

Political games look similar through time

RC HS volleyball dream team picks



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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER



Photos provided

FORTY-NINE STUDENTS from Reed-Custer High School participated in this year's Box City event on Oct. 30, raising \$1,700 to benefit local food pantries, as well as awareness for hunger and homelessness.

Box City teaches students about need, kindness

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Each fall, members of the RCHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) take one night out of their normal lives and put themselves in the shoes of those less fortunate.

The annual Box City event gives those students a chance to see for themselves the hardships faced by homelessness.

On Oct. 30, 49 members of FCCLA as well as RCHS staff advisors once again participated in the event, spending the night in box shelters or tents to experience what it is like to spend the night without a home.

This year's event brought students indoors due to even colder than expected temperatures, with staff opting for that measure in the wake of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. But despite having a bit more shelter than in years past, it was still an important and powerful lesson for the teens who took part.

In addition to the experience, the students raised funds for local food pantries. This year, the FCCLA was able to earn \$1,700 in donations.

For RCHS freshman Natalie Crater, 14, this was her first year at the event. Her sister Beth Crater, a 17-year-old junior, was participating for the second time. The pair raised a combined \$315 by texting the event's GoFundMe link to family and friends and explaining the cause.

The students said it was an experience to remember.

"Spending time at school with friends and hanging out was fun," Beth said of the

event. "We have been so limited with quarantine."

For Natalie, her favorite part of the night was being able to have a little bit of fun.

"The Scavenger Hunt we completed throughout the school was fun — we won," she said.

But it wasn't just a night out or fun and games.

The sisters and their peers took with them some important lessons from the evening.

"[I learned] how hard it could be for those that are homeless," Beth said. "Even though we realize we still had lots of resources available to us at school like heat, our food stash, and our shelter."

Freshman Olivia Williams, 14, participating in Box City for the first time, raised the most money individually for the event.

"I raised \$250, by asking for people to donate for the cause out of the kindness of their hearts, or to at least spread the word," she said.

Olivia said she learned a lot from the experience overall.

"I enjoyed the feeling of doing something for a good cause," Olivia said. "It makes me proud of myself when I can bring kindness to the world. Throughout this entire experience I have learned to appreciate what I have."

The teens hope that the community sees the event not as just an annual fundraiser, but a real wake up call to the realities of homelessness that some people face.

"Not having resources is harder than it seems. Also to use the resources you do have

SEE BOX CITY, PAGE 2



RCHS FRESHMAN OLIVIA Williams raised \$250 for this year's Box City event, the highest amount raised by an individual during this year's awareness and fundraising campaign.



RC School Board approves tax levy

BY BRIAN MURPHY
CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Education for Reed-Custer School District #255 approved \$27,500,000 for the estimated 2020 tax levy during its monthly meeting held Wednesday.

This levy creates an estimated tax rate of 3.9838, up slightly from the previous 2019 levy of \$27 million and final tax rate of 3.9236.

"It's a slight change from last year and it can change slightly depending on what's actually expended. We are anticipating about a \$0.06 increase there. This is the final levy related to our seven-year agreement with Exelon. We are at a point there where we will see where Exelon goes and hopefully begin that negotiation process again," Superintendent Mark Mitchell said.

The financial breakdown of the 2020 levy is \$20,220,000 for Education, \$4,600,000 for Operations and Maintenance, \$1,350,000 for Transportation, \$60,000 for Working Cash, \$320,000 for I.M.R.E., \$320,000 for Social Security, \$0 for Fire Prevention & Safety, \$250,000 for Liability Insurance, \$380,000 for Special Education and \$0 for Lease/Rent.

Board members unanimously approved the minutes from the October 21, 2020

meeting, authorization for payment of bills and the Treasurer's report. Other action items on the agenda were also approved including Personnel, Building Usage Request, and Approval of 2020-2021 Title 1 School Wide Plans.

COVID-19 Update

As of 11/18, Reed-Custer had experienced a total of 53 positive cases including 31 students and 22 staff members. Except for the cases reported since 11/8, all individuals have returned to school. Changes at the middle school and high school have continued to help minimize the number of positive cases. Following Thanksgiving break, changes will be implemented at Reed-Custer Elementary School to help space all students at least 6 feet apart while eating during lunch.

Budget News

"For the budget update, remember we said at the beginning we would like to stay at \$7.4 million? I think we are going to come in under that so optimistically I'll say that to you. I'll have a better feel for that once we see where we actually end up with contingencies and some other things in the next month, but the budget is looking very

SEE BOARD, PAGE 2

Morris Hospital nears capacity level

STAFF REPORT

A resurgence of COVID-19 has had a major impact on the only hospital in Grundy County. Morris Hospital officials said the facility has witnessed a 400% increase in coronavirus admissions since the beginning of the month.

Morris Hospital announced last week it was nearing capacity as COVID-19 hospitalizations were increasing. Mark Steadham, the hospital's president and CEO, reported that the 89-bed facility had 80 inpatients as of Nov. 17 and half had COVID-19.

"The situation is very serious and well beyond anything we experienced last spring," Steadham said in a Nov. 18 press release.

In its Nov. 18 release, Morris Hospital reported its testing capabilities have significantly diminished in the past two weeks due to a supply shortage. The existing supply of rapid tests is being reserved for admitted patients, all other specimens are sent out with results typically being received within 2-5 days.

Tier 3 resurgence mitigations are now in effect throughout Illinois in the latest effort to slow the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Per those mitigations, bars and restaurants continue

to be restricted from offering indoor service. Additional mitigations include capacity limits at grocery stores and pharmacies of 50%, funerals are limited to 10 guests, and all other meetings/gatherings, including weddings and private parties, are prohibited.

Additionally, health and fitness centers, personal care services, malls, and retail stores outside of grocery stores or pharmacies are limited to 25% capacity.

Masks and social distancing remain mandatory in all public spaces.

As of Nov. 21, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported that the rolling positivity rate for Region 7, which includes Will County, was at 18.5%, a slight decline from days previous. In Will County alone, the rate was 18.7%.

In Grundy County, the rate was 22.5%, the highest of the 20 counties that make up the North Central Region (Region 2).

In its weekly update, published last Friday, the Grundy County Health Department

SEE COVID, PAGE 2



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Box City

wisely," Beth said. "I would like non-participants to know that there are other people in this world who are struggling, so taking the time to support one another would help greatly," Olivia added. "Appreciate what you have, it could be taken away at any moment." Box City takes place each fall outside the high school. During most years, the event coincides with a Friday night football game, where fans are asked to donate food which is then delivered to local pantries. While those plans had to be shelved this year, the spirit

of the event remained. During the overnight event, students set up their own tents or boxes and experience a night in the elements, to raise money and awareness for homelessness and hunger. The goal is for the students to step outside of their own comfort zones and experience what it might be like to be homeless. RCHS Family and Consumer Science educator and FCCLA sponsor Katelin Arseneau said students should be proud of their participation in the event. "The FCCLA sponsors are so proud of the student effort this year and were so happy they decided to stick it out despite the new restrictions that had to be put into place," Arseneau said.



SISTERS NATALIE AND Beth Crater were able to raise a combined \$315 for this year's Box City. This was Natalie's first year participating, and Beth's second.



BOXES THAT MADE UP the sleeping quarters for this year's Box City participants are lined up near the main entrance at Reed-Custer High School. The event had to be moved inside as part of health and safety precautions due to the coronavirus pandemic. Participants wore face coverings throughout the event to adhere to safety standards.



Board

favorable," Mitchell said. **Administrative Reports** Danielle Valiente was not present for the meeting, so Mitchell presented her Director of Teaching and Learning Report. Artwork by Grace Berry in sixth grade was featured in the Illinois Art Education Association's Student Art Show. Marie Simonelli, high school senior, completed her HP Service Certification Training and is now able to work on HP com-

mercial desktops/laptops and maintain routine hardware updates. Grant applications have been submitted for Title 1 - Approved items, CTE, and Gabby Green including convertible benches, fish and digital water testers, and decomposable lunch trays and planter boxes. Assistant Superintendent Mark Hulbert was not present, so Mitchell presented his Assistant Superintendent of Operations Report. The report included projects to consider for future budgets, annual life safety inspections, results from an Excel X Energy Audit with a performance rating of 104 percent, and a report that

all kitchens passed the health department inspection. Mitchell said expenses can be reduced through leasing the same activity vans another year. "We have decided that we think it's financially responsible to keep the activity vans a second year. We hardly used them and it's cheaper; they have hardly any miles on them and we just got done with the nice lettering. Usually we lease and trade every year, but it seems cost-effective to the savings of about \$6800 just to keep them," Mitchell said. **WILCO** Board member Chris Cavanaugh said the pandemic has heavily influenced the WILCO program and delivered positive news that two of their "Students of the Quarter" came from Reed-Custer school district. "In person attendance was very low, it normally would be over 300 students but was only around 80 and they are very concerned with

the healthcare field students. "She said the feeling that they are getting from the kids is that a lot of them that are enrolled in the CNA program and the Intro to Healthcare are looking at it as this COVID is pretty nasty stuff and maybe I don't want to go into the healthcare field," Cavanaugh said. "So, they are apprehensive to see what's going to happen after the first of the year when second semester starts to see how many of those kids actually continue. There are still some good things going on there but it's a different world out there so we will see how it goes." Secretary Jesse Morris commended WILCO for their educational efforts and career training. "My son is in the welding program there and they are actually teaching these kids a career. I'm extremely impressed with the teachers and what they're doing there, it's a husband and wife team," Morris said.

PERSONAL INJURY

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Braidwood Lions Club to sell Christmas Trees

The Braidwood Lions Club will once again be holding their annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser beginning Sunday, November 22nd. The club's stand will be located in the Whitmore Ace Hardware parking lot in Braidwood. Balsam trees ranging in height from 6 to 9 feet along with small and large size decorated wreaths, grave blankets, small & large size grave pillows, and artificial gravesite flower vases will be for sale. Lions club house brooms, heavy duty brooms and whisk brooms will also be available for purchase. Hours are Monday - Friday, noon - 7 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last. Sales will be closed on Thursday, November 26, for Thanksgiving and will resume on Friday, Nov. 27. All proceeds from the tree sales will go back into the community in the form of the various community activities and humanitarian services that the Braidwood Lions Club provides throughout the year. For more information please call (815)791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.

Covid

reported the total number of positive cases had reached 1,869, three days later the IDPH had the total case count at 2,489 cases — an increase of 620 cases. As of Tuesday, the total number of cases reported in Will County since the start of the pandemic is 36,032, with 508 deaths. In the 60481 zip code, which includes Wilmington, Symerton, Shadow Lakes, and surrounding rural area, the total number of cases since March is 566. In zip code 60408, Braidwood, the total number of cases is 303. In Grundy County, total positives since the beginning of the pandemic is 2,539 with 16 deaths. Per CDC guidelines, persons awaiting test results should isolate and close contacts should quarantine for 14 days since their last encounter with a sick individual. To help slow the spread of the virus, state

and local officials continue to encourage residents to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth, maintain a six-foot distance from others, wash hands frequently, and stay home when if possible. IDPH offers daily COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd., Joliet. Testing sites open every day for everyone regardless of symptoms, and additional sites closest to our reading area including Aurora and Bloomington. The Aurora location, 2450 N. Farnsworth Ave., is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. while daily supplies last. Located at 1106 Interstate Dr., the Bloomington site is open daily while supplies last from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. IDPH testing sites will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. Testing will also be available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 28 at Minooka Community High School South Campus, 26655 W. Eames St., Channahon. Testing will be provided on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last.

The season for giving

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

'Tis the season for giving, and giving thanks. In the coming week individuals across the country and around the world will have an opportunity to give a little something to the groups and organizations that have made an impact in their communities. A number of noted days are ahead, but there is one that celebrates the spirit and generosity of giving — Giving Tuesday, recognized on social media under the hashtag #GivingTuesday. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday is a drive to promote charitable giving and benevolence. This day of giving was established in 2012 by New York City's 92nd Street Y in partnership with the United Nations Foundation in response to the commercialism that comes immediately after the fall holiday. Since its inception #GivingTuesday has inspired millions to give back and support the causes they believe in. #GivingTuesday has developed into a global movement and in 2019 it inspired hundreds of millions of people to get involved. The initiative raised \$511 million in on-line gifts with total financial gifts coming in at \$1.97 billion. Along with the financial support provided, #GivingTuesday generates much more for worthwhile organizations, non-profits and human service groups as mil-

lions of people across the globe volunteer their time and talents, perform acts of kindness and contribute of goods and services. There are many ways to give back from donations to support local non-profits and community organizations, donating food to the local pantry, filling the food and book bins, recycling clothing, taking part in a coat drive, lending your voice to a cause that matters to you or something as simple as shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk or sharing a warm plate of cookies. A number of area groups from local history museums to community theaters participate in the in the global day of giving. And, groups like Wilmington's Our Caring Closet, Community Foundation for Wilmington Parks, Recreation & Improvement and the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community have teamed up for #GivingTuesday with #GiveWilmington. The 2020 global day of giving is set for Dec. 1, but the generosity one shares can be any day of the week. Ahead of this #GivingTuesday, we offer a few suggestions of local organizations that accept charitable donations — Coal City Food Pantry, Help for Hope, Carbon Hill School Museum, Coal City Backpack Program and Small Town Theatrics to name a few. Check out the list of local non-profits and organizations posted on our website at www.freepressnewspapers.com

PETITIONS FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Petitions will be available beginning on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 for any Resident Member of the Braidwood Recreation Club who wishes to be placed on the Ballot for the Position of Director. Petitions may be obtained at the Club Office during the regular hours of 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Tuesday-Friday and 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Saturday. The office is closed between 11:00 A.M. and 12:15 P.M. on weekdays. Petitions must be picked up and returned by the individual who is running for the position. All Petitions, whether for Director or a By Law Change, must be turned in at the Club Office before the deadline of 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

The Braidwood Recreation Club will hold its Annual Meeting and Election on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at the Club Office at 7:00 P.M.

Mary Beth Davis
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Braidwood Recreation Club

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Deadline for the Prairie Shopper
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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
News and Advertising: Monday, noon

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Does anything ever change? Politics



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

The results of the U.S. presidential election were a mess. A Democratic candidate had emerged with the lead in the popular vote, but 19 electoral votes from four states were in dispute.

A severe economic downturn in had plunged the country into its severest depression to date, with widespread unemployment. The nation's economic woes, and allegations of rampant corruption presidential administration, helped Republicans win.

Does all of the above sound familiar? It shouldn't. All of the above comes from the pages of the history book, concerning the election of 1876, when Republican Rutherford B. Hayes won over Democrat Samuel Tilden. Hayes garnered 185 electoral

votes to Tilden's 184. But Tilden won the popular vote by over 200,000.

By January of 1877 the election had not been determined. In a letter to the editor, we read in the Joliet Signal, "A Democratic meeting was held at Rouse's Hall in Braidwood, on Friday evening, Dec 29th, 1876. The meeting was called to order by H. H. Levis, chairman, and at once proceeded to elect delegates to represent the Democracy of Braidwood on January 8th."

"Dr. H. Le Caron and Con. O'Donnell were elected and instructed to express the sentiment of the Democracy of this city and protest against the stealing of the Democratic candidate for President by a party of Republican thieves who are trying to have Hayes installed who was not elected but defeated by the great American people at the polls on November 7th, 1876."

Eventually a compromise was reached in Congress, where the Democrats agreed that Hayes was to be elected President, if he would withdraw Federal troops from the South and end Reconstruction. This he did.

Many blacks fled the

South, some of them ending up in Braidwood looking for jobs as miners. The Joliet Signal viewed this as a Republican plot having little to do with the striking white miners. We read, "The Republicans are now squarely pledged to the plan of importing vagabond negroes to take the places of experienced white miners, who offered to work for the same pay, if the companies would pay for the work they had already performed."

"The editor, of course, has a motive in favoring the driving of these white miners out of the county and the importing of two thousand negroes to fill their places. It would be adding just that much to the Republic vote of the county, a help which is greatly needed, in view of the Republican fraud of counting in Hayes and official stealing's of Republican office holders generally."

The election of 1880, four years later, was no different. The Democrats had not forgotten the steal of the presidency by the Republicans. Braidwood was the scene of a grand election rally.

"A rousing democratic open-air meeting was held at Mooney's new block last night.



SAMUEL JONES TILDEN

After a parade and music, honest Tom Butterworth opened the ball in a ten-minute speech, every word of which counted. Then Larry Harmon poured solid shot into the corrupt Republican Party for two long hours, showing up Garfield, Cullom, Hayes, and



RUTHERFORD B. HAYES

their whole crew. Wm. Mooney presided, and Dr. LeCaron was secretary of the meeting, at the close of which a healthy Hancock and English club was organized."

The 1880 election was not even close. Republican James A. Garfield won over Democrat

William English by 214 electoral votes to 155. Unfortunately, Garfield would die 6 months later from the results of an assassin's bullet.

So, as you can see, in the world of politics, the players change, but the political games do not.

A piece of history unearthed in Wilmington

A small piece of history was unearthed this month by members of the Wilmington Historical Society.

Last week, Bill Weidling with the WHS dug out what is believed to be an original mill stone from the spillway in Wilmington, one used by city founder Thomas Cox.

In 1838, Thomas Cox, Joseph Cox and Albert W. Bowen constructed a three foot high dam across the river, on the west side of the island where the current dam now sits.

Like other dams built during that time, the dam was constructed to force water down the east branch of the Spillway to provide water power.

Thomas Cox built a gristmill and carding machine in 1839 near the bridge over the mill race.

Dr. Bowen constructed a flour mill further down the east branch in 1839 also, consisting of six run stones producing 500 barrels of flour a day. That mill eventually went idle by the early 1870s, but was still uti-

lized for storage.

The Spillway was constructed out of rubble stone around 1870.

It was from the Spillway where the mill stone was recovered, located near the bottom center of the wall of rubble stone.

The other flour mill was later built by the bridge over the mill race, where Thomas Cox had built his gristmill in 1839, by McIntyre and Whitten, and was named the White Cloud Mill. This mill was built sometime between late 1840s to 1850s, after the removal of Thomas Cox's mill.

"This is why I believe the found millstone is from our town's founder Thomas Cox's mill," Weidling explained. "The millstone is of a design and type called French buhr and comes from the Marne Valley in northern France. The quarry was located in the area of La Ferete-sous-Jouarre."

La Ferete-sous-Jouarre was once known for the world's best millstones, but by the late 1700s, the quarry was depleted. Weidling said they then

shaped and dressed pieces of this rare and valuable stone into one millstone by banding it with a iron ring — the type that was found last week.

"The American Colonial cities and towns, imported them due to the quality," Weidling noted.

The stone is a type of siliceous rock called burstone, which has an open texture and

is a porous but tough fine grained sandstone or a silicified, fossiliferous limestone.

French millstones made a superior wheat product due to the stone's hardness and it's ability to grind a much whiter flour.

The newly discovered millstone was taken to the Wilmington Historical Society museum for display.



A MILLSTONE removed from a gristmill elsewhere in the U.S. shows how they were assembled using an iron band.



A CLOSE VIEW of the millstone section shows the rough surface that was perfect for grinding grain into flour.



A SECTION of stone believed to be part of an original mill stone used by city founder Thomas Cox is removed from an exposed stone wall near the mill race. Workers had to prop up the wall with beams in order to remove the mill stone without it collapsing.

A new way to reflect and remember

STAFF REPORT

An Angel of Hope stands in the center of Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park, a place for reflection and remembrance.

For 14 years the angel statue has served as a symbol of hope for all parents whose children have become angels, a place for bereaved parents to find peace, comfort and healing.

The local statue was brought to the community by Angels of Hope, Inc., and each year on Dec. 6, they invite the community to gather around the angel for a candlelight remembrance vigil.

As the day of remembrance approaches, the organization's board of directors has announced its decision to cancel this year's vigil in light of the on-going coronavirus pandemic.

"Our priority has always been and will continue to be a beacon of hope to those that have lost a child, but we must take into consideration the health and safety of our guests, supporters and community," said Angels of Hope board member Nicole Lusson.

"We recognize that many look forward to Dec. 6 every year as a time to reflect, remember and celebrate the memory of a child," she noted.

Although the traditional evening ceremony will not be held, the organization's members encourage the public to continue with the tradition of placing a single white flower at the base of the angel in honor of a lost child.

Through the generosity of Matt Baskerville, of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes, single flowers will be located near the angel should individuals be unable to bring one for placement.

The concept for the angel statue is taken from Richard Paul Evans' best-selling book, "The Christmas Box," in which an elderly woman grieves the loss of her daughter at the base of an angel monument. Although the story is mostly fictional, the monument once existed and is believed to have been destroyed by floods. A statue was later commissioned by the book's author in response to accounts of parents seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal.

Coal City's statue is the 69th nationwide and was dedicated to the community in October 2006.

"Although there will not be an organized event this year, Campbell Park remains a place for you to reflect, remember and cherish the memories of our children in the days and years to come. We wish you faith, love, grace and most of all hope," Lusson said.

Coat drive underway

The Christian Help Association and Our Caring Closet are collecting new and used coats and other outerwear to help our neighbors in need.

Anyone with new, or like new, coats, hats, gloves and mittens, scarves, boots and other outerwear can donate items until Dec. 12.

Donations bins can be found at Our Caring Closet, Tuffy's, Longest Realty,

Lanes, Riverfront Normington's, Wilmington Park District, The Crafter's Gallery, Wilmington VFW, Whitmore's, Grace Lutheran, First Christian, First United Methodist, First Presbyterian, St. Rose, Island City Baptist Church and Abundant Life Fellowship.

Godley Park to hold public hearing to sell \$750,000 park bonds

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE INTENT OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE GODLEY PARK DISTRICT, WILL AND GRUNDY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS TO SELL \$750,000 PARK BONDS

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Godley Park District, Will and Grundy Counties, Illinois (the "District"), will hold a public hearing on the 8th day of December, 2020, at 4:00 o'clock P.M. The hearing will be held in the Community Center, 500 South Kankakee Street, Godley, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive public comments on the proposal to sell bonds in the amount of \$750,000 for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto.

By order of the President of the Board of Park Commissioners of the Godley Park District, Will and Grundy Counties, Illinois.

DATED the 17th day of November, 2020.

Karl DeMarse
Secretary, Board of Park Commissioners,
Godley Park District,
Will and Grundy Counties, Illinois.

Published in the Braidwood Journal, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020.

Custer Fire planning for Toys for Tots

The Custer Fire Protection District is proudly teaming up with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve for this year's Toys for Tots Program. Area residents who wish to participate, can drop off a new unwrapped toy at the Custer Fire Station 21750, Hwy 113, Wilmington. between the hours of 9 a.m. 5 p.m., from now until Dec. 11, 2020 at 5 p.m.

Notice of Withdrawal from business

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL Certificate 32617

Public Notice is hereby given that on Nov. 13, 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of one of the persons owning, conducting and now withdrawing from the business known as HF CLASS OF 1969, located at 255 Larch Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423.

Withdrawal of owner's name: Janice Fryklund of 13212 N. Empire, Hayward, WI 54843.

Dated this 9th day of November, A.D. 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office this 9th day of November, 2020.

Edith A Plantinga,
Notary Public
Published in the Braidwood Journal
Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2020

Notice of New Owners for HF CLASS OF 1969

PUBLIC NOTICE Certificate of change Certificate 32617

Public Notice is hereby given that on Nov. 13, 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Will County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of persons owning and conducting the business known as HF CLASS OF 1969, located at 255 Larch Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423.

Addition of owner's names: Bonnie Clark, 255 Larch Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423. Marilyn Bonick, 11255 Pinecrest Court, Orland, IL 60467

Dated this 9th day of November, A.D. 2020.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office this 9th day of November, 2020.

Edith A Plantinga,
Notary Public
Published in the Braidwood Journal
Nov. 25, Dec. 2 & 9, 2020

SMI Woodcrafts files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE Assumed Name Publication Notice

Certificate 33672 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on November 5, 2020 wherein the business firm of SMI WOODCRAFTS, located at 529 Heritage Lane, Lockport IL 60441 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Scott Inskoop and Susan Inskoop
Owner Address: 529 Heritage Lane, Lockport, IL 60441

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 5th day of November, 2020.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Braidwood Journal
on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Braidwood Fire Protection District makes audit available

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2019 and ending on May 31, 2020 was prepared by our auditor, Brian Zabel & Associates, 1040 W. Route 6, Morris, IL 60450.

The fiscal year 2019-2020 audit has been filed with the County Clerk of Will County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Fire District Fire Station #1 located at 275 W. Main Street, Braidwood, IL from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Board of Trustees
Braidwood Fire Protection District
Published in the Braidwood Journal
on Nov. 25, 2020

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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.

Box is free

COAL CITY—In response to "Too much candy," it was mentioned that you can buy flat rate boxes at the post office to ship candy to the military overseas. The post office does not charge for flat rate boxes. You pay postage but you do not pay for the boxes, they are free.

Make it safe

CHICAGO—To the Editor: Sometimes doctors have to deliver bad news to their patients. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19, the physicians of Illinois implore you to reconsider your holiday plans this year. Large gatherings of family and friends inside a home or restaurant are not a good idea. Nor is playing that traditional Thanksgiving football game with a bunch of people you haven't seen in a long time. We are experiencing yet another dramatic increase in the number of Covid cases and our Illinois hospitals are filling up with patients. We know how much you want to celebrate, but your doctor wants you to stay healthy by avoiding situations that increase your risk of contracting the coronavirus. Sadly, that means staying away from your loved ones who may be most vulnerable to this deadly virus. Although many may be suffering from Covid-19 fatigue, it's important to stay particularly vigilant to protect against the spread of the coronavirus this holiday season. That means wearing a face covering in public places, keeping a physical distance from people who are not in your household, and washing your hands often and thoroughly. Enjoy the holidays safely and please consider a virtual gathering via computer or telephone. Robert W. Pantone, MD, President, Illinois State Medical Society.

Be safe

COAL CITY—According to the World Health Organization, since 1983 until now 32 million have died worldwide from Aids HIV. It's been 40 years since the Aids virus epidemic. Even after billions of dollars have been spent on medicines to keep people alive "worldwide." A new 38 million cases in 2019 were infected, 37 thousand in the US have been newly infected. Covid 19 is also a virus. We will eventually get a vaccine but like the flu Covid 19 will be with us for many years until the next virus comes along. Many Covid 19 carriers are not ill themselves and don't know they have the virus. That is why it's important to wear a mask in public. Please do! Think about it herpes, influenza, measles, mumps, ebola, rabies, shingles, chicken pox, common colds, all viruses. Antibiotics work for bacteria infection not for viruses. Be safe! Pray if you know how.

Where's Kwame?

BRAIDWOOD—Observation. With four more indictments in the Madigan/ComEd bribery case you don't see Illinois State Attorney General Kwame Raoul involved. Didn't we elected him to lead the state against corruption and fair justice? Just goes to show the Democrats take care of each other by looking the other way and not getting involved. Another sign of corrupt Illinois.

Unfair attacks

COAL CITY—The Trump haters got their wish. Here is a man that basically has done nothing wrong but the lynch mob will keep attacking him forever. He's done nothing but good for America. He has a Jewish son in law-daughter and Jewish grandchildren yet they call him racist.

News Max reruns

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill and I am watching some reruns on News Max about how the left attack Trump supporters marching in Washington D.C. which you could not find nor could I find on CNN or any other liberal news program. In my opinion it's like fighting a war. You have to fight lethally to prevent the other side from attacking you. And the left has been attacking lethally. This has to stop. These Democrat states, Democrat mayors do nothing about it. All they want to do is restrain the police. And I can bank your money on it, if that ever happened here I will fight back, because when it comes to somebody sucker punching someone like in that news Max reported and shown live that man had a right after being physically attacked to use lethal force.

Do-nothing Durbin

SHADOW LAKES—I listened to Dick Durbin speak at the big tech hearings and I can truthfully state that a six year old child would ask better questions. Censorship is a violation of the constitution of the USA and Dick Durbin doesn't seem to think what big tech is doing is violating any law. So maybe he should just go back and sit at his desk and collect his money from the taxpayers for doing nothing for his salary like he has been doing since he became a senator. When has he done anything for the people of Illinois? He did agree on the sanctuary laws which are also a violation of the laws of the state. Who does Dick Durbin work for, people in the USA illegally and people that censor the news or the oath of office he took to protect the laws of the USA and the American citizens lives.

Beware America

DWIGHT—One thing I want to remind people of is a statement from Ronald Reagan when he was president. He said "I'm here from the government and I'm here to help" Beware.

Collect those signs

WILMINGTON—The election is over and Biden and Kamala obviously won. So why not take those Trump signs down in your yard. It's time to move on Trump supporters because we're going to have some respect in the White House for the next four years.

Misguided party

WILMINGTON—The Democrat party has stated that they are the party of the people and that the people come first. But if this is true then why has the Democrat leadership been shipping employment overseas to foreign countries putting American citizens out of work and then condemn President Trump for bringing all the jobs back from overseas and increasing American citizens employment? The stock market had a boom but under Democrat control the stock market never went anywhere. When fuel prices skyrocketed but under President Trump the fuel prices dropped because our nation became fuel independent. Can someone please explain how the Democrat party is concerned about Americans when they seem to have been working on behalf of foreign countries instead of working for its citizens and their rights. What type of deal was made with China during the Obama administration with Joe Biden? Does anyone really believe that the democrat leadership really cares about any American citizen or the USA?

Make a difference

WILMINGTON—Be sure to follow Kuzma Care Cottage on Facebook, a wonderful group of volunteers who are helping to feed Wilmington residents in need. From time to time an anonymous "Donation Angel" appears who does matching \$ gifts for donations. For every \$ donated, and using Northern IL Food bank, Kuzma can buy \$8 of food for every \$1 donated. Another matching gift program coming soon and you can make a difference by helping to feed others. Love thy neighbor.

Trump's trip to Egypt

BRAIDWOOD—Joe Biden was named president-elect by almost all of the networks and state election results. This was about two weeks ago. Trump refuses to concede. He loses lawsuit after lawsuit. It appears that Trump went to Egypt to vacation at "D-NILE."

Across the nation

COAL CITY—If you're at all interested in the mess in California read Michael Anton's new book "The Stakes, America at the Point of No Return." He examines the left liberal one party Democrat state run by super wealthy Big Tech and Hollywood oligarchs. California housing most unaffordable in the nation. San Francisco highest homeless rate in nation. 900 for every 100,000 citizens. Tent camps on sidewalks for homeless drug addicts and mentally disturbed. Freeways and highways deteriorating from heavy traffic. Electric power framework a mess. California pays the highest state income tax, sales tax and gas taxes in the US to fund "welfare" benefits that go to 55 percent of states immigrants and 30 percent of its natives. With federal taxes factored in many middle class workers are forking over 50 percent of income to tax collectors. Now that Democrats



are in charge are we going to become like California on a national scale?

Happy is healthy

SHADOW LAKES—In 1994 at 44 years old I had a massive heart attack as these doctors called it. I don't know what is massive and what isn't. Six weeks later I had to get a quadruple bypass. So I exercise and watch my diet. And at that time I was into coil target shooting which every time you pull the trigger you get 24 pounds of recoil on your shoulder. I was very happy doing it. My doctor Theresa (?) at now St. James but Olympia fields Osteopathic told me happy people live longer. So you go ahead and do what you want to do even though other doctors said not to. It is the same thing with these Covid lockdowns. If you are a happy person you will survive things. If you are unhappy you will not. And here I am now at 71 years old and still doing what I like to do.

America's chumps

COAL CITY—Before the election Joe Biden said that some American citizens were chumps but that didn't bother the people who voted for him to be president. If Joe Biden is able to file presidential mandates the people that voted him into office will find out they are the real chumps. Since the rules he will put out will effect every American citizen and that will destroy the USA and the freedom that all Americans enjoy no matter what political party you prefer. If things change the voters of Joe Biden will still be ungrateful for everything they do they would prefer to be chumps rather than to have freedom.

Sad Thanksgiving

BRAIDWOOD—Americans have a lot of things to be thankful for at Thanksgiving but the Senate isn't one of them. Republican Senate Leader McConnell has no conscience and neither have most Senate members. During a recent televised appearance, McConnell giggled uncontrollably and proudly. Why? For his role in blocking the passage of the second round of sorely needed Covid-19 legislation to help small businesses, the unemployed and those who will be evicted from their homes. McConnell, who happily named himself the Grim Reaper, is delighted when he and fellow Republicans cause suffering toward others and they are amused when they abandon hard-working, self-employed entrepreneurs of the nation's Main Street that keeps our economy going. Renee K.

Election interference

SHADOW LAKES—I have a question. Why is it the Democrats and the whiners from Custer Park whine constantly about Russian interference when Trump won the election in 2016. But I haven't heard anything from the whiners in Custer Park or the Democrats or the liberal media about how Big Tech has interfered with this election. Can somebody answer me in the next sound-off or I'll give you my phone number 708-227-8870 the name is Dan Hill, thank you.

Take a bow

COAL CITY—Congratulations to South Dakota. The population infected by Covid-19 in proportion to population as a whole makes South Dakota's infection rate worse than any nation on earth. Take a bow, Governor Noem. You promised your citizens the freedom not to wear a mask and what you've given them instead is the world's greatest potential to catch the plague.

Kurt K.

Shut the heck up

SHADOW LAKES—Dan Hill, Dan Hill, Dan Hill. There your name has been printed giving you the attention you so dearly need for this week. So now you can go into the kitchen and pour yourself a nice cup of shut the heck up. PS. Go Joe.

It's like reality TV

COAL CITY—Quoting Mitt Romney on Trump: "It is difficult to imagine a worse more undemocratic action by a sitting American President." In America being undemocratic is being unpatriotic, un-American, and sad. All

the noise from Trump is theater, reality TV, not truth. The lies about votes have been proven untrue over and over again. Why the theater? To get voters like you, Dan Hill, to question democracy, the voting process, and to obstruct Biden in his presidency. We know it is reality TV, a show not real because when Trump's attorneys get into court their tune changes. They can get disbarred for lying to a judge, so they admit, yes there were Republican poll watchers in the room among other things. Trump and his minions can lie on TV because you have accepted the lies for 4 years. You, the Republican party and Trump are attacking Democracy because you believe in power over the will of the people. Sad and shame on you. MD

Stop the hate

COAL CITY—Over the last 4+ years, hate and violence has increased extensively without guidance from the Executive Branch to quell it. In fact, the opposite was condoned. We, as the United States, function much better when we can agree and compromise. Yes, disagreement is great; it is often needed for our Democracy to function properly like our forefathers envisioned it to be. It is time for the haters to let go and help find a solution (compromise) to whatever bothers them. Now, after the election, I look forward to the US being a respected world power again instead of portraying itself as a dictatorship as it has progressed to be. We, as citizens of the United States, can help stop the hate. Let's do it.

Says a lot

SHADOW LAKES—I'm listening to Joe Biden say that this is the most fair election in the history of the United States. So I guess this election exonerates President Donald Trump because if the Russians interfered the first time, why didn't they interfere this time? Can Gary Weidner answer me this question? Dan Hill

Ignoring state order

MORRIS—So the whole state is supposed to be on no indoor dining. Why are the restaurants open in the city of Morris? Why aren't the police closing them for allowing indoor dining? What is wrong with the Grundy County Health Department? They should go and inspect these restaurants and close them down. Also, all we need is more truck traffic around Morris. I see they are going to have a Love's truck stop on Brisbin Road off US Rt. 6. That is ridiculous. Anything for money. Please wear a mask.

History correction

WILMINGTON—Hey Dan, sorry to hear about your heart condition. So might I suggest you refrain from reading the sound-off page. From my own experience some of the sound-offs, including yours, get my heart rate elevated. Take care. I called to correct your history of the 2000 election. Gore was not declared the loser because the Supreme Court stopped the vote count in Florida and declared Bush the winner. It turned out that Gore won Florida by 500 votes but the project for a new American century decided we needed to invade Iraq and take their oil so the fix was in. And this plan was in place before September 11, 2001. In fact it was rejected by Daddy Bush so the neo contributors had to wait to start their war mongering until the next Republican president was in place. In closing, I wish you good health in these uncertain times. Stay safe.

Can you do better?

WILMINGTON—This is a question for all the people who display a Pritzker sucks sign. Is that all you've got? Or do you have any ideas or plans you could impart to the governor so as not to suck. Maybe one of you should run for office instead of using a crude insult that changes nothing.

Destroying freedom

SHADOW LAKES—Some people in the USA that decided to cast their hatred against a man that brought plenty back to the USA and decided that the American citizen should come first before any individual in any other country. They had no real reason for their hatred but acted like spoiled brats that want the government to be mommy and daddy so they can get everything free. If everything is free to everyone who is going to fill the shelves or do any of the work? That answer is people from foreign lands that will take over the USA. It was not really hated but a plan to take over the USA and destroy freedom. The people that went along with the hatred and propaganda did not seem to be able to look past the idea of receiving everything free. When everything they already have is free and that's called freedom not government control of freedom.

Thank You!

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

Thanks A Million For Your Contributions

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 would like to thank all of the merchants and members of our communities for their donations to our drive to assist people with Intellectual Disabilities. We also thank all of those who helped in any way to make this past year's program successful. Thanks again for the help. We especially thank the following Businesses for their support.

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THE ON BROADWAY Dancers from Broadway Dance Center in Coal City will present the company's 8th annual Christmas show this weekend. Due to the on-going pandemic, the dance company filmed the production and invite the community to drive-in to see the show on their big screen located in the Ace Hardware parking lot at 2025 E. Division St. Ticket information can be found at showtix4u.com/event-details/42677. The show was filmed at various locations in the villages of Coal City and Diamond.

Courtesy photo

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

On Broadway Dancers to host drive-in Christmas show to benefit families in need

STAFF REPORT

The letters are signed, sealed and ready to be delivered, but it will take a visit from Santa's elves to ensure the jolly old elf gets his letters on time.

As a kick-off to the holiday season, the On Broadway Dancers are taking their annual Christmas show to the screen to share a story of coming together as a community.

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered," is an original production that puts a spotlight on the community as two elves arrive in town to pickup the letters addressed to their boss who has been deemed non-essential due to the pandemic.

The tale they tell makes it clear their boss—a key symbol of the season—is essential.

Determined to get the message of Christmas out and do their part to spread a bit of holiday cheer, the On Broadway Dancers are taking a new direction by presenting their annual Christmas show as a drive-in movie.

As a result of the on-going pandemic, the dancers were unable to have live audiences in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. So with the guidance of studio owner and artistic director Kim Scerine, they set out to put their show, "on film."

"It's something different and allows people to get out



THE LETTERS ARE ready to be delivered, but it will take a visit from Santa's elves—Jake Scerine and Caleb Swick—to ensure they arrive to Santa in time for Christmas. On Broadway Dancers annual Christmas show "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," will be presented Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

and do something while still remaining safe," she said.

The dancers and actors that narrate and help tell the story have been filming scenes throughout the community since mid-October. The final touches were being added this week ahead of the show set for Saturday, Nov. 28.

The dancers will appear throughout the 60-plus minute show that highlights a number of local businesses, as well as a few surprise cameo appearances.

Area residents have likely seen a couple of elves roaming the streets and playing in the Hope Helps All-inclusive Park, or maybe Snoopy and Olaf fighting in front of Campbell

Memorial Park. The process to put the show together has found the dancers visiting area businesses after hours and even shutting down a portion of South Broadway Street for an evening.

When traditional plans are no longer an option, Scerine said, "you look for other opportunities, and find a way to do it."

It took a village to get the show from page to screen, and everyone involved in the dance company notes how grateful they are to the business and community leaders who helped make it happen over the past eight weeks.

"Everyone has been so wonderful providing access to

their facilities, and being workable. What we all have in common is that we are all in this together," Scerine said.

Even when changes come at the last minute, you adjust and move forward and that's just what she did when the state's new Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation's went into effect and forced her to move the drive-in from the high school parking lot.

The drive-in will be held in the parking lot of Ace Hardware, 2025 E. Division St., located directly behind the dance studio. Shows are at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and tickets can be obtained at showtix4u.com/event-details/42677, a link to the site is also available on the studio's social media page at Broadway Dance Center. A limited number of tickets are still available.

All proceeds from this year's Christmas show, along with any donations received will go to support local families in need this holiday season. To date, the shows have generated over \$37,000 that has been put toward food, clothing and gifts assistance to area residents.

Scerine said the annual Christmas show is always a highlight of the year for the dancers and studio staff, and seeing first had the impact the shows have on those who come to watch and those who benefit from the generosity of audience members.

Promfest hosting virtual Festival of Trees



Courtesy photo

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY for Coal City Promfest's annual Festival of Trees and due to the on-going pandemic, the popular event will be virtual this year. The annual fundraiser is presented by the Promfest Committee. Several decorated holiday trees will be up for raffle along with holiday decorations and gift items including a flat top grill. The virtual raffle will be open Dec. 2-6 and the link to the raffle items will be available through the Promfest's Facebook page at facebook.com/CoalCityFestivalofTrees.

A new way to reflect and remember

STAFF REPORT

An Angel of Hope stands in the center of Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park, a place for reflection and remembrance.

For 14 years the angel statue has served as a symbol of hope for all parents whose children have become angels, a place for bereaved parents to find peace, comfort and healing.

The local statue was brought to the community by Angels of Hope, Inc., and each year on Dec. 6, they invite the community to gather around the angel for a candlelight remembrance vigil.

As the day of remembrance approaches, the organization's board of directors has announced its decision to cancel this year's vigil in light of the on-going coronavirus pandemic.

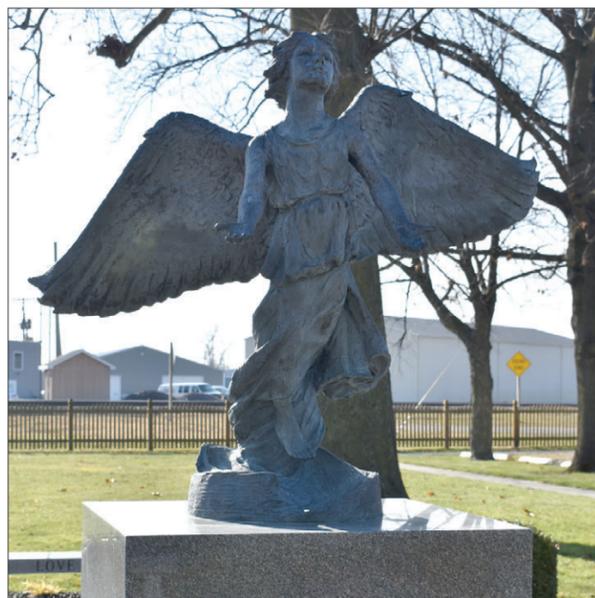
"Our priority has always been and will continue to be a beacon of hope to those that have lost a child, but we must take into consideration the health and safety of our guests, supporters and community," said Angels of Hope board member Nicole Lusson.

"We recognize that many look forward to Dec. 6 every year as a time to reflect, remember and celebrate the memory of a child," she noted.

Although the traditional evening ceremony will not be held, the organization's members encourage the public to continue with the tradition of placing a single white flower at the base of the angel in honor of a lost child.

Through the generosity of Matt Baskerville, of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes, single flowers will be located near the angel should individuals be unable to bring one for placement.

The concept for the angel



statue is taken from Richard Paul Evans' best-selling book, "The Christmas Box," in which an elderly woman grieves the loss of her daughter at the base of an angel monument. Although the story is mostly fictional, the monument once existed and is believed to have been destroyed by floods. A statue was later commissioned by the book's author in response to accounts of parents seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal.

Coal City's statue is the 69th nationwide and was dedicated to the community in October 2006.

"Although there will not be an organized event this year, Campbell Park remains a place for you to reflect, remember and cherish the memories of our children in the days and years to come. We wish you faith, love, grace and most of all hope," Lusson said.

Santa's mailbox going up in Campbell Memorial Park

The Letters to Santa mailbox will appear in Campbell Memorial Park on Monday, Nov. 30 and remain there until Dec. 18.

Santa's elves will collect all of the letters and forward them to Santa, who will reply back to the children. Parents are asked to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelop to assist Santa in getting a response letter back to their child.

Santa's mailbox has been a project of the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club for more than 30 years.

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Illinois expecting 400,000 initial doses of vaccine

Reader poll indicts half reluctant to get vaccinated

STAFF REPORT

SPRINGFIELD — After Pfizer submitted its application for a COVID-19 vaccine to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week, Illinois public health officials have continued preparing locations to store and distribute the vaccine that could be released to frontline hospital workers in a matter of weeks.

Pfizer announced Friday, that it planned to submit its COVID-19 vaccine application for emergency approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — a process that could take between two and four weeks, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said.

On Friday, Ezike said she expects the state will receive about 400,000 doses of the vaccine in the first round of distribution.

“That is the number that we’re working with to identify how we will partition that out for the first phase,” she said.

The big question is whether Illinoisans will show up to get vaccinated.

The Free Press

Newspapers polled readers and found that 50% said even if they were offered the vaccine free today, they would avoid getting a shot. That comes at a time when the daily positivity rate for the coronavirus is setting record increases. Among the 31% who said yes was a retired nurse who said she’d be the first in line under the advice of infectious disease doctors. Another 19% in the survey said they would wait three months to see if there are any side effects.

“Hell no,” responded a long-time subscriber. “There’s not been enough research on side or long term effects or effectiveness. Remember thalidomide?”

Most agree more research is needed on long-term effects, among other aspects of the vaccine.

General Gustave Perna, chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, which is the Trump administration’s national program to manufacture and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine, said that as soon as FDA approval is granted, the next day they would start shipping out vaccines.

Dr. Moncef Slaoui, Operation Warp Speed’s chief science adviser, said hopefully people will start to be immunized within 48 hours from the

approval. Under the state’s COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide released in October, the first vaccine doses released will be given to front line hospital workers and first responders.

Ezike said the hospital workers set to receive the vaccine in the first rounds include staff who are not health care professionals, such as the cleaning and food staff.

Essential workers outside of hospitals and at-risk individuals, including people 65 years of age and older, will be next in line to receive the vaccine in the first phase of distribution when limited doses are available, according to the vaccination planning guide.

Ezike said the initial doses of the vaccine will be distributed through hospitals in each of the 11 regions of the state.

State public health officials are also identifying freezer storage locations, since Pfizer’s vaccine must be kept at 94 degrees below zero.

“We’ve also ordered 20 separate contraptions that can hold vaccines at that ultra-cold level. So those 20 freezers, if you will, will be placed in all of the 11 regions to make sure that there is access for every part of the state to the vaccine,” Ezike said.

Pharmaceutical company Moderna could seek emergency approval for its COVID-19 vaccine application with the FDA by the end of the month, Slaoui said.

Unlike the vaccine under FDA review from Pfizer, Moderna’s vaccine can be shipped and stored long-term at standard freezer temperatures of 4 degrees below zero, for six months.

On Saturday, the FDA also issued emergency approval for a second anti-body therapy treatment for mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infections in adult and pediatric patients.

During Monday’s news conference, Ezike said the government has already provided the state with about 8,500 doses, and that the treatment is meant to be given early in the infection to help prevent hospitalization for high-risk and older individuals.

“We have teams that are working right now to discuss the equitable distribution of this very important resource. We are going to make sure that, in terms of communication, the public is aware of this resource and who are the appropriate candidates,” she said.

Sarah Mansur of Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report.

Coronavirus versus flu: how to tell the difference

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you explain the differences between the coronavirus and seasonal flu? I’m 70-years-old, and usually get a standard flu shot, but would like to find out what else I can do to protect myself this winter.

Worried Senior

Dear Worried,

Great question! Because of the dual danger of Influenza (flu) and COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently warned that this fall and winter could be the worst ever for public health. Understanding this, knowing the differences and similarities between the viruses, and knowing what you can do to protect yourself is the best way to stay healthy and safe through this difficult time.

Flu vs COVID

Because many of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, so testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. With that said, here are some similarities and differences you should know.

For starters, seasonal flu symptoms come on pretty quickly, whereas COVID-19 develops gradually over a period of a few days and then either fades out or gets worse. Common shared symptoms include fever, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, headache, fatigue and even chest pain. Pinkeye and a dry cough are associated with COVID-19, while it’s now thought that a fever is more likely with the flu, as are diarrhea and nausea.

Many people are having their temperatures taken these days before entering public spaces. But fever occurs in only half of COVID-19 cases. Fever does not rule out COVID-19, but the absence of fever makes flu unlikely.

You’re also unlikely to have a runny or stuffy nose with the flu, but you may with COVID-19. What sometimes happens within the nose with COVID-19 is loss of smell and, often as a consequence, loss of taste, too.

To learn more about the similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, visit the CDC website at

CDC.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm.

How to protect yourself

While there is currently no vaccine available yet to prevent COVID-19, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. So, stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet away from other people. And every time you come home, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

There’s also evidence that suggests that people who are deficient in vitamin D may be at higher risk of getting COVID-19, than those with sufficient levels. So, make sure you take in around 800 to 1,000 international units (IUs) of vitamin D from food or

supplements daily, and get outside as much as you can.

And to help guard against the flu this year, you should consider getting a flu shot that’s specifically designed for people 65 and older. The “Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent” or the “FLUAD Quadrivalent” are the two options that provide extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot offers. You only need one flu shot, and if you haven’t already gotten it, you should do it now because takes up to two weeks to build immunity after you receive it.

Pneumonia vaccines

If you haven’t been vaccinated for pneumonia, you should also consider getting the pneumococcal vaccines. Both flu and COVID-19 can lead to pneumonia, which hospitalizes around 250,000 Americans, and kills around 50,000 people each year. But these numbers could be much higher this year.

The CDC recommends that all seniors, 65 or older, get two vaccinations – Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23. Both vaccines, which are administered one year apart, protect against different strains of the bacteria to provide maximum protection. Medicare Part B covers both flu and pneumonia shots.

To locate a vaccination site that offers any of these shots, visit VaccineFinder.org and type in your location.

State’s first time unemployment claims drop

The Illinois Department of Employment Security reported 46,800 first-time unemployment claims for the week ending Nov. 14. That’s a decrease of 20,358 from the week prior. Nationally, there were 742,000 first-time claims for the week, an increase of 31,000 from the previous week.

IDES reported the state’s unemployment rate fell 3.6 percentage points to 6.8% for the month of October, prior to increased mitigations taking effect. The September unemployment rate was revised upward from the preliminary report, from 10.2% to 10.4%, according to IDES’ release of data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state’s unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than the national unemployment rate of 6.9% for October. The nation-

al rate decreased 1 percentage point from the previous month.

Gov. JB Pritzker said Thursday, Nov. 19H that although state workers prepare to work from home amid Tier 3 mitigations, it shouldn’t affect staff at IDES, who “continue to whittle down any backlog” in unemployment claims.

“We’re trying to have similar rules for state government as we have for offices, for example, in our mitigation plans,” he said. “There obviously are certain circumstances where you can’t ask people to do that because we have a duty to serve people in our state. So, we don’t expect that there will be any ramping down of people who are serving those who are seeking unemployment benefits.”

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If you have any questions, please email us at ccpromfest@gmail.com

Deck your halls sipping on a Hot Buttered Rum

Over the weekend we decided to break out the Holiday décor, and decorate. A quick glance at my Facebook feed confirms that my wife and I are not the only ones that have made the decision to deck the halls a bit earlier than usual.

It's time to hang the outside lights, setup the tree, and arrange the garland on the mantle. While you are decking your halls, reach all the way to the back of the spice cabinet where the Christmas spices are hiding. It's time for the first Hot Buttered Rum of 2020.

This year's Holiday season is going to look a bit different than previous Holiday seasons, but that doesn't mean that we can't treat ourselves to delicious Holiday cocktails. The Hot Buttered Rum is a Christmas classic that nearly everyone has heard of, but not everyone has tried.

A reason that many revelers shy away from Hot Buttered Rum is that many of the recipes online are too labor intensive and are simply overkill in terms of ingredients. At the end of the day, the only ingredients that need to be in a Hot Buttered Rum are rum, butter, sugar, and your choice of holiday spices.

Hot Buttered Rum is not nearly as popular as it was a generation ago. Visit any thrift store in America and you will find a selection of old mugs from the 60's and 70's with the words "Hot Buttered Rum" printed on the side. The fasci-

nation with this drink goes back further than that.

In fact, this love affair began over 200 years ago in the Colonial US. The ingredients in Hot Buttered Rum are representative of the trade routes of the time, all coming together in a delicious warming drink.

One place that Hot Buttered Rum has remained popular is New Orleans. Mardi Gras is held during a season that can resemble what most of know as winter, and some years it will be rainy, windy, and even downright cold.

Every bar and restaurant in New Orleans will have their own take on Hot Buttered Rum on the menu for the patrons that come in out of the cold. It may not be the first drink that you think of when you think of New Orleans, but if you find yourself there in the fall or winter, order a Hot Buttered Rum. You will be pleasantly surprised.

More than likely, you're not going to New Orleans for Christmas. Neither am I, at least not this year. Let's take a look at what we're going to need to elevate our Hot Buttered Rum game at home.

We will start with the butter. Use a "soft" butter, preferably real butter. Real butter melts into the drink leaving a



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

warm, rich texture. Sometimes margarine and other altered butter substitutes leave an odd taste when melted, and will not give the consistency that you need.

The ideal sugar in Hot Buttered Rum is brown sugar, or demerara sugar. Cane sugar can be used, but it lacks the depth and the complexity of darker sugars. The right sugar will melt into the butter leaving you with a perfect butterscotch/caramel flavor.

A good rule of thumb for Hot Buttered Rum is to use "baking" spices as opposed to sugar from a packet that is meant for tea or coffee.

Speaking of baking spices, this one calls for both cinnamon and nutmeg. Don't skimp on either one, especially the nutmeg. After all, nutmeg is one of those spices that "tastes like Christmas" and also happens to pair well with aged rum.

Vanilla extract is extremely potent, start with a few drops and work your way up from there. The vanilla notes should complement the other spices, not overpower them.

Allspice is also potent, so go easy. Don't skip the allspice though, I promise you will miss it if it's not there.

Last but not least, the rum.

Any dark rum will work in the Hot Buttered Rum, but some will work better than others.

Dark Jamaican rum is best suited for Hot Buttered Rum, look for Appleton Estate, Myer's Original Dark, or Coruba. Aged demerara rums will also work, such as El Dorado 12 Year, or Pusser's Navy Rum which is a blend of demerara and Jamaican rums.

Steer clear of light rum, as well as high octane over-proof rums in this one.

Keep the preparation simple. Start with a warm mug, add the butter and spices. Mix or muddle the spices into the butter, it's even ok to partially melt the butter at this point. Once the spices and butter are mixed, add the rum. Give it a quick stir, then top with hot (but not boiling) water.

Hot Buttered Rum is built and served in a preheated tempered mug.

Combine in mug:
1 small slice soft butter
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1 dash ground cinnamon
1 dash ground nutmeg
1 dash ground allspice
Vanilla extract to taste (start with 2-3 drops)

Muddle spices and butter in mug

Add 2 oz. dark rum
Add 5 oz. hot water
Stir and serve
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Driver service facilities close again

Secretary of State announces license extensions

If your driver's license is about to expire don't panic because you've been given an automatic extension.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced last week after closing drivers license facilities that expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID cards will be extended until June 1, 2021. This extension also includes those who have February, March, April and May 2021 expiration dates.

White is encouraging the public to take advantage of online services while offices are closed due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Drivers facilities are scheduled to reopen Dec. 7.

Commercial drivers license [CDL] holders and commercial permit holders are excluded from this extension due to federal requirements.

"The health and safety of employees and the public remains paramount and face-to-face transactions potentially increase the further spread of the virus," White said. "We have extended expiration

dates to assist people during this difficult time. I am also encouraging customers to consider using online services which are available for many office transactions."

Transactions that can be conducted online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com include:

- Renewing a license plate sticker;
- Renewing a valid license for qualifying drivers;
- Renewing a valid ID card for those age 22-64 (seniors 65 and older have free, non-expiring IDs);
- Obtaining a driver record abstract;
- Filing business service documents, such as incorporations and annual reports; and
- Customers with issues involving administrative hearings may contact adminhearings@ilsos.gov

Those who are eligible for online driver's license renewal will receive a letter from the Secretary of State's office with a PIN necessary for online renewal. Those whose driver's licenses or ID cards expired between Feb. 1, 2020 and Jan. 31, 2021, who qualify for online renewal should receive their PIN letter in December 2020 or January 2021.

Those whose driver's licenses or ID card expire after Feb. 1, 2021 will receive their PIN letter approximately 90 days before their expiration date.

White noted that 18 CDL facilities will remain open for CDL written and road exams and include the location at 1111 Blatt St., Bradley.

"Commercial truck drivers provide essential services by ensuring goods can be transported safely and efficiently throughout the state and country during this pandemic," White said.

CDL driving tests are be appointment only by calling 217-785-3013.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been the only government agency open statewide offering in-person transactions. We have remained committed to serving the public. Protecting the health and safety of our residents is my top priority, and this is the guiding principle of our decision making," White said.

All other Secretary of State departments are open to serve the public. Check www.cyberdriveillinois.com for more information.

St. Rose C.C.W. meetings to resume

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women will resume its regular meeting schedule with the next meeting planned for Monday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

Unfortunately, the Christmas party cannot take place due to current restrictions.

Please enter at the rear outside door of the gym for check-in procedures. All current safety precautions will be

observed and enforced.

Following a winter break in January and February, regular meetings will be held March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1 which will end the meeting year.

Anyone with questions can contact any officer including Laura Rusiniak (630) 302-2681; Pat Stromquist (815) 476-6199 or Marlene Akins (815) 476-6186.

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Illinois Department
of Transportation

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) invites you to learn more about and comment on the alternatives considered to improve the interchanges of Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois Route 129 (IL 129) in Will County. Instead of hosting a regular public meeting, IDOT will share details on the project and encourage public participation until December 14 through a new interactive website.

The website is available now through December 14, 2020 and can be accessed at:
I55LorenzoiL129Outreach.org

- Purpose of the site is:**
- To present and discuss the alternatives carried forward
 - To obtain public input on the alternatives carried forward and potential impacts

At the new interactive website, the public can watch a video about the project, view exhibits, and leave comments. In addition to the website, IDOT's outreach efforts will include a newsletter mailed to impacted residents and the opportunity to ask questions to IDOT staff over the phone by calling (847) 705-4569. Comments received by December 14, 2020 will become part of the official public outreach record.

Individuals without internet access may contact Anna Kutryn, P.E., Project Manager, at (847) 705-4569 for more information about the project.

All written correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
Bureau of Programming
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Email: LorenzoiL129Study@gmail.com
Project website: I55LorenzoiL129Outreach.org

The conducted outreach will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact the Project Manager as noted above. Persons who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681. It may take at least five (5) days to provide accommodations.

OBITUARIES

Richard R. Malone

COAL CITY—Richard R. “Bob” Malone, 66, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 at Morris Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bob was born on Feb. 6, 1954 in Joliet to Richard K. and Dorothy J. (nee Stark) Malone. His parents were both deaf and as a result, sign language was Bob's first language. He served proudly in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam Era and was stationed several places, including Okinawa, Japan. He married Christine M. Cherven, who was his friend's sister, and who he had known since they were kids, on June 16, 1979 in Joliet. Known as “Bob the Builder” to many, Bob was a Building Official at different times for both the city of Braidwood and the Village of Coal City.

A lover of the outdoors, Bob relaxed by going fishing and camping. He was very social and enjoyed sitting in his beloved garage with the door open visiting with anyone who passed by or drove up. He was an avid amateur pool player and won many trophies over the years. He went to Las Vegas for a pool tournament and met many professional players which he took delight in. He lived on Diet Pepsi, chocolate milk shakes and brownies. He made the most amazing pineapple dip to share. Bob was very family oriented and was a devoted husband, dad, papa and brother. Because of this, Christmas was his favorite holiday. He adored decorating his and Christine's home to the



limit, and with his full beard, he made a very convincing Santa Clause. He was a Chicago Bears Football fan and was known to wear their jersey every game when they were on a winning streak until they lost no matter how dirty the jersey got. Bob's sense of humor is what his family will always treasure.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Christine Malone; his daughter, Amanda (Emily) Wiczorek, of Braidwood; his son, Steven (Tinley) Malone, of Coal City; his grandchildren, William “Zeke” and Isabelle Malone; his sister, JoAnn (Bruce) Bauer, of Midland, TX; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins and his best friends, Donny Ellis, Darrell Olson and Bob Davis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Dorothy Malone.

Memorials in Bob's name may be directed to the American Cancer Society, 17060 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60477.

Funeral Services will be held privately for the family. Those wishing to participate in Bob's services will be able to view a video on the Ferrari Funeral Services Facebook Page. Bob will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Henry A. Marshall

MISSOURI—Henry A. Marshall, “Hank,” 80, of Stoutsville, MO, passed away Nov. 11, 2020 in Stoutsville, MO.

He was born in Wilmington on May 6, 1940. He attended St. Rose School and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1958. He attended Quincy College (now Quincy University) and received an associate's degree from Joliet Junior College. He also received All American Honors for football as a running back for JJC in 1960. He earned a bachelor's degree in general and physical sciences from Northern Illinois University. He also studied at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Hank taught at New Lenox Junior High from 1963 through 1968 and coached the boys basketball team through many undefeated seasons. He also taught at Wilmington High School from 1968 through 1974 where he coached varsity boys basketball and fresh-soph football. Hank was one of the founding fathers for the Wilmington Pop Warner football program (Wilmington Bobcats) in 1970. He was also instrumental in starting the Ritchie, IL chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Hank ran Marshall Construction Company from 1968 through 1974. He joined Carpenter Local Union #1092 in Seneca, IL in 1974, worked out of Millwright Local Union #722 in Salt Lake City, UT, and retired from Millwright Local Union #2158 in Moline, IL. He spent numerous years working as a Craft Labor Supervisor for Westinghouse performing maintenance outages on steam turbines at nuclear power plants throughout the



country. Hank retired to Stoutsville near Mark Twain Lake where he purchased the Dry Dock Sportsman's Lounge, Steakhouse, and Motel in 2002 and operated it along with his wife, Kanyarat (Tanya) through present. He also purchased land in 2007 and developed the Dry Dock Campgrounds in Stoutsville which now boasts 95 campsites on 27 acres. Hank spent his last few years splitting his time between Stoutsville and Hua Hin, Thailand.

Hank is survived by his beloved wife of 13 years, Kanyarat; his three sons with Anita Huston (nee: Vandermark): Jeffrey, of Paris, MO; Steven (Erika), of San Jose, Costa Rica and David (Candise) of Paris, MO; his three step-children; Rathnok, Naracha and Nattasorn, all of Thailand; sister, Irene Heselton (Gerald), of Encinitas, CA; brother, Frank (Tami), of Rembert, SC and sister, Patricia Weiger (Mark), of Naperville, IL. He was adored by his 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by both his parents, Hiram and Catherine Marshall, formerly of Wilmington; his sister, Anne (Richard) Fine and his brother, Robert. He was also preceded in death by Kelly Dougherty (Jeff's wife).

As per Hank's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials may be made to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481 or Senior Citizens Community Center, 112 E. Marion St., Paris, MO 65275.

Michael Fritz

GENEVA, IL—Michael Anthony Fritz, 40, of Geneva, IL, passed away peacefully Nov. 20, 2020.

He was born in Geneva to Virginia Marie (O'Connor) and Leonel Carl Fritz on June 6, 1980.

Mike loved watching Jimmy Stewart movies, Home Alone, The Little Mermaid and Back to the Future. He enjoyed listening to Elvis and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He often announced his presence at his brothers' sporting events or plays with an exuberant yell or laugh. His nieces and nephews fondly remember playing “dodge Uncle Mike's swinging arms” whenever he came over to visit.

Mike's favorite restaurant was Corfu which he enjoyed after mass at St. John Neuman's of St. Charles. He attended prolife rallies and living rosaries with his mom. Mike also spent many Saturdays working with his dad at JA Air Center of DuPage Airport laughing at any “choice language” he overheard.

The last eight years he resided and flourished at the Marklund Hyde Center of Geneva, IL surrounded by friends and his second family. He loved riding a bike, camping, swimming, or attending movies with his Marklund friends and almost always with his friend, Bobby Hilsabeck by his side.



The youngest of four boys, Mikey was adored by his brothers: Carl (Heidi) Fritz, Tim (Gina) Fritz and Matt (Traci) Fritz. He was a beloved nephew to Donald (Teresa) O'Connor, Tom, Maureen (Tom L.) O'Connor, David (Martha) O'Connor, Pat (Rose) O'Connor, Gene O'Connor, Kathy O'Connor, A. Joseph (Carol) Fritz, John (Gloria) Fritz, Leon (Teresa) Fritz, Donna (Gerald) Bernicky and Robert Fritz and was a wonderful uncle to Colin, Samuel, Molly, Eli, Amelia, Wyatt, Theo and Henry. Mikey will fondly be remembered by friends, family and all who encountered his joyful smile. Mike's light is impossible to extinguish and his loss will be felt by all.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Leonel Carl Fritz.

Services will be private
In lieu of flowers, donations in Michael's name to Marklund Children's Home, 1 S. 450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 60134 would be appreciated (www.marklund.org/get-involved-2/make-a-donation/).

Friends and family are welcome to sign his guestbook at www.clancy-gernon.com.

Arrangements have been made by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Lorraine M. Cody

ST. LOUIS, MO—Lorraine M. Cody 90, of St. Louis, MO, formerly of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020 at Delmer Gardens-West in Town and Country, MO.

Born Oct. 4, 1930 in Coal City, Lorraine Mae was the daughter of Joseph J. and M. Bridgid (nee Ryan) Testa. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1948. On Nov. 24, 1957, Lorraine married Edward A. Cody, of County Carlow, Ireland at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City. Lorraine held employment for many years at Dierberg's Market as a bakery clerk. She was a member of St. John Bosco Catholic Church in St. Louis and Local 655 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Survivors include her two sons: Kevin (the late Cheryl) Cody, of Overland Park, KS and Brian (Jeanne) Cody, of Chesterfield, MO; five grandchildren: Kaitlyn Cody and Lauren Cody, both of Overland Park, KS; Noel (Sarah) Cody, of Brooklyn, NY; Lea Cody, of Arlington, VA; and Bridgid Cody, of Salt Lake City, UT; one brother, John (Linda) Testa, of Port Washington, WI; three sisters-in-law: Arlette Testa, of Morris; Rhoda Cody, of England and Eithne Cody, of County Carlow, Ireland and nieces and



nephews: JoEllen (nee Testa) Fish, Claudette (nee Testa) Schmitt, Edward Testa, Mike Testa, Mark Testa, Shawn Testa, Jennifer Swincicki (nee Testa), Peter Cody, Mary Cody, James Cody, Cecilia Chisolm (nee Cody), Emily Cody, Michael Cody, Colman Cody, Caitriona Cody, Muireann Cody, Justin Cody, and Philip Cody; as well as numerous cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward; brothers: Joseph (Rose) Testa Jr., James Testa and brothers-in-law: Patrick (Maureen) Cody, Seamus Cody, Michael Cody and Gerald Cody.

A private family interment will be held at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery where Lorraine will be laid to rest with her husband, Ed.

In lieu of flowers the family requests preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Lorraine's memory to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

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

Frances Rolando

COAL CITY—Frances Rolando, 93, of Coal City and formerly of Goose Lake, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2020.

Born April 1, 1927 at the family home in Rockville Township, Kankakee County, Frances Eloise was a daughter of Arthur and Ina Pearl (Rice) Anderson. She was raised and educated in Ritchie before moving to Custer Park with her family. At the age of 16, Fran went to work at the paper mill in Wilmington during World War II. On Nov. 15, 1946 she married Clarence Rolando in Morris, and together they made their home in Goose Lake. Clarence and Fran opened the Western Auto store of Coal City in 1960, which they owned and operated for the following 30 years. Today the business continues to be operated by the family as Rolando's Furniture and Appliances.

Fran was an active member of Coal City United Methodist Church, and belonged to the Evening Star Circle. A woman of strong work ethic, Fran kept active until recent years maintaining her home and yard, as well as assisting in raising both her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her free time she enjoyed working puzzles and took pleasure in wine tasting.

Survivors include her children: C. Donald (Deb) Rolando, of Braidwood and John (Sherry) Rolando and Cathy Smith, both of Coal City; four grandchildren: Craig Smith (Shelley Fieldman), of Dwight; Kelly Smith, of Marion, IA; Lindsey Rolando (Chris) Baron, of Riverview, FL and Hannah Rolando, of Coal



City; six great-grandchildren: Mackenzie and Zach Smith, Elijah Smith and Camden, Emma and Alex Baron, and brother-in-law and sisters-in-law: William (Dorothy) Rolando, of Mazon; Ruby Green, of Wilmington; Florence Mitchell, of Morris and Shirley Rolando, of Diamond, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Anderson and Pearl Cooper; step-father, Thomas Cooper; husband, Clarence; sister, Marion Brown and her son-in-law, Gene Smith.

The family will gather at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 from 9 a.m. until the time of private services at 11 a.m. Reverend Brad Shumaker from Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington where Fran will be laid to rest with her late husband, Clarence.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Fran's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416

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

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

Helen Drechsler

MORRIS—Helen Louise Drechsler (nee Lane), 100, passed away peacefully on Nov. 19, 2020 at Park Pointe Place in Morris.

She was born Sept. 6, 1920 on a farm in Sullivan, IL, owned by her parents, Bert and Lovica Lane. Louise, as she was known, was a devout Christian, wife, mother and grandmother who was quietly outspoken. She began her academic and music education by walking miles to “country” schools in the Sullivan area with her sister, Wilma where they took piano lessons together, at ages 8 and 10. Both became very proficient playing the piano and or the organ.

Louise graduated from Sullivan High School in 1937, went on to Northern Illinois University then transferred to and graduated from University of Illinois in 1942 with a degree in music education. She could play many instruments, beautifully sing any song and had the innate ability to develop those talents to her children and future students. Louise met Russell Drechsler at U of I at an Interfaith Convention at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet, IL. Russ was a United Church of Christ member while Louise belonged to the Christian Church. They were married Aug. 15, 1942 and served their churches throughout their lives. Russ was drafted by the US Army in the fall of 1942. Louise followed Russ to his military base assignments, located mostly on the West Coast where she worked a variety of jobs, including the infamous Harry and Davids. Russ went overseas mid 1943 and while overseas, their first daughter, Janet, was born on Sept. 9, 1944. Russ came home to his family on Christmas Day, 1945. The Drechsler family grew while residing in the Buckley-Loda, IL in 1945 where Linda was born in '47, Vern in '49 and Diane in '53.

In 1963, they all moved to Braidwood. In addition to being a great mother, Louise chose



to substitute teach, gave piano lessons, lead the musical programs at their churches and ultimately be a fulltime music teacher while at Reed-Custer School system in Braidwood, where Russ was the school administrator.

Louise and Russ relocated to Atlanta as Russ contracted long term ALS. Janet and Linda, both medical nurses, lived in Atlanta and could offer great assistance in caring for Russ. Louise continued to be a substitute music teacher, a typist at a large insurance company and again, organized and lead the musical program at the Methodist Church. Louise pursued a handicapped van, after Russ was confined to a wheelchair, to take him everywhere all the time. It was amazing to watch her commitment to his happiness. Russ passed in 1995.

Louise continued to live and flourish in Atlanta until 2007 when she moved to Morris, where she lived with her daughter, Diane and husband, Neil Romines for 10 years. In Morris, Louise played the piano for various functions including nursing homes, and was a volunteer at Morris Community Hospital. Louise was the last living member of both her and Russ' family.

She is survived by her children: Janet (Carl Basmajejan), of Sioux Falls, SD; Linda (Jim Collier), of Stone Mountain, GA; Vern and Patty Drechsler, of Neenah, WI and Diane (Neil Romines), of Fairfield Bay, AR; also 8 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Her life's philosophy was: “I always felt that God would not give me more burden that I could handle.” She handled it well.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private services were held.

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

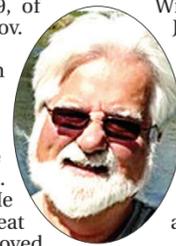
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

James K. Grady

COAL CITY—James K. Grady, 69, of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

James, or Jimmy as he was known to his loved ones, was born on May 8, 1951 in Chicago to Daniel Sr. and Helen (nee Krasnopolski) Grady. He grew up with his close family in the Chicago area and graduated from St. Rita of Cascia Catholic High School. He received his 45 year pin with the Heat and Frost Insulators Local #17. He moved to the Goose Lake area in 1984 and was a long-time member of the Goose Lake Association Board of Directors.

Jimmy enjoyed living at his lake home and was a perfect host to family and friends. His home was a gathering place where he could share the beauty of the outdoors with those he cared for. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was known affectionately to many as “Moe.”



With his bright white hair and beard, Jimmy was an excellent Santa Claus at Christmas time and played him at many local events.

He is survived by his sister, Kathleen Grady, of Coal City; his nieces, Tama (David) Kovar, of Coal City and Kelly (Douglas) Fite, of Morris; and his great-niece and great-nephews: David Kovar Jr. and Alysia and Daniel Fite.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Sr. and Helen Grady; his brother, Daniel Grady Jr. and his sister, Eileen Grady.

Funeral services will be private. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Patricia Kelly

WILMINGTON—Patricia Rose Kelly, 74, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at her home.

Born Feb. 25, 1946 in Joliet, Patricia was a daughter of Robert and Harriet (nee Beebe) Alexander. She was raised and educated in Joliet, and graduated from Joliet Central High School. Patricia married Donald Eugene Kelly, and they were blessed with five children. She devoted her life to being a loving wife and mother, and later took great joy in being a grandma and great-grandma. Patricia enjoyed going to casinos and playing bingo, traveling with her husband, and loved going to McDonalds for two apple pies for a dollar.

Survivors include two children, Donald (Bonni) Kelly, of Wilmington and Tina (David) Gombosi, of Monroe, WI; five grandchildren: Austin (Ashley) Kelly, of Woodridge; Dustin and Ashley Kelly, both of Wilmington; Kimberly (Dustin) Helgestad, of Janesville, WI and Chase Gombosi (Karissa Studer), of Lakewood, CO; two great-grandchildren, Henry and Harper Helgestad; three brothers: Jack (Stevie) Alexander, of Crest Hill; Donald (the late Delores) Alexander, of Wilmington and Charles



(Pam) Alexander, of Arizona; several nieces and nephews, and two grandpuppies: Ashes and Gaby.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Donald; three children: Donald Jr., Tracy Lynn, and Kimberly Ann; one granddaughter, Skylar Marie, and six brothers and sisters: Robert Alexander, Eunice Loomis, Barbara Meyer, William Alexander, John Alexander and Thelma Grzincic.

A private family visitation will be held, and cremation rites will be accorded. Patricia will be laid to rest with her husband and daughter at Woodlawn Memorial Park I in Joliet at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made as gifts in Patricia's memory to the American Cancer Society.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Lavern Lutz

 MORRIS—Lavern (Levy) Roy Lutz was called home to our Lord on Nov. 18, 2020 at Morris Hospital. He passed away receiving kind and compassionate care, with his wife, Jackie, at his side. They were together and comforting one another every day of their 67 years of marriage.

Levy was born on March 18, 1928, in Morris to Frank and Agnes (Dick) Lutz. He was the middle son of German immigrants, and he took pride in the hard-working spirit of his family. As a child of The Great Depression, Levy learned to value hard work and frugality. He led by example in these areas, always working to provide the best possible life for his wife, Jackie, and his four sons: Lawrence, David, Stephen and Michael. He later went on to teach his granddaughters about saving money and being thankful for what they have, telling and retelling stories about gardening with his mother instead of grocery shopping, eating "ketchup soup," and catching squirrels to survive the depression. He led a life of hard work and diligence, and his example and lessons will live on for generations.

Beginning in 1951, Levy served in the United States Army and spent two years as a private first class stationed in Germany. He drove tanks for the army and had the unique experience of being able to return to the country from which his parents had come and act as a peacekeeper and as a rebuild. He also loved telling of his adventures in the army – driving tanks down the Autobahn and hopping trains to Switzerland on his nights off to see original productions of the Sound of Music.

Upon returning to Morris after his time in the service, Levy married the love of his life, Jacquelyn (Jackie) on May 10, 1953. They went on to be married for 67 years. They faced the wonders and the challenges of life together, side by side. Here in Morris, they raised four sons. The wrangling and guiding and teaching required to nurture Larry, Dave, Steve and Mike should be all you need to hear to understand the strength of Levy and Jackie both as individuals and as a couple.

And nurture and raise them well, they certainly did. Lavern took great pride in his four sons, the men they grew into and the successes they achieved. He loved spending time with his boys. In 2010, Levy and all four sons were blessed to travel to Germany together. Together they were able to visit extended family and tour the country that meant so much to their father. Levy kept in contact and relationship with his German extended family all throughout his life. His German heritage was important to him, and he was so thankful to be able to share it with his sons. All four sons showed love and dedication to both of their parents all throughout their lives.

In his later years, upon becoming a grandpa to six girls, a softness came into his life and into his heart that Levy embraced with open arms. While he was never one to gush, he was the first one to show up at a basketball game, no matter how far away, or at every performance of a theater production. He took so much pride in his granddaughters, and he gave his girls confidence by encouraging their ideas and their talents, cheering for them, and pushing them to grow.

As his great-grandchildren came into the picture, he loved getting to know them, spending time showing them his garden and his flowers. He spent hours looking through old pictures of past fishing exploits, describing the fish in detail, answering as many questions as each child asked.

During his working years, Levy worked at The Federal Paper Board in Morris for 36 years. He then went on to work at Commonwealth Edison, where he worked for 10 years before his retirement. During these 46 years, he worked hard and took pride in his work. Everyone who knew him, knew that his work ethic was strong and that he could be trusted to be responsible and excellent.

Throughout his life, Levy was an avid fisherman. He loved spending time in his fishing boat, usually with his sons, out on the water, and would proudly come home to describe his many, impressive catches. These amazing catches earned him the nickname "Levy Lutz the Living Legend." With his catches, Levy hosted fish fry nights for his extended family, and he cooked up beer-battered walleye that would make anyone's mouth water. He was a master of his craft.

Levy also took great pride in his both his vegetable garden and his flower gardens. The gardens flourished, and he was happy to be able to share what he grew. The flowers in his yard were beautiful and brought smiles to the faces of all who went past. In fact, they were so beautiful, they inspired his daughter-in-law, Molly, a second-grade teacher, to create a field trip every fall and spring, walking from the Immaculate Conception School three blocks away to view Mr. Lutz's beautiful flowers. He looked forward to these visits every year.

Levy is survived by his four sons: Larry (Toni) Lutz, Dave Lutz, Stephen (Paula) Lutz, and Michael (Molly) Lutz; his six grandchildren: Sarah (John) Musick, Erica (Chris) Haan, Stephany Lutz, Michelle (Colton) Kelly, Kate (Brit) Andros and Kristen (Chris) Madigan and his 10 great-grandchildren: Ava Haan, Colin Haan, Zachary Haan, Mason Haan, Elijah Musick, Benjamin Musick, Anthony Andros, James Andros, Clare Madigan and Keira Madigan; he is also survived by many cousins and countless friends.

Lavern was preceded in death by his mother and father, Frank and Agnes (Dick) Lutz; his elder brother, Frank Lutz Jr. and his younger brother, John (Johnny) Lutz. And Levy and Jackie have left behind a strong, tight-knit unit as a testament to their love of family.

His loss will be deeply felt by both his family and by many in the community of Morris, of which he was such a proud member.

Private graveside services will be held at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, where Levy will be laid to rest with his wife, Jackie.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wanting to honor Lavern's memory can make donations to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, where Lavern was a devoted, lifelong parishioner, to the Christian Youth Center of Morris, which Lavern supported during his life, or to the Joliet Area Community Hospice, who cared for him so beautifully at his passing.

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

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



Jacquelyn Lutz

MORRIS—Jacquelyn (Jackie) Lutz (nee Button) went home into the arms of Jesus on Nov. 20 at Joliet Area Community Hospice, with her sons by her side, and her loving husband, Lavern having passed just two days previously. Jackie and Lavern lived their lives together for 67 years, and they were called home together to be with our Lord.

Jackie was born Dec. 2, 1930, in Morris and was the daughter of Charles Earl Button and Dorothy Button (Brooks). She was the eldest of five children, and her love of caring for others, of mothering, began there. She loved her siblings: Patricia (Patsy), Charles (Sonny), William (Bill) and Deborah deeply, and she intentionally stayed connected to her brothers and sisters all throughout her life. She eagerly looked forward to their visits and phone calls because she wanted to know they were well and hear their news. Jackie led a life defined by her infinite ability to love. To know Jackie was to be loved by her, and to feel that love tangibly and deeply.

Jackie began her own family when she married the love of her life, Lavern (Levy) Lutz on May 10, 1953. She was a devoted wife and then became a devoted mother to her four sons: Lawrence, David, Stephen and Michael. Her four beautiful, talented, and highly spirited boys gave their mother a run for her money, but Jackie was more than up to the task. She was strong and spirited herself, teaching and guiding and nurturing her boys into four strong men.

Jackie was one of the rare souls who can honestly say she lived her dream because her dream was to have a family and love them deeply every day of her life. Her pride in her sons knew no bounds. She was their biggest fan. She wanted to hear every detail of their sporting events and their days at work. She wanted to celebrate their successes and sympathize with them through their setbacks, and she was always there when they needed her. Jackie was a servant in exactly the way Jesus calls us to be. She loved her boys endlessly, and they knew that she did, and they were equally devoted to their mother.

As her sons, Stephen and Michael began families of their own, Jackie was blessed with six granddaughters, and these girls were given the gift of being loved by Jackie. She was fiercely and ruthlessly on their side in every situation. If one of them fell and scraped her knee on the sidewalk, she would scold that sidewalk for daring to hurt her granddaughter. If one of them was called for a foul in basketball, the referee and every spectator would get an earful. In her eyes, her girls could do no wrong.

When her granddaughters were little, she rocked them to sleep singing "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and she would feed them all the treats grandmas are supposed to sneak for their grandkids. As her granddaughters grew, she hosted sleepovers and shopping trips and spent long hours talking, watching sports, painting nails, and investing herself into their lives. Her investment was deep, and it has paid rich dividends. Jackie's ability to love unconditionally has been passed to each of them, and her legacy of love will continue on through many generations.

As her great-grandchildren came into the picture, Jackie was overjoyed to be able to hold the sweet babies and get to know them. No one,

not a single soul, loved babies more than Jackie. She would hold them and rock them and sing to them, and you were hard pressed to get a turn holding them once she had her great-grandbabies in her arms.

Jackie was also so much fun. She had a fantastic sense of humor and loved to laugh with people. And man, did she have a great laugh. It was infectious and joyful, and it was just another way she showed love, by brightening people's hearts. She was also a fantastically generous gift-giver. When Jackie gave a gift, her face would light up as she watched them opening the present, eagerly waiting to see the happiness she knew the gift would bring. She wanted everyone to be happy. Whether it was with a joke or a Christmas present or the perfect chocolate cake with vanilla icing or a listening ear, Jackie was there to raise spirits and soothe hearts.

In addition to loving her family, Jackie's light shone onto her community and her friends. She was involved at her church, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, and valued doing her part to create a strong community for her children and grandchildren. Jackie was also very social. She made friends easily and loved them. They shared bowling nights and bridge clubs and lunches. She was intentional about scheduling time to see her friends, showing them that she cared.

During her working years, Jackie worked at the Grundy County Sheriff's Department, and she also worked as a beautician. She had a beautician's chair in her basement all throughout her life, and she gave haircuts to clients and family and friends. Her skill as a beautician stemmed from her love of caring for others, combined with her own elegant and classy style. She had impeccable taste, and she shared her style and grace with those around her.

Jackie is survived by her four sons: Larry (Toni) Lutz, Dave Lutz, Stephen (Paula) Lutz, and Michael (Molly) Lutz; her six grandchildren: Sarah (John) Musick, Erica (Chris) Haan, Stephany Lutz, Michelle (Colton) Kelly, Kate (Brit) Andros, and Kristen (Chris) Madigan; her 10 great-grandchildren: Ava Haan, Colin Haan, Zachary Haan, Mason Haan, Elijah Musick, Benjamin Musick, Anthony Andros, James Andros, Clare Madigan and Keira Madigan; her siblings: Sonny Button, Bill Button and Deborah Komer (Button); many beloved nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Jackie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Levy; her mother and father, Dorothy and Charles Button and her younger sister, Patsy Sterritt (Button). And Jackie and Levy have left behind a strong, tight-knit unit as a testament to their love of family.

The loss of Jackie will be deeply felt by her family and by many in the community of Morris, of which she was such a proud member.

Private graveside services will be held at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, where Jackie will be laid to rest with her husband, Levy.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wanting to honor Jackie's memory can make donations to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, where Jackie was a devoted, lifelong parishioner, to the Christian Youth Center of Morris, which Jackie supported during her life, or to the Joliet Area Community Hospice, who cared for her so beautifully at his passing.

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

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

Marsha Barnes

VIRGINIA—Marsha Barnes, 60, of New Port News, VA, passed away Nov. 18, 2020 in Newport News. She was born March 19, 1960 in Joliet, IL to Ethel and William Neese Sr. Marsha was a housekeeper.

She is survived by her loving husband, Keith; her parents, William Sr. and Ethel (nee Howard) Neese; three sons: Clayton (Abigail) Barnes, of Florida; Erick (Michelle) Barnes and Curtis (Katie) Barnes, of Newport News; four granddaughters: Kaylee and Hannah Barnes of Newport News; Emma Barnes, of

Bradley, IL and Grace Barnes, of Alabama; one brother, Richard Neese, of Symerton, IL; one half-sister, Stephanie (Tony) Hildy, of Morris and two sister-in-laws, Diane Neese, of Bradley and Jessica Neese, of Essex.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Avia and Golden Howard and Rosalee and Herman Neese and two brothers, William Neese Jr. and Steven Neese.

Private services were held on Monday, Nov. 23, 2020 in Newport News where she was placed in a mausoleum.



Steven D. Basham

 WILMINGTON—Steven D. Basham, 66, of Wilmington, passed away Aug. 30, 2020 at Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet.

He was born Dec. 2, 1953 in Joliet. He worked for the ICG Railroad, Fisher Auto Parts in Wilmington and Tire Tracks in Wilmington.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Linda; son, Jeremy Basham, of Cumming, GA; daughter, Kristine Basham, of Coal City and grandson, Jonathan Voigt, of Coal City.

Steve was laid to rest on Oct. 16, 2020 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood with full military honors.



Keith O. Michael

 WILMINGTON—Keith O. Michael, 77, of Wilmington, formerly of Brookfield, IL, passed away Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at his home.

Born June 12, 1943 in Berwyn, IL, Keith Orville was a son of Orville and Milda (nee Graunke) Michael. He was raised and educated in Lyons, and graduated from Morton West High School with the class of 1961. Following high school, Keith served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1961 until his discharge in 1965. On March 16, 1963, Keith married Judith Ann Pszczola at Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons. He and Judy made their home and raised their family in Brookfield until they relocated to Wilmington 16 years ago.

Keith worked as a tool and die maker for Electro-Motive Division in McCook until his retirement after 39 years of service. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons and the Lyons Mustangs Athletic Club. Keith was a very active man that took great pleasure in sports. He coached and played softball, enjoyed going bowling and golfing, and practiced Aikido martial arts. Keith was an accomplished scuba diver and volunteered with the Lyons Underwater Recovery Team. He also liked to spend his time outdoors fishing and camping. Above all else was Keith's love of family and being able to be with them as much as possible.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Judy Michael, of Wilmington; four daughters: Michele Lantvit, of Bolingbrook; Pam (Rich)

Tworek, of Wilmington and Sheri (Brandon) Evans and Colleen (Robert) Henderson, both of Plainfield; 11 grandchildren: Nicholas Capozziello, Tyler Lanvit, Christopher Tworek, Morgan Lanvit, Madyson Lanvit, Nathan Tworek, Sydney Henderson, Ethan Evans, Payton Henderson, Nora Evans, and Lucy Evans; two great-granddaughters: Alivia and Sylvia Capozziello; numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, mother-in-law, Norma (the late Casimir) Pszczola, of Wilmington; one brother and two sisters: Nadine (the late John) Pankow, of Lyons; Donna (the late Wayne) Holous, of Lemont and Duane (Karen) Michael, of Lyons, and several nieces and nephews.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Norine in infancy, and one brother-in-law, Raymond (Stefa) Pszczola.

Per Keith's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made as gifts in Keith's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, or share Keith's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

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



Pedestrian killed on I-55

Traffic on southbound Interstate 55 near mile marker 269 in Will County was shut down Monday after a man crossing the roadway was struck and killed.

Illinois State Police report the incident happened just after dark, at approximately 5:20 p.m., when Renold Bean, 58, of Romeoville, entered the southbound lane in an attempt to cross the roadway.

Bean was hit in the left lane by a 2018 Silver Chevrolet being driven by Mark S. Bouchard, 62, of Plainfield, IL.

Bean was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The roadway was reopened at approximately 6:39 p.m.

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Instagram feeds that talk about climate change

Dear EarthTalk:
 What are the best Instagram feeds to follow lately if I'm into environmental activism and fighting climate change?
 -- Bill S., New Orleans, LA

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

It's amazing how dominant Instagram has become in the world of social media. Eco-advocates would be remiss to not make use of it to raise awareness and spur action on behalf of the planet. Given Instagram's limited functionality, activists and groups have to be creative to make the most of the photo-dominant platform to stand out from the crowd.

Here are a few of our favorite sustainability-oriented accounts: Indigenous Climate Action uses its @indigenousclimateaction account to motivate and empower both youth and adults on climate activism by reminding them of the human connections to land, water, community, culture and the sense of responsibility towards future generations exemplified in Indigenous communities.

Recent posts featured cel-

ebrations of indigenous knowledge, art and culture, and the group also hosts "virtual visits" and information-packed livestreams on Instagram.

Another enlightening account is @intersectionalenvironmentalist, which spreads awareness about how and why injustices happening to marginalized communities and planet health are connected.

Posts focus on social justice, environmental justice, art, and community-building around inclusion and sustainability. The producers of the account also platform inspirational speakers on IGTV, Instagram's video network.

If you're looking for informative posts displayed in eye-catching styles, check out @futureearth, which cites all its sources and will keep you

updated via a variety of different post styles. Their periodic Climate Talks feature informative videos with activists, educators, scientists and green business pioneers.

Meanwhile, activist Isaias Hernandez populates his @queerbrownvegan account with aesthetically-pleasing posts on environmental justice, veganism and zero-waste. One recent post defined the term "conscious consumerism" while another addressed why climate activists tend to burn out so young.

Another timely account to follow is @sunrisemvmt, the Instagram outlet for the Sunrise Movement. Organizers have used Instagram to spread their message to millions of young people who have in turn showed up at rallies, marches, sit-ins, Congressional visits and other direct-action events designed to leverage those in power to make smart decisions with climate change, green jobs, sustainability and equity in mind.

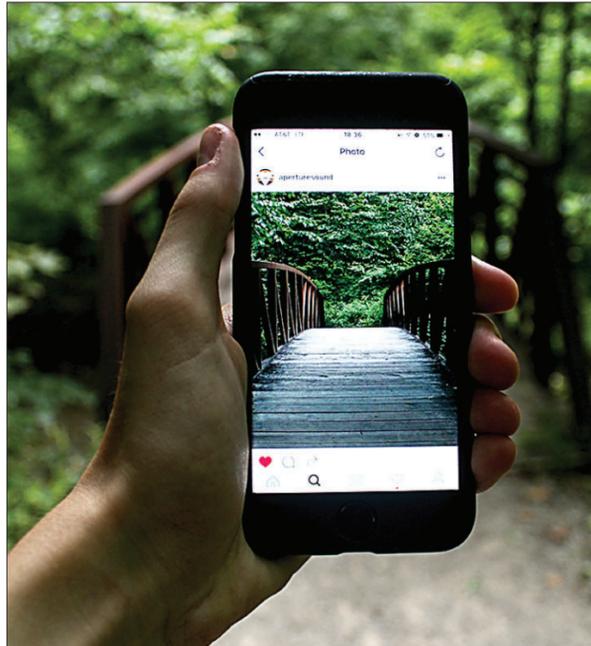
Finally, @climemchange uses humor to lighten the mood within the climate

movement. After all, laughter has been proven to boost antibody-producing cells, reduce stress and increase blood flow, all important to make sure we keep ourselves healthy while fighting the good fight.

Following this account is a good way to fight the eco-depression and climate anxiety we all suffer from, even if just a little.

One way to be an eco-activist on Instagram is to share these accounts' posts on your own stories, an easy way to spread awareness about the issues made possible by the social platforms we have today.

CONTACTS: Indigenous Climate Action, [instagram.com/indigenousclimateaction/](https://www.instagram.com/indigenousclimateaction/); Intersectional Environmentalist, [instagram.com/intersectionalenvironmentalist/](https://www.instagram.com/intersectionalenvironmentalist/); Future Earth, [instagram.com/futureearth/](https://www.instagram.com/futureearth/); Isaias Hernandez' Queer Brown Vegan, [instagram.com/queerbrownvegan/](https://www.instagram.com/queerbrownvegan/); Sunrise Movement [instagram.com/sunrisemvmt/](https://www.instagram.com/sunrisemvmt/); Climemchange, [instagram.com/Climemchange/](https://www.instagram.com/Climemchange/).



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SUDOKU - Here's how it works:
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

Will County passes balanced budget

The Will County Board has approved a balanced budget of \$567 million for the upcoming fiscal year that contains no new taxes and continues to provide essential services to taxpayers. The board has lowered the tax rate for the sixth year in a row.

The 2020 tax rate will be 0.5769% which is lower than the 2019 tax rate of 0.5842%. The Will County Budget funds services ranging from road and infrastructure improvements, to public safety, and public health.

"It is vital that the county continues to meet the needs of our residents, especially during these uncertain times," said County Board Finance Chair Ken Harris (D-Bolingbrook). "This budget meets those needs."

Harris said that the county budget includes funding for a significant flood study that will be conducted in partnership with the US Army Corps

of Engineers. The budget also includes funds for a diversity study meant to ensure that the county meets its obligations for hiring minority contractors when using local motor fuel taxes.

This year, the county funded a five-year road and capital plan thanks, in part, to an extra 4 cents per gallon motor fuel tax it passed in December of last year. Funds from the extra gas tax, which took effect Feb. 1 of this year, are trickling in at an estimated rate of \$12 million a year for area roadway improvements.

Also included is \$10 million in funding for the remainder of the Building Will Plan which was launched in 2016.

Will County Republicans would have liked to see more relief for taxpayers in the budget. County Board Minority Leader Mike Fricilone (R-Homer Glen) said that the county could have tightened its belt a little more.

"Many of our residents and small businesses are struggling during the pandemic," said Fricilone. "Will County was in a position to lower the tax burden and continue to provide top-notch services. It is our obligation to keep taxes low and I think we could have reduced the levy further."

Will County continues to maintain its AA+ bond ratings from Moody's and Standard & Poor's. This is due to the county's diverse tax base, stable financial performance, and strong reserves and liquidity.

"Will County continues to be a place where businesses locate and where people want to live and work," said County Board Speaker Mimi Cowan (D-Naperville). "I'm grateful to all of the hard work that our staff and county board members put forward to develop a balanced budget that works for residents and businesses."

Get raffle tickets now for C.C.W. quilt

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women are selling tickets for its annual quilt raffle.

Each year Mrs. Anonymous, a parishioner and talented quilt maker, donates one of her creations to the C.C.W. to use as a fundraiser.

The raffle and drawing normally take place during the C.C.W. annual card and game party luncheon in May. Unfortunately that event could not take place this year.

Therefore, all parishioners now have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win the bright and beautifully made quilt.

Tickets are being sold at all weekend masses through Dec. 20 with the drawing taking place after the 11 a.m. mass.

For ticket information contact Pat Stromquist at (815) 476-6199.

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49					50				51					
52	53	54			55				56		57	58	59	
60					61				62				63	
64					65				66					
67					68				69					

CLUES ACROSS

- Cold War player
- Flat-bottomed sailboat
- Jamaican tangelo
- Debauched man
- Less covered
- Require to live
- Patrick and Aykroyd are two
- Mixes
- Insurance claim expenses
- Tries to persuade
- Equal (prefix)
- Czech name for Prague
- London soccer team
- Greek letter
- Small Eurasian deer
- Swiss river
- Miller beer
- Less appealing
- 8th month (abbr.)
- Alto, California city
- Grandmothers
- American time
- NW Chinese people
- "Westworld" actress
- Rachel Wood
- Northeastern US university
- Poplar trees (Spanish)
- Hip hop legend Kool Moe
- Not or
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Fonts
- Female cattle mammary gland
- Down time
- Spiritual leader
- Small brown and gray American rail
- Trimmed by cutting
- NY Giants owner
- A long narrative poem
- Old World lizard
- Product for sale
- Shut Your Pie Hole (abbr.)
- Pacific Island country
- Whale ship captain

CLUES DOWN

- Language
- Fly high in the air
- Made musical sounds
- Organized again
- TV channel
- Unable to fly
- Get up
- Air traveler
- Married woman
- Take weapons from
- Sicilian city
- Actress Remini
- Thought
- Infections
- Golf score
- Hill or rocky peak
- Witch
- Adjusted
- Succulent plant
- Forearm bones
- Hot fluid in the earth's crust
- Subatomic particle
- Part of an organism
- 007's creator
- Burned material residue
- Brain layer: mater
- Unable to partake
- Lesion
- Historic railroad company (abbr.)
- Basics
- Scottish port
- Flower cluster
- Instruct
- Untamed
- Moth genus
- Utilizes
- Foolish
- Fall in small drops
- A place to get clean
- La Tar Pits
- Metrical foot
- Semiliquid food
- Small crow

⊙ * ♀ ☼ ☽ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♔ ♕ ♖ ♗ ♘ ♙ ♚ ♛ ♜ ♝ ♞ ♟ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♣ ♤ ♥ ♦ ♧ ♨ ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯

CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♔ ♕ ♖ ♗ ♘ ♙ ♚ ♛ ♜ ♝ ♞ ♟ ♠ ♡ ♢ ♣ ♤ ♥ ♦ ♧ ♨ ♩ ♪ ♫ ♬ ♭ ♮ ♯

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to games & puzzles. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 11 = I)

A. 9 19 11 21 11 13
 Clue: Pieces of information

B. 5 2 11 22 22
 Clue: Ability to do something well

C. 4 20 16 15 26 9 26
 Clue: Strive to gain or win

D. 17 11 18 18 26 19
 Clue: Person who comes out on top

Answers: A. trivia B. skill C. compete D. winner

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to games.

TSYRGAET

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Strategy

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Tennessee on November 23, 1992. Few know my first name is actually Destiny, and I grew up on a farm. I became a child TV star on a Disney series. I later became a pop singing sensation.

Answer: Miley Cyrus

GAME & PUZZLE WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

P	Z	L	O	C	B	S	A	Y	S	D	K	H	V	K	P	N	A	C	T
U	S	K	I	C	O	U	V	N	Y	H	A	R	K	M	K	D	E	N	B
C	E	C	U	C	S	R	E	Y	A	L	P	K	N	C	V	A	G	O	K
H	M	N	O	I	T	A	L	U	M	I	S	W	A	E	C	U	B	E	T
M	A	M	S	W	H	K	E	Y	H	G	V	N	N	E	D	E	M	M	T
W	G	R	M	O	U	W	H	D	G	U	A	T	Y	U	K	A	P	A	D
W	O	N	E	A	N	W	S	N	A	G	U	U	O	U	P	A	R	R	A
D	O	Z	S	S	Z	L	V	P	R	R	V	U	K	T	P	R	N	G	R
Z	R	M	D	L	A	E	M	A	E	A	N	P	L	P	N	P	E	O	I
I	I	O	U	U	O	E	M	P	I	N	L	S	L	K	S	A	R	T	T
L	H	S	W	B	I	H	T	V	G	N	T	I	E	K	Z	C	O	P	H
C	O	C	I	S	P	S	I	N	L	O	C	M	Y	D	O	Y	C	Y	M
M	Z	S	A	U	S	R	A	R	I	A	S	U	Z	S	A	E	S	R	E
S	A	O	Z	A	R	T	O	E	C	T	A	C	Y	P	N	M	R	C	T
R	P	Z	N	K	D	T	R	I	T	P	R	L	I	D	U	O	A	V	I
B	L	I	U	T	U	S	O	C	U	I	A	B	G	V	R	D	H	H	C
E	D	P	T	P	P	N	U	G	O	Y	O	L	R	I	Y	A	B	A	C
H	S	D	M	R	S	U	D	O	K	U	A	N	V	D	T	Z	O	V	O
O	S	O	P	V	B	H	M	H	O	C	W	D	Y	E	N	B	A	B	E
D	C	E	P	C	O	N	S	O	L	E	U	L	H	O	M	L	A	L	C

WORDS

ACTION
 ADVENTURE
 ANAGRAM
 APPLICATIONS
 ARITHMETIC
 BOARD
 BRAIN TEASER
 CARDS
 CHARADES
 COMPUTER
 CONSOLE
 COSPLAY
 CROSSWORD
 CRYPTOGRAM
 CUBE
 GAMES
 MAZE
 PLAYERS
 PUZZLE
 SCORE
 SIMULATION
 SUDOKU
 TRIVIA
 VIDEO

Feds indict Madigan's closest associates

On Page 9 of last week's federal indictment of four people accused of conspiring to bribe House Speaker Michael Madigan with favors from ComEd is this heading: "Defendants and Relevant Individuals."

But the first person listed is not one of the defendants. "Public Official A was the Speaker of the House of Representatives," the list begins.

The feds don't just throw these things together like some college freshman who's late with a term paper. Indictments, particularly in political cases, are often carefully crafted in order to send a message. So, it obviously ain't good when you're at the very top of the government's defendant list and you're not even a defendant.

It's also not exactly great when your former consigliere and most trusted friend Mike McClain is indicted along with other once-powerful people in your orbit for conspiring to bribe you.

And that's a big reason why we've seen so many House Democrats declare in the past several days that they will not vote to reelect Speaker

Madigan. Quite a few people, including attorneys I've spoken with, appear to agree with McClain's lawyer that the feds are "attempting to rewrite the law on bribery and criminalize long-recognized legitimate, common, and normal lobbying activity into some new form of crime."

They may have a valid legal point. McClain and the others might be able to beat this rap. I don't know. I've seen others make that claim and fail.

But, c'mon, the stuff in the indictment isn't "common" or "normal," at least outside Madigan's 13th Ward.

The amount of time spent obsessing over 10 summer internships for kids in Madigan's ward (some of whom didn't even qualify) bordered on farce. My "favorite" part of the indictment was when ComEd was essentially warned not to count those interns against the number of patronage jobs the company was doling out to the ward.

And how many political organizations successfully install precinct captains into no-show contract jobs in this day and age? Also, how many

state legislators think they can install someone on a utility's board of directors?

Like any unfettered, unquestioned bureaucracy, they took their mission to an absurd extreme. And, this time, it resulted in indictments.

Up until now, Madigan has been the most adaptive and adept politician I've ever seen. You don't stick around for 48 years by remaining stagnant, I suppose.

He began his career as a typical tough-on-crime, socially conservative, Southwest Side Irish Catholic. He's since become pro-choice, voted for both gay marriage and to abolish the death penalty and backed up the Black Caucus in its difficult years-long effort to block criminal penalty enhancement legislation. He spent years defending the

rights of trial lawyers, then pushed through a medical malpractice reform bill when the issue started hurting his members. He went after the public employee unions over their pensions when he felt he had to, then united all unions like never before when the state elected an anti-union governor.

At his most recent low point, Madigan quickly committed to "change the culture" in the House during the 2018 sexual harassment scandals. He saved his own skin at a time when lots of folks thought he wouldn't make it through.

But he has insisted since the ComEd scandal broke that he believes it's not only his right to help people find jobs and contracts, it's actually his duty. There would be no change to that particular cul-

ture he created. There'd be no "evolving" as he'd done on so many other issues. And for good reason.

Madigan's machine is old school. It runs on patronage. And he needs a lot of patronage to keep his huge machine humming. He's always on the hunt for opportunities, and his people love him for taking care of them and are fiercely and forever loyal.

But patronage is supposed to be a means to an end of running successful political campaigns, and it unfortunately appeared to become an end in and of itself.

The favors culture Madigan created led to

ComEd's deferred prosecution agreement, and that DPA led to last week's indictments of his close associates, and those indictments led to an even larger member revolt which appears, as I write this, to be about to remove the gavel from Madigan's hands.

The old-timers said that Dan Rostenkowski, George Ryan and others got themselves in trouble because they didn't change with the times. Madigan was supposed to be different. And he actually was for many years. Until now.

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



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Braidwood Lions to collect used Christmas lights

The Braidwood Lions Club will be collecting used/non-working strands of Christmas lights starting Sunday, November 15th.

Collection bins will be located inside Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City, and inside Braidwood City Hall until January 31st. The strands of lights will be recycled by the Lions of

Illinois Foundation with proceeds to benefit the foundation's sight & sound services provided to local Lions Clubs.

A collection bin will also be available during the club's annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser, hours of operations. For more information please call (815)791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionclub.org.

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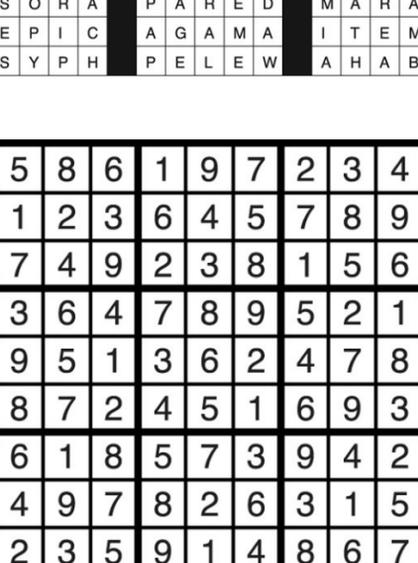
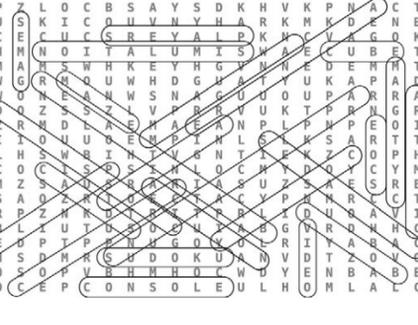
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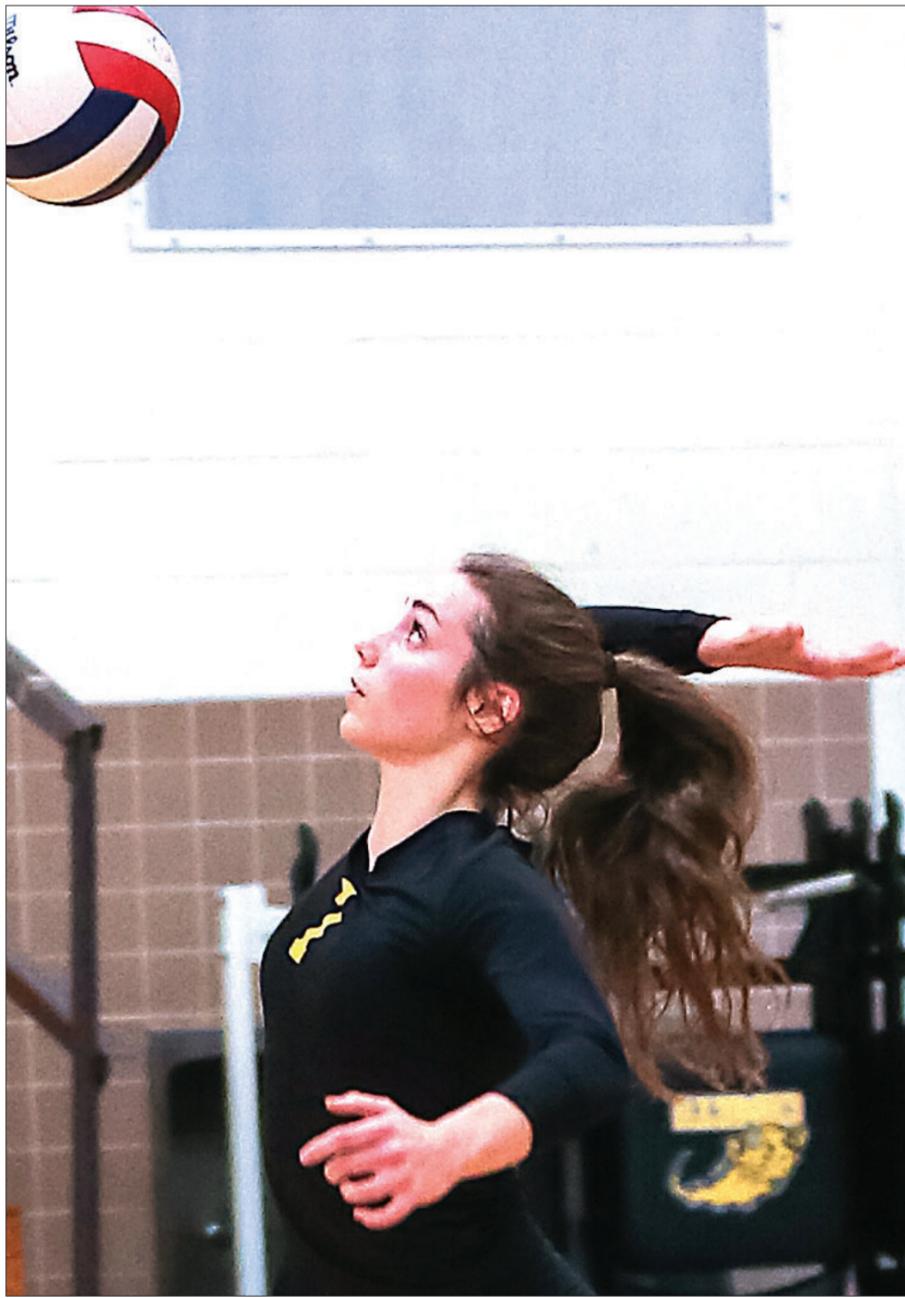
JOURNAL

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LOCAL THIS SEASON



File Photo
FORMER LADY COMET Taylor Toler was selected to be an outside hitter on the dream team for Reed-Custer volleyball. Toler was the kill leader last season and finished with 141 kills.



Courtesy Photo
MADelyn ALTON was selected by former Reed-Custer volleyball coach Kelly Van Duyne to be one of the outside hitters on a volleyball dream team. Alton is the career leader in kills and digs.

Reed-Custer dream team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Out of that group, Studley earned All-Conference while Trayler was honorable mention. Bernd was All-Academic.

Top setters

Firing down kills happens with great setters and standouts include Mary Cannon and Kathy Smith.

“Those girls were the speed and brains on the court. They placed the ball right where it needed to be.”

But it just wasn't the setters who were smart, all of the girls on the team earned All-Conference for their effort in keeping up their academics.

“Coaching nine years of girls who were intelligent, dedicated and stretched their ability to its highest potential,” she said. “I never

had to worry about girls being eligible to play. That was never an issue. They focused on their school before sports and that's the way it should be.”

Also earning spots on Sorensen-Davis' dream team were Tracy Waliczek, Lynn Herbert, Megan and Jade Zapocky, Tammy Willis, April Hartsfield, Jamie Eller(Bohac), Michelle Roberts, Kristin Shaw, Heather Trayler and Missy Nowak.

“These girls were a combination of some pretty amazing girls to come through Reed-Custer.”

Kelly Van Duyne, who led the Lady Comets to a regional championship in 2016 and 55 total wins over four years, had several impressive picks.

Madelyn Alton

Starting with outside hitters, Madelyn Alton, who played with Reed-Custer from 2014-

17, was good at any position. Alton led the Lady Comets in both kills with 558 and digs with 1,120.

“She pretty much broke every record at Reed-Custer,” said Van Duyne. “Madelyn was an all-around great player. Her defense was impeccable. She was a huge hitter, she was our go-to hitter. She was just all-around just an amazing player. Her teammates looked up to her leadership to basically get the job done when we needed to get the job done on the court.”

Kassidy Barr

At the other end of the court, Barr was the perfect hitter on the opposite side. Both were on the squad when the Lady Comets won the regional championship over Beecher in 2016, finishing with a 16-14 record.

“She was another go-to girl towards the end of her senior year. I know she was having some back issues so she altered her play just a little bit but she could still put the ball down and just that year when Val Guzman, Kassidy Barr and Georgia Votta were all seniors, Madelyn and Emily were juniors, that was probably the dream team right there and the ones we won regionals with. They just couldn't be stopped. They were all-around just great players and it was probably the best team that Reed-Custer had seen in a long time.”

Van Duyne remembers each member of the team contributing in one way or another.

“When we beat Beecher in the regional, it was definitely a team thing. Everyone played their butts off. That was the year to win it and beat that old thing after not winning in however many years. It was really just a team effort. Georgia and Emily were in their playing defense and really my outside hitters, Kassidy and Madelyn, noone could stop them. We were on such a high that whole match and with the leadership of Val at the setter, giving it to whoever she wanted at the right time. It was an amazing feeling.”

Maddi Jo Bradley, Taylor Toler and Ashley

Coster were also mentioned as top outside hitters for VanDuyne.

“That group of girls worked so well together and it was one of my group to coach. That's why it was a hard decision to leave their senior year.”

Val Guzman

At setter, Guzman was in a class of her own when it came to getting perfectly timed sets. She is the single season leader for sets, distributing 630 in one season and 826 overall.

“She broke a couple records too,” added Van Duyne. “Towards the end of her junior year, she really led the team and then her senior year, she was the leader on that court because she knew where to put the ball. She was very good defensively, throwing the second ball over and throwing the other team off of their game. She was probably the best setter I had.”

VanDuyne notes Danielle “Sissy” Cherry and Meghan Faletti, who were setters who split time the past two years, were very good. Faletti, a 2019 graduate, accumulated 562 assists from 2017 to 2019. She set up 221 kills during her senior season. Reed-Custer senior Daniele Cherry is fifth on the assist list, collecting 382 assists as a Lady Comet.

On defense, Van Duyne said she'd like to have Georgia Votta and Emily Wolf splitting time. The thing about both girls is they would never let a play end. It didn't matter where the ball was, they'd get to it.

“They were a year apart. They're really just two peas in a pod. Their defense was like a spitting image of each other. They would go get balls that I wouldn't think that they would get to or anyone would get to and all of a sudden, they're just diving on the court and getting the balls up. They were playing out of position, getting balls up in other people's spots just so it wouldn't hit the floor. But I would say those two are tied.”

While Wolf has the second most digs in her time at Reed-Custer with 613, Votta was right on her heels, scooping up 584.



File Photo
ASHLEIGH COSTER was one of the outside hitters Reed-Custer coach Kelly Van Duyne chose to be on the Lady Comet volleyball dream team.

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IHSA pauses all winter sports, activities until further notice

The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Board of Directors met for a special virtual meeting last week, when they decided to pause all winter sports and activities for now.

"All IHSA sports and activities will cease by Nov. 20 for what we hope is a short-term pause," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "Given the rising COVID-19 cases in our state and region, we support the Governor's mitigations and believe it is imperative for everyone in the state to do their part in following them so that we can return to high school sports participation as soon as possible."

The Board will revisit the status of winter sports on Dec. 2, and again

at a regularly meeting Dec. 14, if necessary.

"Taking into account the current state mitigations, the Board believes that early to mid-December will be the most reasonable target to review the status of winter IHSA sports and activities," said Anderson. "The Board is sensitive to the scheduling difficulties these delays create for athletic directors and coaches. However, our experiences this summer and fall lead us to believe that setting arbitrary start dates hinders the process even more. We realize it may seem redundant, but we have to preach patience as we await more data and direction from the state."

The Board was steadfast in their

desire to remind all athletes and athletic programs that adhering to the mitigations is vital to the hopes of safely playing high school sports in Illinois as soon as possible.

The Board provided the following participation clarifications to member schools:

Winter Season Start Date:

Given the timing of the Governor's new mitigations, November 16 will not be recognized as the start date of the winter season, regardless of whether winter sport teams conducted any official tryouts or practices. A new start date will be established for each sport once winter sports can be conducted again.

Conditioning & Weight Training:

Conditioning and weight training before and after school are paused. Local schools will decide if conditioning and weight training programs that are a part of their academic curriculums continue or are ceased.

Open Gyms:

Are paused and cannot be conducted at this time.

Outdoor Workouts: Outdoor workouts may be conducted in any sport in groups of 10 or less with masks and social distancing. Coaches are counted toward the 10. Use of sport-specific equipment is allowable with proper sanitizing practices.

One-on-One Skill Work:

Per Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigations

and with school approval, one-on-one skill work between a coach and student-athlete is permitted for winter sports only, but is limited to one coach and one student-athlete per facility.

Activities:

Practices and competitions may only be conducted virtually.

Non-School Participation:

All sports organizations in the state, school or non-school, have been directed to abide by the Governor's mitigations. IHSA coaches cannot organize non-school participation in any fashion. IHSA by-law 3.100 will be in effect once winter sport seasons begin following this pause.



File Photo

GEORGIA VOTTA was picked by former Reed-Custer coach Kelly Van Duyne to be one of her back row defenders on the Reed-Custer volleyball dream team. Votta played from 2013-16.



File Photo

KASSIDY BARR was chosen to be an outside hitter on the Lady Comet volleyball dream team. Barr is second in kills all-time.

Past coaches give volleyball dream team nod

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

They're considered the best athletes who played volleyball at Reed-Custer High School.

This week, The Braidwood Journal asked two former Lady Comet coaches—Jill Sorensen-Davis and Kelly VanDuyne—who would be on their roster to form a dream team.

Jill Sorensen-Davis, who led the Comets to their first ever sectional championship in 1992-93, had a long list of names. Sorensen compiled 166 wins and just 33 losses (.834) in seven seasons with the Comets. Reed-Custer athletic director Chuck Anderson described Sorensen-Davis as the architect of Reed-Custer volleyball.

"Records are great but when you have girls like these, you're going to have a winning record," said Sorensen-Davis. "They are the reason I had such a winning record. The caring relationships developed between my players and myself is the thing I miss the most. I also enjoyed their families who raised them right, supporting them through good games and bad."

Sorensen-Davis also coached at the middle school level with a team called the Braidwood Arrows back in 1986 and notes that was her first road to victory.

"It was so fun to watch those girls grow as athletes and as young ladies. I still enjoy



Courtesy Photo by Jill Sorensen-Davis

SECTIONAL CHAMPIONS—The 1991-92 Reed-Custer volleyball team captured the sectional championship 28 years ago, finishing with a record of 27-10-3. The Lady Comets coached by Jill Sorensen-Davis included: (in no particular order) Julie Hernandez, Sr. #1, Janine Keca, Fr. #2, Sarah Ewert, Fr. #5, Sherry Wright, Sr. #10, Mary Cannon, Sr. #11, Carie Loghry, So. #12, Stephanie McPherson, Jr. #13, Tricia Hall, Sr. #14, Vicki Waliczek, Sr. #15, Andrea Trayler, Sr. #20, Jodi Austin, Jr. #21, Kathy Smith, Sr. #22, Courtney Fitzpatrick, Jr. #23, Kori Studley, Sr. #24 and Cindy Bernd, Jr. #27.

running into them now and then or connecting with them on social media. They were a part of our family and still are."

Sorensen-Davis started with girls from her sectional championship team, who went 27-10, earning first in the Morris Invitational, second in the Comet Invite, fourth in the Huntley Invite, the Interstate Eight championship, Regional and Sectional champs and they made it to the Sweet 16.

Trisha Hall & Vicki Waliczek

Trisha Hall and Vicki Waliczek played middle hitters.

"They were complete walls as middle hitters," said Sorensen-Davis. "Nobody was going to get hits past them."

Hall was recognized that year for her individual play, earning Coca Cola Player of the Week, All-Conference, All-Academic and other accolades. She was named to the Huntley Invitational and Comet Invitational All-Tournament teams. Waliczek got an honorable mention All-Area Kankakee.

Fast four

Sorensen-Davis selected Kori Studley, Andrea Trayler, Courtney Fitzpatrick and Cindy Bernd at the outside hitter spots. They all were too good to leave out.

"They were all very fast and had amazing jumping and ability to read the defense as outside hitters."

SEE REED-CUSTER DREAM TEAM, PAGE 13