proof you've been vaccinated, you can help three local charities at a time when they need it most.

Oak Knoll Insurance & Tax Strategies and Oak Knoll Financial Strategies in Wilmington is tripling its donations for every person who brings evidence that they've recently been vaccinated.

Jackie Danalewich, communications manager for Oak Knoll, says it makes sense to recommend that everyone protect themselves from an illness such as shingles, influenza and pneumonia with a vaccination.

anticipating making up for that by tripling the \$5 to \$15 for each shot."

For every vaccination receipt from a doctor's office or pharmacy administering the injection brought to the Oak Knoll office at 205 S. Water St. in Wilmington, (mask required) a donation of \$15 per vaccination will be made.

Oak Knoll does not keep the receipt, and will only use it to verify a vaccination was given. Receipts have to be dated between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020.

"Were just trying to let people know it's flu shot time, shingles shot time, pneumonia ... there's vaccines for this."

- Influenza — The CDC recommends an annual influenza vaccination for everyone 6 months and older. Flu vaccines protect against the three or four viruses (depending on the vaccine) that research suggests will be most common in the current season.

Gaming

wagering activity of \$3.8 million.

Yet even though players spend big bucks, the city only receives a small piece of the pie.

About 35% of the net terminal income, the difference between the money actually put into the terminals and money paid out to the winners, goes to the terminal operator. The business hosting the terminals gets 30% and the state collects 30% — 5% of which it forwards to the municipality where the terminals are located.

Over the last eight years profits made from the net terminal income (NTI) tax totaled \$1.2 million, of which the state received \$978,499 and the city of Braidwood received just \$190,746.



Photo by Jennifer Glasscock

ROCKEE'S GAMING CAFE, located on South Front Street in Braidwood, is one of the five establishments in town with video gaming machines. The lounge opened in July and has six terminals. Inside is a relaxed atmosphere with a couch and television as well as a bar.

during the first year of operations.

This year, video gaming operations were ceased in mid-March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in zero income for April and May 2020. Terminals were authorized to resume operations on July 1.

Due to additional COVID-19 mitigations in Will County that went into effect on Aug. 26, local terminals were limited to operating only from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Those restrictions were lifted on Sept. 18.

With the loss of two full months of machine time, profits are down.

"I think with COVID it's hurt us quite a bit, you know, I think the norm probably from that would be double or triple that," said city administrator Tony Altieri.

Altieri's guess is not far off.

Overall, the city of Braidwood collected \$16,409 from NTI taxes since January.

During the same period of time in 2019, from January to August, the city brought in \$28,548 across 30 terminals in town.

But where's the most popular place to bet?

The winner thus far this year is Emmy's Cafe, which has seen a total of \$2.2 million played this year, followed by Marathon Gas Station (Braidwood Fuel Inc.) at \$803,088 and Jones-Eez Bar-B-Que at \$593,921.

Following this is Main Street Pizzeria & Grille/Korner Keg (MCB, LTD.), bringing in \$524,834 of wagers.

Rockee's Gaming Cafe, which opened on South Front Street in July, pulled in \$233,057 in wagers across its six terminals during July and August.

Even though over the years the city hasn't broken \$200,000 in profits, city administrator Tony Altieri is saying the city will take what it can get.

Altieri said gaming does help the city.

"Every penny counts right now when you're trying to make ends meet."

The money, at least in Braidwood, is pooled in the city's general fund where it's used for general operations.

Over just the first two months of business, Rockee's Gaming Cafe netted the city \$1,179 in profits.

Dean Cherveney, co-owner, said the atmosphere of

the lounge is geared more toward seniors.

"It has a relaxing atmosphere. It's a place where they're able to come in and have a drink or a soda, have some entertainment and — maybe win a bit," Cherveney said.

Since video gaming first went online, the net terminal income statewide, licenses have been granted to 7,242 establishments, hosting a combined total of 36,412 video gaming terminals.

The total net terminal income in that time is \$8.1 billion. The state of Illinois has collected \$2 billion of that, and municipalities statewide have collected \$409 million of those dollars.

There are 115 municipalities in Illinois where video gaming is prohibited, three of which are in Will County (Plainfield, Frankfort, Bolingbrook) as well as unincorporated Will County.

The Illinois Gaming Board produces a monthly reports on gaming revenues for statewide, municipality, and individual establishment operations.

Those reports can be accessed online, at www.igb.illinois.gov.

"We can't be so focused on COVID-19 that we ignore the yearly flu season and the age factor complicating shingles and pneumonia," Danalewich commented.

"Any of these can be devastating on your financial life, and that concerns us. Vaccinations are relatively painless, free for some insurance companies, and not that costly when compared to the price tag on a hospital stay."

Those preventable illnesses can make existing medical conditions worse, or lead to new, permanent disabilities, such as loss of sight and paralysis.

For a third year, the staff at Oak Knoll is encouraging clients — and everyone else in the community — to protect their physical health with a vaccination. If they do that one simple thing, Oak Knoll will make a \$5 donation to each of three Wilmington charities— The Caring Closet, Kuzma Cottage and the Christian Help Association.

During 2018 and 2019, Oak Knoll paid \$5 for a total of 253 shots.

"We're in a position to be grateful and generous. Why not? So many folks are hurting, quarantined, sad, missing friends and family," said Danalewich. "We can support these three organizations that do so much good in Wilmington. And we're wondering if we will see fewer folks coming to our office this year with their receipts. We're

The flu vaccination is covered by Medicare for those 65 and older.

- Shingles — The blanket recommendation from the CDC is that anyone over the age of 60 could benefit from the shingles vaccine. The virus comes from chicken pox, but even those who don't think they had chicken pox should get the vaccination, because a case may have been so mild as to not have been recognized or diagnosed.

The CDC recommends that patients as young as 50 who are immunocompromised or who have other disease states also get vaccinated.

The shingles vaccination is two shots that should be given two to six months apart. Outside that window, the second shot should be given as soon as possible.

The new chicken pox vaccination should protect today's youngsters from shingles later in life.

- Pneumonia — There are two pneumonia vaccinations now, both covered by Medicare at no charge for those 65 and older.

The two primary vaccinations are Prevnar and Pneumovax. Prevnar does not have to be repeated after age 65. Pneumovax is recommended for younger adults with underlying diseases such as diabetes and does require re-vaccination later.

Your family physician or local pharmacist can help guide you decision about vaccinations.

R-C seniors to take SAT Oct. 14

STAFF REPORT

All seniors at Reed-Custer High School will be taking the SAT on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Most high school students take the test during spring of their junior year of high school.

Due to COVID-19, students were not able to take the test in person in spring as

they normally would.

Danielle Valiente, Reed-Custer director of teaching and learning, said that some students who were juniors last spring took advantage of online testing options that came out, but even if they did, seniors will be required to take it again in October.

"We're having every student sit for the SAT because there's a lot of research that shows that these students are

not used to testing in a virtual environment, so we want them all to take advantage of the opportunity," Valiente said.

The state is paying for the SAT for every senior.

Juniors have the option to take the PSAT later in October, which Reed-Custer School District will pay for.

The test is a requirement to earn a diploma in the state of Illinois and can also be

used for college admissions, scholarship applications, naming of Illinois State Scholars and more.

Many students also attended Reed-Custer SAT practice classes before the COVID-19 virus sent students home for remote learning last spring.

Students can practice for the upcoming tests online on their Khan Academy accounts.

Success

safe and informed."

Last week, Region 7 moved back into Phase IV, which allowed for restaurants and bars to offer indoor service while observing social distancing and no longer having to close at 11:00 p.m. In addition, meetings and gatherings are now limited to 50 people or 50% capacity (whichever is less), rather than the 25 people or 25% required during mitigations.

While the mitigations were in effect, Region 7's positivity rate went from well over 8% when they were announced in late August, to 5.7% last week when the mitigations were dropped. The Illinois Department of

Public Health reports more than five million COVID-19 tests have been performed across the state.

"This testing has been effective in helping us manage this crisis," Olenek said. "We have created a Contact Tracing Department with 39 tracers who are dedicated to determining how and when cases are spread. This is very important to educating the public on how to protect themselves. We have also created a Congregate Setting Manager position who is helping us control the spread of this virus in vulnerable populations such as nursing homes or retirement home residents."


In addition, the Environmental Health Division of the Health Department is working with local businesses to educate them on the importance of following the three W's -

Wearing a face covering, Watching your distance (maintain six feet distance in public), and Washing your hands. The division responds to numerous complaints from the public about noncompliance.

"We have not issued any fines for noncompliant businesses, but we do educate them and provide resources," said Olenek.

"It is up to all of us to continue to follow the guidelines from the CDC (Center for Disease Control) to keep ourselves safe and maintain our daily lives as normal as possible."

For more information about the COVID-19 crisis including symptoms, testing sites, school and workplace guidance, visit the Illinois Department of Public Health website at www.dph.illinois.gov/covid19.



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Growing up in Braidwood, a risky business

In the booming economy of 1879, many were doing better than they had in a long time. Single men could afford to marry; married men could afford more kids. But being a kid in Braidwood could be a very risky business.

Perhaps Braidwood's birth rate was higher than most because it was a town of young strong immigrants, the older family members stayed in the old country. Whatever the reason, we read in the Jan. 31 edition of the *Wilmington Advocate*,

"In the 'multiply and replenish' line, Braidwood takes the lead of all other towns in the county. Eighteen births have been recorded since our last report, ten of which are boys and eight girls. A pretty good showing for a town of Braidwood's population."

Unfortunately the 19th century was fraught with danger for the young ones. We have often talked about the danger of house fires, but fire was an everyday hazard in an age of kerosene lamps or candles, wood or coal burning stoves, and open fireplaces with unlined chimneys. A child learned young about what not to touch.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

And of course there were diseases like cholera from tainted water, typhoid, and malaria. Malaria, spread by mosquito, was known in those times as "ague." It was rarely a killer of adults, but could dehydrate a small child quickly. Braidwood was literally built on a swamp, and mosquitoes were everywhere. Many children never reached their second year.

Then we have the physical layout of the town itself. The coal shafts and homes were very close to one another. There were the cisterns, one for each home, and outhouse pits that were hidden on each property.

On Feb. 7, we read, "A little daughter of Hon L. H. Goodrich fell into a cistern recently and would have been drowned but for the timely aid rendered by Miss Shickles, who jumped into the cistern and rescued the child."

And on May 9, "A little three-year old son of Martin Branick, residing in lower Braidwood, wandered from his home last Wednesday morning, and after a general fruitless search, including sundry cave holes, the youngster was unearthed at the Eureka shaft, by City Attorney Goldfinger, late on the same night."

And in 1875 we read, "Some excitement was created in this community last Saturday, by the mysterious disappearance of the infant son of Gilbert Sanders, Esq., of the well known firm

of Robson & Sanders. After considerable search, enquiry and the prediction of another Charley Ross villainy, when grief and despair had begun to fill the minds of the parents and friends, the child was discovered fast asleep in an empty cracker barrel, where he had laid all day with a stick of candy I his mouth."

Then there were the other dangers found in a mining town with three saloons to every block. The bad influences, especially at night, were a constant source of worry for many parents. In the same May 9th edition as above we read, "A prevailing practice in some parts of this city is for saloon keepers to throw their empty beer kegs into the street, thus giving children an opportunity - and they are not slow in embracing it - to drink the dregs from the kegs. This should be stopped: 'tis only a few days since one of these young hopefuls was carried home dead drunk."

Alcohol was not hard to find in Braidwood, and neither was tobacco. It is said that most children used tobacco in one form or another by the time they were ten.

Well, you say, it was a time when children grew up fast; after all by the time they were 12 many boys had started working in the mines. And young girls were frequently married by the time they were 16.

Yes, but children will be children. Even

young teenagers like to play games like marbles, but even that harmless game could be hazardous. We read in the same edition as the above quote, "Another case of criminal carelessness occurred at the G shaft on Sunday morning. It seems that one Jim Heath was playing marbles, when Chris Brown, also colored, came up and said in a joking manner, 'this marble playing must be stopped.' Heath laughingly replied, at which Brown pointed a revolver at him and accidentally or otherwise, it went off - the ball entering Heath's forehead and brain. The victim fell, while Brown cried out: "My God! I din't know it was loaded."

The wounded boy aged about 15, was at once conveyed home and placed in charge of Dr. Eldred, who entertains little hope of his patient's recovery. Meanwhile, Brown was jailed; Heath's statement of the affair was taken by Frank E. Munn who has been employed as counsel for the defense. The prisoner is aged about 24 we learn."

There was talk about a curfew for children, but that's all it amounted to. The Marshall had his hands full just dealing with the adult crime, and it was put on the mothers to keep their children home at night. As any mother of a teenager will tell you that that was easier said, than done.

New life for Marathon station

New owner plans used car lot along Route 66

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

After years of sitting stagnant as an eyesore along Route 66, the old Marathon gas station in Wilmington looks to be on the road to revitalization.

Last week, crews showed up and pulled out an old tank at the site at 609 Baltimore St. in Wilmington, and since then have been hauling dirt and other fill out of the property.

The tanks were pulled after a permit was secured from the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (OSFM). Crews from Perry Environmental, Inc., of Springfield, pulled the tanks and initiated cleanup of petroleum that had been leaking.

The OSFM Division of Petroleum and Chemical Safety registers and manages more than 73,000 underground storage tanks in Illinois, and issues permits for installation, removals, repairs, upgrades, relining, and abandonment-in-place.

On Aug. 11, the OSFM issued five permits for removal of condemned tanks. Three of those tanks carried gasoline, one carried diesel fuel, and the last was for kerosene.

The permit includes removal of all piping, pump islands, vent pipes and underground storage tanks. As of Sept. 17, all five tanks had been successfully removed.

The state will collect con-



Photo by Pam Monson

FIVE UNDERGROUND TANKS THAT were once used at the old Marathon Station on Route 66 in Wilmington have been removed. The property, which has sat idle since 2008, has a new owner who plans to put a used car lot at the site.

firmation soil samples per regulations for site assessment and tank removal closure.

Crews on site said that once cleanup is complete, the IEPA will inspect the site.

The Marathon gas station closed in May 2008.

In January 2015, the city of Wilmington filed a complaint in Will County Circuit Court asking the court to order that the structures be repaired or demolished, and that if the previous owner did not address the issues at the site, including leaking tanks, that the city be authorized to move forward with removal and repair at the owner's expense.

At that time, the city was unable to locate the site's former owner.

While the city won that

injunction in February 2017, the previous owner failed to appear. The total award granted to the city was \$6,696.

In 2016, soil contaminated with gas that leaked from the station's underground storage tanks was removed, but that was the last movement at the site until last week.

The site went to auction in 2018, and, as of June 2020, the site is owned by Adnan Mirza and Luis D'Oleo, of Plainfield.

D'Oleo said the plans right now are to build a car dealership at the site.

"We are going to do a used car dealer there," D'Oleo said in a phone interview on Tuesday. "Soon, I don't know how soon though. It's going to be soon but winter is coming, so maybe next summer, we'll

probably be there."

D'Oleo said for now, he has to wait for the cleanup and inspections to be completed. But he hopes to clean up the entire area and add new blacktop as well as fix the building on site.

"We're going to do a nice job and clean it up," he said.

Man wanted for theft

STAFF REPORT

wood.us.

One man has been arrested and another is still wanted for felony theft after he did not perform promised services, according to Braidwood Police reports.

In April of 2020, "Danny M" agreed to complete a home repair job for a Braidwood resident. After retaining "Danny M's" services with an initial down payment, "Danny M." failed to perform any work.

After an investigation was performed, law enforcement discovered two men were involved with this crime.

Danny White and Joseph Hisel were identified as the suspects.

A warrant for felony theft was sought through the Will County States Attorney's Office and granted. White was already in the custody of Will County when he was served with his arrest warrant.

Hisel is still wanted at this time. If you know Hisel's location, please contact the Braidwood Police Department at 815-458-2342 or email tlyons@braidwood.us or caltieri@braidwood.us



JOSEPH HISEL



DANNY WHITE

Editor's note: Persons named in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

City of Braidwood approves real estate contract and purchase

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO 20-18

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A REAL ESTATE SALES CONTRACT AND THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS 0 SOUTH HICKORY STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS 60408 (PIN 02-24-07-306-013-0000)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Section 11-61-3, Section 11-76-1, and Section 11-76-1.1 of Article 11 of the Illinois Municipal Code, the City of Braidwood is authorized to purchase real property for public purposes, including for the purpose of leasing the property to private businesses, when an ordinance is adopted by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the corporate authorities then holding office; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Commissioners ("Corporate Authorities") deem it advisable and necessary for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the City of Braidwood ("City") to provide for the purchase of certain property known as O S. Hickory Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408, more specifically described in Exhibit A ("Property"); and

WHEREAS, the City agrees to purchase the Property and Seller agrees to sell the Property for the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$114,000.00);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. RECITALS INCORPORATED

The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein as findings of the corporate authorities.

SECTION 2. PURCHASE AND CONVEYANCE.

The City of Braidwood is authorized to purchase the property described in Exhibit A to for the sum of One Hundred Fourteen Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$114,000.00). The conveyance shall be by warranty deed and shall be subject to the Real Estate Sales Contract attached hereto as Exhibit B, which sets forth the general terms of the purchase and sale for said Property.

SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION

The Mayor and the City Administrator are authorized and directed to execute such documents as are required to satisfy the intent of this Ordinance and to record this Ordinance and Deed with the Will County Recorder's Office.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause, sentence or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, invalidate or nullify the remainder thereof, which remainder shall remain and continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. REPEALER

All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting with any provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law, specifically after the ordinance is published in one or more newspapers published in the City of Braidwood, or if no newspaper is published therein, then in one or more newspapers with a general circulation within the City of Braidwood, at least twice within thirty (30) days after this ordinance is passed and approved.

PASSED this 8th day of September, 2020 with 3 members voting aye, 1 member voting nay, the Mayor voting aye, with 0 members abstaining or passing and said vote being:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Commissioner Wayne Saltzman		X		
Commissioner Doug Money	X			
Commissioner Charles Hart	X			
Mayor Bob Jones	X			
Commissioner Fay Smith	X			

APPROVED This 8th day of September, 2020.

Bob Jones, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teresa Fisher

City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

PROPERTY

Common Address

0 S. Hickory Street, Braidwood, IL 60408

Parcel Identification Number

P.I.N.: 02-24-07-306-013-0000

Legal Description

PARCEL 1:
LOTS 1, 2, 3 AND 4 IN BLOCK 9 IN EUREKA COAL COMPANIES SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 14, 1872, IN PLAT BOOK 1 (PART 1), PAGE 78 AS DOCUMENT NO. 84929, EXCEPT THAT PORTION OF LOTS 3 AND 4 MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 4 AT A POINT WHERE SAID SOUTH LINE INTERSECTS THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF INTERSTATE ROUTE 55 AS IT CURRENTLY EXISTS, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID EAST RIGHT OF WAY LINE BEING A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE SOUTHEAST AND HAVING A RADIUS OF 22,768.33 FEET AND A CHORD BEARING NORTH 09 DEGREES 54 MINUTES 28 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 30.84 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 11 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 52.98 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 09 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 47 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 26.58 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 3; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 3 AND THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 4 FOR A DISTANCE OF 53.67 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE PORTION DEEDED FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE, REMOVE THE SAME; ALL SITUATED IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:
LOTS 7, 8, 9, AND 10, (EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE SOUTH 20.00 FEET OF SAID LOTS 9 AND 10), IN BLOCK 9, IN EUREKA COAL COMPANY'S SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 14, 1872, IN BOOK 1, (PART 1), PAGE 78, AS DOCUMENT NO. 84929, EXCEPT THEREFROM THE PORTION DEDICATED FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES AND EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE COAL AND OTHER MINERALS BENEATH THE SURFACE AND THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, September 16 and 23, 2020.

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Godley Park District audit on file for public inspection

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
Godley Park District Annual Audit Report Available for Public Inspection

An audit of the funds of Godley Park District for the year ending April 30, 2020 has been completed by the audit firm of Mack & Associates, P.C., certified public accountants. A copy of the audit report has been filed with the Will County Clerk and is available for public inspection between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the administrative office of the Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley, Illinois 60407.

/s/ Karl DeMarse, Secretary
Godley Park District
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Claypool Drainage and Levee District to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
No. 1963TX1836

IN THE MATTER OF THE)
CLAYPOOL DRAINAGE AND)
LEVEE DISTRICT.)

NOTICE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

The Claypool Drainage and Levee District will hold its annual meeting on November 10, 2020 at 1 p.m. at 117 W. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450. All meetings are open to the public. Robert Koerner, Joseph Brown, Terry Bitner
Commissioners
Charles L. Schmidt, Attorney
117 West Washington Street
Morris, Illinois 60450

Published in the Coal City Courant and Braidwood Journal on Sept. 23, 2020.

Petition packets available at the Braidwood Fire Protection District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nominating petitions and other filing materials for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Elections for the Braidwood Fire Protection District are now available at the Braidwood Fire Station.

One full (6 year) term on the Board of Trustees for the Fire Protection District will be elected at that time.

Election packets may be picked up at the Braidwood Fire Station, 275 West Main Street, Braidwood, Illinois during regular business hours. Petitions must be filed at the Fire Station between 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 14th, 2020, and 5:00 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020.

Election information and Candidates Guide is available from the State Board of Elections and can be obtained from their website www.elections.il.gov or by calling the Illinois State Board of Elections at 217-782-4141.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Top Fuel Saloon to hold food pantry on Oct. 2

The Top Fuel Saloon is holding its food pantry on Friday, Oct. 2 from 4 to 5 p.m.

A food pantry is open at the restaurant on the first and third Friday of every month for families in need in Braidwood and surrounding communities.

Top Fuel Saloon is located at 275 S. Hickory Street in Braidwood.

There are no residency checks. The next food pantry will be held on Oct. 16.

Nominating petitions on file for Custer Township election

PUBLIC NOTICE

Custer Park Township announces that petitions for the following positions for the April 6, 2021, Consolidated Election are available:

- 1) Supervisor/Treasurer (1 position)
- 2) Clerk (1 position)
- 3) Assessor (1 position)
- 4) Hwy Commissioner (1 position)
- 5) Trustee (4 positions)

Filing dates for petitions/nominating materials are December 14 - December 21, 2020. Petitions can be filed at 23125 McGuire Rd, Wilmington, IL. Filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on December 21, 2020.

Nominating petitions and other filing materials are available by contacting, Chris Olson, Township Clerk, by phone 815-458-2756, or email chrisolsoncuster-township@gmail.com.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, September 23, 2020.

Braidwood Fire Protection District seeks bids for purchase of utility truck

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Braidwood Fire Protection District is seeking bids for the purchase of a Utility truck. Invitation to bid and specifications are available and must be picked up in person or by courier at the Braidwood Fire Protection District, 275 West Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408, starting September 23rd, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. Bid specifications will be available Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Bids will be accepted until 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 20th, 2020. No late bids will be accepted. All bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on October 20th, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, September 23 and 30, 2020.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to
www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Thank a teacher

GARDNER—A word my grandmother often used to describe children was resilient. I know she would say the same thing today of America's teachers, who are mustering more strength and resolve than most of us could imagine. As teachers and administrators work to provide a sense of normalcy for their students and their families, reinventing so much of what they know so their students can keep learning, I hope that parents and caregivers understand that no one in education wants the current road map that we've been handed. We crave to have your children in our buildings for the entire day, so that we can be there not only when they struggle with a lesson, but also when that child grasps a concept that they have been struggling with for a while. I would like to say thank you to our educational learning communities for trying to take this precarious situation and making our children's learning environment as normal as can possibly be in this ever changing landscape. Please be patient with educators as we travel along this road. We may hit some bumps and road blocks, but we will continue to work hard to provide your children with the quality education that they deserve. Let's work together to pave the road through the remote learning and hybrid methods of attendance and instruction. And remember if you can read this, thank a teacher!

Disappointed by commentary

BRAIDWOOD—A commentary that advocates ignoring the rules of a civil society and the rules of a city meeting and is impressed by bullying and disrespect for the law is not a good idea for the Braidwood Journal. This is regarding the article "Pillars of the community" referring to the two members on the city council who actually have experience serving the city. The commentary, nor the articles articulate problems that were ignored by the city administrator and not answered. I'm disappointed in the city and the young reporter.

Publisher's note: The commentary published in the Sept. 16 Braidwood Journal concerning the Braidwood City Council meeting did not advocate "ignoring the rules of a civil society and the rules of a city meeting." It was good observation by reporter Jennifer Glasscock of the often chaotic situation allowed to exist during a public meeting. If the rules of a city meeting were not followed, don't blame a young reporter (nor grumpy old publisher who endorsed commentary), we don't run government meetings, we just report on them. Glasscock did promote to our readers that their voice can make a difference, attend public meetings and talk with city leaders. That makes good government. It's up to those in charge to see that it's done in a civilized manner.

Sign thieves

COAL CITY—Whoever is stealing the TRUMP signs should be arrested! I paid for that sign and they should pay for stealing it. I have the right to my opinion and so does everyone else. Figures this would be a Democratic tactic and the democrats are the ones saying that the Republicans will steal the election. The Democrats do not play fair! They cheat, steal and lie. I hope everyone that has a sign stolen will report it to the police.

Hold 'em accountable

WILMINGTON— ComEd, how much money do you want to make? When is the last time you took cuts at the plant? We the people have to cut back. We just had increases for the grid upgrade! Where did that money go? Where is the upgrades? CEO make big salaries. Upper management takes home 6 figures. Make cuts like everyone else. We don't need your nuclear waste stored in our back yards. And I don't want nuclear ions (tritium) in the Kankakee River. Foam at the dam is not what I want to see, daily. From what I understand the local electric users pay more for KW than others. Why aren't all rates the same? The frosting on the cake is your bargain deal with Madigan. Are your people and the CEOs going to get fired or promoted? Accountability for the people. You get caught with your hand in the cookie jar and you want the people to pay your way out. You're too big of a company and corrupt. Watch out, for our money. Solar mama

What you deserve

SHADOW LAKES—This about the Black lives Matter, who just shot two police officers in the face and yet no one would go to help them. These police officers were just sitting there. You Nancy Pelosi people, you Biden people are sick. Without police protection, of which I hope someday you may need it, and they don't show up because you people deserve them not to show. Dan Hill

Gave us nothing

SHADOW LAKES—Fair Tax Calculator: Has anyone out there tried the fair tax calculator? I filled it out and to my surprise my state tax was lower by \$41. Here is the story, JB has raised the tax on gasoline. I believe there are automatic raises on it for the next few years. Here is what you have, he already has his money back, and he gave you nothing. That is my kind of guy...always, Margot Lane

JB wasting millions

SHADOW LAKES— The governor plans on spending \$300 million to build a task force to do COVID 19 tracking. Which of his friends will be receiving these funds? The governor says he is using the money to protect the citizens of Illinois and this seems like a great idea except for the people sitting behind a desk compiling information to determine who has the virus in their system is not protecting the citizens of Illinois from the violence in the state. So why doesn't he use the tax payers' funds to stop the crime and violence throughout the state? Or would that be asking too much from our governor because he would have to forget about his friends bank accounts if he used the money to stop the violent crimes and murders being committed in the state of Illinois. Did he ask the tax payers permission on how to use their money?

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

To voice your opinion, please go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Smell what's served

BRAIDWOOD—The sound-off regarding the lady in Braidwood who tries to hijack the city council meetings and turn it into her show are absolutely correct. You need to wise up to the platter of manure you are being served by the city administrator, mayor and police chief. They know that you are willing to stir the pot so they're using your willingness and naiveness to their advantage. Wake up and smell the dung covered roses honey because you got a lot to learn.

Earth's constant change

WILMINGTON—Let's discuss global warming. In a Sound off column on September 2, 2020 a woman named Irene stated that the Trump supporters were too feeble-minded to comprehend anything about global warming. Apparently she has fallen victim to the same false statements about the changing of the weather and it's doubtful that she has enough scientific knowledge to really understand that the earth's climate changes constantly. By just using solar power and wind power will not stop the planet from having changes in the weather. Since the weather is determined by the constant shifting of the magnetic pulses of the north and south poles, accompanied by the rotation of the earth and the planets in the solar system. Look at California and all the black outs they are having because all they have is solar and wind power. While you're at it, go read some physics books if you're not too feeble-minded.

Town hall

BRAIDWOOD—The Sept. 16 town hall allowing the public to question President Trump didn't go well because Trump has been spoiled by his bootlickers for years. Just as Trump treats reporters rudely, he was dismissive toward regular people in the audience. We must remind Trump that he works for everyday people and therefore we thank the woman who put Trump in his place by telling him to "Please stop and let me finish my question." Trump's bluster which normally draws wild cheers at his rallies fell flat on real people who want no part of his pomposity. And although Trump claims that Biden makes mental slips, Trump mindlessly used the phrase "herd mentality" when he meant "herd immunity". Furthermore, Trump accused Biden of not following through with a national mask mandate forgetting that Biden is not the president. And Trump falsely claimed that the U.S. response to the virus is the best in the world. In short, Trump exposed himself as a lame-brained bully.

Even cheats at golf

WILMINGTON—Why did the Trump administration try to stop publication of John Bolton's book? Why did President Trump try to stop his niece's book which is quite an eye opener. What happened to the wall he said Mexico would pay for? This president never worked an honest day in his life. He also cheats at his golf games. Why won't he show his taxes? Does this man deserve to run our country for another four years?

The mayor's job

BRAIDWOOD—I have lived in Braidwood all of my life. I am in my 70s so I know a lot of city history. Bob Jones came to our city years ago as a businessman to make money. He was on our council before so we all thought he knew our city. He is elected mayor and then hires a city manager. That is what we elected Bob to do. Mayor Jones doesn't run the meetings. He lets his city administrator run everything. I think the city deserves better. So, Mayor Jones, please resign or maybe the good people in this town will start a petition to have you go.

Wants what's best

BRAIDWOOD—After reading in the newspaper about the council meeting it's plain to see that Wayne Saltzman was set up. He asked for more info and didn't get it until right before the meeting so he asked to wait on a vote. I have known Wayne for years. Braidwood has been in his heart and he only wants the best for our town. Please show Wayne our support and let our Mayor Bob Jones know he was elected to be our mayor and we are disappointed in him.

A city circus

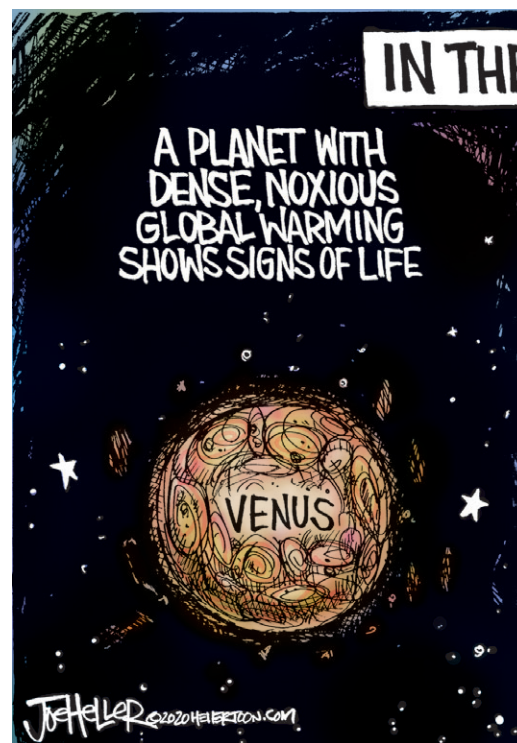
BRAIDWOOD—I read about the Braidwood Council meeting in the newspaper. How embarrassing that the meeting became a circus. There has always been a 3-minute time on speakers. That didn't happen. There's so much wrong here. Mayor Jones, you are not doing your job. Please resign and take the city administrator with you.

Kamala in charge?

SHADOW LAKES—On the news Joe Biden made a speech about how the Harris/Biden administration will be after the election. Even Kamala Harris was stating facts about the Harris/Biden administration. So I wonder who exactly will be the president if Joe Biden is elected in November since they both believe their administration will be headed by Kamala Harris. Joe Biden has already been making false statements about the veterans so how many other false statements have been made by the Harris/Biden presidential ticket? Or is it the Biden/Harris presidential ticket? I'm confused so would someone please explain to me who would be the president if the Democrats are elected in November?

Free chicken

WILMINGTON—Remember when Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman testified at President Trump's impeachment and Republicans attacked him relentlessly? Because Vindman was in the military at the time, he couldn't fight back. But each and every one of us should never forget the shameless abuse by Republicans against a man of honor serving his country when we go to the ballot box. Because Vindman recently retired from the military, Vindman is free to speak up now and reveals how Trump is "infatuated" with Putin's power, has become Putin's "useful idiot" and has transformed our country into an "authoritarian regime". Vindman further describes how the Russians have "free chicken" with Trump



because Putin doesn't have to work to get Trump's support, Trump gives his support to Putin willingly. All that can be said is, please pray for America to protect it from Trump's betrayal. Ralph D.

Destroying the USA

SHADOW LAKES— California is going to enact a law that allows 16 and 17 year olds to vote in every election so the Democratic party can take more control over the country. They also want to give people in this country illegally the same rights as every American citizen. Which will give them more power to destroy the sovereignty of the USA. If they believe that this will help them by allowing the riots in USA to go unchecked then wait until they discover what will happen if they continue in this quest to destroy the freedom and the legal rights of every American citizen. How much longer do they think that the American citizens are going to tolerate the allusiveness by the Democratic leadership.

Civil war coming

GARDNER— My name is Walter. I find it very interesting that Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the U.S. House, is saying that Trump is using the peace deal in the Middle East as a distraction. How can you possibly call that a distraction when you're talking about a peace deal in the Middle East? Do the people who call in, the Liberals, possibly believe this? I don't know, but this country is going to come to a civil war and it will be happening.

Well done, citizens!

BRAIDWOOD— In response to five of last week's sound-offs regarding the city council meeting. What you folks do not understand is that had the public not been in the uproar they were, this business would be long gone at this point. That meeting was one of, if not the best displays of community involvement in the history of this town. It was a textbook example of President Lincoln's infamous line, "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." Two city councilmen made it incredibly clear they care about their agendas and personal vendettas over the people who placed them at the helm. Had that room been held to silence, those two councilmen would have sunk a huge opportunity and the multitude of other businesses lining up behind Ultimate Rides for a chance in this town. Furthermore, to the caped crusader who seems to be defending one opposing councilman's actions. He was not looking out for the best interest of this town. He said in the meeting he read the agreement in its entirety. He did not. Had he, he would have seen several provisions in the agreement secure Braidwood's ability to recoup any loss if Ultimate Rides pulled the plug. The agreement gives Braidwood the ability to inspect the business' books at any time and throughout full term of the agreement. The whole agreement was water tight, approved by the city attorney and city accountant. He voted with a personal agenda and threw it the faces of every person in that room. The people of Braidwood took an incredible stand and proved that the power of government comes from the consent of the governed. Well done, citizens! You refused to be ignored, and progress will be the result.

Vote for Trump

To all those who say "I'd vote for anyone but Trump... I can't stand him!" or "I can't believe you're voting for Trump!" Folks listen up. This is not a jr high or high school popularity/personality election. I'm not just voting for the person, I'm voting for the platform. I'm voting for the Second Amendment. I'm voting for the next Supreme Court justice. I'm voting for the Electoral College and the republic we live in. I'm voting for jobs and economic recovery. I'm voting for the police and law and order. I'm voting for the military and the veterans who fought for and died for this country. I'm voting for the flag that is often missing from the Democratic background. I'm voting for the right to speak my opinion and not be censored. I'm voting for secure borders. I'm voting for the right to praise my God without fear. I'm voting for every unborn soul the Democrats want to abort. I'm voting for freedom and the American Dream. I'm voting against the bias and evil in the swamp. I'm not just voting for one person, I'm voting for my future of my country. God Bless America.

You made it

WILMINGTON—"Masks," the column coming out of the Sept. 16 edition, made it quite clear that Republicans own Wilmington overall. Perhaps that's why it's so near being a ghost town, as banks snap up foreclosures and rent out slums. My heart breaks for any small business hurting from Covid-19, but the problem is the mind set of the Republican council and our local citizens. Like many rural areas, think their rights are being hurt by mask laws. These citizens don't realize science, so the scientifically proven fact that everyone wearing



masks everywhere they go for a few weeks would have COVID behind us. This town is a breeding ground for COVID and minds that never left the woods. My dear fellow citizens, our businesses sure do have a right to exist and be protected. That said, small towns that are GOP run are ignoring the fact that state law has more say than they do, or ever will. It's there for the good of all citizens. Wilmington would be so much better off now, and almost 200,000 people wouldn't be dead if you'd all do your part. GOP is as self centered as Donald Trump himself, it seems. Shame. This never had to get this bad. You made it, you sleep in it. I'll stay home until we can have an election to begin really cleaning up this mess. Question is, if we get actual leadership in DC, will little Wilmington continue such selfish behavior. Sadly, the answer is obvious.

Be warned

COAL CITY—Everyone should get prepared if Joe Biden becomes president since he will remove all the legal rights for the American citizens. He will start by totally defunding the police then remove all protection from the American citizens. Next there will no longer be any fossil fuels which will shut down the entire country. We must not forget that the walls on the southern border will be removed and all jails will be closed after the release of prisoners. Taxes will be raised so that every person from other countries will be supported by the few citizens still employed. Criminals do not care about politics so everyone should take a guess at how Americans will react to this type of country under Joe Biden.

The commoners

COAL CITY—Recently a White House coronavirus adviser resigned because the president has "flat-out disregard for human life". This is not trivial, it's serious and it's no surprise. It's not consistent with President Trump's attitude throughout his life as recorded in books written decades ago when Trump ran several casinos in Atlantic City. According to biographers, it was widely known that Trump avoided casino customers because Trump despised commoners. Trump detested socializing with anyone who wasn't rich or famous. Is this the type of person we want running our country of 320 million people? It definitely affects the decisions he makes. Perhaps that's why the death toll from coronavirus is so high. Perhaps that's why the number of the medical-ly uninsured is growing and coverage of preexisting conditions will end if Trump wins his lawsuit against Obamacare. Trump doesn't care about everyday people and that makes him unfit for office.

Run for office

BRAIDWOOD—To the person who gave the long speech during the mockery of a city council meeting, maybe during the next election your name needs to appear on the ballot. Instead of creating trouble in our community, maybe you need to step up into the hot seat that way you can take the heat from screaming and demanding people. You have absolutely no idea what's going on in this town or how things are done. You've got a couple little birdies in City Hall that are feeding you garbage left and right.

A new playlist

BRAIDWOOD— Here is the real Trump / Biden song list.

Trump="God Bless the USA"- Lee Greenwood, "Fight the Good Fight"- Triumph, "Feeling Stronger Everyday"- Chicago, "Fly Like an Eagle"- Steve Miller. Here is the Biden song list=

"Dazed and Confused"- Led Zeppelin, "I'm your Puppet"- Van Mor and James, "Long Time Gone"- Crosby, Stills and Nash, "Land of Confusion"- Genesis, "Don't Stand So Close to Me"- The Police, "Out of Touch"- Hall and Oats, "Already Gone"- The Eagles. Wake up America do you really want a Harris/Biden administration running our great country? I've got news for you, if that happens you can say good-bye to freedom as we know it. Want socialism? Ask Venezuela how that worked out for them. Do you really back the BLM thugs over the police? Good luck with that. Do you notice all of the major problems are in the blue cities and states including Illinois? Thanks to Crook Co. C R O O K. Don't be spoon-fed by the lame stream media with their liberal agenda. So wake up America and don't be "Blinded by the Lights." - Manfred Mann.

Penny's response

WILMINGTON— This is in response to M. Holmes who last week made a lot of assumptions about me and Margo Lane. I know Margo can defend herself but I will defend us both on one point. You called us "ridiculous" with no examples on how you reached this conclusion, nor the criteria you used to determine our ridiculousness. Next point Trump told his followers to drink disinfectant. I was being sarcas-

Respecting the mask works both ways

We need to talk about masks.

A few weeks ago, I wrote about the need for all of us to just put on our masks. I said that I simply don't understand the reason why some people won't wear a mask. There seems to be a school of thought out there that wearing a mask violates a person's personal rights.

And, despite the explanation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that masks protect others by helping to prevent someone who is COVID-19 positive from spreading the virus, there's often an urge to make the argument that masks are no good because they don't filter out everything.

The entire issue remains as frustrating this week as it has been this whole time, as I am sure it will continue to be.

But herein lies my latest issue with mask wearing:

It seems that the people who don't wear a mask will ask that their choice be respected. Yet, in my own experience, these same people have a very difficult time showing respect to those of us who wear our masks regularly and properly.

Since mask wearing became recommended by the CDC back in April, I have had multiple interactions with people who don't wear a mask. I do not ask their reasons — it seems that asking someone who isn't wearing a mask why not will get you yelled at for sure.

And to be fair, the yelling goes both ways. Certainly people have been accosted for not wearing their masks around the area.

But in my experience, nearly every single person who I have spoken with who is not wearing a mask approaches me



SIMON SAYS...
Marney Simon

much closer than the recommended six-foot distance.

With the exception of one woman who approached me to yell at me for taking photos of a Black Lives Matter protest in Wilmington back in May, none of these maskless folks have come up to me in a negative way. Which is to say, I am not accusing any of these people of approaching me with ill intent. They just wanted to say something to me.

But, not a single one of them has respected my space. No one stopped at the approximate six-foot range.

One of them got so close to me recently that I stepped backward quickly, only to realize I was already up against a wall. They still came forward more. I thought I must look like a cartoon character trying to get away. I sidestepped. They stepped that way. It was hopeless. They were going to get within touching distance of me whether I liked it or not.

This is just as disrespectful as anything I could possibly say to that same person about not wearing a mask.

I have my mask on. Clearly, I think it's important.

So, why is it that my decision to wear a mask isn't respected by those who demand respect for themselves when they opt not to wear one?

Wilmington Mayor Roy Strong has repeatedly noted that people could "stay away" or "not go out" if they are afraid of the virus.

Here's the thing: The fact that I, an at-risk person who lives with another at-risk person, do not want to contract this virus does not mean that I am living in fear.

The suggestion that I should just avoid places is disingenuous. I cannot just stop going to work or going to the grocery store. Nor should I have to, and frankly, it's

rude to even suggest it.

If we all wear masks, we are all on the same level playing field when we enter a store, a public building, a gas station, a restaurant. But when someone refuses to wear their mask, they are creating an unequal ground.

Wearing the mask doesn't infringe upon your right to travel freely, or to speak your mind. You can wear a mask and assemble, you can wear your mask when you pray. You can wear your mask when you walk into the grocery store.

So, if you're not going to wear it, the very least you could do is stay six feet away from others. But in my experience, the only way to guarantee that distance is if I move. This is disrespectful.

Strong is correct in some aspects. I do not go to bars or restaurants or out in general other than for work or necessities or my daily walks. The exceptions are one Joliet Slammers game I attended in late August, and a visit to an outdoor brewery in Shorewood earlier this month. And yes, I was masked at these places.

The IDPH has consistently noted that contact tracing indicates that COVID-19 spreads more rapidly indoors at bars and restaurants, and at indoor gatherings. So, I avoid those places.

But when a crowd of 30-plus people showed up at Wilmington City Hall for the last meeting, I could hardly walk out. I'm the local reporter. This is my job.

I was encouraged that everyone walked into that meeting with a mask on, though several people, including at least one alderman, did not wear them correctly. The mask does not serve its purpose if it isn't over your nose, but I'll take this as a baby step toward compliance.

I cannot make you wear your mask or face covering. But you don't have the right to approach others at less than six-feet without their permission if you don't wear one.

Respect works both ways.

Benefit for Joe Casteel

The Women of the Moose is hosting a benefit dinner for Joe Casteel of Wilmington, a member of the Moose Lodge, for Saturday, Oct. 3.

Casteel is battling colon cancer and his family has incurred mounting medical bills.

The benefit, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., will include raffles, a

basket silent auction and loads of fun. The highlight will be a spaghetti dinner with donations of \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 12 and under.

For more information or to donate items call 815-476-1875. The Moose Family Center is located at 32050 S. West River Rd., Wilmington.



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Census deadline two weeks away

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker appeared in Macomb Friday to promote the census less than two weeks before the Sept. 30 deadline for responses.

As of Sept. 17, Illinois was 16th in the country for "total enumeration," or the percentage of households in the state that have been counted in the census, at 96.2%. The state has been above average when it comes to self-response when household representatives fill out the census themselves by mail, through the phone, or online.

With a 70.5% self-response rate, Illinois is 7th in the nation, and first among states with a population over

10 million.

The state's total enumeration has been dragged down by the difficulty census workers are having reaching households. Door-knocking census takers will go to households that have not yet filled out a census response and record the information of who lives there, a process recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau as "enumerated in nonresponse followup," or NRFU.

Illinois has an NRFU rate of 25.7% as of Sept. 17, the 10th lowest in the country. The state's highest self-response and NRFU rates have typically come from suburban parts of the state, with some rural and urban census tracts having lower records of response.

Census counts are directly tied to aid and funding from

the federal government. A lower enumeration rate can equal hundreds of millions of dollars lost to Illinois over the next decade. It's also tied to how many representatives the state receives in the U.S. House.

"The higher the count, the more of your federal tax money comes back to Illinois instead of going to other states," Pritzker said at the Macomb news conference. "Just a one percent undercount could result in the state losing hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funds, and that's at a time when, frankly, we need those funds the most."

According to Pritzker, Illinois is currently one of a few states that receives less money from the federal government

than it pays in.

While the census count is normally completed by June, there is a federal lawsuit currently underway to extend the census deadline to an end date of Oct. 31.

Pritzker, however, said the state is approaching the deadline as if it is officially Sept. 30.

The census can be filled out at 2020census.gov or by calling 844-330-2020.

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Tom is a retired member of Laborers Local 75, who is currently fighting Stage IV Adenocarcinoma of the lungs, brain, lymphoid, stomach, liver, and spine. He is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy. As we all know this is a very expensive journey. Please join us in helping relieve some of the monetary stress off of this caring husband, father, and pawpaw, so he can concentrate on making a complete recovery.

Thank you all in advance!

Soundoff, continued from page 4

tic. I will never drink the Kool Aid and here is why. On November 18, 1978, 909 men, women and children drank poison Kool Aid because they put their faith in a crazy white guy with an inflated sense of self. These people were Christians and true believers. And now drinking the Kool Aid is a synonym for gullibility. I'm not a joiner or a believer. I'm what is called a skeptic. No Kool Aid for me. I have never watched The View as I find that type of programming mind rotting. I do watch C-SPAN, CNN, MSNBC and even FOX, plus the occasional Dr. Phil, and I enjoyed the first season of Star Girl. I don't know where one would get a poster of the Cuomo brothers. I have a poster of The Simpsons and the rest of the citizens of Springfield and it makes me smile. You employed one of my pet peeves when you used the word probably, just like Trump does. It means you just say stuff with no evidence. Probably and maybe are words that mean, you got nothing. You state that in 73 years you have become cynical about democracy. So don't vote. By your own words you declare politics are meaningless so your whole point of your Sound-off was to denigrate me and Margo. I look forward to seeing her response to this insulting tirade. Wear your mask and stay safe. Penny Lane.

Good job

CUSTER PARK—Thank you to the surrogates of President Trump who, in spite of themselves, made the indirect admission that Biden did a good job during the CNN town hall. They commented that Joe Biden must be guilty of something akin to cheating due to his impressive performance thereby exposing their own dirtiness and Biden's virtue. To his credit Biden demonstrated his knowledge of the issues by expressing them well with a minimum of error and revealed once again his compassion for ordinary people. Gary W.

About the newcomers

BRAIDWOOD—As someone who has lived in Braidwood their entire life, over 60 years, I am absolutely disgusted with the way some of these "new" people that have moved into our town are behaving during the city council meetings and on Facebook. It's people like you that make our town look bad.

Much thanks

COAL CITY—We would like to thank the St. Jovin's VFW for their help with medical equipment to give this veteran more mobility. Their assistance will be appreciated every day. Richard & Carolyn Scott

Thieves

COAL CITY—During election campaigns, political signs get stolen and that's not unusual. But this time the situation is so bad that people find it necessary to bring their signs inside the house every night. I've been told to report it to the police and to beg Republicans to behave themselves. I'm doing neither because it won't do any good. Leadership in our country, including President Trump, Senate Leader McConnell and Attorney General Barr, have set the tone for their supporters to follow. McConnell dictates by a double standard, Barr violates law and order and Trump destroys our democratic institutions by his adulation of thugs and dictators. Sasha M.

Nancy's answer

SHADOW LAKES—Black Lives Matter: Is this a joke? Maybe someone can explain. Last night it was stated, in Chicago, more lives were shot and killed than the whole of last year. Of that total 95 percent were people of color. Yet to my surprise we have the thug group, calling themselves BLM, don't seem to care about this group. Every riot, everybody has a cell phone in their hand, but in Chicago, no one knows nothing. No cell phone pictures, strange very strange. Here is an answer to a lot of your questions. If you wonder if you should vote for Trump or Biden call a friend or relative or someone you know who lives in California, with their one party system. Just a few blocks from Nancy's home, are giant slums. What is her answer to this problem, "let them eat \$12 a pint ice-cream." Always, Margot Lane

What's your party?

WILMINGTON—I think it would be interesting to know if mask wearers or no-mask people have a political party preference? T. Lockwood

Just thinking

SHADOW LAKES—Just thinking what will late night comedians do if Trump does not win? Will they pick on Biden? No, he's their guy and when Harris takes over in the spring they can't say anything about a woman of color, but it's all they know. Biden's whole game plan is blame Trump for the virus because he did not act fast enough. But when he wanted to stop travel from China, Biden played the race card and the top democrats called the virus a Trump distraction. Just thinking, why do NFL players wear the names of drug dealers, wife beaters and rapist on their helmets when they already have them on the back of their uniforms? Eddie

Double standard

WILMINGTON—The loathsome words to adequately describe Republican Senate Leader McConnell and his Republican colleagues are not fit to print. McConnell refused to allow a replacement when Judge Antonio Scalia died in 2016 because he claimed the presidential election was right

around the corner –237 days. In other words, two-thirds of a year. Now Ruth Bader Ginsburg has died and the presidential election is truly right around the corner in 47 days. But suddenly McConnell's double standard kicks in and he immediately plans to replace her. McConnell's forked tongue hisses from his serpentine coil and his minions slither around him. McConnell puts the dirt in dirty. Irene D.

Dangerous situation

COAL CITY—There have been kids riding ATVs and motor bikes on the bike path that goes through Coal City and Carbor Hill Road. The other night a motor bike was flying down the path in the dark and would have hit me if I didn't get off the path, and tonight, Saturday, Sept. 19, I almost got hit again by kids flying down the path in an ATV that didn't see me again. There is a sign posted that says no unauthorized motor vehicles. Someone is going to get seriously hurt if this continues.

Sad statistics

BRAIDWOOD—For those who think President Trump has done a good job fighting the pandemic, it may surprise you to learn that COVID-19 now claims the lives of more Americans every day than any war we've ever been engaged in. The statistics are as follows: Currently COVID-19 causes approximately 1,000 deaths daily; the Civil War averaged 449 deaths daily; WWII averaged 297 deaths daily; WWI averaged 200 deaths daily; the Korean War averaged 30 deaths daily; the Vietnam War averaged 15 deaths daily. Trump may be a wartime president but his record is not something to brag about. Renee K.

Real people

CUSTER PARK—During President Trump's town hall on Sept. 15, real people asked questions and didn't let Trump off the hook. It would be great if real American people would replace the professional reporters on a daily basis because real people do a better job. Reporters are afraid they will be fired or Trump will ban them from the press pool due to Trump's accusation that they are "enemies of the people" which speaks to Trump's admiration for dictators. Let's be clear. Our country is a republic and a democracy and Trump's buddy, Vladimir Putin, is not welcome here. Neither are his sluggish tactics which destroy freedom of the press and free elections. A. Weidner

Improvements needed

COAL CITY—What is going on at the Coal City Area Club with all the trees dying? It's such a mess over by the playground at the north end of the picnic grounds in the front of the club. I never did understand what the thinking was behind planting all those trees close together years ago. Now we have a forest which is of no use to anyone. It looks like they started trying to take down and clear out all the dead trees but they seem to have abandoned that project now. There are so many improvements that could be made out there yet things just seem to stay at a standstill. We used to bring our children out to the club years ago and fish offshore. There were many, many spots to choose from. Now it's almost impossible to find a spot to fish offshore because the weeds have gotten out of hand. The situation with the abandoned and unused docks needs to be looked into as well. People have been waiting years on a list to get a dock. There is need for so many improvements out there. Hopefully we will get some new people on the board who will actually address so many sad issues out there. We pay a lot of money in dues and members can't help but wonder exactly where that money is being spent.

Free handouts

BRAIDWOOD—Do you think coal corporations deserve to get handouts due to COVID-19? Republican Senate Leader McConnell wants to bail out coal corporations instead of helping Americans who have lost their jobs and lost their health care due to the pandemic. So the next time you hear right-wingers complain about socialism and free stuff, remember the Republican party wants the free stuff to go to coal corporations. This is socialism and it's called corporate socialism. Nichole M.

Let's talk

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling to answer Penny Lane's recent entry about my questioning Penny Lane and him or her answering me and looking for an answer. I do believe there were enough articles in there that thoroughly answered my question to you in the sound-off column. My name is Dan Hill and my cell phone number is 708-227-8870. I would be happy to speak to you, whoever you are. I can let you in at the gate and we can sit down and discuss our political differences. I love discussing politics and I have learned from others and hopefully others have learned from me. Go give me a call Penny Lane.

The smirk

WILMINGTON—Sorry to put a downer on your day but reports have come in that entire flocks of migratory birds numbering in the millions have been found dead in western states. Ornithologists think it's due to the western forest fires so intense that the smoke has traveled as far north as Boston, as far east as Washington, D.C. and the White House itself. Satellite pictures have shown the smoke over Europe and Asia as well. Environmental conditions in general are bad enough that 25 percent of bird populations have died over the past 50 years already. The day is not far off when common birds will be rare. Meanwhile we watch President Trump as he was questioned by a panel regarding the wildfires and the climate crisis and we see Trump smirk. An obnoxious smirk that shows once again that Trump does not care. Kate L.

Survey: Local governments see drastic revenue drops

BY REBECCA ANZEL
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois residents should expect fewer road repairs, community programs and other local government-provided services and higher locally-imposed tax rates as officials struggle with COVID-19-induced revenue shortfalls, a municipal government advocacy group warned this week.

According to a survey conducted by the Illinois Municipal League, almost nine out of 10 city and town governments expect a 20 to 30% drop in revenue from March 1 through July 24 as compared to the year before. Just over 225 of the state's roughly 1,200 municipalities responded to the poll.

Factoring in shortfalls, community officials would be tasked with paying their employees, completing infrastructure improvements, maintaining sewer systems, preserving police and fire fighting forces and offering recreation and senior programs while having access to only 70-80% of the revenues initially budgeted for those purposes.

"Those dollars are gone," Brad Cole, executive director of the Illinois Municipal League, said. "They're going to have to cut things that are nice, that people want and many people expect but they might not be able to afford."

Local governments collect funds through taxes on retail purchases, fuel, gaming, property and income as well as utility and permit fees, for example. But because of economic restrictions implemented by Gov. JB Pritzker to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, many of those sources generated fewer funds than officials expected.

Many shops and businesses deemed nonessential were closed for months, resulting in fewer sales tax dollars. Illinoisans did not travel for work or leisure as they do in typical years, so governments did not collect money from motor fuel or hotel taxes. And state parks and other recreation sites were closed, which generated fewer permit fee collections.

"This is the part where COVID-19 is going to be with us for a while, and it's at this point where states like Illinois that have refused to maintain any level of fiscal sobriety for

decades are caught flat-footed," Senator Chapin Rose, a Republican from Mahomet and one of his caucus's budgeteers, said in an interview. "There's nowhere to go, nowhere to run and no amount of tax increases possible to cover the losses."

Government officials who "rush to raise taxes" will not help the economic situation" and "devastate the community," he said.

Residents would be unable to afford a 30% hike in property taxes, Rose cited as an example, to compensate for lost revenues. Any significant increase of that tax would likely result in homeowners listing their houses but being unable to find a buyer. And, if that happened, "people would rightly come unglued," he said. "Raising taxes in a recession just makes the recession worse," the senator said, adding that those Illinoisans who might be able to weather such an increase in costs have already moved out of state.

The economic situation will affect each community differently, but both Cole and Rose said all Illinois government officials will be faced with long-term budget restrictions.

Ginger ale favorites, classics for a reason

Have you taken an inventory of your home bar lately? What's in your bar? Sure, you have gin, a bottle or two of whiskey, and maybe some vodka. What else do you have in your bar? How many different mixed drinks can you make with the contents of your home bar?

Tonic water, club soda, and Coca Cola are essentials for home bar service, no doubt. I would like to add another mixer to the "must have" category: ginger ale.

That's right, the unsung hero of the home bar. I say that because adding ginger ale to your home bar will open up many delicious possibilities beyond Gin and Tonic, Rum and Coke, or Scotch and Soda.

Think about all of the times that you asked your guests "what would you like to drink", and were met with the response "what do you have?". When you add ginger ale to your home bar, the "what do you have" list will be greatly expanded.

I am not sure if any hard evidence exists of ginger ale curing stomach flu or the common cold, and I am not even sure if many of the mass-produced ginger ales contain actual ginger. One thing that I am sure of is that ginger ale is delicious and pairs well with a wide variety of spirits.

We will start our ginger ale journey with four classic recipes.

You will notice that the classic recipes below are built in the glass as opposed to a shaker or a blender. There is a reason for that. Ginger ale is carbonated/pressurized similar to any other "fizzy" soda. We all know what happens when we open a can of soda that perhaps had a little too much movement prior to opening.

Therein lies one of the advantages of using ginger ale in cocktails. The fizzy, bubbly tendencies of ginger ale will mix your drink for you once it is added to the drink, provided that your ginger ale is fresh, not flat.

On that note, make sure that you only serve the freshest, bubbliest, sharpest, crispest ginger ale. I do this by buying the 6 oz. cans of Schweppes Ginger Ale. Why cans as opposed to the bottle? The contents of the bottle will begin to go flat upon opening, whereas the unopened cans will stay fresh until the sell by date.

Yes, the cans will be more expensive than the large bottle, but the odds are you will pour half of that bottle of flat ginger ale down the sink a week after opening.

What type of ginger ale is best for your home bar? It's a matter of personal taste, the three classic ginger ales are Canada Dry, Seagram's, and Schweppes. When I was in my formative years, I assumed that Canada Dry was the only ginger ale because it seemed that everyone that I knew had a bottle on their kitchen counter.

Seagram's and Schweppes were never as popular as Canada Dry, but both have maintained loyal fan bases for generations. I prefer Schweppes as I feel it makes the best J&B and Ginger, and pairs well with blended scotch which is my Highball preference.

The classic ginger ale brands will fit nicely in your home bar, but there are several newer ginger ales that are worth seeking out. These options may be slightly more expensive, but



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

you will absolutely get what you pay for. Some of the more popular "new" gingers are from Fever Tree, Bruce Cost, Reed's, and Boylan Bottling Company.

The most common, and by far the most versatile ginger ale mixed drink is the Whiskey Highball. The classic Highball formula is club soda over whiskey, but in recent decades ginger ale has taken the place of club soda in many bars when it comes to Highball service. What kind of whiskey is best for the Whiskey Highball? That's up to you,

the Highball formula works with any whiskey: bourbon, Canadian, scotch, rye, or whatever happens to be in your cabinet. If you choose scotch for your Highball, reach for a blended scotch.

The Whiskey Highball is built and served in an ice-filled Collins (tall) glass.
Fill glass with ice, then add:
2 oz. whiskey
Top with 4 to 6 oz ginger ale
Optional garnish with lemon twist

A popular variation of the classic Whiskey Highball is the Presbyterian. Are you torn between ginger ale and club soda in your Highball? No worries, the Presbyterian uses both. The "Press" is similar to the classic Highball in that it is adaptable to many different types of whiskey. Fortunately, fans of the Presbyterian will order by name, as in "I'll have a Bourbon Press." The Presbyterian has a strong regional following in the Northeast U.S., it is rarely ordered in the Southern or Western areas. That's a shame, because it's a simple and delicious way to enjoy whiskey.

The Presbyterian is built and served in a Collins (tall) glass.
Fill glass with ice, then add:
1 1/2 oz. whiskey
2 oz. club soda
2 oz. ginger ale
Garnish with lemon twist

If Gin and Tonic is a bit dry for your tastes, try the Gin Buck:
Fill Highball glass with ice, then add
2 oz. gin
Top with 4 oz. ginger ale (or enough to fill glass)
Garnish with lemon wedge

Another classic whiskey/ginger fusion is the Horse's Neck.
Fill Highball glass with ice, then add:
2 oz. bourbon
3 oz. ginger ale
2 to 3 dashes Angostura Bitters
Garnish with long lemon peel spiral

One final note on ginger ale and non-alcoholic mixers in general: keep a wide variety in your bar for designated drivers and those who choose not to drink spirits. Keeping a few different types of cola and ginger ale on hand will give everyone a chance to "raise a glass" to whatever it is you happen to be toasting.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Low gas prices expected to fluctuate

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.20/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 9.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 56.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$1.81/g Monday while the most expensive was \$2.94/g, a difference of \$1.13/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.16/g Monday. The national average is down 1.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 49.7 cents per gallon lower

than a year ago.

"Gas prices have tip-toed lower with seasonal factors the primary driver, though with hurricane season continuing to be very active, sporadic shutdowns of oil rigs in the Gulf is leading to volatility in the price of oil, which may become a factor in the weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "With oil's rally back to \$41 per barrel last week, the downturn in the national average may be put on pause for a couple of weeks, but we remain very likely to eventually continue to downward momentum into the heart of autumn. For now, we remain at the lowest prices seasonally since 2004 in most states, and largely, motorists can expect that to continue."



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OBITUARIES

Larry Rampa



WILMINGTON—Larry Rampa, “Nasty,” 76, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 at AMITA Saint Joseph’s Medical Center in Joliet, following a brief illness.

Born Dec. 16, 1943 in Joliet, Lawrence Eugene was a son of Peter Sr. and Marjorie (Ritchie) Rampa. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated with the Wilmington High School class of 1961. Following high school, Larry went on to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he studied marketing, and he served 5 years in the United States Army Reserves.

A lifelong bricklayer, Larry co-founded RamCorp, Inc. with his brother, Dave. Together they worked along side each other for 30 years until his retirement in 2001. Larry was a member of the Bricklayer’s Local #6 out of Rockford, and belonged to St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington. In his free time, he enjoyed trapping, motorcycles, working on small engines, and fishing. Larry, who was most commonly known to many as Nasty, will be most remembered for his jokes. Over the past 12 years, he took great pleasure in spending 5 months out of the year in Mexico, wintering away from the Midwest.

Survivors include his best friend and wife, Anne Dougan; step-children, Nicholes (Nichole) Hanson, of Wilmington and Danielle (Victor) Hanson, of Hesperia, CA; grandchildren, Katie Mae Gorney, of Oswego and Sadie Autumn Diaz of Hesperia, CA; siblings: Carlo (Maria) Rampa, of Chicago; David (Cheryl) Rampa, of Wilmington and Janet (Haluk) Odziemer, of Mountain View, CA and his father-



in-law, Roger Dougan, of Houston, TX as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, brother, Peter Rampa Jr. and his mother-in-law, Marion Dougan.

A private family visitation was held, and per Larry’s wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m. Face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation. Those wishing to participate in Larry’s services are invited to watch the live stream on Saturday starting at 12 p.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

Private inurnment will follow in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Larry’s memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Larry’s memorial page on-line through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Larry-RampaNasty

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Mary A. Caise

FLORIDA—Mary A. (Baber) Caise, 86, of North Fort Myers, FL, and formerly of Braidwood and Custer Park, passed away Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 in Essex.

Born Nov. 29, 1933 in Braidwood, Mary Alice was a daughter of James Sr. and Alice (Poppleton) Baber. She was raised and educated in Braidwood and Custer Park, and graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1950. On March 31, 1951, Mary married Robert Keith Caise at the First Presbyterian Church in Braidwood.

She was first employed by the Joliet Arsenal Ammunition Plant and later gained employment with First Savings and Loan for 10 years, and then Home Savings and Loan for 15 years from where she would retire in 1990. Mary was an avid golfer and especially enjoyed playing at the Six Lakes Country Club in North Fort Myers where she was a member. She also enjoyed reading and spending time with her family.

Survivors include her two sons, Michael J. (Lorry) Caise and Steven K. Caise, both of Essex; three grandchildren: Stacey Caise (Raymond Marschner), of Braidwood; Robert Caise (Heather Roach), of Coal City and Stefanie Bruciak, of Braidwood; eight great-grandchildren: Skylar Allen, Kamryn Marschner, Zachary Caise, Lukas Caise, Haileigh Caise, Aubreigh Caise, Gavin Bruciak and Delaney Bruciak; one sister, Adeline (Neil) Hall, of Braidwood; two



sisters-in-law, Darlene Baber, of Coal City and Janet Caise, of Morris; many nieces and nephews, as well as dear friends: Joe and Rosella Votta and Shirley McElroy and her Florida friends and neighbors: Bob and Betty Faurie, Donna Putnam and Jeanie Rudd.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Robert K. Caise on Sept. 20, 2014; one son, Kim R. Caise; one grandson, Chad S. Caise; one sister, Anna Mae Sinkular; one brother, James Baber Jr. and two brothers-in-law, Richard Caise and Francis Sinkular.

Per Mary’s wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and private inurnment will take place on Monday, Sept. 28, 2020 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where she and her husband will be laid to rest together.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the family or to Joliet Area Community Hospice.

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Mary’s memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Darlene M. Donovan

CHICAGO RIDGE—Darlene M. Donovan, 73, of Chicago Ridge and Shadow Lakes, passed away Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehab in Morris.

Born Oct. 10, 1946 in Chicago, Darlene Marie was a daughter of Walter and Dorothy (Holy) Golembeski. She was raised and educated in Chicago and graduated from Gage Park High School with the class of 1964. On Jan. 12, 1966 Darlene married Charles Donovan in Chicago and together they made their home in Chicago Ridge. Darlene went on to her earn her bachelors degree in psychology at Governors State University and worked as a unit secretary for Christ Advocate Hospital until her retirement. She was a member of St. Louis de Montfort Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Ridge. Darlene enjoyed gardening and her flowers. She was a 50 year survivor of Type I Diabetes.

Survivors include her husband, Charles; sons, Michael (Jamie) Donovan, of Braidwood and Robert Donovan (Jamie Kelly), of Mokena; granddaughter, Ariana Donovan; brother,



Richard (Sharon) Golembeski; sister-in-law, MaryAnne Blattner, and her nephews, Kevin and Paul Golembeski.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Lori in childhood and her brother, Robert Golembeski.

A private family visitation was held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington, and Darlene was laid to rest in Resurrection Catholic Cemetery in Justice, IL, where she was entombed with her daughter, Lori.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Darlene’s name to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Funding, PO Box 37920, Boone, IA 50037.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs and share Darlene’s memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Darlene-Donovan

Funeral arrangements and services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Doris E. Bottens

COAL CITY—Doris E. Bottens, 85, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020 at her home.

Born Aug. 9, 1935 in Thayer, KS, Doris Elaine was a daughter of Henry Thomas and Effie Corrine (Bussert) Alexander. She was raised in Cherryvale, KS and graduated from Cherryvale High School with the class of 1953. On March 14, 1954, Doris married Raymond L. Bottens, and together they made their home in Braidwood before relocating to Coal City in 1964. Doris was an active member of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, where she taught Sunday school. Over the years she held employment with Hooks Pharmacy, Belletini’s and Matteson Tru-Valu Hardware, as well as run the little league concession stand. In her free time Doris enjoyed reading, scrapbooking and gardening, and will be remembered as loving all sports, especially the Chicago Cubs and Green Bay Packers.

Survivors include six children: Pam (Russ) Dunkel, of Stoughton, WI; Phyllis (Butch) Skubik and Patti Kuchar, both of Coal City; Scott (Lori) Bottens, of Lilburn, GA; Dan (Laura) Bottens, of Lisle and Roger Bottens, of Plainfield; 13 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, one sister, Rita (Paul) Powell, of Nebraska; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Elaine Alexander, of Kansas; Edward (Elaine) Bottens, of Cape Coral, FL; Ronald (Kay) Bottens, of Elmhurst and Elizabeth (Carl) Sallee, of Mt. Vernon, MO as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Raymond on Dec. 26, 2019; grandson, Dylan Bottens; one son-in-law, Lou Kuchar; brother, Donald Alexander; two sisters, Nadine (Charles) Weis and Yvonne (Loel) Hornback and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Hazel (James) Polchaire, Marion Bottens, Ruth (Chester) Rowe, Evelyn Bottens, Pauline



(Robert) Cope, Opal (Charles) Hamilton, Robert Bottens and James Bottens.

Green flameless cremation services have been accorded. The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., in Coal City from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 10:30 a.m.

Due to mandates issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, attendance to the service will be limited. Those wishing to participate in Doris’ services online are invited to watch the live stream on Saturday morning starting at 10:30 a.m. by logging onto her memorial page

Please note that face mask requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Doris and Raymond will be laid to rest in Colorado.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Doris’ memory to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to the great neighbors on West Third and Fourth Street for their friendship and support over the years. In addition they wish to express their heartfelt appreciation to the loving and faithful caregivers who attended to both Doris and Raymond over the past four years.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Doris’ memorial page online by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Doris-Bottens

Green flameless cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Doris Hedrick

WILMINGTON—Doris Mae (Rawlish) Hedrick, 82, of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, Sept. 20, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Dec. 26, 1937 in Morris, Doris was the daughter of Stephen and Celia “Toots” (Maland) Rawlish. She was raised and educated in Coal City, and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1955. On July 20, 1957, Doris married Benny R. Hedrick in the Kankakee United Methodist Church.

She was a very active member of the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington, and enjoyed sewing as well as feeding and watching the birds. Doris spent her winters in Florida for many years but maintained a close relationship with her family, especially her grandchildren who were precious to her.

Survivors include two sons, Stephen (Kathleen) Hedrick and John (Mary) Hedrick, both of Custer Park; five grandchildren: Erica (Nicholas) Doerfler, Joshua Hedrick, Seth (Kyla) Hedrick, Brett (Felipe Obregon) Hedrick and Brian Hedrick (fiancé Jackie Flint); five great-grandchildren: Cole, Patrick, Ben, Blaise and Lucy; one brother, James (Betty) Rawlish, of Coal City and one sister-in-law, Patricia (the



late Raymond) VanDyke, of Florida.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Benny.

Per Doris’ wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Friday, Sept. 25, 2020 from 10-11 a.m. Face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Memorial services will immediately follow the visitation, with Reverend Harriette Cross from First United Methodist Church in Wilmington officiating.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Doris’ memory to First United Methodist Church in Wilmington.

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Doris’ memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Nancy G. Lyons

COAL CITY—Nancy G. Lyons, 88, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020 at her home.

Born July 21, 1932 at home in Coal City, Nancy Grace was a daughter of John and Elizabeth (Thorton) Ross. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated with the Coal City High School class of 1950. Following graduation, Nancy worked for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant as a secretary until traveling to England, where she married Henry A. Lyons in High Wycomb, England on March 25, 1954. Following Henry’s discharge from the United States Air Force, they made their home and raised their family in Coal City.

Nancy held employment with the Coal City School District for 21 years, serving as an assistant librarian at the Elementary School. She was a longtime member of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, where she was active in the New Hope Women’s Association; she belonged to the Coal City Women’s Club, and volunteered in serving the Coal City Food Pantry. Nancy enjoyed traveling, cooking, baking and decorating, and her greatest accomplishment was being an extraordinary wife, mother and grandmother.

Survivors include her husband of 66 years, Henry “Hank” Lyons; daughter, Susan Lyons; son, Greg (Cathy) Lyons and daughter-in-law, Becky Lyons, all of Coal City; two grandsons, Benjamin (Felicia) Lyons, of New Lenox and



Luke Lyons (fiancé, Nikki Parks), of Coal City; one great-granddaughter expected; one niece, Jan (Bill) Spivey, of Apple River Canyon, IL and one nephew, Doug (Diane) Born, of Coal City, as well as cousins and friends.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; son, Henry Alan “Cob” Lyons; sister, Betty (John) Born, and brother-in-law, Raymond (Clara) Lyons.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St. (at First Street) in Coal City on Thursday, Sept. 24, 2020 from 3 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 6 p.m. Pastor Mark Hughey will officiate.

A private family burial will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Nancy’s memory to the New Hope Presbyterian Women’s Association, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City, IL 60416 or to Unit #1 Education Foundation, PO Box 177, Coal City, IL 60416

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Nancy’s memorial page on social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Nancy-Lyons

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Jeannie Ann Parent

BRAIDWOOD—Jeannie Ann Parent (nee Trumble), 74, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020 at Park Pointe Nursing Home in Morris.

Born July 15, 1946 in Kankakee, she was the daughter of Gurney L. and Frances (nee St. John) Trumble. She married Paul Edward Parent on Nov. 19, 1966 in Kankakee. She enjoyed reading and was a dedicated parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood where she volunteered at many church activities.

Surviving are sons, Paul (Lea) Parent, of Bloomington and Mark Parent, of Yorkville; daughter, Lisa Parent, of Denver, CO and three grandchildren: Cassie, Megan and Seth Parent.

Preceding her in death were her parents and husband, Paul Edward Parent (5-3-2006).



A Private Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Immaculate Conception Church. Following the service she will be laid to rest next to her late husband, Paul, in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.



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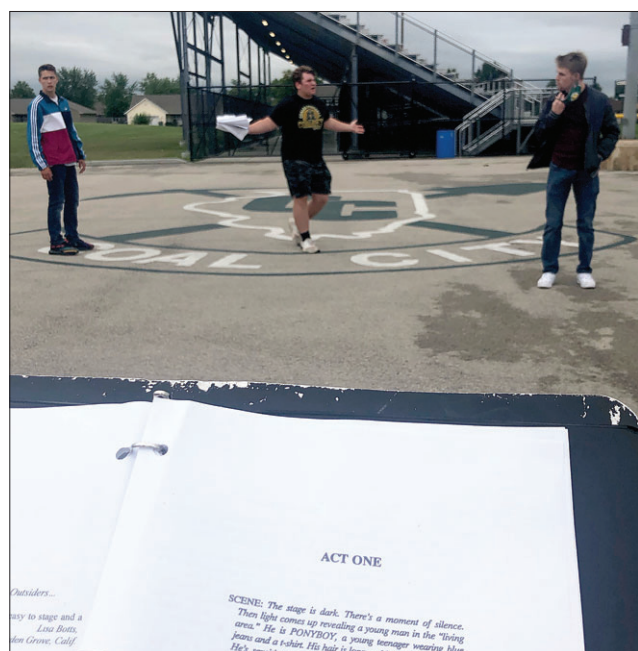
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Coalers head outdoors with *The Outsiders*



THE COAL CITY Theatre Department is taking its fall play outdoors with a production of "The Outsiders," a full-length play based on the novel written by S.E. Hinton. The story focuses on Ponyboy Curtis and his friends, the greasers, and their conflicts with the upper-class Socs which lead to fights and a run-in that leaves one of them dead. The story will be told by an all-student cast featuring DeKotah Rueger as "Sodapop," Caden Hennessy as "Darry" and Riley Nevin as "Ponyboy." The play will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9, Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11 on the outdoor stage on the Coal City Intermediate School campus. Audience members will be seated in socially distanced spaces on the school's campus designed to fit up to two, four or eight people. Advanced tickets are required and can be purchased at bit.ly/CCTDTickets.

Courtesy photo

Morris Hospital expands visitor guidelines

Morris Hospital has expanded its visitor guidelines. Effective Monday, Sept. 14, one designated support person age 18 or older is permitted for hospital inpatients, emergency room patients, and patients undergoing surgery or a procedure involving sedation.

General inpatient visiting hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m. The support person for obstetrical patients will continue to have 24 hour visiting.

Patients coming to Morris Hospital or any of its facilities for services other than an inpatient stay, emergency visit, or surgery or procedure involving sedation are still asked to come alone in order to maintain an environment conducive to physical distancing. This includes outpatient tests and procedures that don't involve sedation, rehabilitation services, physician office visits, and immediate/convenient care visits.

A support person will continue to be permitted in all circumstances for children 17 and younger, individuals with intellectual and/or development disabilities, and those needing continual assistance.

Like all guests entering the hospital, support persons will undergo a temperature check and screening questions at the entrance. Anyone exhibiting a fever, sore throat, shortness of breath, cough, or flu-like symptoms will not be permitted to enter. Masks covering the nose and mouth are required at all times inside all Morris Hospital facilities.

Drastic cuts needed without federal aid

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — State agency heads are preparing to cut 5% of their budgets in the current fiscal year and 10% next fiscal year should the federal government fail to provide aid to state and local governments, Gov. JB Pritzker said last week.

The governor made the announcement during a news conference called to announce another \$245 million in grants aimed at giving a boost to businesses hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest. That includes \$220 million in Business Interruption Grants for businesses suffering losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding comes from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES, Act.

That was a more than \$2 trillion stimulus package passed by Congress. Partisan disputes in Washington, D.C., however, have stalled follow-up legislation, which several U.S. governors, including Pritzker, have said needs to focus on aid to states.

"Let me repeat that every state in the nation has suffered, every municipality in the nation has suffered from the fiscal effects of COVID-19," Pritzker said. "However, until Republicans in Washington decide otherwise, middle class, working class and poor families across our state and across the nation will likely suffer from cuts to public safety, education, human services and environmental safety, and the potential layoffs will make the economic recession worse."

He called the potential for cuts a "nightmare scenario" for entities such as schools, hospitals, universities, law enforcement, health care workers and firefighters.

Master Class Mondays bring Broadway stars to your home

Aladdin's Genie, Han's from *Frozen*, and *Newsies* Katherine are among the Broadway stars participating in Coal City Theatre Department's Master Class Mondays, and the sessions are now open to students from across the area.

The virtual series began Sept. 14 with a college audition and prep class led by Kyle Selig who plays Aaron Samuels in *Mean Girls*.

Next up is a session with Major Attaway, an award winning actor and singer who portrays Genie in Disney's *Aladdin* on Broadway.

The Sept. 28 session is recommended for students in fourth to eighth grade who will meet, learn from and chat with the actor through an interactive on-line session.

Students interested in auditioning for theatre will be interested in taking part in a class with Tracie Thoms who has appeared in multiple Broadway produc-

tions including *Rent* and *Falsettos*. She's also appeared on the big screen in shows such as *The Devil Wears Prada* and on the small screen with appearances *Grey's Anatomy* and *Law & Order*.

Thoms will lead the virtual master class in auditioning on Oct. 19. There are two levels of participation—performer in which participants will audition with Thoms to gain feedback and spectators who will sit in on the session to gain feedback from the actress and utilize what they learned in later auditions.

On Nov. 16, Ryan McCartan will be logging in to work on acting techniques and audition materials with interested performers.

McCartan was most recently seen in the role of Han's in Broadway's *Frozen* and young audiences will know McCartan from his role as Diggle on Disney Channel's *Liv & Maddie*.

The McCartan master class also pro-

vides two levels of participation—performer and spectator.

Kara Lindsay will close out the series with a vocal technique class on Dec. 7. Once again the session has two levels performer and spectator, but both will learn a lot from this Broadway star who has taken the stage as Glinda in *Wicked*, Cynthia Weil in *Beautiful* and Katherine in *Newsies*. Her long list of credits also include productions such as *Mary Poppins* and *Cinderella*.

The cost to participate in the classes range from \$15 to \$30 per person, and all are being held virtually.

To register for one or more of the upcoming master classes visit bit.ly/CCTheatreDept

Questions can be directed to Coal City theatre director Jack Micetich at jmicetich@coalcityschools.org.



Courtesy photos

MEMBERS OF THE St. Juvn Post 1336 Honor Guard prepare to volley in honor the those veterans added to the Community Veterans Monument located in the northeast corner of the Coal City Intermediate School campus and visible to the public from Division Street [Route 113].

Post 1336 honors community veterans

On a sunny Sunday in September, St. Juvn Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars [VFW] conducted a belated ceremony honoring 14 U.S. military veterans whose names were added to the west face of the Community Veteran's Monument located on the Coal City Intermediate School campus.

The monument now has 1,101 names

of community veterans dating back to the Spanish-American War.

Pontiac Granite Company recently etched the names along with a Wall of Honor header at the top of the south face of the monument.

Due to health concerns with the pandemic, the traditional Memorial Day observation of reading the names of local

veterans, and those veterans whose names were newly added, was canceled in May.

The Coal City Public Library District videotaped the Sept. 13 ceremony to be included with interviews of local veterans on its website as a substitute for the Veterans Day event usually held in the Coal City Performing Arts Center.



ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 13, members of St. Juvn Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars gathered at the Coal City Veterans Monument to honor the military service of local veterans. Life member Jack Micetich read the names of the latest group of veterans, some from World War II who were added to the monument this year.

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We will be at Whitmore Ace Hardware Braidwood Thurs., Sept. 24 2:30-6:30 & Coal City & Dwight Farmers Market Sat., Sept. 26 8:00-11:00 (possibly longer)

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Community calendar of events

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Thursday, September 24

• 8 to 11:45 a.m., Community Care Center, 112 S. Center St., Braidwood, food pantry open on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
• 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m., Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., open Monday through Friday
• 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, open every Tuesday and Thursday, one member of each family allowed, patrons must wear a face mask, social distance, answer health questionnaire, and no children allowed unless otherwise approved
• 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., for questions call 815-216-3288
• 7 p.m., Wilmington Park Board meeting, Wilmington Island Park District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Saturday, September 26

• Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday
• 5 to 7 p.m., Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Supper, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington, takeout only, freewill donation, order at the door

Sunday, September 27

• 1 to 6 p.m., Tommy Toler Fighting Strong Benefit, Top Fuel Saloon, 275 S. Hickory Street, Braidwood, benefit to help man

fighting cancer, raffles, door prizes, food, drinks and music
• 6 to 7:30 p.m., NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meeting, online on zoom, register at www.nami-willgrund.org/online-support-groups, each Sunday
Monday, September 28

• 7 p.m., Village of Godley meeting, 150 S. Kankakee St., Godley, meetings are usually held on the fourth Monday of each month

Wednesday, September 30

• 7:45 a.m., TOPS IL 1024, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington, weigh-in at 7:45 a.m. and meeting in Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m., masks and social distancing will be observed

Thursday, October 1

• 5 p.m., Wilmington Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., usually the first Thursday of each month

Friday, October 2

• 4 to 5 p.m., Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood, held on the first and third Friday of each month

Saturday, October 3

• 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Heritage Day Craft Show, Carbon Hill Park, West Lacey Street, Carbon Hill, hosted by Coal City Junior Woman's Club
• 3 to 7 p.m., Benefit Spaghetti Dinner for Joe Casteel, The

Moose Family Center, 32050 S. West River Road, Wilmington, hosted by Women of the Moose for Joe Casteel who is battling cancer, raffles, basket items and more.

Sunday, October 4

• 4 to 7 p.m., Spaghetti Supper, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley, fee is \$8 and includes spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert, pre-orders are accepted by calling 815-458-6129 up until the day of the event, walk in orders are welcome, carry-out only

Tuesday, October 7

• 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., first and third Tuesday of each month

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Marilyn Wysocki
Ed Oedzes

Free Press Newspapers earn state awards

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois' top newspapers were honored recently by the Illinois Press Association during the 2019 state editorial and advertising awards contest that was held virtually last week due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Free Press Newspaper publications received two 1st place awards, three 2nd place awards and an honorable mention.

The Free Press Newspapers; including *The Free Press Advocate*, *The Braidwood Journal* and *The Coal City Courant*; compete in the small newspaper division for publications with circulations under 4,000 each.

Advertising

1st place = best newspaper promotion, The Free Press Advocate. Featured an ad titled, "You're reading a dinosaur" inviting readers to subscribe. The ad was drafted by Eric Fisher and designed by Janet Fisher.

1st place = best shared signature page, The Free Press Advocate. Designed by Janet Fisher, drafted by Patti Sorg and Eric Fisher. The double page ad was in accordance with Fire Prevention Week. "Great use of color throughout layout, very uniform and appealing to the eye," judges said.

2nd place = events/entertainment ad, The Coal City Courant. The ad was for Broadway Dance Center, drafted by Patti Sorg, designed by Janet Fisher. "This ad has the moves! Grooves! And is so colorful! Great job graphic dept., an effective ad," judges commented.

2nd place = best annual special section, The Free Press Advocate, titled We Salute our Veterans." It's a special tab section featuring article and photos of over 620 local men and



Photo by Shawn Long

SECOND BEST IN STATE - The Coal City Courant is honored to have this 2019 entry in the Illinois Press Association's annual editorial contest judged 2nd place among sports photo submissions. Judges awarded sports reporter Shawn Long 2nd in the Division A category which includes Illinois newspapers with circulation of the Courant's size. It features Coal City fullback Kade McKinney breaking the plane to score a touchdown in a 2019 contest against Reed-Custer. This is the first state award for Long who runs the sports department at the Free Press Newspapers which includes the Courant.

women who have served in the military.

Editorial

The FPN was awarded two state awards for sports photography.

2nd place = sports photo, The Coal City Courant. Photo taken by Shawn Long during a Coal City football game shown a touchdown being scored by

Coaler fullback Kade McKinney.

Honorable mention = sports photo, The Free Press Advocate. The photo taken by Eric Fisher was an action shot of Wilmington volleyball player Megan Mann digging for the ball.

"We're honored to be recognized for our creativity and hard work we put into our pub-

lications each week," commented Eric Fisher who is publisher. "Considering there were 500 contest entries from throughout the state and we were able to garner six is an accomplishment we are proud of."

The Illinois Press Association, located in Springfield, represents 480 daily and weekly newspapers.

Kankakee State Park campground set to re-open

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources announced that the Kankakee River State Park's Potawatomi campground will re-open.

State Rep. Lindsay Parkhurst (R-Kankakee) and State Senator Patrick Joyce (D-Essex) worked together to cut through red tape of multiple state agencies to get the project completed so the campground, shuttered since 2015 amid a lack of capital funding to complete needed renovations, can finally reopen to the public.

The campground is set open on Thursday, Oct. 1.

"The Kankakee River State Park is a treasure we need to maintain and protect. I worked and fought for progress on getting both the Potawatomi and Chippewa campgrounds open since taking office in 2017 despite road blocks and administrative red tape at

every turn," Parkhurst said.

In 2012, it was determined renovations were needed for one of the main buildings and for the installation of a new sewage treatment plant to accompany the facility. The work began, but was suspended due to the lack of a capital budget in 2015.

"When Senator Joyce was appointed, I asked for his cooperation and support in this battle and he gladly accepted. We both have deep roots in this community and are happily and successfully working together, despite all the partisan politics in our state, to improve the 79th District. We care about our community and it took both of us, on both sides of the aisle, to accomplish the opening of the campground. We will continue to work together to reopen the Chippewa campground," said Parkhurst.



Courtesy photo

STATE REPRESENTATIVE LINDSAY Parkhurst and State Senator Patrick Joyce announce that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will re-open the Kankakee River State Park's Potawatomi campground on Oct. 1. The campground has been closed for repairs since 2015.

Community Development Block grant funds totalling \$1.6 million were secured to complete the campground improvements.

"During my time representing this district, I have worked tirelessly to ensure this

remarkable resource is available to residents across this region. I am proud of the bipartisan work Representative Parkhurst and I accomplished to bring this campground to the people we represent," Joyce said.

Located southeast of Wilmington at 5314 W. Route 102, Bourbonnais, the Potawatomi campground runs along the Kankakee River. "The park is a community staple that I am happy folks will have access to utilize and enjoy. As we kick off the fall season and more families are choosing to travel locally during the pandemic, the timing for the opening of the Kankakee State Park Potawatomi Campground could not be more perfect. We will all continue work together to get Chippewa campgrounds open next," Joyce said.

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International Cub Cadet 782 D diesel with 50" mower deck. Excellent condition. Call 815-634-8620. cc38a-39b

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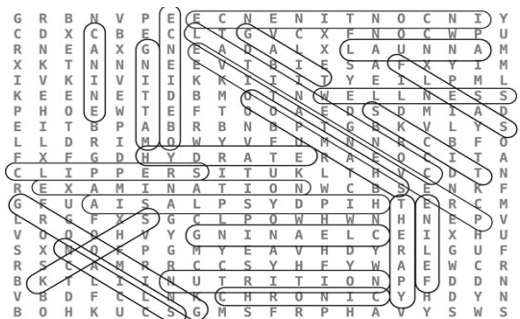
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Feds OK committee can subpoena witnesses during Madigan hearing

During both the impeachment proceedings against Gov. Rod Blagojevich and the disciplinary proceedings that led to the expulsion of state Rep. Derrick Smith (D-Chicago), the Illinois House was able to call witnesses. But because of ongoing federal investigations in both instances, the U.S. Attorney limited what some of those witnesses could be asked.

Blagojevich had been charged with multiple felonies and Smith had been caught on audio accepting a cash bribe.

"We couldn't call certain witnesses because we couldn't ask them anything but their name," explained an attorney who worked on both cases.

Last week, the House Republicans informed a Chicago newspaper that U.S. Attorney John Lausch had granted permission to call witnesses to the special House committee taking a look at whether disciplinary proceedings should be started against House Speaker Michael Madigan over his alleged role in a bribery scheme detailed in ComEd's Deferred Prosecution Agreement. The company, you certainly know by now, agreed to pay a \$200 million fine for its alleged role, although it has entered a plea of "Not Guilty" for the time being.

Not so fast, said the committee's Democratic chairman, Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside). The U.S. Attorney, Welch claimed, "requested we refrain from seeking any materials or testimony related to [ComEd's deferred prosecution agreement] that is still confidential or anything in the possession of the federal government."

In other words, Welch said, "we can call witnesses, but we can't really ask them any questions."

The committee's next step was to draft a letter memorializing the conversation with Lausch and then send it to Lausch's office for a co-sign.

But Rep. Welch accused the House Republicans of playing political games and the Republicans were shocked, shocked that



Rich Miller
CAPITOL FACTS

someone would ever suggest such a thing, and drafting a bipartisan response proved impossible.

So, the two parties, evenly divided 3-3 on the committee, each drafted their own, conflicting letters.

U.S. Attorney Lausch responded to the two letters shortly thereafter.

"We hope this clarifies the positions we described in our September 14 call," Lausch wrote to the committee.

Nope. Not even close.

The House Republicans issued an immediate statement claiming that Lausch's response had given the committee "the green light to pursue all avenues of the investigation, including testimony and documents, that were articulated in the petition." The petition forcing the creation of the committee was filed by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin and focused mainly on ComEd's deferred prosecution agreement.

Rep. Welch, the committee's chairman, a successful attorney and a strong ally of House Speaker Madigan, claimed his read of Lausch's letter was that "information underlying the deferred prosecution agreement beyond what is already public could be met with objection by federal investigators, and any further information collected by the federal government that informed that agreement is explicitly off limits."

Lausch did reserve the right to object to specific testimony or documents. But he also said his office didn't object "generally" to the committee's "pursuit of testimony or production of documents," even if the parties had shared the same information with the feds. The witnesses just couldn't say whether they shared that information with the government or what they learned from federal investigators.

"The feds say we can ask our own questions as long as we don't ask 'Did you tell the feds XYZ?' is how one Republican put it.

So, I assume the Republicans could ask Speaker Madigan if

he ever tried to get anyone appointed to ComEd's board of directors, or if he was aware of anyone in his ward applying for a ComEd internship program, or if he knew that people were being hired on contract with ComEd's money to do no-show jobs (the DPA alleges that all this and more was done to secure the powerful Madigan's favor). But would he answer the questions or even appear?

"If the GOP's objective is to get Madigan sitting in front of them unable to answer questions, then they won that one," said one attorney close to the House Democrats. "If the objective is to actually do an investigation, then they lost."

We'll see.

In the meantime, Rep. Welch set the next hearing for Sept. 29 in Springfield. He also said he sent letters requesting testimony from Speaker Madigan and everyone on the House Republicans' witness list.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

Hospital encourages patients to get healthcare they need

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, a member of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA), is supporting a statewide public education campaign encouraging patients to move their health ahead. Due to safety concerns from COVID-19, many patients have put off important health screenings, physician visits, preventive care, surgeries and even emergency room visits.

The "Moving Healthy Ahead" initiative will inform the community of the many procedures and practices that

hospitals across the state, have implemented to ensure their safety, comfort and confidence. These practices include such actions as social distancing in waiting areas, symptom and temperature checks upon entering the hospital, mandatory mask requirements, and enhanced cleaning.

"We know that many people in our community are putting off getting the care they need to treat severe diseases, manage chronic health conditions, and stay up-to-date on preventive screenings and procedures," said Mark Steadham,

President & CEO of Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "Our organization is committed to providing the highest quality patient care in a safe and efficient manner. More than ever, we all know how important it is to maintain good health practices."

According to IHA President and CEO A. J. Wilhelmi, "We all know the impact COVID-19 has had on the health of our country and state. Hospitals in Illinois have taken great measures to ensure that patients are treated safely and efficiently so they can get

the care they need, when and where they need it. This initiative will inform the public that they should be getting the healthcare they require from their local hospital."

Adds Steadham, "Studies show that people are concerned and delaying, or not seeking treatment at all, for their health needs, and we want them to know how important it is for them to move ahead in a safe, comfortable environment."

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Master Class Mondays bring Broadway stars to your home

Aladdin's Genie, Han's from *Frozen*, and *Newsies* Katherine are among the Broadway stars participating in Coal City Theatre Department's Master Class Mondays, and the sessions are now open to students from across the area.

The virtual series began Sept. 14 with a college audition and prep class led by Kyle Selig who plays Aaron Samuels in *Mean Girls*.

Next up is a session with Major Attaway, an award winning actor and singer who portrays Genie in Disney's *Aladdin* on Broadway.

The Sept. 28 session is recommended for students in fourth to eighth grade who will meet, learn from and chat with the actor through an interactive on-line session.

Students interested in auditioning for theatre will be interested in taking part in a class with Tracie Thoms who has appeared in multiple Broadway productions including *Rent* and *Falsettos*. She's also appeared on the big screen in shows such as *The Devil Wears Prada* and on the small screen with appearances *Grey's Anatomy* and *Law & Order*.

Thoms will lead the virtual master class in auditioning on Oct. 19. There are two levels of participation—performer in which participants will audition with Thoms to gain feedback and spectators who will sit in on the session to gain

feedback from the actress and utilize what they learned in later auditions.

On Nov. 16, Ryan McCartan will be logging in to work on acting techniques and audition materials with interested performers.

McCartan was most recently seen in the role of Han's in Broadway's *Frozen* and young audiences will know McCartan from his role as Diggle on Disney Channel's *Liv & Maddie*.

The McCartan master class also provides two levels of participation—performer and spectator, but both will learn a lot from this Broadway star who has taken the stage as Glinda in *Wicked*, Cynthia Weil in *Beautiful* and Katherine in *Newsies*. Her long list of credits also include productions such as *Mary Poppins* and *Cinderella*.

The cost to participate in the classes range from \$15 to \$30 per person, and all are being held virtually. To register for one or more of the upcoming master classes visit bit.ly/CCTheatreDept

Questions can be directed to Coal City theatre director Jack Micetich at jmicetich@coalcityschools.org.

Haunted Lolli Land to provide Halloween fun

Fall event to benefit Shop with a Hero

Grundy County Heroes & Helpers will host a COVID-19 sensitive Halloween event to collect toys for children in need for Christmas.

Haunted Lolli Land drive-thru toy drive will take place Saturday, Oct. 10 at First Christian Church, 455 W. Southmore Rd., Morris. Registration is required for the event that runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Families are invited to participate in the toy drive by donating new, unwrapped toys of any price point, to be given

to recipients of Grundy County Heroes and Helpers second annual Shop with a Hero day in December. In lieu of a new unwrapped toy, the cost to enter is \$20 per car.

Participants will enter in their vehicles and once greeted at the church, they will receive a ticket to enter the haunted drive-thru Lolli Land just around the corner. Children will then be invited outside where they will be greeted by favorite characters and provided an opportunity to play games, enter a costume contest and trick-or-treat for candy all while social distancing.

Families will be allowed to participate together, but distanced from other vehicles and participants.

To register for Haunted Lolli Land contact the organization by e-mail at wendy@gchhinc.org or through private message on the group's Facebook page at Grundy County Heroes & Helpers Inc.

Heroes & Helpers is a non-profit organization of law enforcement personnel, their families, and helpers to enhance the lives of children in need across Grundy County. Believing that every child deserved a joyous and magical

Christmas, the committee is devoted to coming along-side families to provide toys, clothing and shoes for the 2020 Christmas season.

Recipients will be paired with a local firefighters, police, sheriff and/or EMS personnel on Dec. 12 for a Christmas shopping spree.

Families with children ages 4-15 years old who would like to be considered as a 2020 Shop with a Hero recipient can download the application at www.hhgcinc.org. Click on the events link dated Dec. 12 and download the application. Applications due by 5 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Braidwood to have trick-or-treating

STAFF REPORT

The city of Braidwood is confirming that trick-or-treating will be permitted this year on Halloween.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, children will still be able to participate this year, but the city is asking everyone to be mindful of safety guidelines when going door to door.

The following safety guidelines should be followed:

- Face coverings should be worn — they may be costume

masks

- No homemade treats — prepackaged treats only.
- Do not enter homes to retrieve treats

- Young children should be accompanied by an adult

- Older trick-or-treaters should stay in groups

- Turn on your porch light if you are welcoming trick-or-treaters

The hours for trick-or-treating this year are from 2 to 5 p.m. Halloween falls on a Sunday this Oct. 31.

Spooky Scavenger Hunt begins in Oct. 1

Drop by Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning Oct. 1 to search for spooktacular items in the forest as a part of a Spooky Scavenger Hunt.

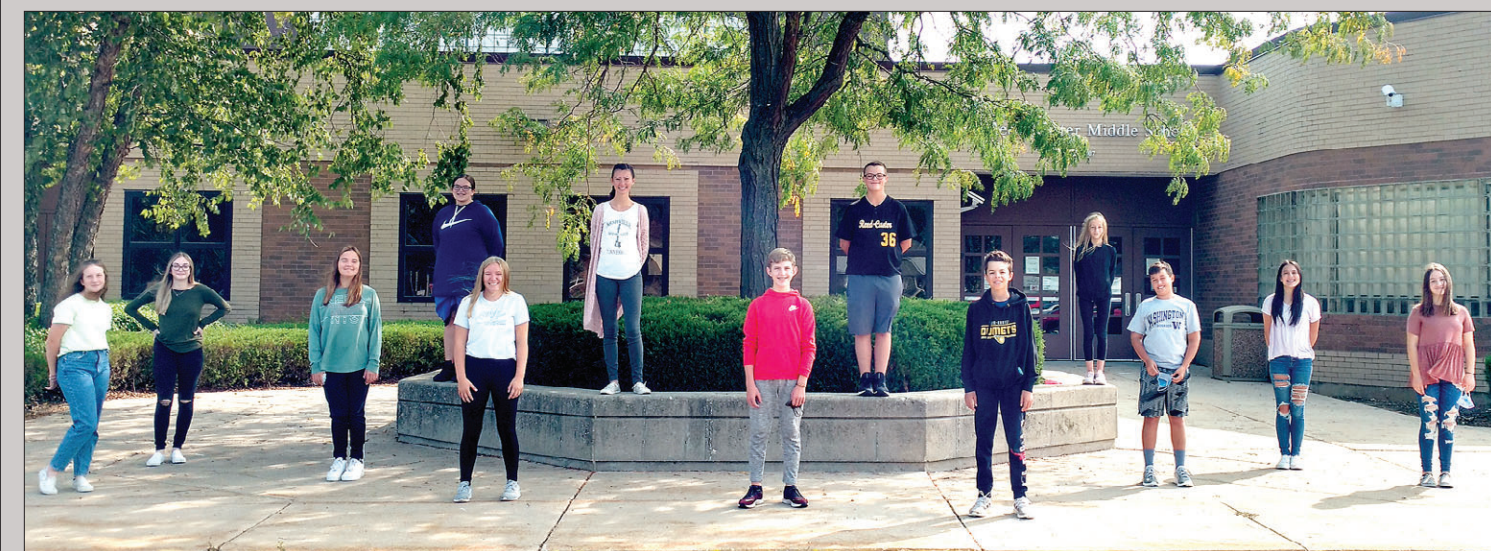
Some items may be natural, while others may be SUPER natural. Other items may be unnatural. Can you find them all as you meander through the forest?

Stop by Four Rivers Environmental Education Center to get a map of the route and a list of the items, and see if you can find them all. It will be a spooktacularly fun time.

This program will be held throughout October. Visitor center hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays. It is closed Mondays.

No registration is required.

Hikes are approximately 0.5 miles on paved trails.



Courtesy Photo

NEW OFFICERS HAVE been elected to the Reed-Custer Middle School National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Top row (left to right): Savannah Bateman, Addison Brown, Owen Dooley, and Olivia Esparza. Bottom row (left to right): Emma Wilson, Camryn Garrelts, Leah Grace, Addison Hartman, Spencer Newbrough, Nolan Smith, Luca Trucano, Ava VanDuyne, and Alexis Winyinger.

Jr. honor society officers elected at Reed-Custer Middle

The election of new officers was held on Sept. 10 for the Reed-Custer Middle School Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). The new officers will preside over the organization during the 2020-2021 school year.

The new officers are: Ava VanDuyne (president); Addison Brown (vice president); Camryn Garrelts (secretary); Luca Trucano (treasurer); and Olivia Esparza & Emma Wilson (historians).

Students are inducted into NJHS when they are in seventh or eighth grade. Students who are a part of NJHS display excellence in academics as well as demonstrate qualities of service, citizenship, character, leadership and scholarship.

The NJHS members are currently planning community service projects and fundraisers for various charitable organizations for the year to come.



Courtesy photo

DANA ABRAHAM, head of adult services at the Coal City Public Library, displays the colorful hedgehog quilt she recently completed and will include in the library's annual quilt show that will be presented virtually this fall. Photo submissions of quilts will be taken through Oct. 1 and be featured in the on-line display that will appear on the library's website, ccpld.org, from Oct. 14 to Nov. 14.

Calling all quilters

The work of talented quilters will be showcased to a much larger audience for annual Coal City Public Library quilt display that will be done virtually for 2020.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the library is unable to have the display throughout the building, so the event will be online. Thus, the library is asking quilters to share photographs of themselves with quilts they would like featured.

This is the 28th year the library has put a spotlight on the talents of local quilters and the virtual display will go live

on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at ccpld.org. It will remain on the site through Saturday, Nov. 14.

Quilters who would like to be a part of the virtual display are asked to e-mail a photo along with information including the quilter's name, name of quilt and a short description of the work. Send jpegs as an attachment to Dana Abraham, head of adult services, at dana@ccpld.org. Quilters can also reach out to her at 815-634-4552 ext. 113 to set up an appointment for a photo to be taken.

What's for lunch at Reed-Custer?

Sept. 28 – Oct. 2
Monday- Popcorn chicken, buttered noodles, corn, fruit, milk
Tuesday- Hot dog, black beans, chips, fruit, milk
Wednesday- Mini corn dogs, rice, peas, fruit, milk
Thursday- Hamburger, mozzarella sticks, green beans, fruit, milk
Friday - Pizza, corn, cupcake, fruit, milk
Assorted sandwiches and salad bar available daily.

Will County police blotter

The Will County Sheriff's Office provides a weekly blotter of activity for townships in The Free Press circulation area. Persons named are innocent of any charges until proven guilty.

Sept. 3

- Tiffany Johnson, age 38, of Essex, was cited at North Washington and East Main Street in Reed Township for speeding, illegal transportation of alcohol and resisting or obstructing a peace officer.

Sept. 4

- Morgan Carlisle, age 70, of Midlothian, was cited at West Wilmington-Peotone Road and South Old Chicago Road in Wilmington for leaving the scene of property damage accident, failure to report accident to police, failure to reduce speed to avoid accident and improper lane usage.

Sept. 5

- Billie Smith, age 44 of Wilmington, was cited on I-55 in Wilmington for no valid driver's license, improper lane usage and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Students learn about forces with demolition derby



Courtesy Photo

MR. BELL'S SEVENTH grade science class at Reed-Custer Middle School studied forces by having a demolition derby with toy cars on Sept. 16 and 17. Competition was fierce, as each class had different approaches to apply force to the cars. On Sept. 18, the winners for each class and A/B days participated in a final victor's competition. After the tournament was over, Gwen Stewart (pictured) emerged on top as the Champion of Champions. Second place was won by Dion Grangent and third place was Christian Mounts. Overall, the students had fun and learned about the application of forces.

Three more West Nile Virus positive mosquito batches found

The Will County Health Department has found three additional WNV-positive mosquito samples from planted WCHD traps. Two were collected from a Mokena trap, and one from a Frankfort trap.

This brings the total amount of positive mosquito batches collected in Will County this mosquito season to 22. Eight were collected by WCHD operated traps; while other positive samples came from traps operated by the Illinois Department of Public Health and various mosquito abatement districts.

Although WCHD traps have now been

taken down due to the cooling weather, Will County residents are advised to continue using extreme caution with mosquitoes until the first frost. This includes wearing long sleeve shirts, long pants, and shoes and socks; especially during peak mosquito periods between dusk and dawn. Insect repellent with DEET is recommended as well, in addition to reminders to get rid of standing water around your home.

West Nile Virus is spread to humans through the bite of a Culex mosquito, after that mosquito has bitten a bird infected with WNV.

NEED EVENT PUBLICITY?

CONTACT US AT

news@fpnusa.com or call 815-476-7966



LEANING INTO HIS throw to first base, after running down a grounder hit to second, is Reed-Custer Middle School's Nolan Smith.

Varsity Panthers scratched by 'Cats

3BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, the Panthers were unable to keep up with Mokena, dropping a 5-2 affair. Mokena gained the lead with four in the first. The Panthers came back with their only two runs in the third, 4-2 but they were unable to muster more as Mokena scored another run in the final innings to seal the game. Joe Bembenek went 5.0 innings, giving up two earned runs on five hits while fanning five and walking two. Nolan Smith and Brady Tyree knocked in the runs. Landen Robinson (two hits), Bembenek and Smith (two hits) had the other hits. WMS 2, RCMS 1

The Reed-Custer A baseball team fell to the Wildcats on Thursday. Wilmington gained a 1-0 lead with a run in the first and the Panthers came back with a run of their own in the second as Nolan Smith scored on an error after walking to lead off the inning and that tied things up, 1-1 until the bottom of the fourth. The Panthers were unable to do anything in the top half and the 'Cats finished them off with an RBI knock in the bottom half. Joe Bembenek pitched a whale of a game for the Panthers, going 4.0 innings, giving up two runs on three hits while fanning five and walking two. They were led by Bembenek, who had the lone hit. WMS 11, RCMS 0

The Panthers were no-hit by the Wildcats early Thursday. They had two baserunners as Bembenek and Brady Tyree



3Photo by Eric Fisher

ON THE MOUND for the Pathners during the second game of a double header Thursday is Reed-Custer Middle School's Joe Benbenek.

walked but other than that, they were shut down. Alex Bielfeldt took the loss, giving up 10 runs on 11 hits while fanning two and walking two.



Photos by Eric Fisher

A LEAPING TRY - Reed-Custer Middle School shortstop Brady Tyree tries to grab a hit up the middle during Thursday's double header against Wilmington.

Comet golfers place fifth at ICE conference tournament

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Reed-Custer golf team placed fifth during the Illinois Central Eight Conference tournament with a score of 420. Joel Hunt led the Comets with a 95, good for fourth in the boys overall standings. Makayla Wilkins placed third in the girls division with a 105. Reed-Custer 198 Lisle 194

Reed-Custer came close but ended up falling by four strokes to Lisle in a 198-194 loss. Joel Hunt medaled shooting a 42 to lead the Comets. Clayton Newborough, who came in right at 50. Makayla Wilkins shot a 51 while Aiden Lantka rounded out the top four golfers with a 55. Eli Shaeffer was just outside the top four, shooting a 60. Reed-Custer 204



Photos by Shawn Long

REED-CUSTER FRESHMAN Cameron Fernschuss tees off during a home golf match.

Peotone 174 a 54 and Shaeffer followed with a 59. Charlie Boyd and Lorne Wilkins were just outside the top four with a 67 and 68, respectively. The Comet golfers will battle Seneca today (Wednesday). Hunt was right behind him with a 47 while Lantka had

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Photo by Eric Fisher

SWINGING AWAY for the Lady Panther softball team during their home contest against Wilmington on Thursday is Ella Anderson.

Lady Panthers fall to Wilmington

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Reed-Custer Middle School A softball team suffered a 5-4 loss to Wilmington on Thursday.

After gaining a 3-0 lead in the second, the Panthers watched their lead slip away as Wilmington went on a 4-1 run the rest of the way.

Addi Brown took the loss on the mound as she went the distance, giving up just one earned run on six hits while fanning 12.

Leah Grace, Reese Brown, Olivia McLaughlin and Addi Brown drove in the runs to lead them.

Addi Brown and Jaiden Wilbur had the lone hits for the Panthers.

The B team pounded the Wilmington B team, 15-1.

Reed-Custer scored five runs in the first, third and fourth to put the 'Cats away.

An RBI double off the bat of Foote ignited a five-run fourth inning.

Kirstin Klein went the distance on the mound, giving up no earned runs on two hits

while fanning 11 and walking seven.

McKenzie Foote doubled and knocked in two runs to lead them. Brooklyn Gonzalez and Skylar Wilkins also drove in two runs while Mackenzie Gersch and Grace Robinson drove in arun.

Mackenzie Thompson also had a hit.

Grace Barbush (two steals), Gersch (3SBs), Kamryn Marschner and Thompson all swiped bags for the Lady Panthers.

RCMS 0, Dwight 6

Despite another tremendous pitching performance from Addi Brown, who went 7.0

innings, giving up six unearned runs on four hits while fanning 13, the Lady Panthers were unable to muster the run support in a loss on Tuesday.

Brown was tremendous but her defense didn't help her out as they committed 11 errors that led to the six runs for Dwight, who only had four hits.

Dwight got its runs in the second, third, fourth and fifth innings to put Reed-Custer away.

For the Record: Best Lady Comet volleyball players

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Over 20 seasons, the Reed-Custer volleyball program won two regional titles (1992, 2016) and a sectional title (1992). But what's odd is that the after that first year of doing so well, 1992, the program shows a seven-year gap before it re-started again in 1999.

Thank goodness it did because if it hadn't, we would have missed out on seeing several talented Lady Comets.

This week, The Braidwood Journal delves into the record books to feature some of the record holders at Reed-Custer.

The Lady Comet with the most kills is Madelyn Alton, a 2017 graduate, who drilled 558

kills in her three seasons on varsity.

Alton was on fire, pounding 179 as a senior, when the Comets won a regional with a 16-14 record.

Next on the list is from the 2012 team. Marion Barton led the Comets to a 14-14 record with 525 kills. She has the second most in a season, recording 201 kills during her junior year.

Following her, a teammate of Alton's, Cassidy Barr, has the third most kills with 372 including 252 that came in her senior year.

At the net

Defending the net is just as important. So who is the all-time block leader at Reed-Custer? It is Barton, who sent

159 of the opposing shots right back where they came from.

She hammered down a team-leading 108 blocks in her junior year.

Gabryel Ording, a 2007 graduate, has the second most blocks in history as she accumulated 147 from 2004 to 2007.

A 2015 graduate, Kaitlin O'Connor, is third on the all-time list as she compiled 123 in two seasons (2014, 2015). She has the second most in a season, knocking away 105 during her senior season.

Reed-Custer 2018 graduate Maggie Meyr is fourth on the blocks list, batting away 94 all-time blocks. She swatted 50 during her senior season.

Ashley Coster, 2019 graduate, rounds out the top five blockers, accumulating 84 blocks, including 32 during her senior season.

Just outside the top five for blocks is Kelsi McMahan, who batted away 66 opposing hits and 47 during a single season.

Keep it alive

Blocking is important but you need players who keep the ball alive. Few were better at it than Alton, an amazing libero during her time on the court, collecting career 1,120 digs, including 462 in a season which is second best for a single season.

A 2018 graduate, Emily Wolf has the best single season digs numbers as she scooped up 467 digs in her senior season. She has the second career most with 613.

Barr is also third on the digs list as she dug deep for 591 during her Lady Comet career. She secured 371 in a season, good for third best.

Georgia Votta is fourth on the digs list, saving 584 for Reed-Custer. Votta accumulated 334 digs during a single season.

Maddie Tiangco, a 2017 graduate, rounds out the dig leaders, scooping up 505 digs as a Lady Comet. She had 290 during her senior season.

Serving up excellence

Who was the best at hitting it where the defense wasn't at?

That would be Alton, who drew 149 aces. She delivered 43 in a season, which is second best to Barton, who delivered 47 aces in a season.

Barton is also next on the all-time list with 102 aces.

Tiangco is third on the list,



Courtesy Photo

RECORDING A KILL for Reed-Custer's volleyball team is Madelyn Alton. Alton is the all-time kill leader at Reed-Custer holding the record since she graduated in 2017.

serving up 86 aces for the Lady Comets. She smacked 40 over in a season.

Krystal Wanda delivered 73 aces for the Lady Comets. Wanda has the third most in a season, sending 46 over in 2012.

Barr was also one of the better servers as she rounds out the list with 63 aces. She delivered 39 during her senior season.

Need a hand

Kills are great and those girls get a lot of glory but the

girls that set them up should get just as much glory.

Val Guzman is the assist leader at Reed-Custer, setting up 630 kills in a single season and 826 all-time.

Stefanie James, a 2008 graduate, was the second best at it as she delivered 748 all-time assists.

The 2019 Lady Comet graduate Meghan Faletti was consistent for Reed-Custer as a setter as she accumulated 562 assists from 2017 to 2019. She set up 221 kills during her sen-

ior season.

Jessica Elsner is right behind her with 454 assists. She delivered 444 during a season, which is the second most.

Reed-Custer senior Daniele Cherry is fifth on the assist list, collecting 382 assists as a Lady Comet. She'll have an opportunity to pass her former teammate in the spring when volleyball continues. She was the top setter in 2019 but it was close as she had 223 assists to Faletti's 221.



File Photo

LADY COMET 2012 GRADUATE Marian Barton is second on the all-time kills list at Reed-Custer High School.

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18 oz.
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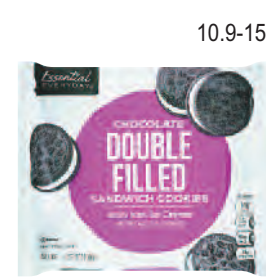
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Chicken
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2.44-3.3 oz. pkg.
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5/\$5



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Johnsonville
Bratwurst or
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1 lb. pkg.
Supreme
Choice
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Supreme
Choice
31-40 ct.
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4.99



16 oz. pkg.
Johnsonville
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15 ct.
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4/\$5



5.3 oz.
Hint of,
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Chobani
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4/\$5



12.5 oz. Turnovers
or 19-19.6 oz.
Pepperidge Farm
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9-18 oz.
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16 oz.
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FRESH FROM CALIFORNIA

**Red Seedless
Holiday Grapes**

249
lb.



Cantaloupe

299
each



**Golden
Pineapple**

299
each



Cauliflower

299
each



**Vine
Ripened
Tomatoes**

199
lb.

*Midwest
Grown*




Green Giant

Idaho® Russet Potatoes

3 lb. bag


**Green Giant
Russet Potatoes**

199



5-10 oz. bag
Selected
Varieties
**Dole
Salad
Blends**

2/\$5



Cucumbers

79¢
each

**PICK
of the
WEEK**



**Prima
Gattie
Peaches**

299
lb.



Cal-Organic Farms

12 oz. pkg.
**Rainbow
Baby Carrots**

179

Beverages

Save When You Buy 3!

Mix or Match

Save When You Buy 3!



12-12 oz. cans
**Pepsi
Products**

3/\$12
or \$4.99 each



12-12 oz. cans
**Coke
Products**

3/\$12
or \$4.99 each



12-12 oz. cans
**A&W or
Sunkist
Products**

3/\$12
or \$4.99 each



**Pure Leaf
Tea**

64 oz.

2/\$5



Lipton

iced tea

Gallon

**Lipton
Tea**

2/\$5



8-12 oz. cans
Bubly

2/\$5

Next Door at

WEE-SIP LIQUORS



12-12 oz. btl.
Regular or Light
**Budweiser,
Miller Lite or
Coors Light**

899



**Jose Cuervo
or Tequila
Rose Tequila**

750 ml. btl.

\$1 OFF

1.75 ltr. btl.

\$2 OFF



**Cruzan or
Malibu
Rum**

750 ml. btl.

\$1 OFF

1.75 ltr. btl.

\$2 OFF



**Daily's
Frozen
Cocktails**

2/\$3



**Tito's or
Svedka
Vodka**

750 ml. btl.

\$1 OFF

1.75 ltr. btl.

\$2 OFF



**Woodbridge
or Beringer
Wine**

750 ml. btl.

\$1 OFF

1.5 ltr. btl.

\$2 OFF



**Evan William's
Whiskey or
Basil Hayden
Bourbon**

750 ml. btl.

\$1 OFF

1.75 ltr. btl.

\$2 OFF

LiL Vegas

6 MACHINES

Private Room

**Come Try
Your Luck!!**

Big Breakfast Savings!

Save \$2 with Coupon Below



22-30 oz.
Selected Varieties
**Malt O Meal
Cereal**

2/\$6

13-18 oz.
**Post
Honey Bunches
of Oats Cereal**



2/\$4



11 oz. Oreo O's,
12 oz. Chips Ahoy,
12.25 oz. Honey Maid S'mores
or 11 oz. Dunkin'
Post Cereal

2/\$5

12-16.5 oz.
**Mom's Best
Cereal**



2/\$5



8-10 ct.
**Better Oats
Oatmeal**

2/\$5

PLU #930 REDEEMABLE COUPON VALID: 09/21/20-09/27/20



SAVE \$2

When you buy any FOUR (4) Advertised
Post Cereal Items In a Single Transaction

VOID IF COPIED, TRANSFERRED, PURCHASED OR SOLD, ONE COUPON PER PURCHASE.