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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Indoor dining at bars, restaurants to close in Will County

Region 7 hits three days of positivity above 8%

STAFF REPORT

Bars and restaurants in Will County will have to shutter their indoor dining services once again at the end of this week. Starting on Friday, Oct. 23, heightened resurgence mitigations will go back into place.

That means no indoor dining at bars and restaurants, and meetings and gatherings will be limited to 25% of capacity.

Four of the state's 11 regions have hit that standard.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced Tuesday that the businesses inside regions that are under resurgence mitigations will be given priority for \$220 million in business interruption

grants from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Pritzker said on Tuesday afternoon that positive cases were trending upward across the state. State officials said that Illinois was officially in the second wave of the virus.

"We're going to see the rippling effects of these trends," Pritzker said as cold weather approaches.

Pritzker also said that contract tracing indicates that bars and restaurants are "significant spreading locations" across the state.

This is the second time that Region 7 has hit the resurgence metric. The last mitigations were in effect from late August to mid-September.

IDPH will track the positivity rate in the region to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigations should remain in place.

If the positivity rate averages less than or equal to 6.5% over a 14-day period, the region will return to Phase

"WE'RE GOING TO SEE THE RIPPLING EFFECTS OF THESE TRENDS."

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

4 mitigations under the Restore Illinois Plan.

On Tuesday, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) metrics showed Region 7, which consists of Will and Kankakee Counties, had once again hit a positivity rate for COVID-19 above 8% for three straight days.

A sustained positivity rate above 8% triggers a failsafe metric, which then puts in place additional mitigations in a region.

According to the IDPH, Region 7 has sustained nine days of positivity

increases, hitting 8.2% on Oct. 15, 8.3% on Oct. 16, and 8.6% on Oct. 17.

By county, Will County saw its three day average rise to 8.4% on Oct. 15, 8.5% on Oct. 16, and 8.9% on Oct. 17. In Kankakee County, the average was 7.2%, 7%, and 7.3% on those same days, respectively.

Region 7 also had six days of hospital admission increases.

Prior to the announcement of new mitigation efforts, Will County had already entered the warning level for COVID-19.

Although the reasons for counties reaching a warning level varies, some of the common factors for an increase in cases and outbreaks are associated with gatherings in people's homes, weddings and funerals, bars and clubs, university and college parties as well as college sports teams, family gatherings, long-term care facilities, correctional centers, schools, and cases among the community at large, especially people in their 20s, according to the IDPH.

Public health officials are observing businesses blatantly disregarding mitigation measures, people not social distancing, gathering in large groups, and not using face coverings.

Mayors, local law enforcement, state's attorneys, and other community leaders can be influential in ensuring citizens and businesses follow best practices.

Several counties are taking swift action to help slow spread of the virus, including increasing testing opportunities, stressing the importance of testing to providers, hiring additional contact tracers, working with schools, and meeting with local leaders.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the IDPH is reporting a total of 350,875 cases in Illinois, including 9,277 deaths, in 102 counties.

The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years.

SEE COVID, PAGE 2



Photo by Eric Fisher

SHE COOKS, HE CLEANS - Marilyn and George Lestina who have operated Marilyn's Kitchen in Braidwood have retired from the catering business after nearly 28 years. Marilyn said it has gotten physically and mentally harder each year to operate and the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted her business.

A community's cook retiring

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

It's been a 28-year challenge of feeding tens of thousands of people but the flames inside Marilyn's Kitchen in Braidwood are burning out.

Marilyn Lestina, owner of Marilyn's Kitchen and the renowned Lestina's Catering, is retiring. Her last hurrah will be serving Thanksgiving dinners from her small commercial kitchen on North Division Street.

"It has been a very gratifying, wonderful journey," Lestina commented. "There have been some wonderful people we've dealt with over the years but the time is right for me to retire."

While Marilyn admits there may have been other caterers who served fancier China and silverware at social events, her focus was always on the food.

"The hot food was hot, cold food was cold, everything was made from scratch. I think people appreciated that," she said.

Lestina's cooking went from boiling point to a simmer 18 months ago when she stopped catering weddings, business events, graduation and holiday parties. She changed the name to Marilyn's Kitchen preparing meals, sweets and specialty foods on a smaller scale.

It was at the time of a health scare that meant the days of preparing wedding meals for as many as 700 were over. So was the work schedule of seven days a week almost every week.

"My husband (George) said you know life's too short so it was a big change for me at the time. It still wanted to cook so that's when I downsized into Marilyn's Kitchen."

Her love of cooking started at an early age, more so to avoid having to wash dishes. Growing up in a family with seven siblings meant there were a lot of dishes to do.

"If you did dinner, you didn't have to help with the dishes," Marilyn said of the Riley house rule. "That seemed like a fair rule to me so I stepped right up when it came to cooking."

Her mother Hilda was a wonderful baker but hated to cook, Marilyn said. Her older sister Sandy (Boyd) did most of the cooking with Marilyn at her side. By age 12, with her mother's encouragement, Marilyn prepared her first Thanksgiving dinner.

"My mom really nurtured my love of cooking. She helped, of course, but she left the planning of menus up to me. I'm thankful she allowed that at a young age as it turned into my career."

Marilyn knew cooking for 100 would be different than cooking for the family table so

she signed up for culinary arts at Joliet Junior College.

"I was very lucky to be able to learn a base of quality, quantity cooking from JJC," she said. "I've always loved to cook and the program just enhanced that. My sister-in-law also loved to cook so we put together a catering service for fun and everything kind of exploded from there."

Her partner soon took a new job so Marilyn bought her out of the supplies they had purchased together. She and George put up a shop on their property and it took off from there.

"I thought it was going to be something to keep me out of trouble and it just really took off and got very, very busy," Marilyn commented.

She was so busy her sisters Linda (Razunas) and Sandy were soon helping in the kitchen.

"I couldn't have done any of this without them. They came on board and were with me practically the whole time until they retired. We started as a mom and pop operation but before we knew it we had other family involved. I had some great people working for me over the years."

Her timing was right as brides called often in need of a caterer. Business went full steam back in 1992, yet Marilyn still took time to experiment on recipes to kind of learn as they went. It was a

time when she was influenced by the French cooking of American cooking teacher and TV personality Julia Child.

"Just watching her cook anything, that was such a big thing back in the day. She was the only one on TV doing that at the time, so she was a great inspiration."

Yet, Marilyn soon learned her clients wanted many of the same dishes. Favorites served at receptions became fried chicken, pulled pork, Italian beef sandwiches, mostaccioli and a specialty, rainbow Jell-O salad. They were requested so often that Marilyn need not follow a recipe.

"I've always been kind of good at figuring ingredients... I have very few recipes. I just throw things together. Most of my recipes are in my head. It kinda drove the girls crazy because it was hard for them to make something from start to finish without following a recipe. I'm more of a throw it in, give it a taste and see what it needs. They would end up doing more of the prep work like chopping vegetables and getting things measured."

Preparing for an event was a full-time task that involved menu planning with clients, ordering supplies, trips to Joliet to multiple stores and more. Three days

Smith defends hiring decision amidst opposition

BY BRIAN MURPHY
CORRESPONDENT

Despite procedural items being the only items on the agenda, tensions ran high during the Braidwood City Council meeting on October 13. All council members were present for the meeting and the building was sanitized multiple times prior to the meeting after recent issues with Covid-19.

City Administrator Tony Altiery sought the advice of council members during his Administrator's Report, sparking a disagreement between Commissioner Fay Smith and Altiery. Public comments from Ray McShane and Nicole Shores were also directed at Smith about recent decisions related to hiring and city expenses.

Altiery said he will need to be informed appropriately about decisions moving forward and he was concerned about the potential legal issues that could arise if proper protocols are not followed.

"I got a letter stating we moved one part-timer to full time. All these rules and regulations indicate it was not done properly and since I have

a target on my back, I need direction from you guys," Altiery said. "I have no problem doing what you guys want, I just would like something in writing from you directing me to do that."

Smith defended his actions and said he followed the proper procedures.

"Everything I've laid out there I'm within my rights. I'm picked apart but I'm trying to do the best I can; I did nothing wrong. We do the best we can, and I think we do a good job," Smith said. "I don't mind people asking questions but when you start harassing the work that we're doing, that don't go so good. If you want to know anything, we keep a record of everything we do."

Altiery suggested a spirit of cooperation between the two would be preferable.

"Let's work together for a change. I don't want to have a disagreement with you Mr. Smith, I would like to work together. We are doing everything we can and there's going to be a lot more coming," Altiery said.

Following Altiery's com-

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

Reed-Custer RAD members celebrate Red Ribbon Week

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The novel coronavirus pandemic has forced everyone to make some drastic changes to their day to day lives in 2020.

But, the pandemic has also affected all sorts of events and activities, ones that often require a lot of hard work to pull off.

One such activity affected was this year's Red Ribbon Week, which encourages children to grow up drug free. The annual national event takes place every year from Oct. 23 through Oct. 31.

In Braidwood, students who take part in the youth group RAD — Reed-Custer Against Drugs — found away to celebrate Red Ribbon Week even without the assemblies and activities that usually mark the occasion.

RAD member Tori Loomis said if not red ribbons, then red flowers instead.

"Because we can't do much in school, we decided that we'd plant tulips and make a promise to stay drug free," Loomis, who helped organize and coordinate the planting event, said.

The flowers were planted around the Welcome to Braidwood sign at Coal City Road and Route 129.

The plan was one of dozens of activities designed to encourage social distancing and are part of Red Ribbon Week in 2020.

"Plant the Promise" celebrates the week by planting those tulip bulbs, which will bloom in spring, to serve as a reminder of the importance and the beauty of a drug free life.

Other virtual and/or socially distant activities include neighborhood caravans, online panel discussions, recorded spoken word performances, and a "mask challenge."

Students can also participate in the 2020 National Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest. Entries can be sent through Nov. 1 to www.redribbon.org/contest.

Red Ribbon Week is sponsored by the National Family

SEE RAD, APGE 2



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Lestina's

out prep work would begin, continue on day two and climax the day before. The morning of a wedding were always hectic as she strived for freshness and the perfect temperature before transporting food to the venue.

During the early years Marilyn and crew even baked wedding cakes and desserts, both time consuming. After 10 years her husband told her that had to go.

"The bigger the party the more organization was needed. The real skill became knowing how much to cook. You never wanted to run out of food yet you couldn't afford to have a lot of leftovers. That was a real challenge at first," Lestina said.

She admits she had some nightmare experiences early on but soon got a grasp on feeding a crowd. Most times those nightmares were caused by other things. Like during her biggest catering event involving 700 guests.

It was an October wedding reception held at the American Legion Hall in Gardner with a capacity of about 450. A large tent was connected to the building to accommodate everyone. The reception started and a wind storm rolled in, blowing down the tent.

"It was rainy, cold and

very windy and the overflow of people quickly became an issue. It was extremely stressful for us because I'd never done that big of a party. But everyone's attitude was wonderful. People would come in, get their food sit down and eat, and then get up so other people could sit down and eat. And the bride and groom just took it all in stride knowing they couldn't do anything about it and they were going to have fun anyway. It just all went very well."

There were occasions when she had to tell a client no when it came to menu selection. One couple picked three entrees, all beef.

"I'm like, 'I can't cook them,' and they're like, 'why not?' I said because not everybody can eat beef and not everybody likes beef. 'Well, we like beef.' I had to guide them on planning a meal that went well together. It makes the whole meal better. Sure, I cared if the whole meal was good."

Marilyn suggests brides think twice before having an outdoor wedding, bad weather can ruin things in a hurry. Although there was one wedding reception near Mazon that turned out perfectly.

"It was this time of year, it was fall, and these people had decorated to the hilt. I mean, there were mums, corn stocks, pumpkins...I mean anything you could possibly think of to make it look fall and very

grand. I felt slightly intimidated because it was so grand. Once we served everything everybody loved it, it was very gratifying. The whole night, I mean they even had fireworks, was just the neatest wedding."

As a caterer she rated the importance of the food very high.

"For me, it's a 10 out of 10. I had somebody when I first started say, 'you know people don't expect a good meal at a wedding. It's either cold or bland, things like that.' I disagreed and took that to heart. I think that's why we got so popular because it was important to me. The food had to be good. So often people came back to the kitchen and said it was the best catered meal they'd ever had. That kept me going," Marilyn said.

One item she never cut corners on was butter. "Real butter is the only way to go. I insist on that for all my recipes. You have to start with good ingredients and never skimp on the butter."

And the most useful tool in her kitchen was a good sharp knife.

The worst part of catering was the cleanup. She hated it and quickly assigned husband George as No. 1 dish washer.

"I'd didn't mind that much because I got to sample her cooking," he quipped. "Yep, I was her guinea pig for some recipes but I also turn away from some things I just can't eat anymore...like pulled

pork. Give me a pork chop or pork loin any day, but please no more pulled pork."

George has been around the kitchen long enough to know what's cooking even if he's outdoor mowing the grass.

"I know when she's making her red sauce for mostaccioli because she's made it so often."

Marilyn said probably the most requested item on her menu was the easiest to make—her signature rainbow Jell-O salad.

"It's very pretty. It actually looks like a rainbow. People just loved that. And that's the one where people ask me how to make it. Yes, it's super easy. We got remarks on it all the time. I had a groom give me the best compliment. People were pretty much done going through the buffet and he had come back up. He said, 'I've been waiting for this all day,' and I said 'What get married?' and he said, 'No, the rainbow Jell-O.'"

She said that's what she'll miss most, the praise she got from her customers. The support, encouragement, enthusiasm and loyalty made it the most gratifying career she could ever ask for.

"There will be some things coming out of the kitchen in the future for the holidays but for now I'm going to relax and give my back, my feet and my brain a rest," she concluded.

Council

ments, Smith said "I know you're his puppet, we know that" to Shores before apologizing and withdrawing the statement. Shores responded, "You are not doing your job, you want to call me out, I'll call you out too!"

Smith reiterated his department is "doing the best they can" and "not hiding anything" despite claims to the contrary.

Shop with a Cop

Police Chief Todd Lyons thanked Ray McShane for helping coordinate the fundraising for Shop with a Cop and applauded the community for their support.

"The outpouring of money people donated and messages we got was great. I just want to acknowledge Ray McShane for doing that for me, he handled all the money and dropped it off here. It's a great experience, it really is," Lyons said.

Water Meter Update

Commissioner Doug Money provided an update on the installation of the new multiplexer units or MXUs for the city's water meters. Money said their goal is to have all the units installed by December 1 and 397 installs had already been completed at the time of the meeting.

"With the people that currently read the meters, it takes them about 6 days to read the entire town. With the new system, when it's all done, we will be able to read the whole town in 4 hours. We will be able to cut back on a whole bunch of labor that way," Money said.

"Because of the current situation with Covid, we were able to obtain a grant that essentially will pay for these MXUs if we can get

them all installed before the end of the year. Our goal is December 1 and I think we're going to come in a couple weeks ahead of time."

The department's current goal is December 1 and Money said they are on track to possibly wrap up early. About half the city will get the water meter upgrade, using just over \$114,000 in coronavirus relief funding. Several water users already have self-reading meters.

Money said the cost would have been at least \$150 per house without the grant money.

Upcoming Halloween Festivities

Altiery announced Exelon has volunteered to help with the city's Halloween festivities sponsored by the Lions Club. Commissioner Wayne Saltzman said Exelon will be providing the bags "loaded with candy" by the time children leave the park. Money said he appreciated the community's response for the sake of the children.

"I worked with some of the people on the Halloween festivities and it's been a breath of fresh air to see so many people and so many groups working so well together, all for one event for the kids in town. I'd like to give them a round of applause for that because it's just been incredible," Money said.

For more information, visit <https://www.braidwoodlionsclub.org/drive-thru-trick-or-treat>.

The General Ledger for the month included \$115,639.28 in debits, total expenses were \$132,690. The top expenditures were for the police department at \$44,627 and for the garbage department at \$43,60.68. Payroll and payment of bills were approved unanimously along with the meeting minutes from September 22 meeting.

Businesses can apply for DCEO grants

Local businesses can apply for financial assistance grants through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Millions of dollars are still available through the Business Interruption Grant (BIG) Program for businesses who have been financially impacted by closures related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Representatives at DCEO say the agency is prioritizing counties, such as Will, under mitigations for the current round of BIG grants.

The BIG program is open to businesses (for-profit and nonprofit) with \$20 million or less in annual revenue in 2019 and experienced losses due to COVID-19.

Applications are now being taken and can be downloaded at www2.illinois.gov/dceo/SmallBizAssistance/Pages/C19DisadvantagedBusGrants.aspx.

Will County local election drop boxes to be removed Nov. 2

STAFF REPORT

Seven Vote By Mail Drop Boxes located throughout Will County will be closed on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3.

The Drop Boxes are located inside local libraries and inside Governors State University.

Because several libraries will be closed on Election Day as well as to secure ballot collection points in an orderly fashion, the Will County Clerk's Office will close these Drop Boxes starting in the late afternoon on Monday, Nov. 2, which is the evening before Election Day.

These Drop Boxes will not be accepting ballots on Election Day.

The only Vote By Mail Drop Box that will accept Ballot Envelopes on Election Day will be outside the Will County Clerk's Office, 302 N. Chicago St., in downtown Joliet.

That Drop Box will close promptly at 7 p.m., along with all Polling Places.

Election Judges representing both political parties will begin closing library and university Ballot Drop Boxes according to the following schedule on Monday, Nov. 2:

- Wilmington Public Library - 4:30 p.m.

- Plainfield Public Library - 4:30 p.m.
- Naperville 95th Street Library - 5:15 p.m.
- Governors State University - 5:30 p.m.
- Frankfort Public Library - 6 p.m.
- Fountaindale Public Library - 6 p.m.
- White Oak Library - 6:45 p.m.

Closing times are approximate. However, no Ballot Drop Box will be closed earlier than the times listed above.

For more information on Will County Vote By Mail Ballot Drop Boxes, please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com.

Make an appointment to drop off electronics and household waste

Appointments must be made to participate in the household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off event on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Wilmington City Hall parking lot located at 1165 S. Water St.

To make an appointment visit www.willcountygreen.com. The appointment only system is to improve resident wait time and service at the event.

Items accepted include computers, laptops, monitors and computer equipment, a limit of two televisions, VCR or DVD players, gaming systems, stereos and speakers, compact fluorescent bulbs, household chemicals, auto fluids, used oil, paints and stains, fluorescent light bulbs, garden chemicals, used cooking oil

and microwaves.

Items not accepted include appliances, business, medical or institutional waste, tires, radioactive material, empty containers, gas cylinders except small handheld propane, dehumidifiers, alkaline batteries, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, air conditioners, ammunition, controlled medication, sharps/syringes, general household recyclables, refrigerants except small handheld sizes, household garbage, fireworks and explosives, controlled substances and VHS or cassette tapes.

The event is sponsored by the Will County Land Use Department.

For more information call 815-727-8834 or visit willcountygreen.com.

RAD

Partnership. The partnership was established in 1980 and is a national leader in drug prevention, education and advocacy.

Its mission is to educate families, and to help kids grow up safe, healthy and drug free, through the promotion of two national campaigns: Red Ribbon Week and the Lock Your Meds campaign for prescription drug abuse awareness.

The Red Ribbon became a symbol for drug prevention in 1985, in response to the murder of DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena.

The first county-wide Red Ribbon campaign was in 1986. In 1988, NFP sponsored the first National Red Ribbon

Week celebration.

Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Since that time, the campaign has reached millions of

U.S. children and families.

Loomis said the members of RAD also tied red ribbons around the city in honor of Red Ribbon Week.

Additional ideas on how to participate in Red Ribbon Week virtually can be found online, at www.redribbon.org.

Covid

The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from Oct. 13 though Oct. 19 is 5.5%.

Over a 24-hour period from Monday to Tuesday, laboratories have reported 59,077 specimens for a total of 6,883,314.

As of Monday, 2,261 people in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 489 patients were in the ICU and 195 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators.

According to the IDPH, as of Tuesday afternoon, the total number of cases in the 60481 zip code, including Wilmington, Symerton, Shadow Lakes, and surrounding areas, was 191. The Wilmington zip code has a current positivity rate of 4.2%

In the Braidwood 60408 zip code, the total number of cases is now at 96, with a positivity rate of 5.2%.

As of Tuesday, Will County is reporting 17,100 total positive COVID-19 cases,

All data provided by the IDPH are provisional and will change.

In order to rapidly report COVID-19 information to the public, data are being reported in real-time. Information is constantly being entered into an electronic system and the number of cases and deaths can change as additional information is gathered.

For health questions about COVID-19, call the hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.

SPECIFIC MITIGATION MEASURES TAKING EFFECT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

BARS

- NO INDOOR SERVICE
- ALL OUTSIDE BAR SERVICE CLOSES AT 11 P.M.
- NO ORDERING, SEATING, OR CONGREGATING AT BAR (BAR STOOLS SHOULD BE REMOVED)
- TABLES SHOULD BE 6 FEET APART
- NO STANDING OR CONGREGATING INDOORS OR OUTDOORS WHILE WAITING FOR A TABLE OR EXITING
- NO DANCING OR STANDING INDOORS
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTY
- NO SEATING OF MULTIPLE PARTIES AT ONE TABLE

RESTAURANTS

- NO INDOOR DINING OR BAR SERVICE
- ALL OUTDOOR DINING CLOSES AT 11 P.M.
- OUTSIDE DINING TABLES SHOULD BE 6 FEET APART
- NO STANDING OR CONGREGATING INDOORS OR OUTDOORS WHILE WAITING FOR A TABLE OR EXITING
- RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FOR EACH PARTY
- NO SEATING OF MULTIPLE PARTIES AT ONE TABLE

MEETINGS, SOCIAL EVENTS, GATHERINGS

- LIMIT TO LESSER OF 25 GUESTS OR 25% OF OVERALL ROOM CAPACITY
- NO PARTY BUSES
- GAMING AND CASINOS CLOSE AT 11 P.M., ARE LIMITED TO 25% CAPACITY, AND FOLLOW MITIGATIONS FOR BARS AND RESTAURANTS, IF APPLICABLE

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Deadline for the Prairie Shopper

Display Advertising is Thursday, 2 p.m.
Classified & Public Notices: Thursday 5 p.m.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com

Ads & Artwork: ads@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Listening to the experts, are they right?



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

economics of time is that filched from necessary sleep. The wholesale but blind commendation of early rising is as mischievous in practice as it is in theory. Early rising is a crime against the noblest part of our physical nature, unless preceded by early retiring. We caution parents, particularly, not to allow their children to be waked up in the morning. Let nature wake them; she will not do it prematurely. Take care that they go to bed at an early hour, let it grow earlier and earlier, until it is found that they wake up in full time to dress for breakfast."

In 1879 a book called "Our Department" was popular, giving proper behavior, dress, etc. to those who were not born with a silver spoon; "Long, flowing hair on a man is not in good taste, and will indicate him to the observer as a person of unbalanced mind and unpleasantly erratic character."

"For hair oil, nothing is simpler or better in the way of oil than pure, unscented salad oil, or bear's grease is as pleasant as anything."

"A beautiful eyelash is an important adjunct to the eye. The lashes may be lengthened by trimming them occasionally in childhood."

Behavior at various social events was covered. At a charity fair it says, "Be guilty of no loud talking or laughing, and by all means avoid conspicuous flirting in so public a place."

And when visiting an artist's studio; "Use no strong expression either of delight or disapprobation at anything presented for your inspection."

And at the theater; "A gentleman should on no account, leave the lady's side from the beginning to the close of the performance."

In visiting a church; "Do not turn around in your seat to gaze at anyone, to watch the choir, to look over the congregation or to see the cause of any disturbing noise."

In 1882 the Wilmington Advocate published the following suggestions:



GENERAL GEORGE CUSTER, the man Custer Park is named after, who had long flowing hair, something that the experts said showed an unbalanced mind and an erratic character. Were they wrong?

Try popcorn for nausea.
Try cranberries for malaria
Try ginger ale for stomach cramps

Try clam broth for a weak stomach
Try gargling lager beer for cure of sore throat

Try a wet towel to the back of the neck when sleepless.
Try swallowing saliva when troubled with a sour stomach.

Try eating onions and horseradish to relieve swelling in the legs.
Try buttermilk for removal of freckles, tan and butternut stains.

Try taking your cod liver oil in tomato catsup if you want to make it palatable.

Try hard cider - a wine-glassful three times a day for rheumatism.

Try snuffing powdered borax up the nostrils for cold in the head.

Try a newspaper over the chest, beneath your coat, as a chest protector in extremely cold weather.

And as a warning please, at least in this case, do not follow the advice of experts.

Trick-or-Treating hours

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 Saturday this Oct. 31.

Braidwood hearing to set minimum size for new homes

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD PLANNING & ZONING MEETING ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL OF BRAIDWOOD, 141 W. MAIN STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS 60408.

THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD IS PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 23-4 - BUILDING ON LOTS, TO SET A MINIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENT OF 1,200 SQUARE FEET FOR ALL SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS IN SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE DISTRICTS.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE INVITED TO DO SO AND WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SUCH A REQUEST CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AT 141 W. MAIN STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS 60408 1-815-458-2341.

TERESA FISHER
CITY CLERK
CITY OF BRAIDWOOD

Published in the Braidwood Journal, Oct. 14 and 21, 2020.

Reed Township to hold town meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Reed in the County of Will and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Thursday, Nov. 5, 2020 at the hour of 6:00 p.m. at the Reed Township Building, 440 N. Division Street, Braidwood, IL for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

1. Reading of the Financial Report
 2. Sale of lot Postponed until later date
- Angela Hutton
Reed Township Clerk
Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, October 21, 2020.

Godley Water Public Water District seeks public comment on Incidental Take Authorization application

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given seeking public comment on an application by the Godley Public Water District for an Incidental Take Authorization for possible impacts to the federally and state endangered sheepsnose mussel (*Plethobassus cyphus*), and the state-threatened purple wartyback mussel (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*), and the spike mussel (*Elliptio dilatata*). In addition, it addresses the state-listed pallid shiner (*Hypobopsis annis*), river redbone (*Moxostoma carinatum*), western sand darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*), weed shiner (*Notropis texanus*), and the mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) in the Kankakee River at Custer Park in Will County. Please note that the Conservation Plan was written to include the black sandshell mussel (*Ligumia recta*) which has since been delisted by the State of Illinois.

Applicant Contact Information:
Godley Public Water District
P.O. Box 130
Godley, Illinois 60407
Joe Cosgrove, General Manager

The applicant has filed a Conservation Plan in accordance with Illinois Administrative Code, Chapter I, Section 1080 which is available for review at the following public library:

Fossil Ridge Public Library
386 W. Kennedy Road
Braidwood, IL 60408

The Conservation Plan will also be available for review on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' webpage at: <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/Incidental-Take-Authorizations.aspx> (reference #199).

Description of Proposed Action

The Godley Public Water District (GPWD) has proposed the construction of water withdrawal infrastructure on the bank of and within the channel of the Kankakee River to withdraw up to 30 million gallons of water per day subject to the conditions in permit NE2019007 granted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Water Resources (OWR). The project is located on the Kankakee River approximately 4.5 miles upstream from the dam at Wilmington, Illinois. The proposed intake will be approximately 262 feet from the left descending riverbank.

The riverbank at this location is owned by the GPWD and is within Custer Park, Illinois. EnviroScience, Inc. conducted a survey for freshwater mussels and fish within the project area in August and September 2018 on behalf of the GPWD. Their report documented a total of 4,938 living mussels with 24 species detected. Fresh dead and weathered dead shells contributed two additional species. The state-threatened purple wartyback and formerly state-listed black sandshell were detected throughout the survey area. Fourteen live sheepsnose were found scattered in the survey area, a species that is both state and federally listed. A single state-threatened spike was collected near the right descending bank. In addition, this reach of the Kankakee River has records for or provides suitable habitat for the state-listed pallid shiner, river redbone, western sand darter, weed shiner, and the mudpuppy. Other federally listed species known from Will County are addressed briefly in a revised Biological Assessment prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A Biological Opinion addressing federally listed species and provided federal take authorization has been received for the project.

This water withdrawal infrastructure in the Kankakee River will be constructed within a 0.264-acre coffer dammed work area (in the dry). Most of the facilities will be constructed at or below the existing riverbed elevation. The only infrastructure above the existing ground elevation will be the three 42-inch diameter half-barrel screen intakes. The top of these intakes will be 27-inches above the riverbed. The intakes will be placed parallel to the channel flow, have a cross-section of 8 square feet each and up to 12 feet in length. It is anticipated that this work may cause potential impacts to listed species in the stream within and around the 0.264-acre work area. A Mussel Salvage Plan will be implemented to remove all mussels from the work area and relocate them to suitable habitat upstream of the work area within the Kankakee River. In addition, all fish and amphibians will also be captured and relocated to suitable habitat downstream of the coffer dammed work area. GPWD will be responsible for a 10-year monitoring program to document the effectiveness of this relocation work.

As mitigation for potential impacts to the purple wartyback, spike, sheepsnose mussels, pallid shiner, river redbone, western sand darter, weed shiner, and mudpuppy a contribution of \$30,000 to the mussel research program at Ohio State University will be made for the conservation benefit of the sheepsnose and other listed mussel species. There is a desire that this work would specifically address impacts from water withdrawals to listed species such as the sheepsnose, though it is not known if any such studies are available or ongoing. Additional conservation measures are described more fully in the Conservation Plan.

Comments on this Conservation Plan and proposed Incidental Take Authorization should be provided to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Resource Conservation
Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
OR
DNR.ITAAuthorization@illinois.gov.

The final date that comments will be accepted regarding this application will be November 20, 2020. Published in the Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, October 7, 14 and 21, 2020.

Forest Preserve police reunite lost tortoise with owners

A pet tortoise that was lost in Hammel Woods was successfully reunited with its Shorewood family after a Forest Preserve District of Will County police officer helped solve the missing reptile case.

The incident highlights why people shouldn't dump creatures of any kind in the forest preserves. Doing so is not only unlawful and violators will be ticketed, but it is bad for the animals and the environment.

The tortoise was found munching on some grass at Hammel Woods at the Route 59 Access in Shorewood. When the tortoise was discovered and reported to Forest Preserve police, they began looking for the creature's owners or a sanctuary or wildlife refuge facility that would take the reptile. Tortoises are not native to Illinois.

Kelly Robertson, a Forest Preserve community service officer, posted information about the found creature on her Facebook page. Around the same time, Laura Egan, the owner of the missing tortoise, posted in a Shorewood moms Facebook group about her lost pet. A friend of Robertson's saw both posts and connected the two women.

Robertson contacted the Egan family and they had pictures to prove that the tortoise found in Hammel Woods was their missing pet, Gamera, an

African sulcata tortoise. "Robertson was working on her day off to get the tortoise back to its owner," said Forest Preserve police Sgt. Dan Olszewski.

The Egan family had just moved to Shorewood and the tortoise was left in the unfenced backyard to graze on grass when the person watching him lost track of the animal. The home is around 4 miles away from Hammel Woods, so it appears that someone found the tortoise in the family's neighborhood shortly after Gamera disappeared and they released him into Hammel Woods, which is illegal.

"There is just no way that he made it 4 or 5 miles in three hours," Egan said of Gamera, who weighs around 30 to 40 pounds.

Animals of any kind should never be released into a preserve and anyone who does so will be ticketed, Olszewski stressed. It is unlawful to put anything into a preserve or take anything out, including plants, creatures, objects etc., according to the Forest Preserve's General Use Ordinance No. 124.

Becky Blankenship, the Forest Preserve's wildlife biologist, said releasing found or unwanted pets into the wild has numerous negative impacts to the animal itself and to the ecosystem. Many

pets are not native to the area and they cannot survive in a new environment, she said. Or the released animal may thrive in the wild as an invasive species that can damage native flora and fauna, she added.

Egan thanked friends and family members who searched for the tortoise and Robertson for "taking charge" of the situation and making the reunification possible.

Robertson said she knew the tortoise was not native to the area and that is why she wanted to solve the case.

"I'm just glad he got back to his rightful owners," she said.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Reed-Custer School District 255-U Annual Statement of Affairs

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, 2020. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact: Reed-Custer School District 255U at 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood, IL 60408 or by telephone 815-458-2307. Also January 15, 2021 the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

	Education	Oper & Maint.	Trans.	IMRF/SS
Fund Bal 7/1/2019	\$18,028,960	\$6,308,362	\$2,252,987	\$1,419,600
Total Receipts	\$21,463,532	\$4,206,494	\$1,560,138	\$764,467
Total Disbursements	\$17,456,482	\$2,576,472	\$1,210,152	\$449,613
Fund Bal 6/30/2020	\$19,125,110	\$2,938,384	\$2,602,973	\$1,734,454

	Capital	Working Cash	Tort
Fund Bal 7/1/2019	\$1,208,416	\$635,793	\$873,665
Total Receipts	\$13,470	\$71,052	\$250,773
Total Disbursements	\$1,840,688	\$0	\$347,361
Fund Bal 6/30/2020	\$5,381,218	\$706,845	\$777,077

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL - Salary Range: Less than \$25,000 - A. Antos, J. Arbagosh, C. Benson, N. Borgetti, A. Brimm, G. Carboni, A. Carrescia, C. Chapin, M. Clark, D. Cox, K. DeSalvo, E. Dixon, R. Ewert, L. Fieldman, S. Glenn, L. Gonski, M. Hogan, N. Ingalls, D. Issert, L. James, D. Jerbi, D. Jones, M. Kettwig, D. Kinzler, L. Lacy, R. Leve Jr, G. Meister, F. Perucca Jr, K. Regis, D. Romes, E. Scasny, M. Schwoebel, S. Shewmake, M. Smith, A. Spray, S. Staley, R. Thibodeaux, S. Titre, K. VanDuynne, J. Varland, S. Ward, J. Wolcott, J. Zelko, Z. Zoltani. **Salary Range: \$25,000-\$39,999** - B. Aeschliman, J. Baron, Y. Davis, A. Headrick, A. Middleton, A. Natyshok, D. Walsh. **Salary Range: \$40,000-\$59,999** - N. Agnich, K. Arseneau, K. Askew, R. Ball, L. Barse, R. Bell Jr, A. Birkey, J. Brown, K. Cann, C. Carrescia, K. Copeland, J. Cronelli, K. Dehaan, J. Degnan, S. Dinelli, J. Evans, E. Fredericksen, N. Gonzalez, M. Graham, T. Gunier, M. Hines, L. Homering, Z. Horton, L. Hurley, M. James, G. Johnston, J. Johnston, J. Jones, A. Kaufmann, A. King, E. Lehman, K. Mangan, M. Mathieu, J. Matsko, J. McDaniel, S. Meyer, J. Miller, M. Miller, T. Murphy, S. Niedrich, M. Olson, C. Ostheim, A. Paolone, M. Radowski, A. Robinson, L. Rowatt, A. Rupert, B. Shields, M. Smith, T. Spoto, K. Stengel, C. Sukley, D. Swanson, T. Sweeney, J. Welsh, C. Wilkerson, M. Wolf, A. Zarbock, S. Zwolinski. **Salary Range: \$60,000-\$89,999** - C. Bailely, D. Barber, K. Benoit, D. Bugg, J. Cappel, M. Carey, J. Chinski, R. Crompt, A. Dennis, S. Dinelli, J. Elliott, D. Friddle, L. Friedl, A. Gantzer, A. Gleixner, B. Gleixner, K. Heath, K. Jones, N. Klein, C. Klover, D. Kuykendall, J. Leveille, R. Luttrell, S. McGarey, J. Meyer, M. Miner, J. Nelson, D. Newsom, V. Obrien, J. Patton, S. Petersen, M. Peterson, M. Porter, D. Potempa, M. Rankin, D. Riley, J. Schultz, M. Seibert, E. Siedentop, B. Smith, L. Stafford, J. Sukley, L. Terry, P. Tibbott, J. Vanek, J. Voris, D. Wilkey, K. Young, J. Zackavec. **Salary Range: Over \$90,000** - C. Anderson, H. Faletti, M. Hulbert, C. Jepson, J. Johnston, M. Kilpatrick, D. McCluckie, M. Mitchell, H. Porter, T. Ricketts, M. Smith, S. Traeger, D. Valiente.

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL - Salary Range: Less than \$25,000 - W. Alderson, S. Alessi, M. Andersen, S. Barnes, G. Baxter, A. Beallis, H. Beallis, A. Beasley, B. Becker, S. Blottiaux, K. Bragg, J. Brodinski, D. Byrnett, N. Carlo, A. Sandoval, M. Clavenna, B. Colwell, D. Costain, L. Crabtree, J. Crater, K. Creed, W. Dau, B. DeAngelis, W. Decker, J. DeVries, S. Dillon, J. Dinelli, K. Dockemeyer, Z. Duffey, L. Duran, B. Fagiano, J. Farcus, C. Fitzpatrick, J. Flores, D. Gilbert, A. Gnutek, E. Guzman, S. Hassett, A. Headrick, B. Headrick, J. Heisner, D. Helsing, J. Helsing, J. Helsing, C. Hill, F. Hillman, L. Holland, T. Hray, D. Hughes, L. Jarchow, K. Johnson, L. Johnson, M. Juricic, J. Kaech, S. Kersmarki, A. Kelin, T. Klover, C. Koslowski, D. Kuehni, C. Lafew, M. Lemcke, T. Lyons, S. Maddox, S. Marchi, J. Masulis, J. McClean, J. McNeilly, B. McTague, J. Mikel, M. Montana, M. Moore, G. Morris, K. Norris, N. Ohlund, M. Pacholski, B. Pack, M. Peters, N. Reese, J. Reinbacher, B. Reiter, R. Richey, H. Rozak, N. Russett, T.



Courtesy Photo by the Forest Preserve District of Will County

KELLY ROBERTSON, a community service officer with the Forest Preserve District of Will County, holds Gamera, a non-native pet tortoise that was found in Hammel Woods in Shorewood and reunited with its owners.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

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.

For shame

BRAIDWOOD—To the person who took my husband's cane at the handicap parking spot at Berkot's in Braidwood, you might as well have taken his legs. He needs his cane to walk. You know who you are. It happened on Oct. 7. You may need something someday too and you will remember what you did. You could have taken it into the store and let them know you found it. The cane was by my husband's car when an employee was putting his groceries in his car. Shame on you. Janice Dean

The unfair tax

WILMINGTON—Let me understand why Gov. Pritzker believes Illinois' flat tax is unfair. Right now if I make \$100,000 the state takes roughly \$5,000 in taxes. If I make \$1 million under the present flat tax, I'd pay \$50,000. So those who make more are already paying more which Pritzker says is unfair and the wealthy should be paying more. Seems they're already paying more. What's unfair Gov. Pritzker is when you removed toilets from your second mansion to avoid paying \$320,000 in taxes. What is unfair Gov. Pritzker is you raised license plate fees by \$100 affecting every taxpayer, rich and poor. Or how about when you doubled the state gas tax by 18 cents? Was that fair? Tobacco taxes up \$1. Gaming and marijuana taxes are pouring into the state at record rates. And now you want to change the state constitution to allow lawmakers the ability to change the tax rate on any one group of people they want? JB Pritzker you already have raised our taxes enough. Vote no to the change and let's tell JB and the people in Springfield to stop overspending and do their job with the billions they've got.

In school learning

BRAIDWOOD—The Reed-Custer School District began optional in-person instruction in mid-August and it should stay that way. The school is taking every necessary precaution to stay in person and also tackling obstacles as they arise. Since March the school has taken plenty of precaution with sanitation and consideration for the well being of all. Even though there is currently still a lot of danger and possible mishaps that could ruin this experience for everyone it is important that the administration has still made the decision to try to give everyone a return to normalcy. The school has managed to keep cases to a minimum while still having in person sessions. The online system for those who did not feel comfortable in in person classes is a slightly different story. The program being used is making it hard for students to focus because they have to teach themselves. Most students find it difficult to be able to learn on their own. The school made the correct decision to reopen.

Taxing our retirement

WILMINGTON— We must all vote NO to JB Pritzker's "Fair Tax" because Illinois Treasurer Frerichs told the Daily Herald "one thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement incomes." The "fair tax" amendment is the first step to taxing retirement income. On October 7 a news conference was to be held to explain that statement until JB abruptly cancelled the press conference 10 minutes before he was set to answer important retirement income questions. Clearly they have a plan to tax retirement income. That would include all union pensions, public pensions, IRA savings, Social Security and more. We need the truth from JB about retirement income, otherwise we should vote NO! No doubt Pritzker has a plan to tax retirement income in Illinois and needs the constitutional amendment to get it done. There are 32 states that have a "fair tax" and every one of those states taxes some form of retirement income. Lastly, we are not going to the polls to vote on the new income tax rates. We are not voting on tax rates listed in proposal. The amendment sets no limit on the number of tax brackets that could be created and no limit on how high tax rates could be increased by politicians. Do you trust lawmakers to keep their promises? I don't.

Call for a ride

BRAIDWOOD— Need help getting to your polling place? Early voting in Braidwood runs through Oct. 30, Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Braidwood City Hall. Election Day is Nov. 3. If you or anyone you know needs a ride to get to the polls so they can vote, reach out to me; I'm more than happy to help and make sure you're able to get that ballot cast. Call or text me at (815)-593-5827 so we can set up a time; you can also get a hold of me on Facebook at John Guistat - Reed Township Republican Chairman. Don't be afraid to give my number out to those who may need this little bit of help I can offer. This is absolutely open to everyone and anyone who needs a ride; I don't care or want to know who you're voting for or your position on anything, I just want to know that you're able to exercise your Constitutional right to cast your ballot! God Bless,
John Guistat, Reed Township Republican Chairman.

Escorted out

BRAIDWOOD— After watching the video of the last city council meeting and the temper tantrum thrown by a member of the public sitting in the audience, it's clear that this person can't handle being called out publicly, just like they are doing to members of the city council. Yelling, shouting and finger pointing should get someone escorted out of the room. I believe a

local business owner got arrested once before for doing the very same thing during a city council meeting after being ordered out of the council chambers for their conduct.

Preventive measures

BRAIDWOOD—President Trump's supporters follow in his fiendish footsteps. The rallies sound like mobs of vigilantes shouting lawless demands of "lock her up" and "second amendment solution". And in their neighborhoods they steal political signs. Biden voters are forced to take a variety of preventive measures to keep their signs from getting snatched off their property. They take them in at night or whenever they leave the house. I've seen them hung high up in a tree suspended over a busy highway. I've advised people to surround their signs with horse manure, which I'm happy to supply them, piled high and deep and wide. If all these measures don't work, they can put up a sign "Republicans are thieves" to try to shame these brazen people. And it's noteworthy that I never had a sign stolen until Obama ran for president revealing that Republicans are not only thieves but racists as well. Brad K.

Opposite reaction

BRAIDWOOD—Why does one specific person in town feel that it is their purpose on this earth to unearth the "truth" behind our local government, more specifically one elected official. Not only do they feel it is their purpose to be the "change" the world needs, but to be their own cheerleader to the world about what they are doing. This person needs to realize that this type of behavior is only going to get them alienated from the rest of the community. Sometimes being loud and boisterous about one's activities will get the exact opposite reaction from what this person is looking to get.

Trump's accomplishments

SHADOW LAKES—I looked up President Trump's record of accomplishments and looked up Senator Biden's accomplishments and it is true that Trump has achieved more in the right direction in 47 months than ex-Senator Biden ever did. Why is that? Biden is a loser and he is also incompetent and Kamal Harris, if Biden wins, will be the president. Tom

Go to jail

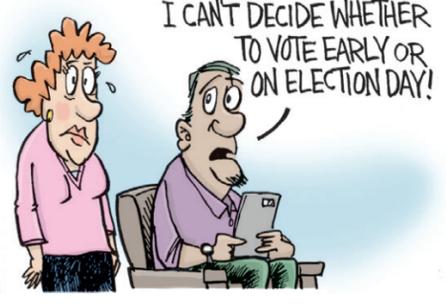
WILMINGTON—If you are losing your political signs make sure you write your name and address on the bottom. It is a seven-year jail term for messing with political signs and a \$750 fine. If you have your name and address on the signs and someone gets caught with it they can go to jail for seven years. I tell everybody to put their name and address on the bottom of the signs. Let the crooks go to jail. Thank you

Willing to wait

CUSTER PARK—Why do people stand in line for hours to vote? Is it love of country? Do people feel their well-being is at stake? The issues are as follows: the shrinking of health-care insurance with elimination of preexisting condition coverage by Trump's lawsuit after the election; 210,000 COVID-19 deaths without a national plan which is perhaps the world's worst pandemic performance; Trump's proposals to weaken Social Security; traitorous abandonment of America by Trump's allegiance to Russia; Amazon now pays no taxes whatsoever by Trump giving big cuts to the wealthy and to corporations; disrespect toward our soldiers and disregard of bounties on their heads; Trump's encouragement of domestic terrorists who plotted to kidnap Michigan's governor; corruption of the USPS by slowing the mail to prevent vote-by-mail ballots from being counted; threatening to disregard election results. And this last one inspires Americans to stand in line and stay in line because democracy itself is threatened. Gary W.

Enough is enough

COAL CITY—As you read this we will be seven months into the WUHAN virus. With all the exaggerated death predictions, conflicting rules and regulations, bogus number of cases and continuing lockdowns. Enough is enough! Now governor Pugsley wants to ban haunted houses and hay rides. Really! Back in March when this all started, I was willing to follow their rules because they made it sound very serious. The governor declared a state of emergency, which until then no one knew the scope of his power to declare whatever he wanted, a mandate to be followed. But by Easter I had, had enough, Pugsley, extended the state of emergency by another 30 days. But did you know, to do this he needs the General Assembly to approve the extension? He gets only 30 days emergency power, not 60 days, not 90 days, and definitely not 7 months. So you say how do we stop this? Only the governor, or Speaker of the House (tricky Mike Madigan) can call a special session to vote on extension of powers. Have you heard anything about calling a special session? Where's ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, WGN? Why haven't they asked the hard question to call a special session? Where's the outrage of all this nonsense going on? We know they don't follow the laws when it comes to illegal immigration, when they flaunt their sanctuary city status, so why should we be surprised when Pugsley keeps extending his power. Let's take a look at one example of the insanity. Sweden has a population of just over 10 million people. Illinois has a population of 12.6 million. Sweden has just over 101,000 cases of COVID, Illinois has just over 324,000 cases. Sweden has over 5,900 dead from the virus, Illinois has just topped 9,000 deaths. Sad but true FACTS! Sweden never had a full lockdown, they barely had any type of lockdown. We all know what's been going on here in Illinois. This madness must stop. Gov. Pugsley doesn't have power to keep extending his emergency powers as long as he wants. It's illegal! He is not a dictator, or is he? Call your state representative and demand change now! KL



Not a laughing matter

WILMINGTON—Did you see on the news the giggling episode during Republican Senate Leader McConnell's debate with his opponent, Marine fighter pilot Democrat Amy McGrath? McConnell giggled while McGrath questioned McConnell's refusal to bring legislation to the floor to help small businesses suffering from the pandemic. Apparently Republican McConnell thinks the misfortunes of others are funny because he just couldn't stop chuckling. I assume it's because he had no good answer. But it was heartbreaking to watch his response to the struggles of small businesses because, as the Senate leader, he's the one holding up the works to get legislation passed for the entire country. For the past two years Republican McConnell is the one who is happy to call himself the 'grim reaper' because he's been killing good legislation passed by the Democratic House, such as decreasing prescription drug prices, and he's downright proud of it. What a guy. A girly giggler who is bitterly ruthless by sticking it to the middle class. Irene D.

Full of hot air

SHADOW LAKES— In the beginning it was called global warming and now it is called climate change, but there is a better name which is heated atmosphere or to put it in a easier way just call it hot air. That is what's being thrown out by all the politicians that are playing kings and queens and telling false tails for control over the American lives. But if hot air makes balloons go up then explain what keeps the members of the Democratic party down since their hot air could be what really caused the global warming or climate change to take effect in the first place. A good example is to believe someone that only has enough scientific knowledge to mix a bourban and water like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez that says the world will end in 10-12 years because of hot air.

Fair tax truth

WILMINGTON—Please vote NO on the so-called Fair Tax Amendment! Illinois is over \$200 billion in debt. One way or another a yes vote means a \$200 billion tax increase. It really is that simple. This is what happens under one political party rule for decades. Again, please vote NO. Illinois certainly has enough problems already.

Share your plan Joe

SHADOW LAKES—The plan, What is the plan. I believe Joe Biden, must be the second most smartest people in the world. He has a better plan to handle the pandemic. The problem is it's secret. Are we or are will not all Americans? Wouldn't it be adventitious to the people of this country? Let's see, he stated he would not be opposed to another shut-down. We all know Joe stated, "to do what science stated." Didn't science, the World Health Organization state lockdowns do not heed the spread of virus? So, Joe, what is your plan? All the countries in the world have or are suffering; with many world leaders also contracting the virus. At the start I said Joe was the second most smartest man in the world. The first has to be...Kim Jong Un. He stated, there are no cases of virus in his country. Amazing!...always Margot lane.

Make a difference

WILMINGTON—People who complain about the park district, about how things are not being done, there is nothing for the kids to do, all kinds of stuff all the time. Well it's time for you to stand up and take out a petition to run for park commissioner. Time to get off the couch, time to get off your lazy chairs, get out there and run for office, make a difference in the world. Quit complaining to everyone that the park doesn't keep it clean, there is no playground equipment for the kids. If you're so worried about it, get down to the park district at the Wilmington fitness center, get your pamphlet to run for office and run for it. Don't let these guys that have been in there for years stay in there because nothing is ever gonna change. There should be term limits so you can only sit there two terms, not 30 years, not 20 years, not 10 years. I hope to see someone get out there and grab some petitions. We need to have some younger people in there, a couple older people, new ideas. Some things can't be fixed. Other things can be fixed. Maybe you can get your taxes lowered. You know there is no reason to have 17 part-time employees at the park district. We only have one little park and a fitness center. The only way they are gonna keep that fitness center open is by asking for more taxes every year. They can't run it on what they bring in, it's not self sustainable. They can say it is but it is only self sustainable on your tax dollars. You want to keep paying for a private fitness club down there? That's what I consider it. Complaints never get to park commissioners it stops at the office. So if you have complaints you have to call your park commissioners. They're in your book your pamphlet that you get every year for programs of what is going on

at the parks. Maybe we can make a difference. Maybe we can save some money. Thank you.

Support Judge Barrett

WILMINGTON—I am grateful America still produces such outstanding people such as AmyConey Barrett. Hopefully, when you read this; she will be Justice Barrett. I think it's a given that she was the smartest person in the room. What impressed me the most however was her composure. It can't be easy listening to politician after politician act like fools for a few minutes of airtime.

Rounding up

COAL CITY— I have been to many retail stores in a 20- mile radius and when I get to the cashier and the bill total is \$35 and hand the cashier a \$50 bill then the cashier says roundup. If you say yes or what is roundup then they will close the cash drawer and keep the change. Then the money becomes the property of the retail store. They do not say about how much money they collected in the company cash drawer or where it goes. They do not ask if you want to donate to a charity they just say roundup like they live on a ranch going out to collect horses or cattle. Deception is a form of fraud.

Shameful strategy

COAL CITY—What is the Republican strategy to win elections? First, Republicans suppress the vote wherever possible. I'm white and waited only 2 minutes in downtown Joliet, but in Georgia minorities wait as long as 11 hours which is typical for people of color in Republican strongholds. In Philadelphia President Trump wants his poll watchers to be armed to intimidate voters. And if unhappy with the election outcome, Trump will declare the votes invalid and have lawyers take it to court. In fact Amy Coney Barrett was a Republican attorney who, together with John Roberts and Kavanaugh, helped steal the election for Bush in 2000. If Barrett is confirmed, the Supreme Court will not only be 'packed' but three of its members participated in the hijacked 2000 election. But this time, second amendment devotees are added to the dirty deals of slick lawyers and the whim of judges -- lawyers, guns and money as the popular lyrics go. Because Republicans must cheat to win, the rest of us must defend democracy itself. Kurt K.

Uncooperative candidate

BRAIDWOOD—Any judge that doesn't know the five freedoms enshrined in the First Amendment is definitely unqualified for the Supreme Court. Perhaps Amy Coney Barrett's ignorance is due to the fact that she has only three years' background as a judge. My experience in the professional world of technology is that three years' experience is next to nothing. Considering that Supreme Court justices change the course of not only American history but the world stage, Barrett is wet behind the ears. Barrett also refused to acknowledge that it's illegal to commit voter intimidation, won't admit that it's unconstitutional for the president to postpone the presidential election and couldn't remember if she met with President Trump before her nomination. Does she know anything at all? Does she know whether it's unlawful to bash somebody over the head with a two-by-four? I'm sure she would also avoid this question using the excuse that it's hypothetical. Considering the lack of cooperation from this candidate, why bother with judicial hearings? Ann S.

Shoo-in

WILMINGTON— Why did the U.S. Senate just waste four days on this Supreme Court Justice nomination? Does the Senate believe all constituents are too stupid or ill-informed to not know that this Justice would be approved with a Republican majority in the Senate? And she knew she could avoid answering controversial questions because she knew she was a shoo-in. Can you imagine going to a job interview and not answering direct questions posed to you? It was a waste of time and money when the Senate could have been devoting this time and energy to approving a covid stimulus bill to help people who are suffering during this pandemic.

T. Lockwood, Wilmington

God will know

This letter is to all so called Christians who vote. Being Christian you are most likely pro-life. Now the problem you have is the Democrat platform, which is pro-choice, abortion. You can say, well I am pro life but also a Democrat. If you vote for pro abortion then you are as guilty as the person you voted for. Sure you can say no one will know how I vote, but God will know and if you believe in him he will not forget your vote. God said in Revelations 3:15 - 16, I would rather you be hot or cold because if you are luke warm I will spit you out of my mouth. Think about that.

SEE SOUND-OFF PAGE 11

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FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Sorg

Allen, Sorg united in marriage



Shana Allen and Bradley Sorg of Braceville were united in marriage on Sept. 12, 2020. Parents of the bride are John Allen and Michelle Read, of Godley. Parents of the groom are Ron and Patti Sorg, of Wilmington.

The outdoor ceremony and reception were held at The Ellis House and Equestrian Center in Minooka.

Nicole Sorg, sister of the groom, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Skylar Allen and Jadyr Read, the bride's sisters; Heather Bishop, cousin of the bride and the bride's best friends, Melissa Henline and Tori Ruffatto. Flower girls were Piper Sorg, niece of groom and Madison Smith, cousin of the bride.

Richard Heintz, friend of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Claude McCale and Kevin Goodwin, friends of groom; Justin Read, the bride's brother and Brandon Cuning, the bride's uncle.

Shana is employed as a CNA at Riverside and Brad is a mix operator at Crane Composites Inc.

The couple resides in Braceville and will honeymoon in Florida in November.

Wanted: Your engagement or wedding announcement

There is no charge to submit an engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement with a photo in this newspaper. Forms are available for these special occasions at 111 S. Water Street, Wilmington; 271 S. Broadway, Coal City; or at www.freepressnewspapers.com -> Submit-> (choose your form).

We especially encourage you to include a color photo with your announcement. If celebrating a milestone anniversary, why not bring in "then and now" photos?

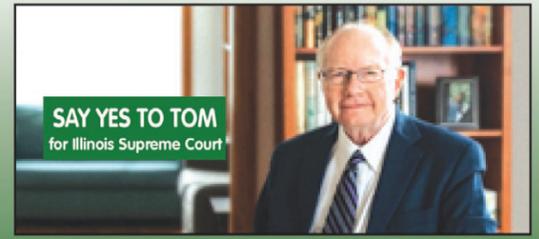
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The deadline for Family Page announcements is noon on Monday. We'd like to have wedding announcements and photos within six to eight weeks of the ceremony, if possible.

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Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

Thursday, Oct. 22

- noon to 1 p.m., Grace Wu talk on snakes, virtual presentation, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Register by email to sm.fs.midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call 815-423-6370
- 7 p.m., Wilmington Island Park District board meeting, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Friday, Oct. 23

- 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Godley Ghost Ride, ages 2-12, enter south entrance off Smith Road for drive through Halloween event.
- 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Saturday, Oct. 24

- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Residential electronics & hazardous waste drop-off event, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St, by appointment only. Make appointment at www.willcountyy-green.com
- 10 a.m. to noon, Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St.
- 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Sunday, Oct. 25

- 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, Essex Community Hall, 217 Paris St., Essex

Tuesday, Oct. 27

- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, city hall, 141 W. Main St.,

Wednesday, Oct. 28

- 6 p.m., Coal City School Board study session at CCHS
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Area Historical Society meeting, updates in museum, 114 N. Main St.
- 7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

Thursday, Oct. 29

- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Coal City Food Pantry distribution at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Road, Coal City

Friday, Oct. 30

- 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., or til supplies last. Godley Park District will be having a spaghetti supper. Carry-out only

Saturday, Oct. 31

- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Braidwood Lions Club trick or treat drive-thru at Old Smokey city park. Enter on Third St.
- 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Braidwood Lions Club Halloween hot dog giveaway, Old Smokey park, north side of pavilion.
- 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Custer Fire Protection District will be hosting a Halloween drive-thru. There will be 3 locations, Custer Fire Station 21750, Hwy 113. Deer Ridge Subdivision and Custer Township Hall, 35332 Grant Ave.

Sunday, Nov. 1

- 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Annual St. Rose Church turkey dinner held at the school, 626 S. Kankakee St. Dinners will be carry-out and dive-up only.

Monday, Nov. 2

- 7:00 p.m. Braidwood Planning and Zoning meeting at Braidwood city hall, 141 W. Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

- 10:30 a.m., Godley Park District, Seniors Alive.
- 10:30 a.m., Grace Lutheran Church, Wilmington, crafts and conversation open to the public.

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In need of meals or food? Here's help

There are many resources in the area available for those who need assistance with food and meals.

Help for Hope, 100 S. Baima St., Coal City is open Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. For more information call 815-518-2000.

Assumption Food Pantry is also located at Help for Hope, same hours and address.

Braidwood Food Pantry, 112 S. Center Street, Braidwood at Community Care Center is open Tuesdays 8 a.m.-noon and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. Information: 630-738-8863.

Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st St. Braidwood has a micro-pantry open 24 hours in front of the church Information: 815-390-5040.

Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood is open 1st and 3rd Friday from 4 to 5 p.m.

Coal City Food Pantry at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Rd., south entrance is open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. Information: 815-216-3288.

We Care of Grundy County Food Pantry, 530 Bedford Rd., Morris food distribution is Wednesday thru Friday from 1-3:30 by appointment. Information: 815-942-6389.

St. Vincent Table hot meals are served on Monday evenings from 5-6 p.m. Locations change every two months.

Sept./Oct.-Assumption of the BVM, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City
Nov./Dec.-New Hope Presbyterian

Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City 2021

January/February-United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Rd. Coal City
March/April-Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 110 S School St. Braidwood

May/June-Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st St. Braidwood

July/August-New Hope Presbyterian/80 N. Garfield St., Coal City

Sept./Oct.-United Methodist Church 6805 E. McArde Road, Coal City

Nov./Dec.- Assumption of the BVM, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City
Coordinator: Cindi Grove 815-941-1220 or cell: 815-735-1432.

Statewide cookout adds carp to menus

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), together with Midwest Fish Co-op and Sorce Freshwater Company, introduced Illinoisans to a locally-sourced, plentiful and healthful seafood option with a statewide Asian carp cookout.

Held at nine locations across the state, the cookouts offered Illinoisans free Asian carp tacos, sliders, hush puppies and more to showcase the versatility and health benefits of Asian carp.

"An invasive species, Asian carp are abundant in Illinois and, while we've long worked with commercial fish-

ermen and other partners to remove these fish from our waterways, we know more can and must be done," said Colleen Callahan, director, IDNR.

"To that end we thought, 'Why not acknowledge them as a protein source add them to menus across the state?' They're an extremely healthy and mild-flavored fish which can be locally sourced. It's a win-win for everyone."

Event locations on Saturday included restaurants, parks, community event spaces and university dining locations in Chicago, Quincy, Peoria, East Peoria, Springfield, Urbana, Carbondale and Carterville. The meals, prepared and served by chefs across the state, were given to residents free of charge with help from Midwest Fish Co-op and Sorce Freshwater Company, which provided the fish for all locations.

"Asian carp isn't only a delicious and healthy protein option, it's also an excellent option for restaurants as it's easy to prepare and sourcing it

is very economical," said Roy Sorce, president, Sorce Freshwater Company. "As a distributor, we see the benefits not only for restaurateurs and hungry and discerning patrons, but also for our waterways. The more carp we remove, the better our native fish and ecological systems will fare."

Additional help in organizing and providing event locations came from local partners including regional planning commissions, universities, food distribution companies and restaurants.

For Illinoisans who missed Saturday's event, additional opportunities to try Asian carp meals are available at the below locations:

- Ashburn: Saturday, Oct. 24, the Black Fire Brigade will prepare and serve Asian carp burgers at Black Fire Bridge, 8404 S Kedzie Ave., Chicago.
- Peoria: Kelleher's Restaurant, 619 SW Water St., will be serving Asian carp items on their menu during the coming weeks.
- Springfield: Beginning Oct. 21, customers can enjoy a

fish taco special at The Barn located at 1501 Wabash Ave.

- Quincy: Red Light Bar & Grill, 428 Maine St. Red Light Bar & Grill will prepare and serve Asian carp sliders as a daily special.

- Carbondale: Chefs from Cristaudo's Café, Bakery and Catering will prepare and serve a Jamaican Escovitch fish taco filling at upcoming Southern Illinois Collaborative Kitchen events in the coming weeks.

Come take a seat



The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce believes it's the little things that can make a difference. That's why we recently completed a campaign to bring benches to the downtown shopping district. It's an investment we believe will make for a more friendly shopping experience, especially for those poor husbands with aching feet waiting for their spouse to come out of a store.

Look for our benches and take a seat. We're proud of the project and want you to know there is more beautification to come.



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Hungry heron picture devours Forest Preserve photo competition

A heron snacking on crawfish at Whalon Lake in Naperville won September's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest.

The picture was snapped by Matthew Serafini of Lockport, who saw a Forest Preserve news story about a juvenile yellow-crowned night heron at the preserve and decided to check it out with a friend.

"I knew it was a fairly rare bird for the area, so I met up with a photography buddy of mine," he said. "We went out and found the bird and had some great lighting. The little guy was mainly hunting crawfish. In the hour I spent with the bird, we probably saw him eat four to six crawfish and one small catfish. Awesome little hunter."

Photo contest judges were impressed with the picture's crispness and the lighting as well as the way it captured the exact moment the heron was about to ingest the crawfish. Serafini said he grew up in the

Homer Glen area and has always enjoyed being outdoors and visiting the preserves. "Two years ago, I self-taught myself about photography," said Serafini, who works in banking. "I always saw such cool things while hiking, I figured why not try capturing these things on camera. Been having a blast ever since." Honorable mentions for September were awarded to Tyler Paul, of Wilmington, for a photo of two squirrels cuddling in a tree at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve; Eileen Capodice, of Minooka, for a photo of an adorable yellow warbler at Rock Run Preserve; Amy Miller, of Joliet, for a photo of a great blue heron looking over its shoulder at Rock Run Preserve and Mark Hanna, of Romeoville, for a photo of a sleepy barred owl at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center.

All of September's photo contest entries can be viewed on the District's Flickr page, www.flickr.com/photos/willcoforests.

Serafini is the fifth month-

ly winner in the 2020 photo contest. Three more monthly winners will be chosen by a panel of judges before the contest concludes on Dec. 31, so there is still time to enter the contest. In January, all eight monthly winners will vie for top honors via public voting on the District's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WillCoForests.

Monthly photo contest winners receive \$75 gift cards. Overall winners chosen in January will receive MasterCard gift cards worth \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place. The photo contest is sponsored by The Nature Foundation of Will County.

Photos must be taken by amateur photographers age 18 or older, and they must be snapped in a Will County forest preserve after the May 1 contest start date. Please read all photo contest rules and photo upload instructions at Reconnectwithnature.org before entering the contest.

St. Rose 73rd annual turkey dinner set for Nov. 1

The 73rd annual St. Rose turkey dinner will be held on Sunday, Nov. 1.

There will only be carry-outs with a drive-up service, so no need to even get out of your vehicle. Dinners will be picked up at St. Rose School, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (while supplies last).

The cost is a suggested donation of \$12 (free-will offering). All are welcome.

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Elks offer free orthopedic assessment

The Joliet Elks 296 in cooperation with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation will sponsor a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The clinic is from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and is by appointment only.

To make an appointment call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are no charges for any

services at this clinic.

The Elks will hold the clinic at Hinsdale Orthopedic, 951 Essington Road in Joliet. Dr. Bradley Dworsky will be the clinician in charge.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

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Saluting Our Veterans and those currently serving!

We need your photos of Veterans and Soldiers

We invite you to share a photo and name of local Veterans and Soldiers in honor of Veteran's Day!

We will be remembering the brave men and women from this area who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We will be featuring soldiers past and present including those on active duty.

Please note:

If you have submitted a photo and name in previous years you do not need to submit it again unless something has changed.

**Published on Wednesday, November 11th
Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 28**

If your veteran or soldier was included last year, you do not need to re-submit the photo. Those featured last year will be automatically included.

Your Name _____
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OBITUARIES

Terri Raspanti-Barnes

GARDNER—Terri Raspanti-Barnes, 72, of Gardner, formerly of Chicago, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 at her home.

Born Feb. 2, 1948 in Chicago, Theresa Lucille is the only child of Florence Raspanti-Langer and Gus Lessaris. She was raised and educated in Chicago, and worked for many years in the restaurant industry. Two special places Terri worked were the Willowbrook Ballroom in Willow Springs and Every Buddies in Gardner, where she made many life-long friends and relationships. She was a free spirited woman and quintessential child of the 1960's who loved to live her life to the fullest. More than anything, it was Terri's family that came first in her life and she lived every moment for her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her mother, Florence Raspanti-Langer of Gardner; three children: Michael Anthony (Kara) Raspanti, of Mokena; Brian Keith Barnes, of Gardner and Gina Marie



Barnes, of Gardner; seven grandchildren: Michael Anthony Raspanti, Anthony Wayne Raspanti, Chuck Barnes, Tyler Barnes, Emily Barnes, Fayette DeMatteo, and Elizabeth DeMatteo; one great-grandson, Isaiah Barnes and her aunt and uncle: Theresa (the Late Ronald) Irving-Raspanti, of Downers Grove and Nick Raspanti, of Hickory Hills, as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Terri was preceded in death by her father.

Per her wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a celebration of life will be planned at a later date.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook, upload photographs, and share Terri's memorial page by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Terriraspanti-Barnes

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. In Gardner.

Rich Foland

WILMINGTON—Rich Foland, 49, of Wilmington, formerly of Romeoville, passed away Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 at The Parc of Joliet.

Born Dec. 27, 1970 in Joliet, Richard William was a son of Robert and Camellia (nee Friddle) Foland. He was raised and educated in Romeoville and graduated with the class of 1989. Rich held employment with Dominick's for over 5 years and was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. He loved music, especially playing his guitar, playing his Atari, working on computers and drawing. Rich was very active with following up on his family's genealogy and on social media, including Facebook, where he would keep in touch with all of his family and friends.

Survivors include his parents, two sisters, Sherry (Ronald) Schopf, of Custer Park and Josephine Foland, of Marseilles; nieces and nephews: Camellia (James) Steffen, of Wilmington; Samantha (the late Brad) LaFever, of Braidwood; Scott Schopf, of Braidwood; Nicole (fiancé Alex Lambert) Foland, of Joliet; great-nieces and nephews: Jillian and Lilly Steffen, Eli and Layton LaFever and one more on the way, Nathan; dear friends, John Born, John, Rutherford, and Allen Reynolds, as well as



his two cats, Heathcliff and Sonja. Rich was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, William and Camellia Rose Friddle; paternal grandparents, Max and Odette Foland and his uncle, John Foland.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 9 to 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will follow at 11 a.m. in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St., in Wilmington with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding. Those wishing to participate in Rich's services are invited to watch the live stream on Thursday morning starting at 11 a.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

Rich will be laid to rest in Mount Olive Cemetery in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Rich's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/RichFoland

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

Billie G. Daniels

COAL CITY— Billie G. Daniels, 91, of Coal City, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

He was born on July 30, 1929 in Kirksville, MO to Earl and Lucille (nee McCormick) Daniels. His family moved to Gardner when Bill was a small boy, then to Braceville where he graduated from Braceville Grade School. He then attended Gardner-South Wilmington High School, graduating with the class of 1949.

Bill worked in the family business, Daniels Auto Supply, until going into the United States Army in 1951. In November of 1951, he married Joann Thom at the Coal City United Methodist Church by Rev. David Erickson. Together they raised their three children in Coal City. After his time in the service, Bill resumed and enjoyed his work. He liked to play golf and he and Joann took pleasure in traveling and visited many countries. He was always willing to give a helping hand to anyone who needed it. Most of all, Bill loved being with his family.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Joann; their children, Cynthia (Roger) Bossler, Gregory



Daniels and Bill (Laura) Daniels; their six grandchildren: Heather (Chuck) Harvey, Jennifer Brooks, Jason (Tara) Brooks, Kate (Kevin) Mengoni, Allison (Jeremy) Nugent and Emelia (Mike) Suess; 14 great-grandchildren: Wyatt, Tess and Carlie Brooks, Cora Pierard, Roman, Orrin, Laz and and Eleanore Decker, Audrina, Greysen and Burke Nugent, Aubry Suess, Flynn Mengoni, Malea Campbell and a baby coming soon. He is also survived by a step-great-grand daughter, Debra Fernandez.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Lucille Daniels; his brothers: Leo (Mary) Daniels, Cecil (Violet) Daniels and Harold (Eleanore) Shelton and his sisters, Neilson (Donald) Glasgow and Jolene (Monte) Jacobs. He will be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

A private family funeral service will be held at the Coal City United Methodist Church with Pastor Bradley Shumaker officiating. Burial will follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Helping seniors recognize fake news and propaganda

Dear Savvy Senior,

Are there any resources that you know of that can help seniors detect fake news? My 75-year-old mother shares a lot of misinformation with her family and friends that she sees on Facebook. I've talked to her about it, but for some reason she has a difficult time deciphering real news from fake news and propaganda.

Frustrated Daughter



SAVVY SENIOR
Jim Miller

Dear Frustrated,

Unfortunately, the digital misinformation problem your mom is experiencing is not uncommon. According to researchers from Princeton and New York University, people aged 65 and older are up to seven times more likely to share fake news and dubious links on social media than their younger counterparts.

Why?

There are several theories. The first is that many seniors started using social media sites like Facebook only within the past five or six years and may lack the digital literacy skills to identify false or misleading content.

Some other possible theories are that most seniors experience some cognitive decline as they age, making them more likely to fall for hoaxes. Many older Americans also suffer from chronic loneliness which can cause them to share misinformation as an attempt to make connections with other people. And studies have shown that older people are generally more trusting than younger generations, which can make them more gullible.

All this is particularly concerning now as we sit in the midst of a global health pandemic and a 2020 election season, both of which are ripe with misinformation, rumors and conspiracy theories. And seniors are prime targets of this false/misleading information because they are much more likely to vote than their younger cohorts and are much more vulnerable to getting sick and dying if they contract COVID-19.

Where to get help

To help your mom detect and combat

online misinformation there are several great resources she can turn to that offer free courses and tips.

One is MediaWise for Seniors, a project of the Poynter Institute, which offers two free online courses to help seniors detect and combat online misinformation – see Poynter.org/mediawise-for-seniors.

The first four-week course has already filled up, but your mom can still enroll in a self-directed course called “Hands-On Lessons to Separate Fact and Fiction

Online.” It is hosted by Christiane Amanpour and Joan Lunden, and was scheduled to begin Sept. 24, but she can take the course anytime.

In addition, Poynter has worked with AARP to produce Fact Tracker interactive videos and a webinar on spotting and filtering misinformation at AARP.org/facttracker.

Some other free course options you should look into include Senior Planet, which is offering a one-hour online course on “How to Spot Fake News” at SeniorPlanet.org.

The News Literacy Project that provides the Checkology virtual classroom, which was initially created for middle and high school students, is now offering an independent learners option that is ideal for older adults – see Get.Checkology.org. Their lessons will help your mom detect the difference between news, opinion and propaganda.

And Coursera, a free world-wide online learning platform, which offers an in-depth six-week course called “Making Sense of the News: News Literacy Lessons for Digital Citizens,” which she can access at Coursera.org/learn/news-literacy.

There are also many good websites, like PolitiFact.com, Snopes.com and FactCheck.org that will let your mom fact check a story to help her identify fact versus fiction. These sites have most likely already fact-checked the latest viral claim to pop up in her news feed.

ComEd offers help to families

Understanding the impact the pandemic has had on families struggling to keep the lights on, ComEd has several bill assistance programs to help unable to pay their electric bill.

Programs are available to help those struggling with past due balances and customers can learn more by calling 1-800-Edison 1 or by visiting comed.com/support to learn more about the following payment assistance programs and eligibility requirements.

- CARE Customer Hardship Grants—Residential customers facing financial hardship may be eligible to receive one-time CARE grants from ComEd to help them get back on their feet.

- COVID-19 Financial Bill Assistance—A one-time bill assistance credit of up to \$500 is available this year for eligible, low income households.

- Flexible, Extended Payment Arrangements—For a limited time, low income

households and residential customers expressing financial hardship may be eligible for a flexible payment arrangement so they can spread balances over 24 payments, with zero percent down. Residential customers who may not be facing financial hardship, but would like to spread balances, may be able to do so over 18 payments, with no more than 25% down.

- Waiver of New Deposits and Free Relief—ComEd is waiving any new deposit requirements for a limited time for customers expressing financial hardship and extending relief from various fees [such as reconnection fees] to help low income residential customers.

- State and Federal Financial Energy Assistance—Illinois' Percentage of Income Payment Plan [PIPP] and the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program [LIHEAP] also provide valuable financial help to households that may be facing financial challenges.

'Go to bat' for bats at Midewin

The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that bats contribute approximately \$53 billion annually in pest control around the world. At the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, where agriculture is one of the four main purposes for the land identified by the Illinois Land Conservation Act, bats are a vital part of the prairie restoration process.

On Thursday, October 29, 7 to 8 p.m., Midewin NTP Visitor Information Specialist Laura Lewis will help de-mystify some of the suspicions about bats and explain why it is important to “go to bat” for them. Lewis will reveal which two of the 12 bat species in Illinois are the most commonly seen at Midewin NTP. She will explain how bats are essential in prairie restoration.

Lewis has been studying nature and wildlife for as long



Photo by Cynthia Cox Benson

MIDEWIN NTP VISITOR Information Assistant Laura Lewis holds a National Bat Week photo frame at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Lewis will talk about how to make photo frames, bat houses and more on October 29 at 7 p.m.

as she can remember. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in zoology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

“I love to explore nature,

observe wildlife and teach others,” Lewis said. “Of all the creatures of nature in our area, bats tend to get an especially bad rap. I am hoping that people will participate in the National Bat Week webinar so they can not only learn more about bats, and by learning more can also help to dispel some of those bat myths that just simply are not true.”

If you see a bat, avoid any physical contact. In general, bats tend to be typically gentle by nature, however it is when someone attempts to pick up a bat that a problem can be created. The safest approach is to steer clear.

Learn more about the importance and bats and bat safety precautions: To register for the Midewin NTP National Bat Week program, email: SM.FS.Midewin_RSV P@usda.gov>SM.FS.Midewin_RSV P@usda.gov or call: (815) 423-6370.

Grace Lutheran Church offering crafts and 3 more ways to worship

Grace Lutheran Church invites the community to join them on Tuesday mornings for Crafts and Conversation. If you want to get out to a safe place to chat and work on your craft, stop in at Grace any Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Coffee is on to welcome you.

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is now offering three ways to worship each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Inside the Sanctuary, the church has put together careful protocols that must be followed, which include: Wearing masks at all times when in the building; taking temperatures as people enter; entering and exiting through certain doors and sitting in specific places as directed by the ushers, and others.

A special disinfectant machine has been purchased for cleaning the sanctuary between services. One issue might be available seating, this will be very limited because of the need to sit at least six feet apart (spots are marked, please follow them). Please do not choose this worshiping option if you are part

of a high-risk population.

In cars, simply park in the church parking lot, and tune your FM radio to 91.7. You can then listen to the whole service. This worship option would be good for those who cannot watch online because they do not have Internet access, but are also in a high-risk group and cannot risk worshipping inside (or, if we have overflow from limited seating inside).

Communion will be taken out to each car, and ushers will collect offerings if you turn your hazard lights on!

Live online, if you are unable to attend worship in-person, you can still view and participate in the service live online.

Remember that everything you need for Sunday worship is on the front page of the church's website, including a link to find the video (“Worship with us!”) and a link to the worship bulletin for you to download and print beforehand (“Bulletin PDF”). Grace Lutheran Church's website is www.gracewilm.org. Be sure to have a little bread and wine/grape juice ready.

Final call for Chamber Christmas elves

Elves and sponsors are needed to participate in the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and Industry Christmas Elf contest.

The contest benefits the Christian Help Association (CHA), which uses the proceeds to provide a holiday meal for the community's less fortunate families and presents for their children. The CHA will be helping approximately 350 local families this year.

Children age 5 and under, who are Wilmington residents, are eligible to be elves. They will be photographed in their holiday finery, and their pictures will be attached to donation boxes.

The boxes are placed in sponsoring businesses and shoppers are asked to donate their change, or as much as they can spare. Each penny counts as a vote for the elf pictured on the box — so each dollar is worth 100 votes. The top three vote-getters each receive Chamber gift certificates as a thank you for participating.

Elf photos will be taken on Thursday, Oct. 22. After school and evening appointments will be available.

To participate either as an elf or a sponsoring business, contact Cyndi Ragain, program organizer, right away at 815-474-7521.

What's with all the Santas?



Courtesy photo

RACHETTI'S came to life last weekend as the On Broadway Dancers began filming its 9th annual Christmas show, "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." You read that right, film. Because COVID-19 restrictions took use of the Coal City Performing Arts Center off the table as a venue, OBD determined it would get the message of Christmas out by going in a different direction. The dancers will now be presenting the annual holiday show as a drive-in movie. Filming will take place at multiple locations through the Coal City area over the next few weeks. "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," tells the story of how Santa was deemed non-essential, therefore the letters from children were not getting delivered to him. As a result, two elves are sent to Coal City to retrieve his mail. The drive-in movie is set for Saturday, Nov. 28 in the Coal City High School parking lot. Ticket information will be released at a future date. The annual Christmas show is a fundraiser to support the dance company and local families in need. To date, OBD has generated over \$35,000 from the shows that have been used to provide food, clothing and toys to local families during the holiday season.

Hines VA outreach team returns to Grundy County

The Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission [VAC] announced that the Edward Hines VA Medical Center Outreach Team has returned to Grundy County.

The Hines Outreach Team and the Grundy VAC were in Gardner on Monday, Oct. 19. In partnership with the Community Foundation of Grundy County they were able to use the South Grundy Resource Center to offer services to southern Grundy County and surrounding areas.

The Grundy County VAC was also on site during the clinic with one of its veter-

an service officers to help veterans with benefits and services from the Veterans Benefit Administration and the National Cemetery Administration.

"We are very excited about our improved outreach," said Ken Buck, Superintendent of the VAC. "With the availability of the new location and the addition of a service officer to the outreach we are able to answer more questions and provide more assistance to veterans in the county."

The Hines VAMC Outreach Team is also planning to return to Morris on the first Monday of each month to the

American Legion, 212 W. Washington St., starting Monday, Nov. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Veterans can also learn more about other services and programs available at Hines hospital and the community clinics.

The clinics will have flu shots available for those veteran that are enrolled in VA Health Care.

Contact the Grundy County VAC office at 815-941-3152 to learn more about the clinics or to learn more about the variety of programs and services available to veterans.

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Courtesy photos

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH the Coal City Food Pantry and Help for Hope, LyondellBasell's Morris Complex sponsored a drive-thru food distribution outside Coal City High School. The event provided up to 300 families with shelf stable food and basic household necessities. The event was held as part of the company's Global Care Day. More than 80 of the 400 individuals employed at the Morris Complex took part in the initiative held Saturday, Oct. 17. The company also built, installed and stocked micro pantries in the villages of Gardner and Braceville.

LyondellBasell volunteers lend a hand

Global Care Day observed with food distribution in Coal City

Understanding the value of time, resources and participation, LyondellBasell volunteers across the world safely engaged in various in-person and virtual projects focused on food security as part of the company's 21st annual Global Care Day.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, more than 80 LyondellBasell locations participated including the company's Morris Complex.

LyondellBasell chose not to cancel this year's event despite the pandemic and instead participated in service projects where volunteers spent their time focusing on the greater good within their communities.

"Now more than ever, we need to come together to help people and provide basic necessities in a time of great uncertainty," said Randy Tatum, site manager. "We could think of no greater need than helping provide food securities at a local level.

Employees, contractors, families and friends packaged food boxes from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, distributing the food to those in need through a partnership with the Coal City Food Pantry and Help for Hope.

The drive-thru food distribution held at Coal City High School provided up to 300 families with shelf stable food along with some basic household necessities.

The Morris Complex also built and installed two micro food pantries in both Gardner and Braceville. The shelves



LYONDELLBASELL, ONE OF the largest producers of ethylene and polyethylene in North America, did its part to support the community last weekend through its Global Care Day initiative to provide food to local families in need.

were stocked with items from the food drive.

In the midst of financial instability brought forth by COVID-19, this year's Global Care Day theme and coincides with LyondellBasell's global charitable contributions made earlier in the year to local food banks around the world in response to the pandemic.

LyondellBasell's Global Care Day event showcased the positive impact a company can make in communities where they both live and operate. Volunteer projects including building micro pantries, stocking shelves at local food pantries, collecting food for

donation, and organizing drive-thru food banks for individuals in need.

The look and feel of the 2020 event was different for volunteers than in years past due to the pandemic, but that did not stop #TeamLYB. With safety at the forefront, the company implemented COVID-19 precautions to ensure volunteers who participated in-person remained safe. These precautions included social distancing, eliminating the potential for groups to congregate and requiring facial coverings be worn to help protection against the spread of the virus.

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Sound-off, continued from page 4

A nightmare coming

WILMINGTON— If anyone believes that if Joe Biden becomes president they will not suffer they are wrong. All you have to do to be in another country is just step out your front door. You will enter the united socialist america, because the laws that will be imposed will affect every American citizen no matter what your political party. It won't take too long for Kamala Harris to push gun control, border walls torn down, illegals will get everything from America and it citizens will become useless except for their ability to work if they can find a job that hasn't been shipped to a foreign country. Think about what will happen when they use a loophole in the law to remove Joe Biden from office. The 25th amendment Kamala Harris becomes president and Alexandria Ocasio-cortez as vice president an eerie thought about a living nightmare that can happen.

Biden's gun attack

Joe Biden's promise to gun manufacturers: "I'm coming for you, I'm going to take you down." Biden's end goal is ultimately to repeal the 2005 PLCAA. This law, passed with overwhelming bipartisan support and signed by President George W. Bush, ended the politically driven lawsuits aimed at bankrupting the firearms industry. That law doesn't grant immunity, but it prevents others from shifting the blame from individuals committing crimes to a manufacturer. The firearms manufacturer is no more liable for the crime committed by an individual than Home Depot would be if someone committed murder with a hammer, or an axe. Biden will attempt to bankrupt an industry which currently employs 312,000 Americans from all walks of life in communities across the nation. Firearms manufacturers paid \$6.8 billion in taxes and had a total economic impact of more than \$52 billion. Biden wants to destroy an industry that provides \$15.7 billion in worker wages. This could be a first step in repeal of the Second Amendment, eliminating police and achieving socialism and ultimately communism control of American citizens. Hundreds of millions have been invested by the liberal "swamp" in this election to gain a blue wave takeover of the presidency and congress, effectively creating a "one-party control" of our democracy which will be practically impossible to reverse.

Mail in votes

SHADOW LAKES—Why are the Democrats so worried about mailed in voting when Obama ran the first time and the second time the military was not very happy with him and in both elections that he got elected military votes that came in late were not counted. But yet the Democrats now want votes that even get mailed in late to be counted. Why is it different now? But the military votes that got here late could not be counted. Mail in voting as it has shown in the last primaries in several states, thousands of votes were trashed. If you can't vote in person, someone I believe can give you a ride. Strawberry fields forever.

Let's move on

WILMINGTON—The uproar that took place this past year on the Diocese deciding to close St. Rose School was embarrassing. The lack of respect people in our town showed towards our pastor was a disgrace. If you thought that Fr. Sebastian had that much power, then shame on you for not opening your eyes. Today I observe more people turning to anger to make a point or react in anger when something does not go their way. The lack of respect displayed for our president these last four years and then for our pastor is out of control. I have changed my life to follow the Lord and this has helped me deal with all the insanity going on. If you are one of those angry people who believe that not supporting our church will prove a point, think again. How is your life now? It is clear these haters have very little Christian values. The choice is yours, hate or have Faith. I hope we can work together and learn by this. To help move forward please remove the Save St. Rose signs in your yards. Does anyone keep a presidential sign in their yard after an election, especially if their person lost? The school is closed so let's move on.

Not the victim

BRAIDWOOD—To the Braidwood resident who feels they are being "attacked" for calling out our elected officials and cheerleading about it, you need to wake up. You're not being attacked, you're being put in your place for the trouble you are causing. You obviously feel it's OK for you to call out people, but when it's done in reverse to you it's not OK. Trying to portray yourself as a victim isn't going to get you any sympathy.

Have patience

BRAIDWOOD—With wintertime approaching there are a few Braidwood residents who like to constantly complain publicly about their streets not being plowed to their standards or satisfaction. They need to remember these few things. 1) If they live on a dead end street or on a cul-de-sac they take the back burner as the main streets and roadways take priority. 2) One, two or even three inches of snow does not constitute a snowstorm or a public safety emergency. Those complaining about it just need to learn how to drive in that type of weather. 3) School bus drivers know how to drive under conditions like that, that's what they train for. If it is such a danger then they or their leadership would be taking the issue up with the village. Just because something is not done up to a single person's personal standards or satisfaction does not mean that the job is not being done right.

Do not understand

WILMINGTON—This weekend Confirmation was celebrated at St. Rose Church. Unfortunately, not all of us were able to walk away with a happy memory. Some families were allowed to sit together, even those that no longer reside in the same house, while others were sat on opposite ends of the church. Now, I understand social distancing, but I do not understand how it makes sense to subject families to four different families instead of just allowing everyone to sit with their child and their child's sponsor? It would have limited ours to only being subjected to one person instead of four. Also, if the church is going to allow people to help, maybe they should also give lessons in manners. I personally witnessed a helper be rude to a family where I could hear the man say that's fine I'll leave," pretty sad considering with the rules put in place, only parents could attend. So that family will remember the poor treatment they were shown instead of having a happy memory of their child's Holy Sacrament.

Right and wrong

COAL CITY—In all 50 states it is wrong to cause the death of another person. Even an accident, especially where negligence or law breaking caused the unintentional death of someone, a court case will at least call it manslaughter and there are appropriate punishments to be levied. In all states an intentional and pre-meditated killing of another is a crime called murder in the first degree and court punishment is always much more than if the death was accidental. I believe this to be proper and right. The USA stands for equal treatment under the law for everyone. When this does not happen it is wrong and unfair. Nothing is more unfair than to hire a doctor to rip apart an unborn baby so mom can escape responsibility. Especially in this age of birth control such things should never be necessary. I bet that if the baby had a say in it, life would be its choice and not death. The unborn baby is alive and human until a doctor who is supposed to protect life rips it apart. Each country must have its own degree of law and order according to its own traditions and should respect the right of others to see right and wrong their own way. To question other traditions is only ok if they violate their own beliefs. Should we be surprised that good Moslems see this unequal treatment and label the USA as the great Satan? I last heard that 47 states have put severe restrictions on abortion. Most people think it is wrong. It is certainly a crime against humanity and easy for anyone to understand. If the USA wants respect from the rest of the world we ought to deserve it by honestly following our own rules.

Freaks and fanatics

CUSTER PARK—The conspiracy theories and fanatical speculations of QAnon are nothing new. Not surprisingly it harkens back to Nazi propaganda that ushered in the holocaust. It was called the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and was written by Russian anti-Semites in 1902. It embraced the threat

of a Satan-worshipping mob that kidnapped, slaughtered and ate white children to gain power from their blood. These days QAnon conspirators have twisted this concept to fit extreme right-wing purposes throughout the western world. According to the FBI, QAnon has hijacked the efforts of those who are truly fighting pedophiles and contorting it for their own political purposes in a violent way giving QAnon followers the reputation of domestic terrorists. How do we rid ourselves of the curse of QAnon? It's impossible to say, but considering that President Trump promotes QAnon, perhaps QAnon will fade away along with the likes of Trump. Gloria W.

Again?

COAL CITY—Well, as usual, the Democrats are lying to us again. Little Joe has as one of his, oh listen to me," I promise to not trash my opponent's name or accomplishments, on the media." So let's get down to the real truth. Little Joe is a pal of our the last Democratic President and the president before that's wife. Oh yes, You can't deny it. We all know it is her money in this so-called fund that she operates, is funding His political campaign too. I would like to know how much money her fund has received from the Middle East states. And in return, her mentor gave pallet loads of American money to one of our enemies of freedom. She is so mad at losing her try at being "President." She would stop at nothing to ruin another "leader of men." As a former Democrat I could not stand the mud tactics being tossed around at meetings. And all those rally's of dirty tricks, free bus rides, donuts, etc., ouch. Hey, do all of our state's people a favor. Read the definition of the tax amendment.

Lied before, lie again

BRAIDWOOD—The man said he was going to build a wall at the southern border and that Mexico was going to pay for it. He said he was going to eliminate the North America free trade agreement (NAFTA). All they did was change the name but nafta is still with us. He said he was going to make America great again. The man says a lot of things. Anyone can say they support law enforcement. They can say they support the military, they can say anything they want, but if they lied before, they will surely lie again.

Favoritism

WILMINGTON—As California continues to burn this year with 8,500 separate fires consuming 4.1 million acres, it has destroyed 5,000 homes killing 8 people directly and thousands indirectly from air pollution, tens of thousands are sickened with some falling ill to COVID-19 due to displacement and homelessness. After the same repeated tragedy year after drought-stricken year, it's California's worst wildfire season so far. And yet last week, President Trump refused federal assistance to California at the same time approving federal assistance to North Carolina for Hurricane Isaias, a category 1 on July 31 causing a fraction of the damage compared to California. Why favoritism toward North Carolina? California is solid blue but North Carolina is Trump country and Trump wants to keep it that way. And last week Trump approved record-breaking subsidies to farmers totaling an unprecedented \$46 billion this year just in time before the election. Not only does Trump refuse to address the climate crisis causing wildfires, he spends taxpayer dollars buying votes instead. Ralph D.

Town hall highlights

CUSTER PARK—What did President Trump have to say at his recent town hall? Here are a few highlights: Trump claims he protects preexisting conditions, but his lawsuit will strike down protection for 133 million Americans with no alternative plan; Trump claimed our country's handling of the virus is among the best in the world when, in fact, it's among the worst in the world; Trump falsely claimed 85% of people wearing masks will catch COVID-19; Trump falsely claimed that radiologist Dr. Atlas, who promotes herd immunity, is one of the great experts of the world; Trump falsely claimed there is a cure for the virus; Trump falsely claimed local lockdowns are political stunts directed against him; Trump falsely claimed he knew nothing about QAnon except its opposition to pedophilia; Trump falsely claimed he's promoting DACA; Trump blamed Gold Star families for infecting him; Trump claimed Obama spied on his campaign despite the recent report that proves otherwise. A. W.

Courage and character

COAL CITY—When we hear about Caroline Giuliani, daughter of Rudy Giuliani, publicly declaring her support for Joe Biden and attacking both the Trump administration and her father in articulate detail, we praise her courage and character. By the same token, there were high hopes 4 years ago that daughter Ivanka would soften her father and steer him in the right direction. It didn't happen. In fact, in 2018 the photo of Ivanka cuddling her toddler was a bitter pill to swallow for all of us grieving the separation of families at the southern border by President Trump. The American public pleaded with Ivanka to take action, but she did nothing to curb her father's barbaric immigration policy. She also did nothing to change her father's mind about the climate crisis making Ivanka complicit in the irreparable damage her father inflicts against humanity. On the other hand, we admire Caroline Giuliani who did the right thing as difficult as that must have been.

Stop zigzagging

WILMINGTON—Responding to "Pelosi holding out," it's quite the contrary. The chuckling, giggling, smirking and cackling we heard from Republican Senate Leader McConnell regarding the stimulus legislation shows he's not serious about helping the American people. In contrast, Pelosi is bargaining tirelessly for a stimulus package with money going to America's working families, especially those with children. The last thing we need are slush funds for President Trump to dish out without accountability like the bailouts this past spring for small businesses which mysteriously disappeared all too soon. Where did they go? Add to that Trump's whipsawing back and forth. Recently Trump cared only about confirming a new Supreme Court justice until the stock market dropped 600 points. Then and only then Trump was ready and willing to hand out bigger stimulus checks than Pelosi. This zigzagging by Republicans is in contrast to the steady hand of Pelosi who knows what she wants the best for ordinary Americans. Irene

A true diplomat

BRAIDWOOD—So President Trump brokered two Middle East Peace Accords, something that 71 years of political intervention and endless war failed to produce. Trump has now been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by three separate world leaders. Trump is the first president that has not engaged us in a foreign war since Eisenhower. Trump has had the greatest impact on the economy, bringing jobs and lowering unemployment to the Black and Latino populations, more than any other president in our history. Trump has exposed the deep, widespread and longstanding corruption in the FBI, CIA, NSA and Democratic Party. He turned Nati around and the member nations are now paying their just dues. Trump neutralized N. Korea and stopped them from sending missiles towards Japan and threatening our West Coast. He lowered your taxes and caused the stock market to move to record levels more than 100 times positively impacting retirements of tens of millions of citizens. Trump fast tracked the development of a COVID 19 vaccine while we still don't have a vaccine for SARS, bird flu, Ebola or other diseases that occurred during previous administrations. Among other accomplishments he rebuilt our military which was crippled by Obama and fired over 200 generals and admirals during his first year in office. They who want constant wars. Trump works for free and has given up billions so he could serve as president. All this and so much more in the face of relentless undermining and opposition from people who are threatened because they know they are going to be exposed as the criminals that they are if he is re-elected. So many of you writing in this column don't like him. Look at what he has done for America. What are you doing besides calling him names?

Bloody hands

SHADOW LAKES—For all you people who vote their pocketbooks or some perverted policy if you believe in a Christian God and vote for Democrats who are about 95% pro-abortion you are as responsible as they are for the deaths of millions of innocent children. Most Democrats not only condone abortion, they promote it. Like our governor not so long ago when Missouri shut down an abortion clinic on the border of Illinois and Missouri Pritzker said basically "Don't worry about it. Come

to Illinois and we will kill your babies for you." If you vote for Democrats, like it or not, believe it or not you have blood on your hands. You may not think so but God knows. You are going to answer for it whether you believe in the Christian God or not. There will be no excuses. Do what's right in God's eyes, not man's. Also, if you want to make Satan very happy, vote Democrat, or should I say Democrat? Frank

Soft on Biden

WILMINGTON—I'd like to ask some questions to some of these extreme left wing people who call into the sound-off column. Why is it that the news media is very soft on Biden and Hunter Biden but they are very tough on Trump? They are supposed to be equally tough on both. Silicone Valley eliminates anything negative about the Democrat party. Can anyone answer that? The media is the Democrat. There's a difference between Democrat and Democratic which most publications consider the Democrat party Democratic. Democratic is a way of government. Democrat is a party.

Military might

SHADOW LAKES—In response titled "Another insult," in the sound-off column, by Ralph D. Obviously Ralph you don't know anything about what Trump has done for the military. I use the VA. They have drastically improved compared to when Obama was in office with all of the scandals going on. He has also increased military pay, he increased everything the military needs to perform as they should whereas your favorite president "Obummer" depleted our military. He bent down in front of other leaders and bowed to them which is something no American president has ever done. So wherever you got this information about Trump calling the military scoundrels and losers I would should like to know because you are definitely misinformed.

Dan Hill

Essex Community Club (Formerly Essex Lions)

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, October 25
7 a.m.-Noon

Essex Lions Community Hall
217 Parls St., Essex, IL

Menu includes: Pancakes, french toast, biscuits & gravy, eggs (any way), bacon, sausage, hash browns, toast, milk, orange juice and coffee.

Kids 6 - 12 \$4 • Adults \$8
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10-17-20
"GRISTMILL NOMADS" ✓
Let's welcome them to their first show ever in Wilmington, IL!

10-31-20
"THUNDER ROAD BAND" ✓
A Wilmington Favorite.

10-31-20 PULLED PORK, AND WENDELL'S BIRTHDAY
Chef Jerry's famous Pulled Pork, If you live in Wilmington, you know who Wendell is!






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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines

Classified Display
The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

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with a classified ad in
The Free Press Newspapers
• The Prairie Shopper
• The Braidwood Journal
• The Coal City Courant
• The Free Press Advocate

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words
(20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$21; 2 wks. - \$25;
3 wks. - \$28; 4 wks. - \$30
\$.120 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2nd floor 1 BR apt. for rent. 725 S. Broadway, Coal City. Same floor washer & dryer, \$660/mo. plus \$700 security. Price includes utilities. If interested call 815-685-2919 and leave a message. ca 42b-46a

Braidwood - 2nd floor, two bedroom apartment. \$675. Tenant pays all utilities. Laundry facilities. Security check, no pets, no smoking. 815-476-2219 or 815-278-5350. cc41a-44b

AUTOS

2014 Chevy Cruze Atlantic Blue. RS package. 1.4 Turbo motor, sunroof, remote start, tires replaced (80,000 mile, Michelin), battery replaced last year. Must see to appreciate. 41,200 miles. Under Blue book value, \$9500 OBO. Call, leave message, text Dennis at 815-341-0410.

BOATS

Two, late 60's, early 70's era metal canoes, \$300 each. Bass boat with trailer, \$500. Call 815-260-0214, leave message. cc43a-46b

DUPLEX FOR RENT

Small 2 bedroom duplex with basement and garage. References and security deposit. No pets. 815-634-2282. ca41a-44b

ESTATE SALES

5925 E. Route 113, Coal City, Friday, October 23rd & Saturday, October 24th from 10am-2pm. INDOOR-OUTDOOR, lot of Christmas, little bit of everything. cc43b

725 Richard Court., Godley, Thursday-Sunday, Oct. 22nd-25th from 8am-5pm. Widowed elderly male moving closer to family after 30 years. This is ONE HUGE SALE WAY too many items to list. Everything from antiques, china, furniture, household appliances, garden pots, wood and tools etc. Cash only. cc43ab

GARAGE SALE

185 S. Primrose Dr. (Meadow Estates), Coal City, Fri., Oct. 16, Sat., Oct. 17 & Sun., Oct. 18 from 8am-5pm and Fri., Oct. 23 & Sat., Oct. 24 from 8am-5pm. Tools, Christmas items, clothes, household items and much more.

GARAGE SALE

815 Eagle Creek, Elwood, Friday & Saturday, October 23rd-24th from 9:30am-2pm. Mostly power tools and misc. items. ca43ab

248 E. Cermak, Braidwood, Fri. & Sat., Oct. 23rd & 24th starting at 7:30am. Remodeled! Not large sale, but exceptional quality Pottery Barn furniture. Perfect condition ivory recliner, new king organic latex mattress with topper, Weather Tech, brand new Bali cellular sliding door and kitchen shades, & more. cc42b-43b

HELP WANTED

Applications are being taken for one, full-time (eight hours per day) Custodial/Maintenance position. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Jim Habing, Wilmington High School 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481. Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which District 209U receives federal assistance. ch43a-44b

Friends Over Fifty has an immediate need for Caregivers for 24-hour care shifts. Our Senior Care Company helps the elderly maintain their independence by providing in-home companionship and other non-medical assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Training is provided as well as a competitive salary and employer matching IRA. Apply online today at https://fofseniorcare.com/sp.biz/employment or call 815-836-2635. cc41a-44b

Dawn of a New Day Care Center in Mazon, is now hiring qualified teachers. Call now, 815-448-2530. cc43a-46b

HELP WANTED

Full-time, experienced Stylist wanted. Chair rental. Elwood, IL. Email inquiries/resume to Haircode@att.net. cc41b-45a

HOMES FOR RENT

Coal City-135 Blackstone. 2 BR, stove & fridge furnished, washer/dryer hookup, no pets, no smoking, \$800/mo. + 1 month rent deposit. 815-634-8800. ca 41b-45a

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

MISCELLANEOUS

Dry, seasoned oak firewood \$129, cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Wood racks \$49, Camping Wood \$99. The best firewood & quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc40b-48a

GET HELP APPLYING FOR A FOID CARD

We take color photographs for gun owners' cards (FOID) for \$10 and help you complete the application online. Illinois State Police won't answer the FOID hotline but you can complete your application with our computer. Call for an appointment most days (but Tuesdays) 9a.m. to 4p.m. Do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966. The Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Please wear a mask.

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

Well seasoned oak firewood, \$100.00, face cord, 815-791-4596. ca40a-43b

Samsung DLP 61" HDTV. Works great, no damage. \$200. Call 815-954-4647. cc43a-44b

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant 2020CH30 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on September 18, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 4, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1320 W PRAIRIE ROAD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 08-29-400-002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-20-04486 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2020CH30 TJSC#: 40-2248 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2020CH30 13157238. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., Oct. 7, 14, and 21, 2020.

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

2 or 3 BR mobile homes available for rent or sale. Rent from \$799-\$899. Includes water, sewer & trash removal. Please call & talk to Eric about financing options. Call 815-237-2290 for more information. cc39a-46b

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Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

Deb's Way Trucking

Gravel, dirt & sand. 6-wheeler loads only. Call or text Deb at 815-693-5870. cc36b-49a

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-1, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- DAVID BZDILL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, ALLEN REYNOLDS, ERIC BEAZLEY, LUKE BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 2019 CH 33 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 7, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 18, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3770 WILL COURT, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 05-16-226-016 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$212,795.48. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 19-6979. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710 E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 19-6979 Case Number: 2019 CH 33 TJSC#: 40-2212 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019 CH 33 13157931 Published in the Free Press Newspapers, Wed., Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

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cc42a-42a

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Over 30 yrs. exp., call Jason for all your renovations or repairs, fully insured, fast service, 815-263-6081. cc40a-43b

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-1, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- DAVID BZDILL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, ALLEN REYNOLDS, ERIC BEAZLEY, LUKE BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 2019 CH 33 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 7, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 18, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3770 WILL COURT, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 05-16-226-016 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$212,795.48. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 19-6979. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710 E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Attorney File No. 19-6979 Case Number: 2019 CH 33 TJSC#: 40-2212 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019 CH 33 13157931 Published in the Free Press Newspapers, Wed., Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

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Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and modified rubber and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, blown-in insulation in attics. **INSULATION**. Get a free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. cc41b-12a

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc40a-51b

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

ESTATE SALE

PART #2

170 W. Third St., Coal City
Sat., Oct. 24 & Sun., Oct. 25
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • RAIN CANCELS

Masks are required inside the house
Woodworking Tools, Collectibles, Housewares, Christmas Decorations, Books and much more!

PUBLIC AUCTION

SAT., OCT. 24 AT 10:00 AM
(RAIN DATE SUN., OCT. 25)
741 KRISTIN LANE, WILMINGTON IL
GO TO AUCTIONZIP.COM I.D. 9525 FOR LISTING AND PHOTOS
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Taking the anti-Madigan route has its bumps

After Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan appeared in all but actual name in ComEd's deferred federal prosecution agreement, Rep. Terra Costa Howard (D-Glen Ellyn) was one of the first Democratic state Representatives to call on him to resign without the qualifying "if he did it" language.

And the freshman Democratic legislator has been breaking pretty much all precedent the past month or so by putting significant campaign money where her mouth is.

Howard refused to keep silent. In the face of threats and intimidation from fellow Democrats, S t a t e Representative Terra Costa Howard did the right thing: She stood up and called on Madigan to step down, now."

The second mailer, which hit the boxes around the first of the month, was entitled "Why I called for Speaker Madigan to resign."

"As a mom, I've heard the classic 'Everyone else is doing it!'" the mailer explains. "But as a legislator it was the opposite 'No one is doing it!' I couldn't believe it. As a mom, this was my chance to show my daughters what it means to do what's right."

The third mailer landed a week later and focused on legislative redistricting, a process that Madigan has perfected. "Corrupt politicians draw maps that take away the power of your vote," the reader is informed. "Terra Costa Howard wants to give the power back to us!"

The fourth mailer landing a few days ago. "Since 1971 Mike Madigan has had Illinois on the same path," read the headline. "Speaker Mike Madigan is implicated in yet another Illinois corruption and bribery scandal. This time, ComEd



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

courages people from investing in Illinois. It's time to set a new course."

Yikes. A Democratic Party of Illinois spokesperson declined comment, but said the mailers were not a surprise. Whatever works, I suppose. She won't be voting for Madigan's reelection, but not many Democrats want to see a return of the ultra-conservative Breen, who is a nationally prominent pro-life attorney and was the House Republican floor leader until he lost reelection two years ago.

Whatever the case, a campaign like this is unprecedented in Illinois. No incumbent House Democrat has ever been so openly hostile to Madigan in sustained paid advertising. Ever. I mean, the Senate Democrats caught tremendous heat from unions when they ran TV ads calling for leadership term limits two years ago and had to pull them down or face retaliation.

In other news, Costa

Howard's campaign is behind a formal complaint filed with the Illinois State Board of Elections. The complaint alleges that the Illinois Republican Party has made kind contributions of 10 mailings on behalf of Breen's campaign going back to early August, but at least six have yet to be disclosed by Breen. The Breen campaign denied all wrongdoing and noted some mailers were reported last week.

Breen's mailers, unsurprisingly, have tried to weld Costa Howard to Madigan. In one, recipients were told that Costa Howard "lied to you about her ties to Madigan and corruption," adding that she "is still taking Madigan's money."

"According to recently uncovered FBI files," another mailer claimed, "top Madigan lieutenant Mike McClain raised money for Terra as part of a pay-for-play 'secret project.'" The footnote points to a Tribune story about McClain raising money for unnamed House Democratic candidates. "Terra's money man McClain rewarded another Madigan operative for covering up a rape in Champaign, Illinois."

It's not hard to see why Costa Howard is taking the anti-Madigan route.

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

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Illinois unemployment claims continue to rise

The pandemic and associated restrictions continue to wreak havoc on the state and national economy, as the Illinois Department of Employment Security reported that 47,528 Illinoisans filed first-time unemployment claims for the week ending Oct. 10, an increase of 31% from the previous week. That was accompanied

by an 8% decrease in continued unemployment claims, which hit 447,060 for the week.

Nationally, there were 898,000 new unemployment claims for the week, an increase of 53,000 or 6% from the previous week, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

IDES reported Friday, Oct. 16 that the state had a 10.2% unemployment rate in September. That was higher than the national unemployment rate of 7.9% for the month, and nearly triple the 3.7% rate the state saw in September one year ago.

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Drive thru trick-or-treating at Old Smokey planned

Come and trick-or-treat, social distance style, at a drive-thru style event in Old Smokey City Park in Braidwood on Halloween, Oct. 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event is being hosted by the Braidwood Lions Club, Knights of Columbus 1574 and the Braidwood Area Chamber of Commerce.

The event is for children ages 2 to 16. They must be in the vehicle — no exceptions will be made. No infants only.

Enter the park through the Third Street entrance and

turn right onto the walk path and follow the directions of those directing traffic.

Once at the starting point, roll your windows down. Proceed only after being directed to do so. Follow the walk path, stopping at each volunteer stationed along the route who will place a couple of pieces of candy in the children's bags or buckets. Do not proceed to the next volunteer until the vehicle in front of you has moved on.

Please keep speeds at 5 mph max.

More than 2 million mail-in ballots requested

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – More than 2 million Illinois voters have requested vote-by-mail ballots and more than 26,000 such ballots have already been returned, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections.

That means about a quarter of the state's registered voters had requested vote-by-mail ballots as of Sept. 30.

ISBE reported that 2,077,594 ballots were requested, with 26,872 returned and 55,751 persons having voted early.

The number continues to grow as public health guidance advises against congregating in indoor places due to concerns about the spread of COVID-19. Earlier this year, state lawmakers passed a law requiring election authorities to send applications for vote-by-mail ballots to registered voters who voted in recent elections.

Applications must be sent back to the election authority to receive a mail-in ballot. Many of the applications have already been distributed to voters, and vote-by-mail and early voting periods began last week.

Once the ballot is received, it must be sent back to the election authority to be counted. While the new law for the 2020 election allows an election authority to install drop boxes for the return of ballots,

a spokesperson said only 54 of the state's 108 election jurisdictions have such a drop box.

Those who have requested mail ballots but change their minds and would like to vote in person instead have avenues to do so, according to ISBE spokesperson Matt Dietrich, who said there are safeguards in place to ensure no double voting occurs.

A voter who received a mail ballot but wishes to cast a ballot in person must surrender the ballot at an early voting location or polling place on Election Day and will be given a regular ballot.

A voter who does not surrender the ballot must cast a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots are not counted until all the mail ballots have been processed and it is assured that the voter's ballot is not among them.

According to Dietrich, if someone has requested but not yet received their mail ballot and wants to vote in person, the voter can sign an affidavit at the polling place or early voting location attesting that they have not received a mail ballot. The voter will then be given a regular ballot.

"This happens most frequently with voters who request their mail ballot very late in the process and don't receive it as of Election Day, though a voter can do this anytime as long as they haven't received the ballot," he said.

Voters using this method are

instructed to discard the mail ballot if it arrives, but if they do sign and return it for voting, they're committing vote fraud and are subject to Class 3 felony charges, Dietrich said.

Gov. JB Pritzker was asked at a virtual news conference Wednesday if he had any concerns about rhetoric from President Donald Trump in Tuesday night's presidential debate in which Trump continued to raise questions about the validity of a November election that has already smashed mail-in voting records in many states.

Pritzker said he would feel "confident in the system we have" if he were voting anywhere in the state, noting that the new law has made the process "safer and easier."

"We've had vote-by-mail in Illinois for some number of years," he said. "And so there's, I think, a reasonable high confidence level of people who have done it have done so successfully. We have not had situations of voter fraud in Illinois caused by vote by mail."

All mail-in ballot requests must be received by Oct. 29 ahead of the Nov. 3 election, but officials recommend submitting requests earlier to ensure a ballot is received by Election Day.

Returned ballots must be post-marked by Nov. 3 and received by the local election office by Nov. 17 in order to be counted.

Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway to be Oct. 31

The Braidwood Lions Club will be hosting their Annual free Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 2 to 5 p.m. by the north side of the Lions' Pavilion in Old Smokey City Park.

It will be a drive-thru style event this year.

Free meals include hot dog, bag of chips, bag of popcorn and ketchup and mustard packets. No drinks will be available this year. No eating will be allowed underneath the pavilion.

Drivers should enter through the north entrance on Third Street. Pull up in the gravel along the north side of the pavilion. Roll down your window and tell the volunteers how many meals you need. Meals in to-go containers will be handed through your window.

No walk-ups are allowed.

Meals are available as supplies last.

For more information, please visit www.BraidwoodLionsClub.org.

LyondellBasell volunteers lend a hand

Understanding the value of time, resources and participation, LyondellBasell volunteers across the world safely engaged in various in-person and virtual projects focused on food security as part of the company's 21st annual Global Care Day.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, more than 80 LyondellBasell locations participated including the company's Morris Complex.

LyondellBasell chose not to cancel this year's event despite the pandemic and instead participated in service projects where volunteers spent their time focusing on the greater good within their communities.

"Now more than ever, we need to come together to help people and provide basic necessities in a time of great uncertainty," said Randy Tatum, site manager. "We could think of no greater need than helping provide food

securities at a local level.

Employees, contractors, families and friends packaged food boxes from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, distributing the food to those in need through a partnership with the Coal City Food Pantry and Help for Hope.

The drive-thru food distribution held at Coal City High School provided up to 300 families with shelf stable food along with some basic household necessities.

The Morris Complex also built and installed two micro food pantries in both Gardner and Braceville. The shelves were stocked with items from the food drive.

In the midst of financial instability brought forth by COVID-19, this year's Global Care Day theme and coincides with LyondellBasell's global charitable contributions made earlier in the year to local food banks around the world in response to the pandemic.

LyondellBasell's Global Care Day event showcased the positive impact a company can make in communities where they both live and operate. Volunteer projects including building micro pantries, stocking shelves at local food pantries, collecting food for donation, and organizing drive-thru food banks for individuals in need.

The look and feel of the 2020 event was different for volunteers than in years past due to the pandemic, but that did not stop #TeamLYB. With safety at the forefront, the company implemented COVID-19 precautions to ensure volunteers who participated in-person remained safe. These precautions included social distancing, eliminating the potential for groups to congregate and requiring facial coverings be worn to help protection against the spread of the virus.

School lunch menu

October 26 – 30 Reed-Custer School District	
Monday-	Grilled cheese, tater rounds, corn, fruit, milk
Tuesday-	Popcorn chicken, buttered noodles, peas, fruit, milk
Wednesday-	Rib sandwich, potato chips, carrots, fruit, milk
Thursday-	Breakfast burrito, hashbrown, yogurt, fruit, milk
Friday -	Pizza, corn, cookie, fruit, milk

Coffee & Newspapers
One wakes you up
One opens your eyes

Custer Fire District to hold Halloween event

The Custer Fire Protection District will be hosting a Halloween Drive-Thru event on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers will be at three locations—the Custer Fire Station on Hwy. 113, Deer Ridge Subdivision and Custer Township Hall on Grant Ave—handing out goodies and greeting youngsters in costume.

Boys and girls will have to opportunity to tour fire trucks, receiving fire prevention handouts and speak with firefighters.

Any Custer Park resident in need of a smoke detector can request one at any location or call 815-458-2680.

Masks and social distancing are encouraged.

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File Photo

REED-CUSTER'S RUSSELL PAGE was nominated by Reed-Custer graduate Graham Perrott to be on his Comet fantasy football team as a wide receiver. Page played with the Comets from 2015-17.



File Photo

REED-CUSTER GRADUATE Graham Perrott selected Reed-Custer's Jacob Beyer, who played with Reed-Custer from 2016-18 as one of his corners on his Comet fantasy football team.

Comet graduate Perrott's fantasy football picks

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

With the NFL having their Fantasy football every year, it sparked a "what if" scenario.

What if the Reed-Custer football program could choose players from the past?

They'd be unstoppable.

One of our readers and former Reed-Custer graduate Graham Perrott, gave us his opinion on who he would have on his Comet fantasy team.

Quarterback
At quarterback, would be Josh Loomis who was the quarterback for the Comets from 2016-18. He passed for 2,628 yards and had 1,250 yards rushing, giving him 3,895 all-purpose yards.

"During the 2017-18 season, he was mostly considered a scrambling quarterback," said Perrott. However, once he got going passing the ball, he was a dual threat."

His number two pick was injured 2020 graduate Blake Foster, who rushed for four touchdowns in one game during the 2019 season. Foster didn't end up playing quarterback but Graham notes, he would have been a good one.

"He was considered as a balanced quarterback. He could hurt the defense in any way once he got the momentum going."

Running back
In the backfield, he chose Jaxon Hendershot, who gained 460 yards with six touchdowns in 2016.

"I chose Jaxon because it was his first time playing a varsity game during the 2017 season but that didn't phase him, he was a dominant running back.

As the second pick, Graham chose himself even though he was the team manager.

"I was considered the team's football manager, a Scout who pursued my Eagle Scout Rank and a Marching Comet playing the snare drum from 2015-17."

He scored a touchdown during the senior night game and it sparked a "what if" situation in his head.

"I was able to play running back and wide receiver against the Manteno Panthers for the first and last time," Graham commented. "I was able to score a touchdown and helped out blocking for my teammates throughout most of the fourth quarter. In my opinion, if the

team and I practiced more running plays with me as the running back, I would have been a good back-up running back who led by example, and had a good balance of athletic abilities at the running back position."

Fullback
At the fullback position, Graham went with two bruisers in Connor Harding and Kaleb Knust.

Harding played for the Comets from 2015-17 with Loomis and he mostly got goal-line carries, scoring three times over his two seasons.

Knust played with the Comets in 2018 and 2019, busting through to the endzone once.

"They showed everybody how to be true fullbacks, running with power and finesse and they knew how to block effectively."

Wide Receivers
He chose Rick Siegers, Dylan Hutchison, Russell Page and Jordan Neu to be in his receiving corp.

Hutchison played on the football and basketball team from 2014-18 and Graham liked him because one sport made him good at the other.

"While being a huge part of the basketball team, he found football as another sport to work on his hands, eye coordination and juke moves to stay in shape for basketball," continued Graham. "His height with his skill set of basketball made him a true threat at wide receiver."

Siegers played wide receiver and punt returner for the Comets between 2017 to 2019. He made 18 catches for 422 yards with three touchdowns. Graham thought he had all the tools to be a great wide receiver.

"He used his speed, hands and basketball skills to his advantage to make huge catches for the team when needed."

Page played from 2015-17 corraling deep shots for the Comets, who used him right. He was fast and he could track the ball down. Graham was impressed with his overall ability and mindset.

"One of the best wide receiver and basketball post players I have ever met at Reed-Custer High School. With his physical strength, vertical jump, height and assertive mentality to get better at any sport he plays, it all makes him a receiver that could hurt you in any way he wanted to."

And Jordan Neu was known very well for what he could do after the catch, returning two kicks for touchdowns but Graham has an argument that he'd also be a fine receiver.

"Although I saw him mostly playing kick returner or running back, I believe his speed, physical strength and hands make him a perfect fit as a wide receiver."

Tight End
Hunter Doherty and Billy Moorman are his tight end selections.

Doherty played for the Comets 2017 and 2018 before transferring over to play for the Wildcats, where he switched positions from the offensive line to tight end.

"When I saw him play tight end for Wilmington, his strength, catching ability and agility for his size made me think, a tight end is a much better fit for him."

Moorman played with the Comets a little before Doherty did in the 2014-15 season. Graham liked the natural tools he had for the position.

"He had a mixture of quickness, strength and good hands. All that made him a perfect fit for the tight end spot."

Center
At center, Logan Zacharias would be a good pick because of his physical strength and raw power.

"He had such power and such dedication to get better. He actually suplexed the Plano running back, forcing him to fumble the football. He was a beast."

Guard
Gavin Harrison is his go-to guy because he leads by example and everyone else follows his lead block through the hole.

"His strength, agility and blocking ability make him a perfect fit at guard for RCHS."

At the other guard spot, Perrott went with Dylan Emanuelson, who played with the Comets from 2014-16.

"He is huge but still had speed and strength. He blocked some player so hard, he pancaked him. He was a force to be reckoned with."

Tackles
His offensive tackles included Brendon Parnell and Bobby De La Rosa.

Parnell played with the Comets from 2014. He was known for his quickness creating a hole.

"His agility at offensive and defensive tackle made him a problem on both sides of the field."

De La Rosa played on the same team as Perrott and Parnell.

"He was quick, agile and super strong," commented Perrott. "Those attributes alone made him a good tackle."

Kick Returner
Graham selected Vincent Vercelotte and A.J. Cherry, who used their speed and quickness to get past the defense.

"They both were shorter players who could get lost on the field to the point where the defense were unable to spot them. That allowed them to get to the endzone with ease with how fast they were."

Vercelotte played from 2014-17 while Cherry played from 2015-18.

Coach
Graham selected Mark Wolf and Gavin Johnston as his coaches because they always know what to say to get their players fired up in any situation.

Edge Rushers
At defensive end, Graham

went with Andrew McDonald II and Brendon McWilliams.

"Andrew could psych anybody up. He also had all the true makings of an excellent pass rusher. Brendon could stuff the run and both would be nightmare for any offense."

Defensive Tackle
The two defensive tackles he selected were Billy Kanehl and Brendan Wiggins.

Both were extremely strong and agile, and didn't stop until they heard the whistle.

Middle Linebacker
Seth Perry, who graduated in 2017, is Perrott's middle linebacker because his leadership was unlike any other.

"He's a Marine now. He played with the tenacity stopping the run. He was also a really great cover man. He did it all."

Outside Linebacker
He selected Shane Milburn, Randy Edwards, John Cowie and Justin Colwell because they were all strong and fast, allowing them to read the play, and get to it quickly.

Corners
Sam Lepper, Jacob Beyer, Cory McGregor and Justin

Read would be used as the cornerbacks.

"They would all do their job covering the receivers downfield."

Safties
Zach Hall and Gage Stamm were the top selections for safties on the defense.

"Zach used his speed, agility and great awareness, and patrolled the field. I always liked how he did that. Even though Gage was also used at corner, he had the height, strength, speed and focus to be an excellent safety."

Kickers and Punters
His two kickers were Payton and Josh Neu. They were both great kickers in high school, Payton actually kicked a 50 yard field goal during practice.

His two punters were Eddie Gad and Russell Deardorff.

Perrott thinks Gad's leg power would make him an excellent punter.

Deardorff actually did punt and really excelled at it. He had the power, discipline and awareness on the field.

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IHSA to allow spring, summer athletes to play on club teams simultaneously

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met virtually Monday, to provide a timetable on winter sports decisions, and voted on a by-law change that would allow spring and summer athletes to play club ball simultaneously.

The Board said winter sports details will be given October 28.

"We understand that student-athletes, coaches, parents, officials, and fans are anxious to learn more details about the plans for IHSA winter sports," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We feel like we are making positive strides in our discussions with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to be allowed to conduct IHSA winter sports as scheduled.

"We believe we have a plan to do so safely and want to provide IDPH with ample time to review the winter sports plans, and supportive data, we have provided them. We expect to have a response from IDPH with final recommendations for winter sport plans, including any accommodations and postseason plans, by October 26. We will then reconvene our Board to officially vote and announce that information shortly thereafter."

The Board's accommodation to the IHSA Independent Team By-law (3.100) will be applicable for the 2020-21 school year only and will grant specific exemptions to spring and summer season sports.

Winter sports (basketball, wrestling, boys swimming & diving, cheerleading, dance, bowling, girls gymnastics),



REED-CUSTER JUNIOR Shelby O'Reilly reacts to the most recent news announced in an Illinois High School Association board meeting that would allow spring and summer athletes to play club sports at the same time as the ones held by the school.

which remain in their traditional season, will have no accommodation related to the

by-law. "The Board determined it

was prudent to make modifications to the independent team by-law for the sports that

were displaced from their traditional high school season," said Anderson. "They also

came up with what we believe is a reasonable compromise for summer sports. The Board is hopeful that the high school teams will be given priority when conflicts occur. We believe making modifications now will allow high school coaches and non-school team coaches to begin communication on how they can collaboratively resolve scheduling conflicts."

Sports competing in the IHSA's 2021 spring season (football, boys soccer, girls volleyball) will be granted the accommodation to participate simultaneously on school teams and non-school teams throughout the duration of their high school season (Feb. 15-May 1).

Athletes competing in the 2021 summer season (baseball, softball, track & field, girls soccer, boys volleyball, lacrosse, boys tennis) can also play in league ball beginning on June 4. The summer season is slated to run from April 19 to June 26.

"Given the unique challenges of this school year, it remains important for our Board to be flexible and creative in seeking participation opportunities for students," said IHSA Board Vice-President Robert Nolting, the Principal at Andrew High School in Tinley Park. "From my perspective, I am less worried about teams competing for conference or postseason titles this year. The goal is to get kids back being active to benefit their mental and physical well-being. These (independent team) by-laws aim to preserve competitive equity, but for this school year, we feel the right decision is to provide an accommodation that maximizes participation."

Anticipating that the Comets will be back in the playoffs

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Might this be the year for the football Comets?

There's reason to believe the Reed-Custer football team will make the playoffs for the first time since the 2009 when they went 6-4.

Leading up to that year, the Comets made the playoffs three of the four years (2005, 7-3; 2006, 8-3; 2008, 7-3).

Expectations are high that the Comets, who have a slew of talented, beefy underclassmen, will make a solid run at a conference championship if not this year, then the next two seasons.

But we won't know until late February, if and when Gov. Pritzker and state health officials give the okay to play.

Spring football just won't be the same.

Likely everyone on the sidelines and in the stands will likely have to wear masks, that is if they even allow fans in the stands.

Without fans will there be the need to inflate the giant Comet helmet and stock up on fireworks? I see it now, the pregame ritual will be players lining up to be tested for covid-19 symptoms.

And what happens when a player tests positive on a team. Will that require the entire team to quarantine and if so, for two games? It's not likely they'll shut the entire season down but they might if there is an outbreak.

If fall ball had been allowed, like in the four states surrounding Illinois, we'll not have had to deal with the winter weather that still will be around probably through the end of March.

It's time we all might want to shop for a good pair of snow boots.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, this coming year in 2021 is supposed to be an El Nino year which will mean a colder winter for Illinois and more precipitation.

What about the actual temperature?

It's in the IHSA by-laws not to allow games in temperatures under 40 degrees. That will be a huge factor if the IHSA doesn't adjust that by-law. In February, Illinois is lucky to get temperatures in the 20s. They won't get 40s until later on in the spring.

According to the Weather-us.com, the average temperature for Illinois in February last



IF FALL FOOTBALL was being played you'd see Reed-Custer junior Elliot Cassem about to turn the corner for a touchdown to make the Comet fans go wild because they know it's only a matter of time before their team will be there.

year was 15 degrees. March didn't get much better with temperatures reaching 26-36 degrees.

The state has remained steadfast on its ruling of moving fall sports to the spring.

We can't change that. All

we can do now is speculate on what could have been and what might be when the players take the field in five months.

We hope that time will come because we can't wait to watch the Comets with its

upcoming players.

Last year the varsity Comets won just one game while the freshmen (8-0) and fresh/soph (7-2) combined for a 15-2 record. And they not only did well in football, their group led a one loss campaign

in basketball, capturing 21 straight victories so they are all around solid athletes.

Dylan Garrelts will come back to start at quarterback as a junior. Garrelts did a lot of good things as a sophomore quarterback playing at the var-

sity level and that year of experience will become invaluable. He finished the season with 700 yards passing, six touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

There's a chance there will be a battle from younger quarterbacks like Lucas Foote or Jake McPherson, who combined for over 20 touchdowns on the freshmen and sophomore teams.

Junior Elliot Cassem will also be another name fans will see when the Comets suit up.

As a sophomore Cassem led the Comets in rushing with 482 yards and two touchdowns. He gained steam near the end of the season, running for 155 with a touchdown against Herscher, and he scored the only touchdown the Comets had against a top tier Coal City defense so that should mean good things going into the season.

He'll be joined by running backs that led the JV Comet and freshmen Comets to their impressive seasons. Names like Jace Christian and Brandon Moorman, who combined for more than 10 trips to the endzone.

The Comets will have their skill player in Evan Pickard back for his senior year.

Pickard was keyed on in games as he was one of the lone players to watch as he recorded 654 all-purpose yards on the season with a touchdown in the opener so he was bottled up but with all the other weapons to account for, he could have a better season.

And all this talk about the offensive weapons when the defense was just as good.

At the freshman level, the Comet offense scored 321 points, allowing 118 which is good for a +203 points differential. That's elite.

The fresh/soph team was just as good, scoring 215 points while allowing 98 points which is good for a +117 points differential.

The freshman squad surrendered 15 points per game while the JV squad gave up 11 points per game.

There's been a lot of talk about this next team coming up for the Comets and they've proved themselves as the freshmen group was the same to win the Super Bowl as varsity Jr. Comets with a 10-0 record and a convincing win.

One thing is for certain, they will be an exciting team to watch when the season comes around.