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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Braidwood City Council approves a new hire

BY BRIAN MURPHY
CORRESPONDENT

Council members unanimously approved the hiring of a new part-time clerk for City Hall during the Braidwood City Council meeting on Oct. 27.

Commissioner Wayne Saltzman said the position is “well-needed” after talking with the administrator and others. The pay rate for the position will be \$16 per hour.

Public Comment

Angie Hutton said the tree lighting and parade events are still going ahead as planned this year.

“The parade is fine, and the tree lighting is fine because people can social distance. We are going to do that, and the theme is Hometown Christmas. We figure with the way things have been this year, make

whatever your little heart desires. We will get a flyer out about that soon,” Hutton said.

Wayne Saltzman said he is looking forward to the event. Hutton also gave an emotional speech about the origin of the tree that will be used this year.

“As you’ve seen, directly across the street from City Hall, there has been an evergreen tree planted. Tonight, I would like to thank the city of Braidwood and a special thank you to Manny’s Landscaping for making this possible after a few months of discussion. This tree, in memory of Jim Hutton, will be used for the annual Christmas tree lighting for the city of Braidwood,” Hutton said. “The Hutton family has donated the tree in the spirit that you and your family will enjoy the tree lighting ceremony as much as ours has. It has been our sincere wishes this tree will help you make your memories to share with

your family for years to come.”

Gerald Curl, owner of Santa Services, announced his formal request to use the Braidwood Area Community Bandshell and Zoo property for an outdoor “Storytime With Santa” event from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4. He also requested use of Braidwood City Park on Third St. for “Storytime With Santa” events from 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 and from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18.

Curl said he appreciated the Council’s approval for his upcoming events.

“I thank you for the prior approval and we’re looking forward to the event. This will be a fundraiser to help our Braidwood Lions Club raise funds for new playground equipment at the Kiddie Park on Lincoln St., here in Braidwood,” Curl said.

“There will be two additional events December 13 and December

15 at the City Park. The snacks that I’m giving out are going to be individually wrapped and I will allow pictures. I just want the kids to be happy and I appreciate you guys letting me do that this year.”

Kyle Shores directed his comments toward Commissioner Fay Smith.

“My wife is Nicole and I’m speaking directly to the comments you made to her at last week’s meeting, which were immature and ignorant at best. There is no reason that a commissioner, an elected official, should speak to a constituent that way and if you have a problem with the issues that my wife has brought forward, then prove that she’s wrong through your actions and through your words that back up those actions,” Shores said.

“My wife and I are in complete agreement that there is no problem with the maintenance department.

There is a problem with the commissioner that runs it and there is a problem with communication between that commissioner and the maintenance department. If you can’t handle criticism, then maybe you shouldn’t be sitting in the chair you’re in. If you can’t run the department to the standards it needs to be in, then maybe you shouldn’t be sitting in the chair you’re in.”

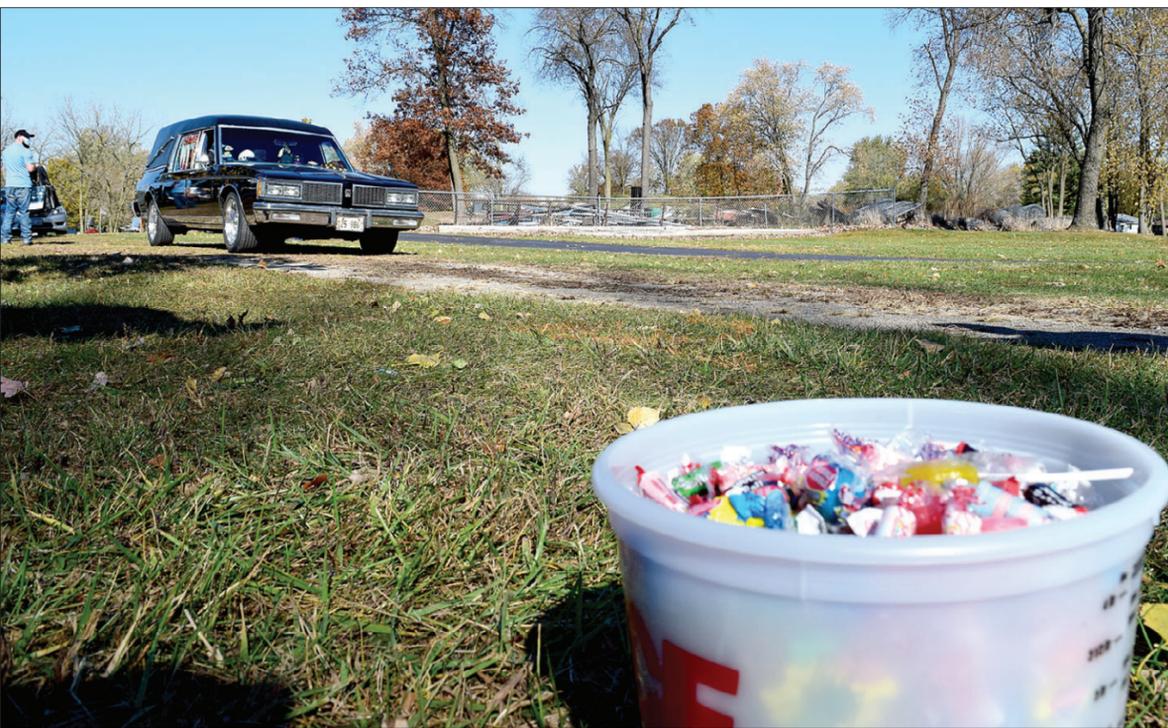
New Signage

Mayor Robert Jones said roadway signage around the city is in disrepair and staff is beginning to look into pricing.

“We need to start replacing some of the stop signs and street signs throughout town. If you look at the town every stop sign is a different height, every one is leaned over and there isn’t a straight sign in town.”

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

Social distance Trick or Treat



Photos by Marney Simon

WITH THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC threatening to put a damper on some plans for Halloween, the Braidwood Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, and Chamber of Commerce, with help from the Braidwood Park District, Exelon, and a small army of volunteers stepped up. This year’s first ever drive-thru trick or treat event, held on Oct. 31 at Old Smokey City Park, brought hundreds of ghosts and goblins through the park to collect treats. Cars, trucks, golf carts, and even a hearse pulled through the line, where there were 47 different stopping points for the children to grab some candy. See more photos of the event on page 3.



Photo by Marney Simon

A VOTER EXITS Braidwood City Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 3, during the 2020 General Election. The polls were open until 7 p.m. with a steady stream of voters filtering in throughout the day. In Illinois, more than 3.5 million ballots were cast in advance of Tuesday, via early and mail-in voting.

An election for the record books

STAFF REPORT

Illinois voters set records for early voting as over 43% of the state’s 8.3 million registered voters had cast a ballot in the general election prior to Election Day.

As of mid-day Monday, the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) reported more than 3.5 million ballots had been cast in the general election, far more than in any previous Illinois election. The advanced votes include over 1.75 million mail-in ballots as well as more than 1.78 million votes at early polling places and nearly 47,000 grace period votes.

There were also 586,709 mail-in ballots that had not yet been returned.

Under Illinois law, mail-in ballots that are postmarked by Election Day will be counted as long as they are received by local election authorities within 14 days after the election. The deadline this year is Nov. 17.

In Will County 26,662 of the 123,837 requested mail-in ballots were still out as of Monday and of the 8,022 requested in Grundy County 1,388 had yet to be turned in.

According to ISBE data, 37.6% of Grundy County’s registered voters had cast a ballot as of Monday morning. The advanced vote total was at 13,725 — 6,634 mail-in ballots, 6,901 early votes and 190 grace period votes.

As of Monday, 44% of Will County’s registered voters had casting a ballot. Among the 203,964 ballots, 97,175 were mail-in ballots, 104,335 were cast at one of the county’s 24 early voting locations including 1,600 at Braidwood City Hall and 2,454 were grace period votes.

Election officials and voters in both counties were reporting lines at early voting

locations for much of the past week as voters sought to get their votes in prior to the polls opening on Tuesday.

Local results from Tuesday’s general election were not printed in this week’s edition due to a press deadline.

While the polls closed at 7 p.m. results were unavailable in time for us to include them in this edition. However, unofficial election results will be available on our website at www.freepressnewspapers.com, and election reports posted in the Nov. 11 edition.

Election results are not official until after the re-tab and canvas that will including any remaining vote by mail ballots received and post-marked by Nov. 3 and valid provisional ballots cast on Election Day.

In Will County, the unofficial totals can be viewed at thewillcountyclerk.com that began rolling out the totals after the polls closed at 7 p.m. Early and mail-in votes were the first to be uploaded by the Will County Clerk’s Office and once all 305 precincts had reported in the grace period votes were included in the total.

In Grundy County, the early and mail-in votes were added in at the close of the night once all of the county’s 40 precincts had reported in to the county courthouse. The unofficial votes can be obtained at www.grundyco.org.

The final results will be posted by both counties following the re-tab and canvas set for Nov. 17 in Will County and Nov. 18 in Grundy County.

Peter Hancock of Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report

Fossil Ridge staff mourns loss of director

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Patrons and workers at the Fossil Ridge Public Library can feel a loss at the building this month.

The library’s long time director, Richard Ashley, passed away on Friday, Oct. 23, at the age of 57 following a lingering illness.

Ashley, who lived in Joliet with his spouse Kevin Eberhard, waited a bit to explore his career in library sciences, attending the University of Wisconsin in Madison at the age of 40, and



RICHARD ASHLEY

becoming director of the library soon after.

As director, Ashley oversaw a major expansion of the Fossil Ridge Public Library, a \$2.1 million renovation that updated the library and expanded the children’s services area.

It was an update that was long overdue, and one Ashley fought for.

“Eighty percent of the project is all updating the infrastructure,” Ashley said of the renovations in 2016. “Typically libraries are built for 30 years, and we’re past the 30 year mark. Everything is

falling apart. We’re going to have new technology. It’s going to be awesome when we’re done.”

When the library project was finally complete in late 2016, patrons were greeted with new seating areas, an updated outdoor area, and updated children’s services.

Employees of the district expressed their sadness over the loss of their beloved director.

“Words can’t express how empty we all feel at the sud-

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2



Council

Saltzman said some of the signs are also weathered and offered the Lions Club could help with expenses for the signs if needed. City Administrator Tony Altiery said Motor Fuel Tax money is available to use for the replacement of stop signs and street signs.

Financial Updates

\$217,634.77 for the Payment of Bills and \$125,500.12 in Payroll were both approved. The largest bill expenditures were \$160,186.75 for the Water/Sewer Department, \$23,056.96 for the Police

Department and \$11,546.37 for the Street Department.

Altiery explained about \$115,000 of the amount was the cost of the new MXU water meters that will be reimbursed through a grant, so actual expenses were closer to \$99,000.

"We are a little over halfway through getting them in and that's another reason we can use the extra hand in the office; trying to get all this paperwork done in the time frame that we need to get our reimbursement for that grant," Altiery said.

Saltzman said updating the water meters was something that "needed to be done" for years.

Commissioner Fay Smith explained his portion of the bills and recommended

updating the signage after winter.

"You look at the bills and you will see stuff I've had to buy to work on equipment. Our old equipment just keeps tearing off and working for 2 weeks, then the trucks are down. We are doing all we can do, and we have somebody off all the time so that cuts us short," Smith said. "We're talking about stop signs and in the snow, we lose a lot of stop signs. Trucks hit them and plows hit them so that's the time to replace, when they take them down. I don't know how many stop signs we're going to have to replace but I think that's a good time to do it."

Commissioner Charles Hart was not present for the meeting, so Police Chief Todd

Lyons presented the Public Health and Safety Report. Lyons said things are "going pretty good" financially for his department.

"I ran a budget status and just wanted the public to know this, a budget status is where you're at as far as fiscally, about money. So, we are halfway through the year and I compared to two years ago and right now as a police department I'm spending \$100,000 a month less than the police department did two years ago," Lyons said. "I just want the council to know we're doing well as far as the budget. We're in line to be able to hire two officers, if we keep doing what we're doing, to hire two officers in December."

Library

den loss of our director, Rich Ashley," said Sarah Hopf, Children's Services Librarian at Fossil Ridge.

Hopf said when she started in November of 2012, she was only working part time. But, she said, Ashley saw potential in her and moved her up to five days a week.

"When the children's librarian position became available I had to interview for it and I remember he stopped me and said don't be so nervous, we know you," she said. "He always gave me, as well as the adult/teen librarian and homeschool librarian, free range. Didn't matter if we decorated for a week before the event, he was on board. He was honestly the best boss I ever had."

"Going to work never felt like work, it felt like hanging out with your cool uncle," Hopf continued. "He loved our annual Great America trips as well as our yearly ILA (Illinois Library Association) conferences

where he'd make [Assistant Director] Pam [Swanson] and I walk with him because he was shy but everyone knew him."

Hopf added that the library expansion in 2016 was Ashley's greatest accomplishment as director.

"Even with that, he listened to what each department head wanted — colors, shelving, carpet, office. He was definitely one of a kind and will truly be missed," she said. "I was fortunate to work with him for the past eight years and he touched so many in our community. I remember the first day I started as a clerk and met him he said my only expectation is that you are kind to all our patrons and I hope I made good on that to him. He will be missed for sure."

Per his wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made as gifts in Rich's memory to the American Heart Association.

Local schools report high graduation rates

Some information missing, but local schools meet standards

STAFF REPORT

The Illinois State Board of Education released the 2020 Illinois Report Card, providing snapshots and academic information for public school districts across the state.

The COVID-19 pandemic made much of the student data from the 2019-20 school year either unavailable or unable to support year-to-year comparisons.

Some of the data may have been affected by the suspension of in-person instruction in March 2020, effectively ending all face-to-face learning across the state and making each district end the year in some form of virtual or distance learning.

Items in the report affected include:
• Assessments — Illinois received a federal waiver and did not administer state assessments that are normally required by the federal government in math, English language arts, and science; therefore, 2020 assessment data is not available.

• Attendance — Illinois schools had to shift to remote learning in the spring without standardized methods of recording remote attendance; therefore, 2019-20 student and teacher attendance data cannot be compared to prior years.

• Culture and climate survey — Illinois received a federal waiver and did not complete the administration of the culture and climate survey that is normally required by the federal government; therefore, 2019-20 culture and climate survey data is not available.

• Graduation rates — Executive Order 2020-31 amended state graduation requirements for students expecting to graduate in spring 2020; therefore, 2020 graduation rates cannot be compared to prior years.

• Ninth-graders on track — ISBE strongly encouraged Illinois schools to

amend normal grading policies in spring 2020; therefore, 2020 ninth-graders on track metrics cannot be compared to prior years.

• Summative designations — Illinois received a federal waiver and did not issue new annual summative designations. Each school received the same summative designation in 2020 as in 2019.

That said, local school districts still saw positive marks on the report card.

With summative designations remaining the same, in Wilmington, Wilmington High School and Wilmington Middle School were both marked as Commendable. Bruning Elementary and Stevens Intermediate School were both listed as exemplary.

In Braidwood, Reed-Custer High School and Reed-Custer Middle School are both listed as commendable schools, while Reed-Custer Elementary School earned the designation of exemplary.

Exemplary schools are those schools performing in the top 10% of schools statewide with no underperforming student groups. Commendable schools are those schools with no underperforming student groups, a graduation rate greater than 67%, and whose performance is not in the top 10% of schools statewide.

The four-year graduation rate at Wilmington High School in 2020 was 95%, compared to the statewide average of 88%. At Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood, the four year graduation rate in 2020 was 92%.

Chronic absenteeism, which tracks the students who miss 10% or more of school days without a valid excuse, was 6% in the Wilmington School District 209-U, and 7% at Reed-Custer School District 255. The state average is 11%, however, accurate reporting of chronic absenteeism was possibly affected due to distance learning.

The report showed that the Reed-Custer School District spends an average of \$18,451 per student, while the Wilmington School District spends an average of \$13,145 per student.

Meanwhile, other data on the report show continued growth and higher-than-ever participation in college and career

preparation courses. More than 8,000 additional high school students took career and technical education, dual credit, Advanced Placement (AP), and International Baccalaureate courses in the 2019-20 school year, compared to the prior year. The Class of 2020 also took over 14,500 more AP Exams during high school than the Class of 2019 and achieved a 70% pass rate — two percentage points higher than the Class of 2019.

Governor JB Pritzker's fiscal year 2020 and 2021 budgets included funding for fee waivers to reduce the cost of AP Exams for low-income students. ISBE's state plan for career and technical education will drive further increases in access to college and career preparation courses for historically underrepresented students.

"Illinois' students and educators charted historic gains in college and career courses, despite the COVID-19 pandemic disrupting the school year," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I Ayala. "Illinois has invested in AP and CTE so that every student can graduate prepared to succeed in their chosen path after high school. We still have more work to do to increase access among students of color, and equity is the central focus of our state plan for CTE. I remain extremely proud of Illinois' students and teachers, and all those who support them."

The 2020 Illinois Report Card also shows a stronger and more diverse teacher workforce. Illinois added more than 2,000 teachers to its workforce, maintained teacher retention at 86%, and made modest increases in teacher diversity with greater proportions of Hispanic and Asian teachers. Illinois school districts on average also raised teacher pay by approximately \$1,000.

The 2020 Illinois Report Card also includes Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) data for the first time. Teachers use the KIDS tool to observe and document students' developmental readiness in the first 40 days of kindergarten.

The Illinois Report Card can be viewed online at www.IllinoisReportCard.com.

Grants available for businesses impacted by pandemic mitigations

SPRINGFIELD—With Region 7 — Will and Kankakee counties — as well as Region 2 — which includes Grundy County — now in new pandemic resurgence mitigations, State Senator Sue Rezin reminds local businesses to 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.

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

"As small businesses, especially our local restaurants and eateries, continue to be unfairly impacted by the Governor's mitigation rules, these grants will hopefully provide them a way to keep their doors open," Senator Rezin said.

The BIG program is open to businesses (for-profit and non-profit) 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

Three dead after one car accident near Peotone

Illinois State Police Dist. 5 is investigating a fatal accident in Will County that claimed the lives of three people, including an infant.

The incident occurred on Monday, Nov. 2 around 12:30 a.m. on Illinois Route 50 northbound, south of Wilmington-Peotone Road near Peotone.

According to the preliminary investigation, the vehicle — a 2012 gray Dodge — was traveling northbound on Illinois Route 50 approximately one-quarter mile south of Wilmington-Peotone Road when the vehicle left the road-

way and entered the left ditch. The vehicle then struck a tree and became fully engulfed in flames.

Illinois Route 50 was closed on and off for the traffic crash investigation until approximately 2:20 a.m. when all lanes were reopened.

Pronounced dead at the scene were the 22-year-old male driver, a 23-year-old female passenger, and a 3-month old female passenger, all of Steger.

The Illinois State Police is withholding the names of the victims until next of kin is notified.

Wilmington residents support dam removal

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

WILMINGTON — It's been two months since the city of Wilmington sent surveys through the mail to residents of the city, asking the public to weigh in on the fate of the Kankakee River dam.

And, the initial results show overwhelming support for removal.

The surveys went out in August, and presented residents of the city with options for how to address the dam.

The survey is based on guidance from a 2017 study, conducted by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), that compared the costs of changes at the dam.

Options included removal by the IDNR at no cost to the city; a rock ramp at a cost of \$4.7 million; a rock ramp with a kayak passage with an estimated cost of \$4.9 million; or finally, to do nothing.

Since 1982, at least 16 people have lost their lives after being swept into the hydraulic roller dam.

The city recently revealed the survey results as of Oct. 14. With a total of 419 responses, 296 opted for complete removal of the dam.

Fifty-one respondents said they'd like to see a rock ramp on the downstream side of dam and a new dam in Mill Race, while another 51 people said they'd prefer a rock ramp on the downstream side of the dam and series of rock drop structures installed in the Mill Race that are conducive to canoe/kayak passage.

Finally, a total of 21 respondents said, just leave the dam alone.

The survey was sent to each household with their monthly water bills, and is not scientific nor does it represent the entirety of the population of the city. Wilmington has about 2,200 residences, with a

population of about 5,900.

Mayor Roy Strong, speaking to members of the City Council during their regular meeting on Oct. 6, reiterated his support of keeping the dam in place. Strong said he'd like to see the city construct better barriers to keep people away from the dam, rather than see its removal.

"I'm against that, I think most of the aldermen are against it," Strong said of removal. "We got some [surveys] back, and there should be alternate four, do nothing."

Of the responses so far, 21 people did opt to leave the dam alone.

Strong read some of the comments from folks who want to see a rock ramp installed, or to add a structure for canoe and kayak passage.

"I am in favor of alternate three (rock ramp with kayak passage), because I am concerned about the water levels up stream," one respondent wrote.

"I don't think we should pay for anything in the river... conservation should be in charge of it," another commented.

Strong also argued that removal of the dam could lower the water levels for river-front properties upstream. He also said that current mitigations, such as the creation of the exclusionary zone and barricades at the dam, are working.

Strong noted that he would prefer to see a change that allows canoe and kayak passage, but added that the city will likely never secure the cash to make that happen.

"I try to go over there, I tell people to get out of the water or else they'll get a ticket," he said. "I think that the word is out there that you're not supposed to be in the water near the dam."

Strong said ultimately, if the dam is removed, there is no way to know how it will affect



Photo by Mamey Simon

THE CITY OF WILMINGTON asked residents to return a survey on the future of the Kankakee River dam, seeking opinions on possible removal of the structure.

the river.

"The survey, I think, should go out again," Strong said. "I think a lot of [information] wasn't on there. It was kind of a biased survey, folks are going to say, well, I don't want to spend any money, I don't think so. I think that's the problem... if we have to come up with that money, which we're not going to have."

Former Mayor Marty Orr, who attended that Oct. 6 meeting, had another idea for the city.

"I know you were talking about the dam, and naturally I have a lot of history with it, too," Orr said. "Why don't you put the question out to a vote on an election. Put it out there to the people, if they support the removal of the dam or not, make it a clear question instead of trying to go through the surveys to figure out everything that's going on. Put it out to the people who actually pay taxes in this town."

Per state statute, members of the City Council can vote to pose the dam question via an advisory/non-binding referendum question on the ballot not less than 92 days before an election. That means the earliest that such a question could be brought to the voters is the April 6, 2021 consolidated general election.

"I think, put the question

to the taxpayers, and you can find out for sure," Orr said.

Strong said ultimately, any changes to improve the dam probably wouldn't be approved by residents, since those changes all involve the city footing the bill.

"To spend money, it's not going to happen. If we have to spend \$4 million, it's not going to happen," Strong said.



The Braidwood Journal

USPS No. 550-940
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
Periodicals postage paid at Wilmington, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

The Braidwood Journal, P.O. Box 327; Wilmington IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$40 Grundy & Will counties; \$48 other Illinois counties and \$54 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly

subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant, and an advertising shopper known as the Prairie Shopper.

Advertising and Business Offices:

• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

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News and Advertising: Monday, noon

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

November 1880, prosperity and peace - almost

This month 140 years ago, was almost the most pleasant, least deadly month that I have researched in my decades long study of Braidwood.

Part of the reason might be that the mines were working to capacity, but with that usually came a few murders in saloons at least. Whatever the reason, set the way back machine to November 1880.

On November 1st Music Hall was opened to the public for the first time. "Music Hall, the pride of Braidwood, will be duly thrown open to the public on Monday evening, Nov. 1st, with Herbert's dramatic company before the footlights - probably in the comedy of Lost and Won.

The writer made a half



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

hour tour of inspection on yesterday and was agreeably surprised to find this new temple of the Muses so complete and elegant in all of its appointments.

"The main auditorium is 66 x 45 feet; added to this is an extensive gallery, making ample room for the 200 opera chairs and 500 other chairs with which the hall is provided.

The stage elevation is 20 x 43 feet in area; it has four dressing rooms, and at its front is a most beautiful drop curtain - a masterpiece in scenic art representing the picturesque and modest hamlet. St. Gour-on-the-Rhine."

"Among prominent shifting scenes are the following: ocean and horizon; forest scene; prison; parlor; plain

room; kitchen in vine wreathed cottage; rocky pass, and others, together with 20 wings.

The ceiling, 20 feet above the floor, is frescoed in elaborate designs, the handwork of our home artist, Beadle. 114 gas jets will illumine the hall and are adjusted so as to change a dim flicker to a brilliant flood of light instantaneously."

During the same week we read of good feelings and good times. "A Highland clan met at McArthur's wine cellar on yesterday afternoon and made merry. Messrs. Clark and McVicar executed the time-honored sword dance in the midst of an admiring throng, and mutual good feeling prevailed."

Of course, this is Braidwood, and a week could not go by without one teeny itsy bitsy shooting so in this first week we read, "Our readers all remember the tragedy in Braidwood on Oct. 20, last

year, in which the lamented Cornelius O'Donnell lost his life.

The widow of the deceased has ever since looked upon the affair as willful murder, and has been at a loss to know why the case has not been passed upon in court."

"The second act in the bloody drama was enacted on Thursday afternoon last, at about half-past three o'clock. At that hour Mrs. O'Donnell came upon the accused - John R. Feely - in the post-office in Braidwood, and without ceremony drew a revolver and opened fire upon him."

The following week we learned, "As a result of the shooting affray on Thursday Mr. Feely loses about three or four inches of the ulna, or inside bone of the right arm - from the elbow joint down." And "

The proper complaint was made and Mrs. O'Donnell was arrested, and bonds were

immediately given in the sum of \$500 for her appearance at the next term of the circuit court."

Of course, life does go on and in the third week we read, "A Polish wedding in Lower Braidwood on Sunday night ended in a first-class fight, in which one poor fellow was tossed about fearfully."

During the third week the social event of the holiday season was held, "The Bachelors' Club had a big "blow-out" on Thursday night at its headquarters. Messrs. O'Connor and Kern appeared as hosts while Messrs. Packard and Hopkins assumed the lesser dignities role of Waiters. Prof. Woods, of Chicago, furnished the mused, and dancing, card playing and feasting was the order of the night. A royal good time was had and kept up till midnight."

With Music Hall opened the entertainment fever had hit Braidwood. We read in the

last week of November, "The Braidwood people are determined to be up with the times.

A certificate of incorporation signed by John Broadbent, Joseph Peart, and Richard Ramsey was filed Friday in the Circuit Court, for the purpose of organizing a corporation entitled "The Braidwood Entertainment Co.," the object of which is to provide amusement, instruction and entertainment, with the right to charge and collect for the same a reasonable compensation.

The capital stock is \$15,000. The amount of each share is \$100 (\$402,400 today), and the number of shares is one hundred."

"The stockholders are John Broadbent, Joseph Peart, Richard Ramsay, William Maltby, Thomas Reay, Robert Harrop, \$3,500 (\$94,000) each."

All treats, no tricks at Old Smokey City Park



Photos by Marney Simon

YOU LOOK LIKE A DERANGED EASTER BUNNY! A representative from the Braidwood Baseball and Softball Association, dressed as Ralphie in his famed Easter Bunny outfit from the Christmas classic "A Christmas Story," hands out candy as a family decked out in a hearse approaches on Saturday, Oct. 31. The cars were part of this year's drive-thru trick or treat event at Old Smokey City Park, organized by the Braidwood Lions Club, the Knights of Columbus, and the Chamber of Commerce. The organizations decided to host a drive-thru event this year to make sure kids across the area got a chance to dress up in their costumes and go trick or treating while maintaining safe social distancing. Volunteers at 47 stations, wearing costumes, masks, and gloves, handed out special treats to hundreds of ghosts and goblins. The event was helped by the generosity of volunteers, donors, Exelon's Braidwood Station, and the Braidwood Park District. The Lions also held their annual Halloween Hot Dog Giveaway, also a drive-thru event, after the trick or treating ended.

FOSSIL RIDGE LIBRARY NEWS

Nov. 4-Millennials and Money, 7-8 p.m. How can you get out of debt faster and reduce student loan debt? Should you rent or buy a house? This virtual Zoom workshop will provide the answers to these questions and more. Registration is required. You will be emailed a link to this program after registration.

Nov. 25-Retirement Planning, 7-8 p.m. Join this virtual workshop on Zoom. Learn about: Common mistakes people make regarding their investments, underestimating the years your retirement might last, withdrawing too much too soon, and the proper way to spend down your assets. Make sure you have the proper planning in place. Registration is required. You will be emailed a link to this program after registration.

Nov. 18-Felted Flowers Zoom

Class, 6-7 p.m. Create a beautiful floral accent for your home while learning the basics of felt flower making. Craft Kits will be available for pick up at the library by 11/1. You will be emailed a link to this program after registration.

November Mondays-Virtual Crafternoons, 1:30:30 p.m. Join Miss Sarah and Teacher Tammy each Monday live on the Fossil Ridge Facebook page to participate. Each week we will have a story, song and a craft or science experiment. Supplies will be provided to the first 20 patrons who call the library and register. Materials will all be listed on our Facebook page the week before our next virtual Crafternoon.

For more information check out the library's newsletter, go to www.fossilridge.org or call 815-458-2187.



City of Braidwood files annual treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CITY OF BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2020**

	General Corporate Fund	TIF #3 Fund	Special Revenue Funds	Enterprise Fund
Beginning balance	\$ (3,155,055)	\$ 1,698,387	\$ (970,474)	\$ 27,415,599
Total revenues	3,469,889	95,019	921,188	3,269,201
Less expenditures	(3,634,023)	(21,384)	(780,588)	(2,724,028)
Other sources (uses)		(700,484)		700,484
Ending balance	\$ (3,319,189)	\$ 1,071,538	\$ (829,874)	\$ 28,661,256

REVENUE: Cannabis Tax 1,305, Charges for services 400, Fines/Fees/Forfeitures 321,954, Franchise Fees 72,392, Garbage Collection Fees 687,514, Grants 64,316, Hotel/Motel Tax 18,638, Income Tax 671,007, Interest Income 49,747, Licenses 40,907, Local Use Tax 216,641, MFT 234,862, Miscellaneous 241,300, Permits 35,654, Property Taxes 1,720,050, Reimbursements 136,302, Replacement Tax 9,713, Revenue Sewer 1,605,350, Revenue Water 817,910, Sales Tax 423,368, State Gaming Tax 37,373, Telecommunications Tax 93,019, Utility Tax 255,575

EXPENDITURES: Accela, Inc. #774375: 10733, All Traffic Solutions: 9053, Arro Laboratory Inc: 4447.60, AT & T Mobility: 5996.23, Atoms in Motion: 9500, Axon Enterprise: 22335.75, Azavar Audit: 3488.17, B&F Construction Code Services, Inc: 24448.11, Benefit Planning Consultants: 20386.43, Bexson, Jeffrey: 2575, BP: 21547.19, Braidwood Fuel Inc: 8327.78, BTI Tire & Alignment: 4735.41, Call One: 17792.97, Cargill, Inc: 52576.29, Casey's General Store, Inc: 19824.81, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc.: 340068.05, Centrisys Corporation: 16239, Cintas First Aid & Safety: 3003.60, Circle K: 7365.93, Clennon Electric: 13551.79, Comcast Business: 4651.66, Commercial Door Repair Services: 3990.00, Commercial Electronic Systems: 4445, ComEd 25273.27, Compass Minerals: 71781.50, Constellation Newenergy Inc: 60424.91, Core & Main LP: 14178.99, County of Will: 123390.81, Cummins NPower LLC: 4275.1, D'Orazio Ford: 2901.10, Delta Industries Inc.: 13854.30, DTW Inc.: 2513.45, Dynege Energy Services: 276029.85, Enviroscience: 2595, EVT Tech: 20544.56, Fatlan Trucking: 3570.77, Fisher Auto Parts: 13098.34, Free Press: 3562.70, Fugua, Gary: 34780.82, Grundy Redi-Mix Company: 3642.50, H2O Towers: 4900, Heritage FS Inc: 13686.79, Humana Insurance Co: 19056.48, Hysel, Pamela: 18340, 1-55 Auto Salvage: 2910, Illinois Department of Employment Security: 59826.00, Illinois EPA Fiscal Services: 717984.18, Illinois Municipal Insurance Cooperative: 164966, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund: 37706.39, Illinois Public Risk Fund: 202337, Internal Revenue Service: 190283, InTime Services Inc.: 9180, J & R Service Center Inc.: 5479.69, Jake the Stripper: 8090, JCM Uniforms: 12487.01, John Kasperk Co., Inc. Certified Public Accountants: 132028.62, Konica Minolta Business Solutions: 2827.13, Konica Minolta Premier Finance: 3958.44, Leaf: 7700.39, Lexipol: 6111, M.Gingerich, Gereaux & Assoc.: 3751.40, Mahoney Silverman & Cross LLC: 59939.76, Marlin Business Bank: 20173.61, Menards: 2816.89, Metropolitan Industries Inc: 5834.71, Midwest Salt: 21782.44, Mississippi Valley Pump, Inc.: 11041, Midwest Operating Engineers: 181945.00, Nicor Gas: 14247.74, Ottosen Britz Kelly & Gilbert DiNolfo: 6186.39, Plainooka Siding & Roofing Co: 13374.37, Police Law Institute: 2816, Polydyne Inc.: 8213.07, Postmaster - Braidwood: 3600, Quill Corporation: 3086.86, Robinson Engineering: 59677.42, Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC: 77565.68, Stanley H. Michelstetter, Atty at Law: 4641.02, Stewart Spreading, Inc: 65549.81, Taylor: 3938.15, Terry's Ford: 37121.00, The Economic Development Group: 10086.36, Tire Trucks Joliet: 2883.12, True Tech Systems Inc: 3837.75, UHS Premium Billing: 313495.43, Underground Pipe & Valve Co: 3942, US Bank Commercial Loan: 17570.88, US Bank Credit Card: 46240.15, US Bank (Analysis Fees): 11579.60, USA Blue Book: 11196.22, Verizon Wireless: 13257.49, Vortex Technologies Inc: 4655, Warren's Collision Center: 6430.17, Waste Management of Illinois: 510078.58, Water Solutions Unlimited: 3664, Wescom: 16884, Whitmore Ace Hardware: 5582.87, Will County Center for Economic Development: 3000, Will County Treasurer: 4418.29, Wipfli LLP: 29500, Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc: 11442.75, Expense Disbursements Under 2500: 139509.76

PAYROLL: \$25000 and Under: Albin, Charles; Atherton, Thomas; Ballinger, Gina; Bishop, Diane; Bumpaus, Brenda; Bunting, Edward; Clark, Ronald; Collins, Cora; Corbin, Joel; Coronelli, Richard; Eischen, Carol; Frideres, Michelle; Geiss, Tyler; Grygiel, Sue; Hart, Charles; Hellem, Elizabeth; Howenstein, Barbara; Jasper, Ted; Johnson, Brandon; Johnson, Laurie; Jones, Robert; Jurgens, Karl; Keller, Bruce; Knickrehm, Stephen; Lande, Brad; Linneman, Kathleen; Michalec, Tonya; Millerin, Michael; Mitchell, Sandra; Myrnic, Frank; Money, Douglas; Moore, Shirley; Polcandriotes, Anthony; Porto, Samuel; Ritz, Anthony; Saltzman, Wayne; Sheridan, Barbara; Smith, Fay; Vega, Jorge; Waszkiewicz, Matthew; Wojnarowski, Thomas
\$25000 to \$49999: Dell'Aquila, Peter; Fisher, Teresa; Flint, Todd; Geiss, Donna; Goode, James; LaCost, Joseph; Miner, Lynda; Perry, Seth; Reed, Vernard; Salazar-Woods, Shree; Tyree, Phillip
\$50000 TO \$74900: Atherton, Tari; Bengston, Nicholas; Bitto, Alexandria; Bolatto, Richard; Causer Jr., Gerald; Craig, Terry; Finlon, Stephen; Fridde, Thomas; Grivetti, Matthew; Harrod, Riley; Howard, Scott; Peterson, Jeffery; Phebus, Gary; Richmond, Carol; Weaver, Jr., George
\$75000 to \$99999: Altieri, Antonio; Altieri, Christopher; Coronelli, David; Glisson, Jr., Aubrey; Goodwin, Bret; Grivetti, Jr., Robert; Lyons, Todd; Mccasland, Jack
\$100000-\$124000: Savarino, Douglas; Soucie, Michelle

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the City of Braidwood for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020, that it was filed with the City of Braidwood Clerk on October 27, 2020, and that it published in the Braidwood Journal Newspaper on November 4, 2020 as required by Section 3.1-35-65 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/ 3.1-65-65).

Teresa Fisher
City Clerk

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Annual Statement of Receipts and Expenses for the City of Braidwood for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020, that on Oct. 27, 2020 it was printed in pamphlet form and available for inspection at Braidwood City Hall, and that printed copies were furnished to the State library, City Library, if any, and all daily and weekly newspapers with a general circulation in the City of Braidwood, and any persons who apply for a copy at the Office of the City Clerk, as required by Section 4-5-16 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/4-5-16).

Teresa Fisher
City Clerk



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.

Attention voters

WILMINGTON—By the time you read this the polling places will be closed and your vote to decide who will be president for the next four years is likely still being counted. Can we all agree that no matter who you voted for, Democrat or Republican, thank goodness the Nov. 3 is over. Now the key word is patience. Final election results will take time and let's hope that millions of dollars are not needed to defend lawsuits to decide the final outcome. May there be peace on our streets, let Democracy be upheld and let's unite America.

Enforce due date

COAL CITY—I have a question if someone can answer it. When you get your utility bill in the mail they have to receive it within seven days of the due date. In other words, it's gotta be received by the due date, not after or you can be charged an extra late fee. So why is it with elections you don't have to mail your ballot in seven days before and it can still get counted seven, ten, twenty days later, that is wrong. If you are an American you will vote on time. If you're mailing your vote in, it should be mailed in a full seven days before the due date.

All at a loss

WILMINGTON—Dead St. Rose-ers and non St. Roser-ers, I think it is safe to assume we all agree that Wilmington has lost a very valuable and historical place. It couldn't have come at a worse time either. This pandemic has spun our world upside down. In reference to last week's "move on" comment, I first would like to say no one has the right to tell anyone what the right amount of time to grieve is. Keep those signs as long as you want. However, from an outsider's perspective, I do believe it was not all your Pastor's fault. Just like you and I, he has someone to answer to while doing his job as well. I also realize that so many of you good save St. Rose Christians should not be brought down by a few bad ones who have chosen to act in a petty, vindictive and quite ridiculous way. But again, everyone has the freedom of speech and the right to peaceful protest. I hope you realize this going back and forth with each other in public forums or social media just makes all of you look the same. Petty and childish. Someone needs to eventually take the high road and quit the bickering. God loves us all, God forgives all. It's a fresh wound, I understand, but in the end if the school closing or a sign in someone's yard is the issue that keeps you up at night, not finances, not sickness, not starvation, not death of a loved one, not job loss during a world-wide pandemic, then maybe just take a moment and thank your lucky stars.

Families still struggling

WILMINGTON—In response to "Let's move on." It is really sad that you do not have any empathy for the families that were affected by the closing of St. Rose School. Many families are still struggling with the ramifications of the actions of Father Sebastian and the Diocese. Many students still struggle with the loss of their school and their trusted loyal teachers and the friendships that now have to survive different schools, different schedules. Some families were forced to re-enroll in school districts that had failed them already. And by the end of first quarter, had failed them again. So now their children do not have an option to go to an actual school. Other "viable" options are now a 45-minute drive one way, which is unacceptable. Homeschool with zero options of extracurricular activities is where they have to "Move onto." Your posting was heartless and has stirred the proverbial pot. If you have recently found your way back to the Lord, I question your direction since your actions do not come across very Christian-like.

Slow down please

BRAIDWOOD—I am a mom who walks my kids to school. This is a reminder that the speed limit near the elementary

school is 20 mph. Just recently a driver going too fast came very close to hitting me and my kids. Also, the students leaving the school need to slow down. We do have police patrol at the school but everyone's cooperation is needed for safety's sake.

Cheap gas

WILMINGTON—What a great feeling it was to fill my car up at \$1.93 a gallon. Not sure who we have to thank for that but it sure helps feed the kids since my daily commute is 60 miles. What I don't understand is why across town it's almost 20 cents more?

Late treaters

COAL CITY—I had children at my door trick or treating after 8 p.m. and I didn't have lights on because we don't celebrate Halloween. I wish there was a way to stop people from coming to my door, to save their time from walking up to the door. Also the kids were under 10 and I didn't see a parent.

Not another 4 years

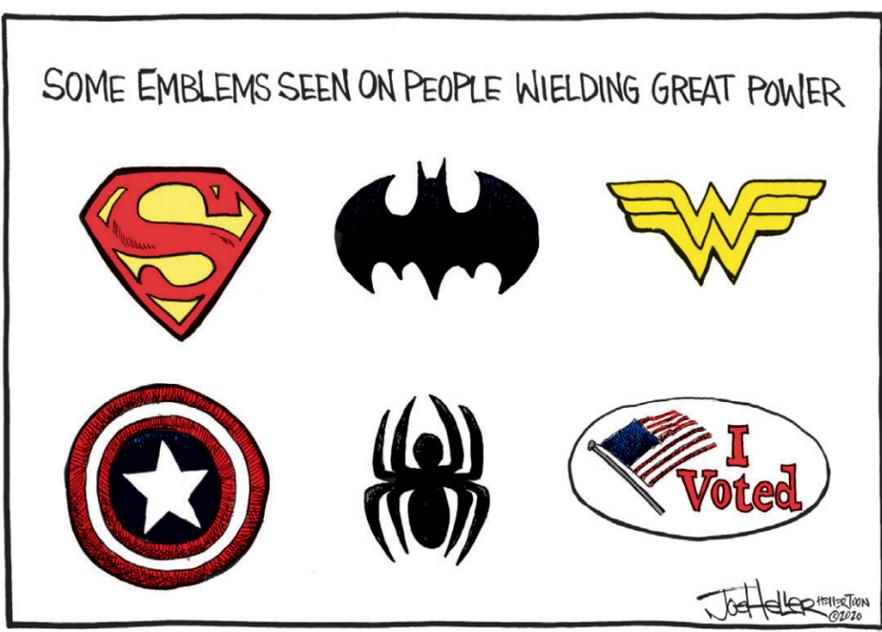
BRAIDWOOD—Today is Oct. 28. By the time this comes out in the paper we will probably have a good idea of who is going to be the president for the next four years. In today's paper I was surprised to see all the sound-offs stating that Trump has done so much for this country but nobody said what it is that he's done. They sound just like Trump himself, "I'm going to make America great again." Here we are 4 years later, the country is divided and everyone hates each other. Where is the wall that is supposed to protect us from the dangerous predators coming into this country illegally? He was going to bring back all the companies that left America yet almost everything I buy still says made in China or other countries. For seven months he's been telling us that the end of the Covid-19 virus is just around the corner. These are all true facts. I just hope that I won't have to hear lies for the next 4 years.

Blue states

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. This one is about why the blue states not allow people to attend church and many have been arrested but yet they can have protests, burn, loot, rob and even maim. I would like this printed before election because these Democrats are so far left they are actual communist. It reminds me of what I read about World War II and the Nazis.

River bone dry

WILMINGTON—Wilmington dam. I have fished the Wilmington dam almost all my life until I got older. Taken that dam out is gonna really be bad news up the river. I don't know if it will cause any problems if they need hot water later in the winter for ice jams but there won't be no water down there. That river is going to be bone dry. You need to keep that dam, you just need better ways of keeping people from getting too close. I sure hope you don't get rid of that dam. Norm Channing Elwood



Up to the experts

WILMINGTON—Seems to me the city of Wilmington is making a big mistake using a public survey to determine the fate of the river dam. Since when does popular opinion take precedent over scientific research? If the dam is simply removed what happens to the upstream flow of the river? It would be nice if the mayor, city administrator or even an alderman could address that question with certainty. They can't because none of them know. Nobody has done their home work to find out. Instead, they've put the decision in the hands of the public and believe me, the public is uneducated too. Instead the city should be demanding that the state research what will happen with the upstream flow if the dam is removed. Let's base the decision on science. Let the experts make the decision, not public opinion.

Privileged

BRAIDWOOD—Several Sound-off authors find Jake of State Farm to be annoying as well as the Pelaton commercial. For me, Christina on the Coast gets on my nerves as a superficial, gag me with a spoon, privileged valley girl. Colleen N.

Think about it

WILMINGTON—I see these Proud American signs all over town and I am reminded that pride is one of the seven deadly sins. Just something to think about.

Not for America

CUSTER PARK—Responding to a "A true diplomat," I agree that President Trump is doing good. But for who? Not for America. For Putin and Erdogan, the dictators of Russia and Turkey instead. We've recently discovered Trump's favors to Turkey's dictator Erdogan when Trump ordered our justice system to accommodate the corruption of Turkey and its Halkbank. When Erdogan asked Vice President Biden in 2016 to "fix" the problem, Biden told the dictator to 'get lost' because America doesn't work that way. But Trump, who has business interests in Turkey, willingly sold out our justice system to his foreign friends. Furthermore Trump is always at the beck and call of Putin considering that Trump has still not approached Putin about the bounties on our soldiers' heads after Americans found out about this 4 months ago. And who can forget Trump's pandemic disaster with our country's performance among the worst in the world? Trump says that the end is just around the corner but Trump has been claiming that since February when our first COVID-19 cases occurred. Gary W.

Front line heroes

WILMINGTON—Consider that COVID-19 death tolls for South Korea, Japan and China are 463 dead; 1,748 dead and 4,634 dead, respectively, with our death toll at 230,000. The three countries mentioned above are much more densely populated than we are, but nevertheless their death tolls are tiny in comparison to our's. Furthermore President Trump tells the crowds at his rallies that doctors in our country are lying about coronavirus deaths by making them up in order to enrich themselves. Such an insulting lie toward our front line heroes is unfit to come from the mouth of the commander-in-chief. This reminds us that Trump is an impeached president and deservedly so. Moreover it's why Trump is and always has been unfit to be the leader of the United States of America. Irene D.

Business as usual

BRAIDWOOD—It was nice to watch a city council meeting free of yelling, finger pointing and outbursts from members of the audience. This is how meetings should be conducted.

Won't tolerate it

BRAIDWOOD—This newcomer to town that we keep reading about week after week in the sound-off is starting to get really old. It's obvious that this person's ways are starting to catch up to them and those in town that have had enough are making it known. Someone new to a town will quickly learn where they stand especially if they try to stir up trouble where it doesn't need to be. Those who call the town their home won't tolerate such mischievous behavior.

Mob behavior

COAL CITY—What is this violence that's cropping up everywhere? Plans to kidnap and possibly kill Michigan's governor with a civil war to be waged thereafter. Plans to kidnap Wichita's mayor. Plans to carry weapons at polling places to intimidate voters in Philadelphia. And in my neighborhood, significant property damage to rip down a banner in addition to thievery of many signs. Right-wingers are the perpetrators of this destructive mayhem as they appoint themselves to be vigilantes throughout the country. Right-wingers should go home and stay there. Their attacks reveal their hypocrisy as they prove that they are the real perpetrators of mob behavior. Kurt K.

Went so well

BRAIDWOOD—A great big thank you to everyone who worked to put together the drive thru Trick-or-Treat event on Halloween. The children absolutely loved it and the concept was fantastic. We were expecting a lot more chaos and confusion but everything was so well organized that the people putting it on didn't seem to miss a beat. It's so wonderful having so many great people that care about our community and can work together so well to accomplish things for our town.

Kids having fun

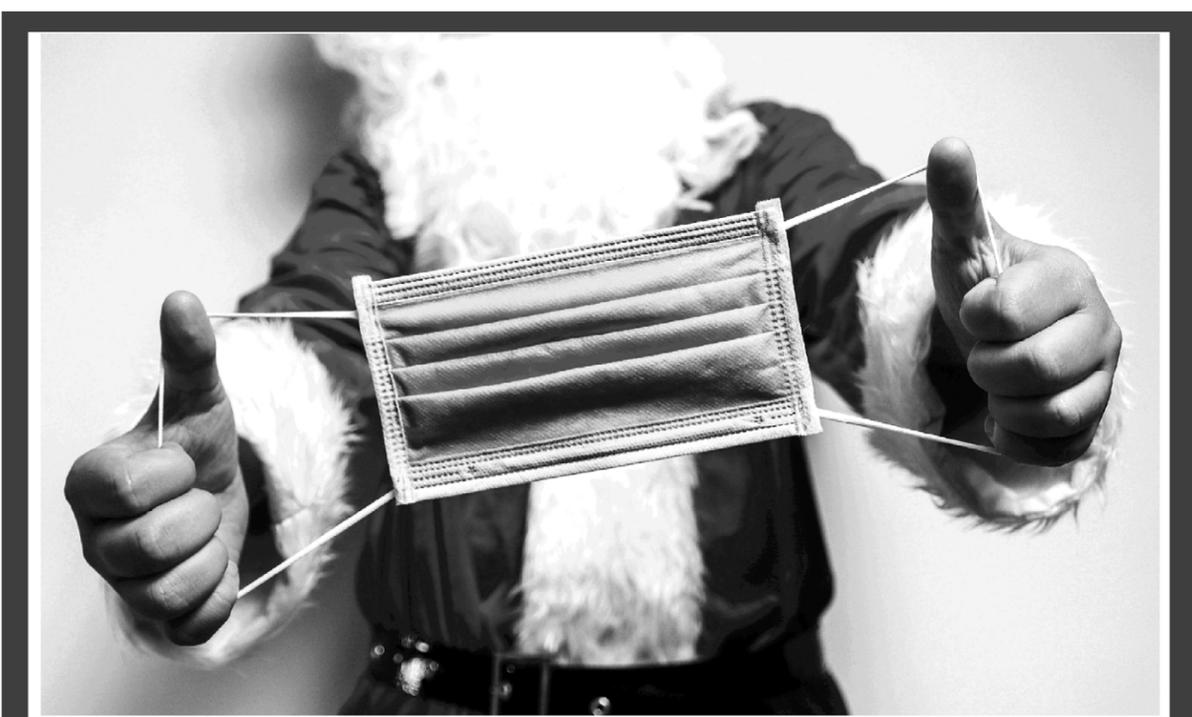
DIAMOND—It was so nice to see all the children out trick or treating on Halloween. I must say I was very impressed with how polite the kids were and the fact that most of the kids were all escorted by parents.

Can't understand

COAL CITY—I can't understand why Midland Bank is going to build a new building out in Diamond instead of utilizing the perfectly good building uptown on South Broadway. Just makes no sense.

Showing disrespect

WILMINGTON—I'm sick of the Republicans showing disrespect to the Democratic party because that is what it's called regardless of what the morons say.



Don't do it alone

Don't rely on social media alone when promoting your business this holiday season. Expand your reach to 19,300 homes each week in the Free Press Newspapers!

This will be the most challenging Christmas shopping season ever and **we want to help you.** Talk with us, explain your situation, and let us market your business to our targeted LOCAL audience.

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That's right, purchase space now until Dec. 31 and we'll double the size to 19,300 homes. Call advertising consultant

Patti Sorg at 815-922-1342 or

Publisher Eric Fisher 815-476-7966 ext. 209 for details.

Some restrictions may apply including advertisements placed in our Nov. 11 Veterans special section

Smooth as Sinatra

“Stopping advertising to save money is like stopping your watch to save time.”
—Henry Ford

There were many members of the iconic Rat Pack, but only one Chairman of the Board. That's right, there was only one Frank Sinatra and there will never be another.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

He is known as much for his off-stage antics as he is for his velvety smooth on-stage crooning. He sold over 150 million records, but only drank from one bottle of whiskey: Jack Daniel's.

Wait a minute, I had always pegged Ol' Blue eyes as a Martini guy, or scotch on the rocks. No, Frank was all about Jack Daniel's. In fact, Frank loved his classic black label Jack Daniel's so much that he was buried with a bottle.

So how did the epitome of style and class become the face of the quintessentially southern Jack Daniel's whiskey? After trying Jack Daniel's on the rocks as recommended to him by Jackie Gleason, Frank introduced audiences around the globe to the charcoal filtered Tennessee whiskey.

Beginning around 1955, Sinatra would set a rocks glass of whiskey on a stool in his stage act. At some one point in the show, he would say "Ladies and gentlemen, this is Jack Daniel's, and it's the nectar of the gods."

This was the endorsement of endorsements as far as the distillery in Lynchburg was concerned. Prior to being adopted by the Chairman of the Board, the nearly 100 year old Jack Daniel's distillery was producing approximately 150,000 cases per year.

After the endorsement

from Frank Sinatra in 1955, production doubled by the end of 1956. The state-side demand for Jack Daniel's was so great that it prevented the exportation of the signature Tennessee whiskey for nearly two decades.

This week we are going to taste

and it was as simple as 3-2-1. Three ice cubes, two fingers of whiskey, one splash of water. Then, you would wait for the signal to bring another.

That's all there is to it. Frank would occasionally drink Martinis with his Rat Pack brethren, but favored the subtle sweetness and okay character of bourbon.

I have always wondered if the current formulation of Jack Daniel's is the same stuff that Frank is drinking in all of those classic black and white photos. In 2018, the distillery gave us an answer when they released the "Sinatra Select" line of Jack Daniel's whiskey. You will find it in one liter bottles and the premium whiskey will set you back around \$150.

The distillery admits that the Jack Daniel's of Frank's era would have been made in smaller batches, with better quality oak barrels. The Sinatra Select line is aged in their special "Sinatra barrels" which have deep grooves carved into the staves to impart more charred oak flavor, darker amber color, and a stronger vanilla finish.

The finished product is a bolder version of the base whiskey, and closer to what would have been served in Frank's era.

There is a marketing element that comes into play here, and I'm sure that the distillery has to pay the Sinatra estate to use the name, but the Sinatra Select is without a doubt a high quality whiskey.

The distillery wanted to give something back, to say "thank you." Did Frank really go out of his way to promote the brand out of loyalty and love for the product? Yes, he did. Frank never entered in to a contract or received any



whiskey "Frank's way". He didn't simply pour whiskey in glass and knock it back, he was overly particular about how he took his whiskey.

For starters, Frank only drank from newly opened "fresh" bottles. The folks at Jack Daniel's made this easy by keeping Frank and the band supplied with plenty of whiskey. The case(s) of Jack Daniel's would typically arrive at the venue before Frank's plane landed.

If you were serving Frank, you would have been briefed prior to the show on how he takes his whiskey. The instructions were the same from the 1950s until the day he died,

Extension for license plate sticker renewals runs out

The automatic extension for expired license plate stickers that Illinois vehicle owners got back in June has ended.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White is reminding the public that expirations for license plate stickers ended Nov. 1. Driver's licenses and ID cards remain extended until Feb. 1, 2021.

The public is encouraged to renew their license plate sticker online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com from the comfort on their own home. Online renewals for license plate stickers have skyrocketed since June 1, and if you pay with an e-check, the payment processing fee is waived through the end of the year.

To register, drivers will need their vehicle registration card or past renewal notice

containing their Registration ID and PIN numbers. If vehicle owners do not have a renewal notice or a current registration card, they should call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980. After obtaining their Registration ID and PIN numbers, they can visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com and go to the "License Plate Renewal Email Notices" under online services.

Since June 1, more than 1.5 million people have renewed their license plate stickers online. This is nearly double the amount renewing online during the same period in 2019.

White is reminding the public that if they renew online and pay with an e-check, the payment processing fee is waived through the end of the year for the following services:

renewing a license plate sticker, obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, and renewing a driver's license through the Safe Driver Renewal program. People who conduct online transactions will avoid waiting in line at a facility.

For those customers who must visit a facility, face masks are required. In addition, customers are asked to be patient due to heavy volume and to be prepared to wait outside in various types of weather. This is due to social distancing, which limits the number of people inside a facility at one time.

For more information, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Morris Hospital new visitor restrictions in place

In response to increasing number of COVID-19 cases in the community and for the safety of patients and staff, Morris Hospital is returning to strict visitor guidelines effective now. One designated visitor/support person age 18 or older will only be permitted for laboring mothers, children 17 and younger, and patients who require continual assistance. No other visitors/support persons are permitted at Morris Hospital or any of its facilities at this time.

The visitor restrictions apply to hospitalized patients, patients having surgery and procedures involving anesthesia, emergency patients, and all patients coming to the hospital for any service. The same restrictions will go in place at all Morris Hospital facilities including immediate and convenient care locations and physician offices.

For hospitalized patients who are at end of life, visitors will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

"We understand the important role of family and are very disappointed to have to implement strict visitor guidelines again," says Kimberly Landers, Vice President of Patient Care and

Chief Nurse Executive at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "With COVID-19 incidence on the rise, limiting the number of people who come into the hospital and all of our facilities is one way we maintain a safe environment for our

patients, staff and community. We appreciate everyone's cooperation during these difficult times."

For Morris Hospital's latest visitor restrictions and guidelines, go to morrishospital.org/covid19.

monetary compensation from Jack Daniel's. He did it for the love, and the free whiskey.

"I feel sorry for people that don't drink, because when they wake up in the morning, that is the best they are going to feel all day." - Frank Sinatra

Whiskey, Frank's way is built and served in a rocks glass.
Combine in rocks glass:
3 ice cubes
2 fingers Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey
1 splash of water
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Midewin virtual celebration on Veterans Day

U.S. Military Veterans' photographs of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie will be showcased in a 2021 Date Planner and in a special virtual celebration on Veterans Day. U.S. Navy Veteran Angela Walker will open the Veterans Day program singing "America the Beautiful." The program will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11. U.S. Military Veterans and their families took the photo-

graphs as participants in the "At Ease" Nature Platoon at Midewin NTP. The program is intended to encourage U.S. Military veterans to connect with natural resources and for people everywhere to experience the prairie through the lens of their cameras. The project is through a community partnership with the USDA Forest Service and Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods. Staff with Brushwood Center began the "At Ease" program six years ago.

for 2021 that highlights key dates in conservation and natural resources. The Date Planner was produced by the USDA Forest Service. The Date Planner is available on the Brushwood Center and Midewin NTP websites. The USDA Forest Service features the photographs in an online photo album created especially for Veterans Day 2020: www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/albums/72157716650460151.



Courtesy photo
U.S. NAVY VETERAN Greg DuBois experiences the Henslow Trail at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Photographs taken at Midewin NTP by DuBois and other U.S. Military Veterans will be featured in a virtual Veterans Day program on Nov. 11 at 4 p.m. and in a Date Planner for 2021 that is available for download from the Brushwood Center at www.brushwoodcenter.org and the Midewin website at www.fs.usda.gov/midewin.

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"Spending time in nature is a powerful practice for mental and physical well-being," said Brushwood Center Executive Director Catherine Game. "These photographs document the beauty of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, as experienced and captured by U.S. Military Veterans and their family members."

Fifteen photographs of nature scenes at Midewin NTP are featured in a Date Planner

"It has been exciting to see the photographs that have resulted from the program," said Midewin Prairie Supervisor Wade Spang. "Now, others can experience Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie through these photographs."

U.S. Military Veterans and their family members who participated in the program will share their Midewin NTP stories during the program on Veterans Day. To register for the program, visit:

www.BrushwoodCenter.org/VeteransPhotoReception.html. U.S. Military Veterans and their families are welcome to

participate in At Ease programs. For more information, email: info@brushwoodcenter.org.

Forest Preserve's calendar dog needs loving home

Lollipop, a sweet one-year-old hound mix, needs a loving home after having a rough start in life.

After giving birth to a litter of pups, she was dumped at a high-kill shelter in Kentucky before being rescued and transported to the Will County Humane Society. "The family literally bred her and then dumped her," said humane society shelter manager Malorie Ernst. "Lollipop wasn't even done weaning the puppies yet and she was still full of milk."

Lollipop's tale is being told as part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's 2021 Dog Park Calendar fundraising effort, which raises money for the humane society, the oldest no-kill shelter in the county.

The precious pup is available through the foster-to-adopt program at www.willcountymane.com. Lollipop's photo and story will be included in the dog park calendar, which can be ordered at willcountydogs.org through Nov. 13. Calendars will be delivered the first week in December in time to give them as presents to all your friends and family for the holidays. Calendars cost \$15, and \$10 dollars from every sale will be donated to the humane society, which survives on donations alone.

The calendar also will be filled with photos of the dogs that play at the district's six dog parks. The Forest Preserve's first calendar effort

in 2020 raised almost \$6,000 for the shelter, funding that was used for food, medical treatments, supplies and other necessities that helped keep the animals safe and healthy.

Lollipop's story illustrates the plight of shelter animals. The humane society took the pup in three months ago after she was rescued by a group working to save animals from euthanasia, which would have been Lollipop's fate without intervention.

"Her fur was patchy and her skin was rough," Ernst said. "She was scared and very shy. We soon found out she tested positive for heartworm disease, Lyme disease and ehrlichiosis, a bacterial infection, on top of having many intestinal parasites."

The dog is receiving medical treatment and she's warming up to humans and is now considered a "miracle case" for how she is responding, Ernst said. One of the reasons it has been difficult to find a home for Lollipop is because she has not finished her heartworm treatment yet, which means she cannot run or play hard until her heart is completely free of the heartworm parasites. Ernst stressed that the dog's condition is not contagious.

A family that takes Lollipop in would sign a foster-to-adopt agreement, which means they would be foster parents until the dog was healthy and then they would adopt her once her medical treatment concluded. That would allow the humane society to pay for all her treatment and monitor her condition until medical intervention was no longer necessary.

Lollipop is getting stronger every day with a regimen of antibiotics, steroids and pain medications and she has overcome all her other ailments, so Ernst is confident Lollipop will be healed in just a few more months. "She's still a little guarded at first with new people, but that's normal especially with what she's been through," Ernst said. "But with the shelter staff, she's super bubbly and loves to play with toys and loves the



Courtesy photo
THIS ADORABLE HOUND mix pup named Lollipop needs a home. She will be featured in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's 2021 Dog Park Calendar to illustrate the plight of shelter dogs. Calendar sales benefit the Will County Humane Society. The calendar also will highlight the Forest Preserve's six dog parks and feature dogs that patronize the parks. Lollipop is available through the foster-to-adopt program at www.willcountymane.com and calendars can be ordered willcountydogs.org through Nov. 13.

company of other dogs." Ernst is hoping to get Lollipop into a new home as soon as possible so she can bond with a family of her own. "She's just a genuine, overall great dog," Ernst said. "Our goal here is to get her out of the stress of being in a shelter and into a home where she can properly recover."

Many of the dogs that visit the Forest Preserve's dog parks were once shelter dogs themselves, said Laura Kiran, the Forest Preserve's director of marketing and communica-

tions. "The dogs that visit Forest Preserve dog parks are lucky, because they have homes and owners who care for and about them," Kiran said. "But not every animal is as fortunate. The calendar initiative is a way to help those pets that are without a loving family to call their own, while also putting our dog park patrons' pets in the spotlight."

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

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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.

In the Wilmington area there is Kuzma Care Cottage food pantry 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, which is open Monday -Friday 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m., and the second Saturday of each month, 8-11 a.m. Call 815-476-2030 or visit www.kuzmacarecottage.org

Coal City Food Pantry at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle 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.

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January/February-United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle 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. McArdle 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.

GOP pushes back on Pritzker's mitigation efforts

Lawmakers say evidence lacking that bars, restaurants are major source of spread

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Republicans in the Illinois House and Senate pushed back Wednesday against Gov. JB Pritzker's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, arguing that lawmakers should be involved in crafting the state's response to the pandemic.

In back-to-back virtual news conferences, GOP leaders in the House and Senate argued that they believe there is scant evidence that bars and restaurants—which will be closed to indoor service in eight of the state's 11 regions by the end of the week—are a significant source of COVID-19 spread.

"Many Illinoisans have invested their life savings into restaurants in their state," said Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, R-Bloomington. "This is a cornerstone to many of our communities. They barely survived the shutdown that was initiated by the governor earlier this year. But after that, they scraped together to take the proper health precautions to operate their restaurants in a safe manner, employing the people who worked so hard for them and providing a livelihood for those employees."

The Republicans' comments came on the same day the Illinois Department of Public Health announced it would impose enhanced mitigation measures effective Oct. 31 in northern suburban Lake and McHenry counties, which make up Region 9 of the state's reopening plan. And it came one day after those same measures were announced for the city of Chicago, which makes up Region 11, effective Oct. 30.

By Oct. 31, eight of the

state's 11 regions were under enhanced mitigation measures, which include the closure of bars and restaurants to indoor service, limits on the size of public gatherings and other measures.

Pritzker and IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said last week that bars and restaurants are the second most frequently identified source of virus spread, based on data from contact tracers. The governor's office distributed a graphic on Oct. 20 showing 2,300 of 17,939 contacted COVID-19 positive individuals said they had been at a bar or restaurant within 14 days prior to diagnosis. That was second only to "other," which included social gatherings such as weddings, parties and more. The governor's office said the report included data from 69 of 97 health departments.

They have also cited, among others, a study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which showed COVID-19 positive individuals studied were "twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant" than those who tested negative.

But Republicans on Wednesday, Oct. 28 questioned those findings, saying the administration has not been forthcoming with the specific contact-tracing data they are using.

"There has been an absolute lack of transparency with regards to the governor's office and Department of (Public) Health regarding the data that is being used to determine whether bars and restaurants are, in fact, significant contributors to the spread of the virus," said Senator Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles.

Republicans haven't been the only ones questioning data about bars and restaurants. On Oct. 27, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a Democrat, was interviewed on the PBS NewsHour where she said the mitigation plan there would effectively shut down one of the city's major industries.

"Two-thirds of the people that are testing positive and are talking to our case investigators are telling us that they got it from somebody that they knew, and that they got it in a home or other social setting that's not in public," Lightfoot said.

During a separate news conference, House Minority leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, presented data from DuPage County, which is part of Region 8, showing that most of the cases reported there were associated with long-term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities.

"And restaurants don't show up," Durkin said. "Contact tracing during the month of October did not show one case that appears on their list of confirmed cases that came from restaurants."

Representative Brad Stephens, R-Rosemont, in suburban Cook County, also questioned the accuracy of the data that state and local health officials are using.

"There is no exact data that shows that at a certain time, and on a certain day that that's when I'm contracting the virus," he said. "And if there is, we haven't been shared that information. But how does somebody know that? What if I'm at five different restaurants over five different days, and I'm also at Target and the shopping mall and Walmart? People are free to move about."

Speaking in Chicago during his daily press briefing Oct. 28, Pritzker said the state will start sharing its data publicly in the coming days.

"Let me begin by saying we have 97 local public health departments in Illinois. Some are more technically proficient than others," he said. "And so it's taken us some time to work with those departments to get them up to speed working on the same system so that they're reporting into the Department of Public Health all of the data in all of those 97 public health departments."

Brady called on Senate

leaders to form a committee that could meet and review the data being used by IDPH and provide feedback to the agency. And when asked what kinds of mitigation measures he and other Republicans would support, he suggested reducing occupancy limits to 25% of capacity instead of closing restaurants to indoor service altogether.

He also said the state should put more focus on testing, contact tracing and isolation of people who test positive.

"We don't think we've moved quick enough to do that," Brady said. "And this is why we're calling for evidence within the contact tracing that will tell us what we need to do based on science and based on the evidence in terms of mitigating. But so far, there's no proof that restaurants are mass spreaders of this, and particularly if they were reduced to 25% occupancy."



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Pritzker calls for more federal aid

Illinois has spent half of its \$3.5 billion CARES Act funding

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker on Oct. 21 renewed his call for more federal aid for struggling state and local governments as well as small businesses, but talks in Washington may be stalled until after Election Day.

"We believe the federal government needs to step in here, both with greater dollars available to small businesses, targeted to small businesses, as well as for local governments and state governments to support the small businesses across our state," Pritzker said at an event in Chicago. "We have programs that do that. The federal government can reup the programs they've created for that. Those are all things that are going to be needed to get through the COVID winter that's ahead of us."

Pritzker was speaking to reporters after touring the DLV Printing plant in Chicago, one of roughly 2,800 firms in Illinois that took part in the first round of the state's Business Interruption Grants, or BIG program, which provides aid to businesses to offset expenses or losses related to COVID-19.

That program is funded with money from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act, which Congress approved in March, shortly after the pandemic hit the United States.

The state of Illinois received roughly \$3.5 billion in CARES Act money to pay for expenses related to its COVID-19 response. According to information on the Illinois Comptroller's website, however, the state has already spent more than half of that money, a little over \$1.8 billion.

The largest share of that money, roughly \$557 million, has been spent by the Illinois Emergency Management

Agency, much of it for things like medical supplies and testing equipment. Another \$412 million has been spent by the State Board of Education for school meal programs throughout the state, while another \$183 million has gone through the Department of Healthcare and Family Services largely for health care costs.

The CARES Act also provided another \$1.4 billion in aid that went directly to large cities and counties with populations over 500,000 as well as \$250 million that the state is disbursing in the form of grants to smaller local governments.

Under federal rules, however, CARES Act money may only be used for certain direct pandemic-related expenses. But since the pandemic hit, state and local governments throughout the country, including Illinois, have seen steep drops in revenue as businesses were ordered to close or scale back operations, unemployment skyrocketed, and the travel and tourism industry ground to a virtual halt.

In recent days, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has been negotiating with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a second relief bill and President Trump has signaled his support for one. But national news outlets including the Washington Post reported Wednesday that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY., has urged the White House not to strike a deal with Democrats before Election Day.

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza said in an interview Oct. 21 that state and local governments would be better off if an aid package were passed before Election Day because if Trump is not reelected, there would be no incentive for him or the Republican-controlled Senate to act on anything until the new administration takes office in January.

She also said it would be "catastrophic" for Illinois if Congress fails to pass another stimulus package that includes aid for state and local governments.

That's because the state of

Illinois is currently facing a budget hole of around \$6 billion, Mendoza said. Part of that could be filled with passage of a graduated income tax amendment that is on the Nov. 3 ballot, but even if that passes it would only generate an estimated \$1.2 billion in the last six months of the current fiscal year, meaning the state would still need about \$5 billion in federal relief.

"And if we don't get that, then you're talking about incredibly draconian cuts to core programs that people need as well as, you need to come up with the revenue somehow," she said. "So, you know, it's cuts — which you cannot possibly cut yourself out of \$5 billion that you have to make up for. So, it'd be combination of cuts, a combination of borrowing, which only kicks the can down the road further, and a combination of significant revenue increases."

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OBITUARIES

John Bollino

John Edward Bollino, 68, passed away on Oct. 31, 2020 at his home in Neoga, IL, surrounded by his wife, 3 sons and a few grandchildren.

Born in Morris, he was the son of John Henry and Rose Marie Bollino (Ouamak). He attended Coal City High School and graduated in 1970. He worked at and retired from Akzo-Nobel after 34 years of employment.



Charleston, IL and Jeremy Edward Bollino, of Essex; grandchildren: Stephanie Bollino, Sarah Bollino, Megan Bollino, Taylor Bollino, Brandon Bollino, Ryan Bollino and Bryson Reed; siblings: Barbara Lange, Terry Bollino, Phyllis Mark and half-brother, Robert Ouamak.

John enjoyed spending time with his kids and grandkids. He was so proud of each one of them. Spending time outside watching birds and other wildlife with his wife was one of his favorite pastimes. You could regularly find John enjoying his morning coffee on the back porch overlooking the lake. John loved his family deeply and always made sure they were provided for and that they had a great life. He will always be remembered for his garage conversation, which was always full of jokes and laughter.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Dolores Pauline (Windell) Bollino; his boys: John Christopher Bollino, of Essex; Chad Michael Bollino and his wife Lacey, of

He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, William and Emma Jean Bollino.

The visitation for John will be held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood on Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2020 from 5-7 p.m. with a funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. All attendees are required to wear face masks and observe social distancing standards. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com

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

Jacqueline Marks

GARDNER—Jacqueline “Jackie” Marks, 88, of Gardner, and formerly of Sullivan, MO, passed away Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020 at Heritage Health in Dwight.



Born July 16, 1932 in Sullivan, Jacqueline Jean was a daughter of Milner Dee “Jack” and Cora Leona (Hays) Benton. She was raised and educated in Sullivan; graduated from Sullivan High School with the class of 1950, and on Oct. 20, 1951, married Walter Marks in Sullivan.

Marks, of Dwight; Megan (Jimmy) Heideman, of Missouri and Melanie (Jeff) Sanders, of Florida; eight great-grandchildren: Mia, Luke, Drew, Simon, Madeline, Jack, Jenna and Hannah; one great-great-granddaughter, Violet; three brothers: William Benton Reeves, of Missouri; James L. Reeves, of Illinois and Kenneth L. Reeves, of Missouri and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jackie worked as a clerk at the Royal Blue in Gardner for many years, and she was a member of the Church of Hope, where she enjoyed singing in the choir. Jackie was an avid crocheter, took pleasure in reading, and will be remembered as a great fan of the Chicago Cubs.

Jackie was preceded in death by her parents, one son, John Timothy in infancy; her husband, Walter on Feb. 27, 1984; one sister, Phyllis Ross and one brother, Dale Benton.

Survivors include six children: Christine Davis, of Sullivan; Tom Marks, of Potosi, MO; Rick (Kim) Marks and Randy (Lori) Marks, both of Gardner; Rhonda Marks, of Dwight and John (Gina) Marks, of Washington, MO; 12 grandchildren: Richard (Mary) Wymer, of St. Louis, MO; Andrew (Kasia) Davis, of Barrington, IL; Jason Marks and Lucas Glaser, both of Sullivan; Benjamin Marks, Blake Marks, Braden Marks and Carl Jr. (Sarah) Marks, all of Gardner; Kaitlyn (Ben) Greenawalt, of Coal City; Brandon

Per Jackie’s wishes, green flameless cremation rites have been accorded and she will be laid to rest with her parents in Sullivan IOOF Cemetery. Graveside services and a celebration of her life is being planned for July of 2021.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jackie’s memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Jacqueline-Marks

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

Yvonne P. Kilpatrick

NORFOLK, AR—Yvonne Pauline Scaman Kilpatrick, 82, of Norfolk, AR passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020 in Mountain Home, AR due to Covid 19.



She was born on Jan. 22, 1938 in Morris, the daughter of George and Sophie Scaman. George was killed in a car accident when Yvonne was young and Sophie then married Mike Bertino. Yvonne was the youngest of eight children; Elmer, Lillian, Irene, Ray, George, Betty and Ken.

Babe was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Mountain Home, AR, the Rodney Jordan Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, the Ladies of Jordan and The Prune Beach Club on Norfolk Lake.

Robert and Babe had three children: Michael James (Susan), of Norfolk; Matthew Robert (JoAnn), of Westmont, IL and Mari Beth (Fred) Ruegsegger, of Norfolk; grandchildren: Leslie (Jerry) Hernandez, of Venus, TX; Paula (Ryan Erdmann) and Jenny Kilpatrick, of Westmont, IL; Sarah, Alex, Ian, Andrew and Elliott Ruegsegger, of Norfolk; great-grandchildren: Ryeann (Jose) Rincon and Stephanie and Jerry Michael Hernandez, all of Venus, TX; great-great-grandchildren: Zariah Rincon, TerriAnna Sedberry and Jayden Hernandez, all of Venus.

Yvonne was known by her given name, Mom and Grandma, but the name that most called her since she was a little girl was Babe. Babe graduated from Reed Custer High School in May 1956. After graduation she went to work at AP&A in the office. Yvonne married Robert Kilpatrick at the First United Presbyterian Church in Braidwood on Jan. 19, 1957. They lived their married life in Braidwood, and later moved to Morris to Babe’s family home in 1963. Babe retired in January 1991 as the plant manager of Coils, Inc. They moved to their retirement home full time after the Morris Hospital purchased their Morris home for the expansion of Morris Hospital.

She is preceded in death by her husband, of 62 years, Robert; her parents, her mother and father-in-law, James and Pauline Kilpatrick and a special niece, Judy Phillips.

There will not be a memorial service at this time due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Rodney-Jordan Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 129, Pineville, AR 72566 or the First Presbyterian Church of Mountain Home, 1106 Spring Street, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

Babe was known and loved for her homemade chocolate chip cookies and rolls. She kept track of how many she made each year – in 2018 she baked 192 dozen, in 2019 she baked 275 dozen and in 2020 she baked 152 dozen chocolate chip cookies for friends and family. She loved baking and sharing with others.

The online guestbook and obituary are available at www.connerfamilyfuneralhome.com.

Tammy Cardwell

GARDNER—Tammy Cardwell, 62, of Gardner, passed away Monday, Nov. 2, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.



Born April 3, 1958 in Assumption, IL, Tammy Ellen was a daughter of Kermit and Gertrude (nee Walker) Stokes. She was raised and educated in Assumption, and graduated from Assumption High School with the class of 1976. Tammy attended the University of Saint Francis in Joliet and earned her bachelor’s degree in social work. On June 13, 1981, she married Patrick Kevin Cardwell at Saint Mary Nativity Catholic Church in Joliet.

Tammy was preceded in death by her parents, one granddaughter, Alex Cardwell and five brothers: Kermit, Greg, John, Robert and Roger Stokes.

Per Tammy’s wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and a memorial service is being arranged for a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Tammy’s memorial page by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com.

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

Tammy worked for many years at Gardner Grade School as a paraprofessional with the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative. She had a quick-witted sense of humor that was instantly recognizable to anyone she met, and enjoyed playing pool and singing karaoke. Tammy loved spending time outside tending to her flower garden and relaxing in her pool. She had a sizable collection of angels, and took great pleasure in reading a good book.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years, Patrick Cardwell, of Gardner; two sons, Brandon (Dawn) Cardwell and Kyle Cardwell, both of Gardner; one grandson, Lee Cardwell, of Gardner; one sister, Carol (Lyle) Giles, of Assumption, one brother-in-law, Terry (Barb) Cardwell, of Carlyle, IL and several nieces and nephews.

Catapult a pumpkin

Will County and Lewis University have partnered to offer the 5th annual Will County collection of pumpkins for recycling.

From 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 7, students, parents and residents are encouraged to bring their pumpkins and gourds to Lewis University in Romeoville. Lewis Physics Club will be operating catapults! The will be free document destruction service offered and electronics recycling of up to two TVs.

Remember our veterans by sponsoring a wreath

Sponsor a wreath for a veteran’s grave at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. The wreath laying will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19.

The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Wreaths are placed after a brief ceremony. Volunteers of all ages are needed to help place wreaths, dress appropriately for the cold.

Sponsorship is a tax deductible donation and may be made for a specific veteran or any veteran.

Complete the form below. Checks or money orders should be made payable to **Wreaths Across America** and mailed to: Will County Farm Bureau, c/o OCP Wreath Project, 100 Manhattan Rd., Joliet, IL 60433 Group# IL0013P

Sponsorships are being collected through Nov. 24 for the year 2020 campaign. Donations after Dec. 2 will be for 2021. Order online at [Wreaths Across America](http://WreathsAcrossAmerica.com) and include cemetery ID: ILALNE. For updates pertaining with wreath placement and coronavirus precautions visit the Facebook page: Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Grave specific sponsorship

Complete a separate form for each veteran. Sponsors who attend the wreath laying on Saturday, Dec. 15, may place the wreath on that specific grave.

Veteran’s name: _____

Section and grave marker (required): _____

Contact phone number (required): _____

Will you be there to place the wreath yourself: Yes ___ No ___

Non-specific grave sponsorship

One wreath at \$15 _____

Family: four wreaths for \$60 _____

Business: 10 wreaths for \$150 _____



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Deadline is at least two weeks before your event

How seniors can save on prescription eyeglasses

Dear Savvy Senior,
 What tips can you recommend for finding affordable prescription eyeglasses? I used to have vision insurance through my work but lost it when I turned 65 and signed up for Medicare.



SAVVY SENIOR
 Jim Miller

Dear Need,
 Unfortunately, in 2020 it's still true that original Medicare does not cover vision services, which includes routine eye exams and prescription eyeglasses - unless you've just had cataract surgery. While there's no one solution to this common need, here are a few tips that can help you save.

While original Medicare doesn't cover vision services, there are Medicare Advantage plans that do. Medicare Advantage plans, which are sold through private insurance companies, cover all the same medical and hospital services that original Medicare does, but many of them also provide vision as well as dental, hearing and prescription drugs too.

To locate Advantage plans in your area that provide vision coverage, go to [Medicare.gov/plan-compare](https://www.medicare.gov/plan-compare) or call 800-633-4227. But before enrolling in a plan, check the benefit details to ensure the plan's vision coverage includes routine eye exams, eyeglass frames and lenses.

If you are currently enrolled in original Medicare you can switch to a Medicare Advantage plan each year during the open enrollment peri-

od, which is between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7. Or, if you already have an Advantage plan that doesn't provide adequate vision coverage, you can swap to another plan between Jan. 1 and March 31.

If, however, you don't want to change your Medicare plan, you can still get coverage by purchasing a vision insurance policy - see [eHealthInsurance.com](https://www.ehealthinsurance.com). Vision policies typically start at around \$11 to \$13 per month for an individual, but before signing up make sure your savings potential is worth the cost of the monthly premiums and required copays.

Purchasing eyeglasses from discount retailers is another way to save.

You also need to find out if you are eligible for any discounts. Ask your optometrist if they provide discounts to membership groups like AARP and AAA. AARP members, for example, can get 30 percent off a pair of glasses (frames and lenses) simply by asking. AARP also offers \$55 comprehensive eye exams (dilation included)

at participating eye doctors. See [AARPVisionDiscounts.com](https://www.AARPVisionDiscounts.com) for more information.

To purchase glasses online, you'll need a valid prescription from an eye doctor (typically no more than a year old), plus your pupillary distance number, which is the distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of your pupils in each eye.

If your income is low, depending on where you live, there may be some local clinics that provide free or discounted eye exams and eyeglasses. Put in a call to your local Lions Club to see what's available in your area. See [Directory.LionsClubs.org](https://www.Directory.LionsClubs.org) for contact information.

You may also be able to get free eyeglasses through New Eyes (New-Eyes.org, 973-376-4903), a nonprofit organization that provides free eyeglasses through a voucher program to people in financial need.

Send your senior questions to: *Savvy Senior*, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit [SavvySenior.org](https://www.SavvySenior.org).

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Forest Preserve's pandemic-era virtual field trips a hit with educators

Long yellow school buses filled with students are a rare sight at Forest Preserve District of Will County visitor centers this fall, but the new virtual field trip format being offered by the District is becoming popular with educators who appreciate the option.

More than 90 online field trip programs have been scheduled or have already taken place as educators seek to keep their students engaged in environmental education during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"While in-person would be best, it is just not safe right now, so the virtual trips we have taken are the next best thing," said Rebecca Young, an AP environmental science

teacher at Plainfield East High School, whose students recently completed the "Deep Dive into Wetlands" virtual field trip.

Teacher Vanessa McNeff's fifth graders from A. O. Marshall Grade School in Joliet attended a "Trouble in the Water" field trip earlier this month to learn how water resources must be protected locally and globally.

"It was great and the kids loved it! It was run very smoothly and very organized," she said. "The chat box was blowing up with the students expressing shock and a strong interest in helping solve the problem!"

To learn about the online offerings, visit bit.ly/forest-fieldtrips.



Courtesy photo
ANGIE OPIOLA, a Forest Preserve District of Will County program coordinator, wades into a pond during one of many virtual field trips now being offered by the District during the pandemic.

Oakwood Cemetery fall clean-up

Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington will begin its fall clean-up starting Monday, November 16, 2020. All decorations, trinkets etc: that are not removed by this date, will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel. Anyone wishing to save the decorations, will need to remove them by Sunday, November 15, 2020.

Veterans Day Tribute will be virtual

The Coal City Public Library District will launch its 12th Annual Veterans Day tribute video virtually on its Facebook page and Website at [ccpd.org](https://www.ccpd.org) on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2020 at 11 a.m. The video will include a flag ceremony performed by the St. Juvin VFW Post 1336, speaker Dr. Kent Bugg, local Veteran videos, a memorial tribute, music and more. The library appreciates all Veterans for their service and sacrifice.

Infant Safe Sleep Awareness

Unsafe sleep is a leading cause of death for children one year old and younger; and while October's Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month has ended, Illinois DCFS continues to work year-round to remind parents and caregivers of the importance of putting infants to sleep safely.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic halted plans for in-person awareness events this year, Illinois DCFS credits a multi-faceted awareness campaign and community partnerships that began in 2019 with decreasing the number of unsafe sleep deaths from 143 in 2018 to 108 in 2019. In addition to recording a public service announcement and pro-

moting safe sleep messages across social media, the department collaborated with the Illinois Child Death Review Teams to promote the ABCs of Safe Sleep on billboards in Springfield, Bloomington and Chicago.

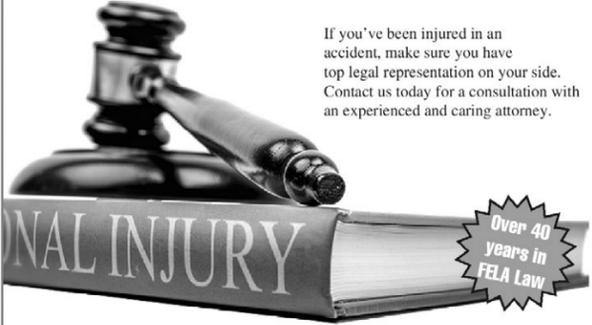
"Infant safe sleep deaths are preventable; and although it is encouraging to see the number of infant deaths due to unsafe sleep decrease from one year ago, parents and caregivers must remain vigilant and put their infant to sleep Alone, on his or her Back, in a safe Crib - every time," said Illinois DCFS Acting Director Marc D. Smith.

In 2019, 108 infants in Illinois under the age of 1 died as a result of being put to sleep unsafely. 87 were

found in locations other than a crib, bassinet or 'pack and play;' 76 were found in positions other than on their back; and 71 were co-sleeping with another individual at the time of death.

Infants sleep safest alone in a crib with a firm mattress and tightly-fitted sheet. The crib should be free of pillows, blankets, bumper pads, stuffed animals and toys. Infants should never be placed on an adult bed or couch to sleep. If parents of young children are traveling, they should call ahead to make sure their accommodations include a crib and bring a pack and play if one is not available.

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Wilmington yard waste pickup available

Waste Management will collect yard waste materials for Wilmington residential customers, including tree branches, leaves, grass clippings and brush, until Nov. 27

Yard waste is collected by Waste Management once per week on the same day as the refuse collection. All yard waste items placed out for collection by residents must be at the curb by 6 a.m.,

CCHS to sponsor blood drive

Coal City High School is sponsoring a blood drive for students and the community on Nov. 17 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the small gym.

Anyone wishing to donate blood is asked to wear a mask and come to the front office where you will have your temperature taken and come to the front office where you will need to have your temperature taken.

To sign up, go https://donate.illinoisversiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5578549 to schedule yourself by Nov. 13. Remember, donors must be 16 or older. Eat a good breakfast the morning of the drive.

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Either way outcome will be 'horrible'

For generations now, Chicago has had its own separate set of state laws for just about every topic under the sun. The city's mayor is allowed to appoint the school board, Chicago has its own "working cash fund" law, the state's mayoral veto law does not apply to the city and the city has a unique exemption allowing it to deduct money from worker paychecks. From big to archaic, the list is almost endless.

So, when you've grown accustomed to doing it your own way for a century or so, you may start thinking you're a special case in literally everything. And that seems to be what happened last week.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot told reporters she hoped to change Gov. JB Pritzker's mind about imposing the same public health mitigations on the city as the state has imposed on several other regions, including suburban Cook County, and said the two ought to be "in lockstep" on any "new restrictions."

The mitigations mainly involve shutting down indoor dining and booze-drinking at taverns.

The moment to address this, of course, was months ago when Pritzker laid out the new plan and the boundaries of the new public health districts. Chicago was given its own dis-

trict back in mid-July (ironically, at the behest of the suburbs), but not its own rules. The city, in fact, imposed even tighter restrictions on restaurants, taverns, parks, beaches, etc. than the rest of the state, which is allowed under Pritzker plans. But the city and the mayor have known all along that local governments cannot impose looser regulations than the state's.

And, really, how would DuPage County respond if Chicago was given a special pass on indoor restaurant dining? Not well, I assure you. And Will County denizens would be rightly upset if Chicagoans could drink inside their local taverns and they could not.

Complying with the mayor's demands would undermine the governor everywhere else in the state. And he's got enough of that problem as it is.

Look, we know that state mitigation works if regions stick to the program.

Why? Simple. The Metro East area as well as the region encompassing Will and Kankakee counties both eventually worked their



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

way out of the stricter protocols. Those successes alone should be enough to prove that the spread is slowed when indoor dining and drinking are curtailed.

But coverage follows conflict, so news consumers aren't getting that message. Instead, it's all about disagreements between political leaders and the furious anger of the hospitality industry.

But both of those previously successful regions are now right back in mitigation. Restaurants and taverns that survived the first mitigation round are now having to go through this nightmare all over again. Businesses in first-time mitigation and those in regions about to be subjected to the limits look at their colleagues and are justly terrified for their futures.

While there's no doubt that indoor dining, indoor tavern drinking, etc. do, indeed, spread the virus, people should be forgiven for thinking it's unfair to put the onus completely on those specific businesses - particularly at a time when the federal government is showing absolutely zero interest in helping the busi-

nesses cope and the main complainers about Illinois' rules (other than Lightfoot) are unwilling to vigorously demand federal action.

In order to make this more "fair" and spread out the pain instead of focusing the responsibility, everyday people would be required to do their own part. Chicago's contract tracing program shows that "small social gatherings" are major contributors to the spread.

"Where we're seeing the greatest challenges is in people's homes, in social settings that are not public," Lightfoot said. But if you think people are upset about the restaurant and tavern situation, try ordering them to avoid all contact with their friends and families. Yikes.

So, the choices are between ginning up either a horrible backlash with horrible economic consequences or a horrific and widespread public backlash that could conceivably jeopardize everything.

Or let it all burn, and Pritzker is not going to do that.

So, "horrible" seems the only do-able choice. And, make no mistake, without help from DC, it will truly get horrible for a lot of very good people.

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

Illinois gas prices drop at an accelerated rate

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.0 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.17/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 6.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 33.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.84/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.05/g.

The national average price of gasoline

has fallen 2.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.12/g. The national average is down 6.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 48.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"The drop in gas prices has accelerated in the last week as oil prices continued to slide on uncertainty over the election, stimulus and as coronavirus case counts soar, leading to more states rolling back their reopening plans," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for

GasBuddy.

"In just the last few days, it feels like uncertainty over a potential legal fight over the U.S. election has also risen to near panic levels, all of which throws more uncertainty into the ring, keeping the U.S. from potentially having a clear leader to turn things around. For now, it's virtually guaranteed that the national average will fall to under \$2 per gallon in the next two weeks, so motorists need not be in a rush to fill their tanks."

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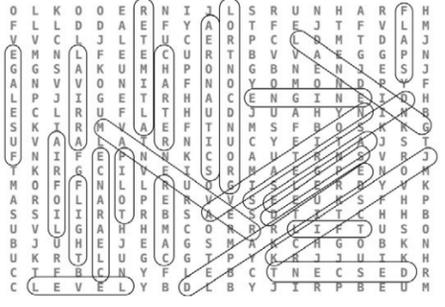
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Aidan Schott winner of November Senior Spotlight

The Senior Spotlight winner for the month of November is Aidan Schott. Aidan is the son of Ellis and Robyn Schott.

During his high school career, Aidan was involved in National Honor Society, Math Team, Fall Play, Spring Musical, IT Internship, Academic Challenge Team, and SSA/CCL. He was also a Student of the Month and was named All-Conference for Scholastic Bowl. His future plans are to attend the University of Illinois to study Computer Science.

Here are a few thoughts from Aidan's teachers. Mr. Welsh says that Aidan "is the most well-read student I have encountered. He is a man with an infectious grin, and he makes a phenomenal Winston Churchill!"

Mr. Carrescia appreciates that Aidan "is extremely intelligent and curious in general about the topics he's learning. He has a great sense of humor to add to his intelligence, making him a student that I genuinely enjoy talking to."

Mrs. Leveille "can't say enough good things about Aidan. I had him in our Honors Biology class, and the first week of school, he wrote that

he wanted to work at CERN (a huge physics research facility in Switzerland: site of the largest particle accelerator) as a career!

He is a positive role model and is focused on achieving his goals. He participated in our Academic Challenge Team as a junior and his love of the sciences is well respected among his peers! I admire his "drive", and he is just an all-around nice person."

Ms. Kelaiditis says "with a keen wit and a quiet presence, Mr. Schott is extremely intelligent and exceedingly down to earth, while he thinks about things that are the musings of people much older than himself. He is also just a wonderful kid to be around."

Mrs. Benoit believes that "if you look up passion in the dictionary, surely there will be a reference to Aidan Schott. During class one day, I asked Aidan what drives his achievements. Aidan shared his passion for learning! His curiosity, passion, and grit, no doubt, have led to his greatness in his daily walk at Reed-Custer and in his personal life. Aidan is kind and always happy.

Aidan has great social and



SENIOR STUDENT AT Reed-Custer High School, Aidan Schott, has been named as the winner of Senior Spotlight for the month of October.

interpersonal skills; he is a great listener and sensitive to others when they reach out to him for academic guidance. He is a hard-working individual. He also keeps us safer everyday as part of the sanitation crew."

Mrs. Arseneau thinks that Aidan "is such a bright, polite,

sweet student. He always came to class prepared and ready to learn! I always enjoyed when he added to class conversations because it would bring conversations to a whole new level. Aidan is an all-around great student and person. I always enjoy seeing him in the hallway even if it is just a quick

hello. I know he will do great things in his future!"

Mr. Swanson says that Aidan "is incredible - one of the brightest, kindest, and most outstanding people I have ever met."

Mrs. Bugg thinks that Aidan 'is crazy smart' but always stays humble and kind.

He exhibits maturity, responsibility and leads by example. I expect great things from him in the future!"

Mrs. Askew appreciates that Aidan is "extremely intuitive and hardworking. I was constantly amazed at his insightful thoughts and comments in class. He is very helpful and encouraging to anyone around him! I know he will do great things!"

Mrs. McGarey believes that Aidan is "the most responsible and dedicated student I know. He strives to do well and is amazing in Scholastic Bowl!"

We couldn't do it without him. He and another student won the Freshman Tournament 3 years ago, when most teams had 5 players against our 2. He is a lover of knowledge and is a model for others."

As a final thought, Aidan's advice to younger students is, "Never give up, in spite of everything."

On behalf of the teachers and staff at RCHS, we would like to congratulate Aidan as our November winner of the Senior Spotlight.

RCMS first quarter honor students

HIGH HONORS

8th grade - Savannah Bateman, Addison Brown, Josilyn Davis, Owen Dooley, Olivia Esparza, Camryn Garrelts, Leah Grace, Addison Hartman, Jack Krall, Spencer Newbrough, Landen Robinson, Luca Trucano, Ava VanDuyne, Jaidan Wilber, Emma Wilson, Alexis Winyinger

7th grade - Hailey Bragg, Tanner Gehris, Ethan Hertz, Zacharey Markle, Karl Morrison, Christian Mounds, Tristan Randall, Abigail Solis, Gwendolynn Stewart, Skylar Zebell

6th grade - Ellie Adams, Grace Barry, Logan Bean, Taylor Bova, Reese Brown, Gillian Byerley, Hailey Compton, Mackenzie Foote, Kirstin Klein, Kayla Schott, Nathan Trucano

HONORS

8th grade - Joseph Benek, Alexander Bielfeldt, Madelyn Brown, Wyatt Crater, Margaret Dockery, Jeremy Eggleston, Drew Emanuelson, Natalie Flores, Payton Isaac, Collin Jankus, Carter Jones, Aaron Kempf, Conner Kingman, Meghan Lamping, Brianna Lestina, Chandler Lowe, Anthony Matke, Parker Michalec, Collin Monroe, Ethan Pfeiffer, Kellan Schott, Levi Sims, Nolan Smith, Kara Steffes, Lucas Thompson, Cameron

Wallace, Jady Walsh, Emily Wietting, Katelyn Wietting

7th grade - Ella Anderson, Lorelei Barchak, Brock Billingsley, Vincent Bollino, Kristofer Budick, Aiden Brown, Gianna Bruno, Adam Bryant, Kristofer Budick, Brenden Burch, Jayden Bustos, Hudson Cook, Scott Coronelli, Jaida Davis, Dion Grangent, Madison Hall, Austin Hay, Lukas Kilpatrick, Allison Knych, Cullen Lee, Kamryn Marschner, Andrew Martinez, Mark Martinez, Eian Master, Addyson McCollum, Miley Morris, Addison Perry, Landen Richardson, Aiden Shultz, Jady Stephens, Olivia Tilley, Morgann Toler, Dionna Walker, Ethan Ward, Tyson Whittum, Skylar Wilkins, Isabella Williams, Mason Yeates

6th grade - Broden Alexander, Donevan Bateman, Bradley Bond, Tommy Bond, Alexander Bradford, Jeremiah Bragg, Abigail Byerley, Chip Cline, Tyler Compton, Jonathan Doran, Michael Faletti, Steven Fernschuss, Bradyn Hartley, Molly Jarchow, Addyson Kilpatrick, Kaitlyn Lantka, Harlie Liebermann, Hayley Meyer, Zoey Miller, Corbin Neese, Carter Persic, Gracie Robinson, Kamrynn Skonetski, Jesse Tressouthick, Nicole Trulock, Peyton Walczak, Lucas Walsh, Austin Wietting, Alyssa Wollenzien, Kaaden Wood

Resurgence mitigations take effect statewide

STAFF REPORT

Beginning today (Wednesday), each region in the state of Illinois is now under enhanced resurgence mitigation protocols, due to the increasing positivity rates for the novel coronavirus.

Those mitigations went into effect at 12:01 a.m. today in Region 2, which includes Grundy County, after the region experienced three days of positivity rates above 8%.

The positivity rate for COVID-19 also continues on an upward trend in Region 7, which includes Will and Kankakee counties.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reports the regional data with a three day lag period. The latest numbers show the seven day rolling average positivity rate for Region 7 for Oct. 29, Oct. 30 and Oct. 31 as 11.4%, 12.4%, and 12.6%, respectively.

In just Will County, those numbers are 12%, 12.8%, and 13% for Oct. 29, Oct. 30, and Oct. 31, respectively.

Region 7 remains under Tier 1 resurgence mitigations. Per those mitigations, indoor service at bars and restaurants has been suspended, and meetings and gatherings are limited to 25% of venue capacity.

A region enters Tier 1 of resurgence mitigations when the positivity averages greater than or equal to 8% for three consecutive days, or if a region experiences a sustained increase in the positivity rate — identified as increases in 7 out of 10 days — and sustained increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness or reduction in hospital capacity that threatens surge capabilities (availability of ICU ormed/surgical beds under 20%).

Tier 1 resurgence mitigations include the following:

- All bars and restaurants must close at 11 p.m. and may reopen no earlier than 6 a.m. the following day.
- No indoor service at bars and restaurants.
- Tables should outdoors and should be placed 6 feet apart.
- No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or exiting.
- No dancing or standing indoors.
- Meetings and gatherings are limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room

capacity both indoors and outdoors.

- No party buses.
- Gaming and Casinos close at 11 p.m., are limited to 25% capacity, and must follow mitigations for bars and restaurants, if applicable.

If the positivity rate averages less than or equal to 6.5% percent over a 3-day period, the region will return to Phase 4 mitigations under the Restore Illinois Plan.

If the positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8%, IDPH will continue to monitor the region to determine if additional mitigations are needed.

If the positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8% after 14 days, more stringent mitigations can be applied to further reduce spread of the virus, which could include reducing capacity on organized group recreation, fitness or other activities supported by local contact tracing data and temporary suspension of certain activities.

If that happens, Tier 2 mitigations would include the same rules for bars, restaurants, casinos, gaming and party buses as Tier 1, plus the following:

- Meetings, social events and gathering are limited to 10 guests in both indoor and outdoor settings.
- Organized group recreational activities, including sports, but excluding fitness centers, will be limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors.
- Groups are limited to 10 or fewer people.

In addition, IDPH recommends the following actions be taken during Tier 2:

- Display prominent masking and distancing signage.
- Discourage non-essential travel to other states and international locations.
- Discourage groups greater than 4 individuals in ages 12 to 17 from congregating outside of school.
- Promote work from home when possible.

IDPH will continue to track the positivity rate in regions requiring additional mitigations over a 14-day monitoring period to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigation should remain in place.

Again, if the positivity rate averages less than or equal to 6.5% over a 3-day period, the region will return to Phase 4 mitigations under the Restore Illinois Plan

If the positivity rate averages between 6.5% and 8%, IDPH will continue to monitor the region to determine if additional mitigations are needed.

If the positivity rate averages greater than or equal to 8% after 14 days, more stringent mitigations may be applied to further reduce spread of the virus, entering Tier 3.

Case positivity and test positivity rate are both relevant and offer insight into the bigger COVID-19 picture. Case positivity helps us understand whether changes in the number of confirmed cases is due to more testing or due to more infections. Whereas, test positivity accounts for repeated testing and helps us understand how the virus is spreading in the population over time.

The IDPH on Tuesday reported 6,516 new confirmed cases of coronavirus disease in Illinois and 68 additional deaths, including two in Will County - a female in her 50s, and a female over the age of 100.

As of Tuesday afternoon, IDPH is reporting a total of 430,018 cases, including 9,878 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years.

Between Monday and Tuesday, laboratories have reported 82,435 specimens for a total 7,958,856.

As of Monday night, 3,594 people in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 755 patients were in the ICU and 326 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators.

The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from Oct. 27 through Nov. 2 is 8.2%. This is the number that IDPH has been consistently reporting in its daily releases and is calculated using total cases over total tests.

Similar to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, IDPH has been using test positivity for regional mitigation metrics on its website since mid-July. Test positivity is calculated using the number of COVID-19 positive tests over total tests.

On Oct. 29, IDPH began reporting the statewide test positivity in its daily releases.

The preliminary seven-day statewide test positivity from Oct. 27 through Nov. 2 is 9.9%.

Case positivity and test positivity rate are both relevant and offer insight into the bigger COVID-19 picture. Case positivity helps to understand whether changes in the number of confirmed cases is due to more testing or due to more infections. Whereas, test positivity accounts for repeated testing and helps us understand how the virus is spreading in the population over time.

All data 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.

RCMS celebrates Red Ribbon Week

Reed-Custer Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week, the week of October 26 – October 30.

Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

Dress up days were as follows: Monday – Wear Red Day, Tuesday – PJ Pant Day: "Follow Your Dreams, Don't do Drugs," Wednesday – Clash Day: "Drugs Make You Look Ridiculous," Thursday – Sports Day: "Team Up and Sport an Attitude Against Drugs," and Friday – Day Before Halloween: "Scare Away Drugs."

Announcements were made each day, with Monday being the mean-

ing of Red Ribbon Week, and the other days being facts and statistics about drugs.

Red Ribbon Week bracelets, donated by the Braidwood Police Department, were distributed to students. Students had the opportunity to sign a drug-free pledge to be hung up in the commons.

Each grade level did activities around Red Ribbon Week in their Panther Times. 8th graders heard a presentation from members of the Braidwood Police Department, 7th grade created drug-free banners, and 6th grade colored Red Ribbons to hang up on the office.

In lieu of the typical end of the week assembly, PE teachers hosted Pinball competitions within classes ("Dodge Drugs"), with the winners earning Red Powerade.

What's for lunch at Reed-Custer schools?

Mon., Nov. 9: mini corn dogs, chicken rice, peas, fruit and milk

Tues., Nov. 10: hot dog, baked beans, string cheese, chips, fruit and milk

Wed., Nov. 11: Veterans Day, no school

Thu., Nov. 12: popcorn chicken, au gratin potatoes, corn, fruit and milk

Fri., Nov. 13: breakfast pizza, hashbrown, fruit and milk

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COMET SPORTS

Comet players, coaches voice opinions on IHSA's decision

Reed-Custer girls and boys basketball players got sixth-man support from the Illinois High School Association last week after Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker nearly canceled winter sports.

The IHSA approved the playing of winter sports on Wednesday, a day after Gov. Pritzker upgraded basketball to the "high risk" level putting the 2020-2021 season in jeopardy.

Reed-Custer athletic director Chuck Anderson is still trying to wrap his head around the events that transpired last week but he is glad to hear there would be a season for the players' sake.

"It was certainly a whirlwind over the last couple of days," said Anderson. "My first reaction was I was thrilled for the student athletes as they may have an opportunity to play. I kind of anticipated it to get pushed back but I was really happy for the kids that it wasn't pushed back."

Anderson notes the difference between playing and having seasons canceled.

"I see a much more positive interaction when they're playing sports or outside playing together," added Anderson. "That's what they're missing and the fall season being kind of reduced with different sports other than golf for us, I think that's a big part that is missing and just the school schedule in general being different for them. It's just things are different. For everybody they are, school looks much different than it has been."

For Daniele Cherry, a volleyball and basketball two-sport athlete, it has been a rough fall.

"Without being able to play sports is extremely upsetting," said Cherry. "I love sports and not being able to play my senior year is the worst feeling ever. I regret all those times I've taken for granted. I just wish things would

go back to normal and we would get our seasons back."

Hope was brought to Cherry and her teammates when she heard about the IHSA standing up for their student-athletes.

"I felt excited because they are actually giving us a chance to play and do what we love again."

While a season is better than no season at all and even if it does come at a price, Cherry is all for it.

"I personally don't like the masks," explained Cherry. "I think I can speak for everyone that they make it hard to breathe but if the masks are the only way we can play then I will gladly wear them."

The governor came back on Thursday, saying legal action could be taken, and fines administered to any school who defies the state's health department. That didn't stop the IHSA from issuing winter sport guidelines on Friday.

Included in the guideline is it will be up to the schools and local health departments to decide if spectators will be allowed to attend games.

Basketball seasons can begin on Nov. 30 ending on Feb. 13.

Contests will be between only conference opponents or from the same COVID region.

As for postseason play, a state series is to be determined so the season will go as far as Feb. 13, encouraging teams to leave the week of Feb. 8-13 open for postseason games.

There can only be 50 people in the gym for games, meaning players, coaches, timers, paid/volunteer game officials and media make up the 50 people.

If they are allowed, all fans will be masked and

spread out with at least six feet between each family and 30 feet away from the team benches which will both be placed on the side with the scorer's table.

The same goes for the players on the floor. Even if they're playing, they will have to be masked.

Any mask modification requests due to a documented medical condition, must come through an accommodation request which can be accessed through the IHSA.

Due to players wearing masks during the games, a media time-out will be taken each quarter at the first dead ball under the five minute mark to give players an opportunity to catch their breath.

Any basketball used as part of warm-ups or game play will be cleaned and sanitized between each use.

The same goes for game balls before each contest and for all equipment used before the game.

This includes the gym, chairs, scorer's table, locker rooms and the bleachers.

There should be two sanitized game balls to switch in and out during quarter breaks and full time-out, sanitizing them after each use.

Other game specific guidelines include spacing out the throw in and omitting the jump ball.

Officials, who will also be masked, will stand six feet or more away from the player making the throw-in and bounce the ball to that player on any throw-in.

There will be no jump ball at the beginning of the game. Instead, the ball will be given to the visiting team for the first possession of the game. The alternating possession will then be set after the initial throw in.

In an overtime period, possession will be decided by the flip of a coin. Just like it is decided in football, the head coaches will meet in the center of the court with the visiting coach making the call on the coin flip.

The competitive cheer season will be able to start on Nov. 30 with the season running through Feb. 13 like basketball. The only difference is they will have a state series.

Sectionals will take place on Jan. 30 with the state finals on Feb. 5 and 6.

No physical contact is allowed, meaning pyramids/tossed partner stunts and lifts are prohibited.

Just like basketball, masks must be worn by everybody.

If poms, signs and flags are used, they can't be shared.

With pyramids, tosses and partner stunts out, the raw score on an IHSA score sheet will now be out of 55 possible points instead of 100.

As far as practices, which begin Nov. 16, it is best to have workouts in pods of the same students who are always training and rotating together. This will ensure more limited exposure if someone develops an infection.

During competition warm-ups the hosts must establish firm arrival times for participants. If cheerleaders arrive early, they must stay in their vehicle until the appointed time.

For invitationals, auxiliary spaces can be used for holding areas for participants, meet personnel, spectators, etc. as long as they allow for social distancing and are kept at 50 people or less capacity.

Competition times should be spaced out.

There will be no live awards. Instead, it is suggested to administer awards online.

Ricketts commits to playing for ONU Tigers

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Reed-Custer outfielder Abrey Ricketts will continue playing close to home as she has committed to play college softball at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL.

Ricketts said her decision was between Aurora University and ONU, and it came down to who offer the better program to achieve her major.

"It was probably the social work program," said Ricketts. "It was a lot more in details and had a lot more offers in each categories of social work I want to be in."

Ricketts wants to specialize in medical social work or child welfare.

While balancing school and sports can be difficult, Abrey, who currently holds a 3.648 GPA, will manage her time to ensure she completes all of her assignments on time.

"I just try, in the time when I'm not practicing or during games, to manage my

school work and even if it means doing it right before a practice or while I'm eating, I'll do it."

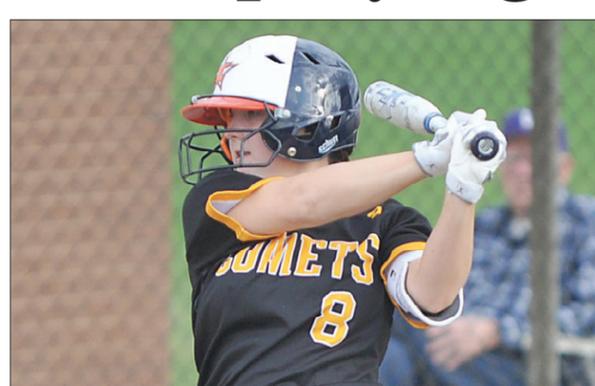
Ricketts knew softball was the sport for her right from the start. She plays volleyball and basketball but knew early softball was her preference. It was also a family sport.

"I played tee ball when I was three or four and it was the competition, and my mom played softball all of her life. She kind of had a major part in it. She kind of just pushed me that way. I just loved it ever since."

Once she got to high school, she also played on a travel team, which helped her seek out recruiting options.

"It was probably in the beginning of this year before COVID hit. The DIII and NIAA coaches were the coaches that could come and watch. DII and DI couldn't really so I had talked to Olivet coach a lot because she came to watch us a lot."

The travel team has a web-



LADY COMET SENIOR Abrey Ricketts has committed to play softball at Olivet Nazarene University in the spring of 2021.

site called Sportsrecruits.com which offered easy access to coaches by email.

"We can just search a school to make sure they have what we want to study, and send them an email to come watch us. They'll come

watch us and after the game they'll talk to us. There are a couple other girls on my travel team that are also going so she kind of just came to watch all of us and had told me she wanted to offer me something and wanted to be in further

contact if I was interested."

ONU coach Hannah Gardner told Ricketts she had a lot of the tools the Tigers are looking for.

"She said she really liked how much of a great offensive player I was and that I had a strong bat for the team."

Ricketts will be playing somewhere in the outfield and while she hopes to be in the starting lineup, she just wants to help the team wherever she gets placed.

"Having a starting position would be awesome but I would want to have some position on the team my freshman year because her way of going with things is she bats the best nine. My goal is to keep working at things as hard as I can and be that one person of the nine."

To make her case she hopes to improve her .356 batting average from 2019 on a sectional appearance team that finished 18-12-1. The Lady Cat senior had two home runs as a sophomore to go along

with her consistent bat.

Ricketts' decision was also influenced by the way Olivet Nazarene conducts practices.

"Originally, I had always imagined I was going to go to Aurora because they had their master's program. But then I watched a couple of practices at Olivet. I watched the way coach Gardner ran them. Just the way she explained what they did throughout the season. I sensed that same hometown feeling that I am used to. It just made me feel at home."

Ricketts will hopefully get to finish her senior year at RCHS with a season not riddled with Covid-19 changes. The Lady Comets already know they'll be playing later into the summer but that's fine with Ricketts as long as they get to play and return to the regional championship for the fourth time in the last five years. After that, she's off to Olivet in the fall.

Coach Varland, pitcher collaborate for Lady Comets dream team

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Ever wondered who would make a Reed-Custer softball dream team?

Former Reed-Custer softball coach John Varland and former Reed-Custer pitcher Kenna Wilkey put together some names of who they would be ideal players on the roster.

Varland, who coached 24 years from 1984 to 2008, started with catcher Kim Dunn who enhanced the skills of some of the best Lady Comet pitchers.

"She was really good," said Varland. "She was both a really good fielder and a good hitter as well. She was a two-way player."

Jamie Eller, a catcher from 1991-92, was another one of Varland's picks. "She was the only junior held over from the second place team at state. She had a cannon for an arm."

Another was Renee Campbell caught Missy Nowak for two seasons. "She was really solid. Nobody ran on her. Nobody. You were a dead duck. Don't even try!"

Wilkey would have her catcher, Bri Smtih behind the plate.

"She was my catcher ever since we were little and one of my best friends," said Wilkey. "She would be catching."

Wilkey faced her old teammate now that they're wearing different uniforms from opposing universities.

"I pitched against her when our teams were facing off in the Big 10," commented Kenna. "It was a weird feeling facing off against your catcher in a game. She hit a little...it was kind of like a swinging bunt back to the mound and I picked it up and threw to first. We hugged and laughed about it after the game."

In her final season, Smith collected 25 hits, a home run, seven doubles and drove in 17 runs.

Morgan Luckey, a 2013 graduate, was selected as another catcher that would add depth to the team. She was a home run hitter with

three round-trippers during her senior season.

Other catches mentioned were Melissa Keca (96-97) and Sarah Ewert (94-96) and Grace Colclasure (2016-19).

Pitchers

Varland ranks Missy Nowak as the best he ever coached. She led the Lady Comets to a second in state finish in 1991 when the Lady Comets finished 32-6.

"She was the premiere player in softball history. It'd be like 'Before Nowak' and 'After Nowak'. She was just an awesome player. Unbelievable," Varland said.

Nowak led the Comets from 1988-91 with the most wins. Varland noted she has the wins record by far.

"She only had two as a freshman but after that, she had close to 80 wins in her career."

And she was no slouch with the bat, hitting right around .500 each year.

"I know her senior year, she had more hits as a hitter than she gave up as a pitcher."

She went on to play college softball at DePaul University, being named First Team All-American in 1994 and 95.

Nowak still has records at DePaul, including her on-base percentage in 1995 which was off the charts at a .552. She is tied for first with 59 RBIs in 1993. She played the second most games there, starting 249 collegiate contests. She had one of the best batting averages, hitting .386 (287-for-744).

She leads in career slugging percentage (.637), RBIs (180), OBP (.495), second in hits (287), leads in career triples (20), third in doubles (60), runs leader (183), total bases (474), second in walks (141) and she is fifth in steals (63).

Nowak tried out for the Olympic softball team, made it and she was the last girl cut from the squad.

"That's how good she was just to give you an illustration," commented Varland.

a very good second option in a best of three wild card series.

Keenan won 34 games (34-3) with an 1.18 earned run average, pitching a six-hit shutout to earn third place in state for the Lady Comets with seven of her 158 punchouts on the season coming in that game.

"Colleen was a pitch-to-contact and get the out type pitcher," commented Varland. "She relied more on her defensive play rather than blowing the ball past people. We were really good at defending balls that got behind her. We were really good at defense. Put the ball in play and we'll catch it."

Wilkey deserves to be on that pitching like too. Kenna captured 41 wins at Reed-Custer, spinning 10 no-hit gems. She was always one step ahead of opposing hitters, fanning over 1,000 batters. She said she punched out her 1,000th batter in a game against Seneca, and didn't even know it.

"I had just struck out a girl at the plate and then all of a sudden my mom stood up and was cheering," said Kenna. "I'm like what? Everybody else put up 1,000 signs and that's when I realized. I was locked in before that."

Tenille Wren and Amy Dearing would be slotted in the four and five spots of the rotation. Nikki Flowers and Jeannine Keca were chosen as other pitchers to use out of the bullpen.

"Nikki split time with Keca in her junior year," said Varland. "When she was a senior, she did 95% of the pitching."

Flowers pitched at the University of St. Francis from 1998-01 where she was close to breaking the all-time record for wins.

"The first college experience she got was against the University of Iowa so she fired a fastball in there and the girl launched it over the fence. Welcome to college."

She still is listed in the record books, fourth in career wins (60), seventh in innings

pitched (589.1), sixth in strikeouts (311), seventh in career ERA (1.76) and she collected 20 career shutouts.

First base

At first base, Val Yarborough was a unanimous selection.

She was a big part of the third place team in the 2002-03 season. That season, Yarborough hit .414 and smacked two of the team's seven home runs.

Behind Yarborough at first was Tracy Jasper, who played in 1997-98 during their two regional championships.

"Val and Tracy were really good with the glove and they were both really good clutch hitters. Val was a power hitter. She could really hammer them."

Antoinette Hill is second option.

Hill was instrumental on the mound but also at the plate during her four years as a Comet. It was one of those things where Wilkey left so Hill took over.

From 2016-19, Hill was not only their leader on the mound, collecting 36 wins with 371 punchouts, but she led them at the plate, hammering seven long balls during the 2019 season, that's good for first overall.

Shortstop

At short, Varland went with Stephanie Wren, who started at shortstop when Nowak was pitching from 1988-91 when the Lady Comets.

"She played at short even though she wanted to play outfield. She was the same class as Missy because it takes more than one to score them and you can't win."

Diana Clifford was another very good shortstop, who played for the Comets from 2001-03. Clifford led the Comets with a .495 batting average and 13 doubles during their third place finish.

Another really good shortstop was Beth Schott, who played for a hot regional champions of 1998 that went 23-12. He remembers her stealing

home like it happened yesterday.

"In the regional final against Gardner, she led off with a triple. We wanted to do a safety squeeze and we couldn't execute it so we struck out trying to do so Beth said, 'the heck with this', and she stole home on the return throw to the pitcher. She timed it perfectly and stole home. We beat them 7-1 or 7-2."

When she was a junior, she hit .415. They thought she was having a down year in her senior year but realized it was only a down year for her. She was hitting .390.

Kim Wren, who played from 1985-88, was an outfielder until her final two seasons but she also pitched and played shortstop as well.

"She was really a good player. Her talent was way above everybody else's. She was a senior when Missy was a freshman so there was some overlap that year."

Stacy Sainter was picked later at shortstop.

"When she was a sophomore, she made the all-tournament team at the state finals."

Gabby Sarrazin and Reilly Williams were mentioned as an honorable mention for shortstops.

"Reilly was extremely fast," said Kenna. "She would always get stuff going when she got on base."

Kelsi Dillon could be considered an honorable mention pick at shortstop.

Third base

Varland slotted Toni Langdon at third base. He notes she was the best third baseman he's ever had.

Suzie Skole was another very good third baseman.

"Anytime a team wanted to sacrifice bunt to move a runner to second, Skole would throw them out at second for a force play. She had a hell of an arm. They both did and they both were pretty good in that situation. They both were really good hitters too."

Wilkey likes Haley Mazon as a good backup because of her versatility to play almost every infield spot and catch

Georgia Votta was selected as an honorable mention pick at third base.

Second base

Varland picked Cathy Smith to be the starting second basemen. "She was super fast."

Carol Hrpcha, who played in the mid-80s was selected too.

"Carol was really a good player. She played outfield before Cathy graduated then she moved to second base."

Veronica Sarrazin was his third option at the second base spot. "She was really good with the glove."

Kenna placed Michelle Mack at second base behind Smith, Hrpcha and Sarrazin.

Outfielders

Even though Varland's best defenders were on the infield, that didn't mean they were subpar defenders in the outfield.

"I usually put my best fielder in right field because of our pitching because most of the balls will be hit that way. We were strong on the infield."

Quite the contrary as he had a great group out there led by Jamie McCreery in center.

"She was awful darn good," he commented. "She could throw a ball a mile on a line. Don't take any extra bases on that girl."

Luci Hernandez, who played from 1988-90, was another outfielder that Varland named.

Stephanie Sharp, who played with Jasper in 1997-98, was the third defender he listed in the outfield.

"Sharp and Jasper actually wound up playing together at Joliet Junior College and they won a national championship there."

Amanda Fugett, who played outfield from 1996-97, was another great outfielder.

Stacie Caise (95), Haley Hamilton, Ashley Cirrencione, Mackenzie Keith and Haley Richey were mentioned as honorable mention in the outfield.



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NOVEMBER 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						

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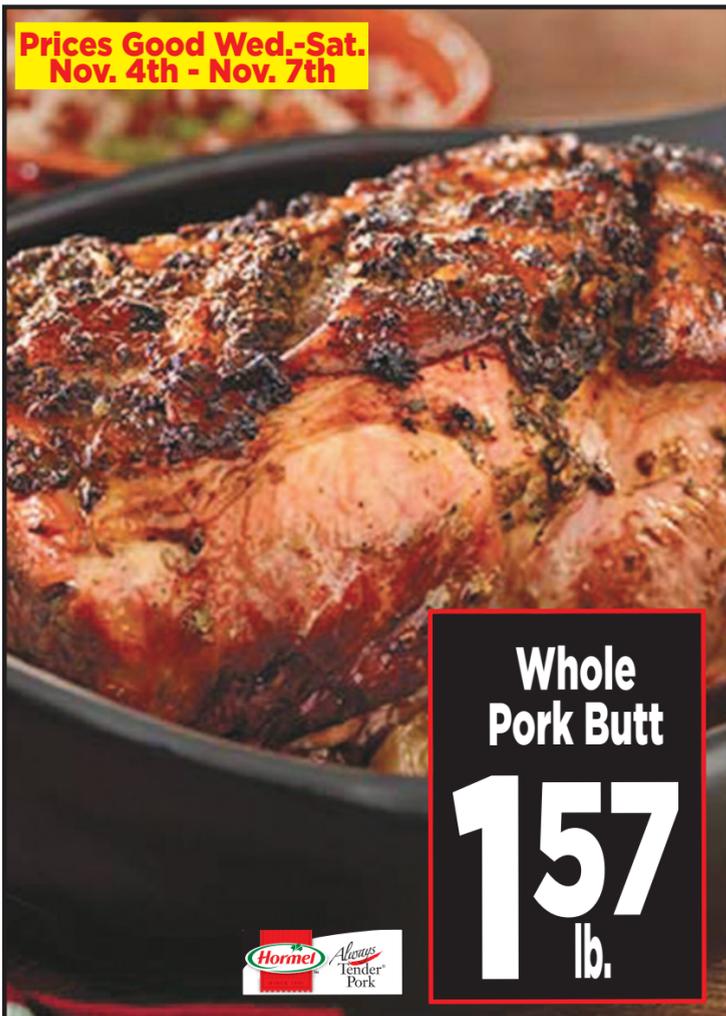
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Prices Good Wed.-Sat.
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Prices Good Wed.-Sat.
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