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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Time to revisit Return to School Plan

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As the first quarter of the school year approaches its end, the Unit 1 Board of Education has asked the district's Teaching & Learning Committee to reconvene and begin developing a plan to increase the amount of in-person learning time.

"We all know what we are experiencing right now is temporary as there will come a time that our students come back to us full time. When that time comes, it is not as easy as flipping a switch and everything immediately goes back to the way it was in our pre-pandemic environment," said Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg.

In advance of the school year the district convened a number of committees to develop a Return to School Plan, and the document adopted by the board of education and implemented in August provided for both in-person and remote instruction.

In order to accomplish this hybrid model of instruction the district made significant changes that went beyond a reduction to in-person instructional time.

Building level schedules were changed, teachers began

"WE ALL KNOW WHAT WE ARE EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW IS TEMPORARY AS THERE WILL COME A TIME THAT OUR STUDENTS COME BACK TO US FULL TIME. WHEN THAT TIME COMES, IT IS NOT AS EASY AS FLIPPING A SWITCH AND EVERYTHING IMMEDIATELY GOES BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS IN OUR PRE-PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENT."

DR. KENT BUGG
UNIT 1 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

moving from classroom to classroom, specials and electives were condensed into nine week sessions and every student is participating in a remote learning hour.

The changes were neces-

sary to ensure the district's students got back to class this fall in a manner that provided the necessary instructional time and took the health and safety of everyone into account.

"We successfully imple-

mented the Return to School Plan," Bugg said.

Although there have been a few hurdles and set backs, the plan is working as designed.

Outside of a two week pandemic driven closure of the high school, classes remain in session with a majority of the district's students reporting for in-person instruction.

Of the 2,099 students enrolled in the district, 13.8% have opted for full remote learning.

However, as the superintendent has said multiple times those students will be required to return to their school buildings when the

state moves into Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan.

It's anticipated that options for remote learning will no longer be available to school districts when the state moves into a fully restored phase, so it will be back to business as normal—or whatever normal will look like in a post-pandemic world.

The board's directive is aimed at preparing the district to move back to full day, in-person instruction, and Bugg said now is the time to start putting plans in place.

"I want to start putting that transition plan together,

SEE PLAN, PAGE 2



Photos by Ann Gill

TURF WARS—The Greasers and Socs will meet on the campus of Coal City Intermediate School this weekend, as the Coal City Theatre Department presents "The Outsiders." The 18-member cast includes [from left] Riley Nevin, Derek Carlson, DeKotah Rieger, Caden Hennessy, Landen Selio, Luke VanDuynes, Chase Cora and Eli Fritz.

Unit 1 approves \$36 million spending plan

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Unit 1 Board of Education has adopted a fiscal year 2021 spending plan that calls for the use of \$3.2 million in reserve funds.

A special meeting was called last week to adopt the \$36.6 million budget that includes substantial pandemic related expenses.

In its final form, the spending plan includes an additional \$2 million in expenses over what was proposed in the tentative budget presented to the board in early July.

At that time, Jason Smith, the district's chief school business official, emphasized the document was tentative and noted both revenues and expenses would be revisited prior to final adoption.

The district started the fiscal year with \$18.8 million and its projected revenue is outlined at \$33.39 million — \$1.59 million more than initially projected. Based on those figures, the district anticipates closing the year with a balance of \$15.5 million.

As Smith noted in presenting the tentative budget, the district typically spends about 97% of its budgeted expenditures and takes in 103% of its projected revenues. Last year the district spent roughly 94% of the budgeted dollars.

This year's fiscal plan includes increases related to the pandemic including increased cleaning and sanitation, additional staffing and student technology upgrades necessary for remote learning. A small portion of those pandemic expenses will be covered by the \$152,000 the school is set to receive from the CARES Act.

Along with pandemic expenses, the budget calls for normal operating expenses related to education, maintenance, transportation and capital improvements.

The board agreed to transfer \$1.2 million — \$658,000 from the education fund and \$542,000 from working cash — to the capital improvement fund to cover costs associated with summer maintenance projects.

As noted by board vice president Shawn Hamilton the potential for significant financial change came just prior to budget approval with the announcement from Exelon Nuclear of its intent to close the Dresden Generating Station.

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2

Thinking outside the box

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

In these unprecedented days of pandemic with so many events and outings canceled, the Coal City Theatre Department is finding a new way to bring theater to the community and provide students with an outlet to showcase their talents.

This weekend, an all-student cast will present "The Outsiders," a two act play by Christopher Sergel and based upon the novel by S.E. Hinton.

Director Jack Micetich had the title on his short list for shows in 2019, but in the end decided to go in a different direction and slated the title for fall 2020.

Little did he know at the time, pushing the show off a year would end up being the right decision. Just five months after staging the annual fall play and in the midst of the high school musical season, the coronavirus pandemic took hold.

As the school year approached, the question was, what can the theatre department do given the guidelines in place for not only schools, but theatre as well?

The pandemic had the director thinking outside the box, and to accommodate a live audience the show would have to go outside the wall of the Coal City Performing Art Center.

With an assurance of support from the village of Coal City, Micetich found himself driving around town looking for the perfect outdoor venue. He spotted a few interesting and historic buildings that would provide the perfect backdrop, but he needed enough space to ensure he could meet social distancing guidelines.

In the end he found the perfect location on the Coal City Intermediate School campus, and in a few short weeks an outdoor stage was constructed and set built.

Taking "The Outsiders" outside was the creative out of the box thinking that would provide the students a platform to showcase their acting talents and ensure a live audience could be there to enjoy their work.



"WHEN I SAT DOWN WITH OUR DRAMA CLUB OFFICERS, IT WAS EVIDENT THEY WANTED TO TAKE THIS MOMENT IN TIME TO CREATE SOMETHING UNIQUE."

JACK MICETICH
DIRECTOR

BEING A SOC isn't all that it appears to be. The Socs and Greasers will come together on the stage this weekend as senior Zoe Smith [above] and her fellow cast mates present "The Outsiders," a full-length play based on the novel by S.E. Hinton. Reserved tickets available at bit.ly/CCTDTickets.

As a senior, cast member Riley Nevin said he is especially thankful will all that is going on the school district was open to the concept of taking the show outdoors.

"When I sat down with our drama club officers, it was evident they wanted to take this moment in time to create something unique," Micetich said.

SEE OUTSIDERS, PAGE 2

Trustee calls for a return to in-person meetings

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Coal City Village Board has been meeting remotely for several months, and for the most part it's worked out well.

Trustees have been logging in from their home computers to approve bills, grant variances, talk annexation and expansion of the tax increment financing district, they even approved a town budget without being in the same room.

The remote meetings have also found appointed officials including the engineer and attorney logging in from their homes and offices, even the press has gone remote in its reporting.

Six months into this new way of convening meetings it was suggested the time might be right to get back to in-person discussions and decision making.

"Am I the only one who feels it's time to get these

board meetings back into the village hall?," Trustee Dave Spesia questioned during the board's Sept. 23 meeting.

About 60 minutes prior to his question board members were all together in Campbell Memorial Park for the swearing in of the town's new police officer. When that ended, instead of heading over to take their assigned seats in the village hall they headed home to log into Zoom for that night's business meeting.

Spesia said he feels the meetings are more productive when everyone is in the same room.

Mayor Terry Halliday who had called for the continuation of remote meetings a month earlier, said he didn't have a problem bringing

SEE MEETINGS, PAGE 2



Plan

so we need to look at what steps need to be taken," Bugg said.

This could mean incrementally bringing kids back for longer periods in a day or resuming full day instruction for select groups of students.

One of the big issues, the superintendent said, is ensuring teachers have the time necessary to provide the best education for all students be it in-person or remote.

At this time, Bugg said it's rather open ended as to what the committee believes to be the best method in transitioning students back to the classroom when the data shows it's time to do so.

The committee is led by Tammy Elledge, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, and is comprised of building level administrators, department leaders from all areas of instruction, as well as student services and educational support personnel.

Once the committee has met and made its recommendations, Bugg said the Health and Wellness and Facilities and Operations Committees will also meet to review the information.

The goal is to have a preliminary report to present to the board at its Nov. 4 meeting.

As Bugg noted, 290 district students have selected

full-time remote learning a number that includes 95 high schoolers and 91 middle schoolers.

Overall, the number of remote learners at those buildings have remain stable since the start of the school year.

However, with kindergarten to fifth grade students the district is seeing more return for in-person instruction.

For example, the elementary school started the year with 38 remote learners and as of this week there were just 26—16 second graders and 10 third graders.

As for the other lower grade level buildings, the intermediate school has 24 fourth grade and 19 fifth grade remote learners enrolled and the early childhood center has 35 remote learners this quarter.

Additional students enter remote learning due to COVID-19 quarantine guidelines, but those students transition back to the classroom once their required isolation is complete.

On that note, the superintendent reports that since the school year started their have been a total of 10 COVID-19 positive students, and outside of the potential close contact transmission that occurred at the high school last month, all of the cases were based on transmissions outside of school.

Budget

Through a court approved tax agreement, the power producer pays over \$24 million annually in property taxes with 60.5% or \$16 million going directly to the Unit 1 School District.

"I know we didn't make any drastic changes to the budget last minute which I think we are all supportive and fine with, but I think it may be time to start talking about what the future of the district is going to look like," Hamilton said.

Per the terms of the tax agreement, Exelon still has two years of payments at the current level. However, a closure of the plant is expected to result in lessening of its assessment.

While local officials including the Unit 1 School District are working together to keep the plan open, it's also working on safeguards to protect the community from immediate and drastic cuts.

"There is going to be a lot of work to do moving forward," Hamilton said, suggesting the district's Finance Committees begin meeting.

Although the budget Hamilton and his fellow board members approved does not take into account changes resulting from Exelon's announcement, he noted that does not mean the district has to spend every dollar accounted for in the budget.

By fund, those dollars include expenses of \$23.9 million for education with anticipated revenues of \$21.7 million.

Revenues of \$3.7 million are expected for operations and maintenance with expenses of \$3.45 million and debt service has planned expenses of \$3.498 million with a \$3.495 revenue stream.

Revenues and expenses [respectively] for the remaining district funds are \$1.981 and \$2.2 million for transportation, \$819,075 and \$757,250 for Social Security and retirement, \$1.23 million and \$1.75 million for capital projects, \$105,241 and \$542,000 in working cash, \$218,579 and \$226,000 for tort and \$80,955 and \$200,000 for health and life safety.

Adoption of the budget was proceeded by a public hearing, no one was in attendance to comment on the spending plan and it was further noted no one from the public requested to view the budget prior to the hearing.

The public hearing and special meeting took six minutes to complete.

Firefighters take part in training course

The Coal City and Braidwood Fire Protection Districts participated in a multi-company training exercise at the Braidwood Fire Station training tower on Oct. 1.

Several fire ground functions including forcible entry, hose line advancement, extinguishment, search and victim removal were covered in the training, as was ventilation, ladder placement and down firefighter rescue.

Local fire officials report mutual aid training amongst neighboring departments take place several times a year in order to teach familiarity with other department's equipment and operations so real emergency situations are handled more expeditiously.

As an additional benefit to the communities the department's serve, these sessions give fire departments credit for this type of training through the Insurance Services Office [ISO] and potentially help along with many other factors to lower the insurance rates for these communities and thus saves homeowners and businesses money on their policies.

THE TRAINING TOWER at the Braidwood Fire Station was used for a multi-company training exercise in fire ground functions. Members of the Coal City Fire Protection District completed exercises from ladder placement to victim removal.



Outsiders

And, they have done that with their take on the tale of Ponyboy and his greaser friends who get caught up in territorial battles with those who appear to have it all.

Like the characters they portray, the performers have learned that just when it appears you have it all at your finger tips it can be taken away in a moments notice, and as Micetich as told them you have to learn to pivot.

The director is taking his own advice these days as he's navigating a production in a space without walls, electricity, sound or seating.

Along with constructing a stage there were the scenic design elements that had to be brought on site.

There were not stage lights on the school baseball field, so that meant coordinating with a lighting company and securing a generator to power it all.

With no walls to secure any of it, there was the extra step of coordinating security and protecting the equipment from the elements like wind and rain.

"It's been a learning experience for all of us, and we are grateful for the many partnerships we've built though this process," Micetich said.

He points to the generosity of companies like D Construction, Sunbelt Rentals, Family Skate Center and Giggle's Pizza, as well as D'Arcy Motors and organizations like the village of Coal City, Coal City Fire Protection District and countless others who are lending a hand.

The biggest buy-in in moving outdoors has come from the students—actors and crew members—who arrive at rehearsals ready to perform no matter the conditions.

Micetich said his cast has created something special in this outdoor space.

"I could not be prouder of this group of students," the director said.

The cast is comprised of Nevin, Dylan Ludes, Griffin Johnson, DeKotah Rueger, Caden Hennessy, Derek Carlson, Zoe Smith and Adeline Connor.

Also, Luke VanDuyne, Gabe Ludes, Anjalie Medina, Madison Holcomb,



COAL CITY HIGH School students Riley Nevin, Dylan Ludes and Griffin Johnson will take the stage this weekend in the Coal City Theatre Department's production of "The Outsiders."

Landen Selio, Caleb Kuhel, Isabelle Kostbade, Chloe Peacock, Eli Fritz and Chase Cora.

"The Outsiders" will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, Oct. 9, Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11 on the Coal City Intermediate School campus.

Streets around the performance space—Vermillion to Kankakee Street and a portion of Washington Street north of Church Street will be closed during the performances.

Reserved seat tickets are available at bit.ly/CCTDTickets. When you purchase tickets online, you will be asked to choose a space that seats two, four or six to eight people. Each space is socially distanced for the health and safety of everyone in attendance. Audience members must provide their own seating for their

reserved space.

A limited amount of seating will be available on the day of show and tickets will be available from the box office located on the southside of the school.

Seating will begin at 6:15 p.m., and all audience members are asked to be seated by 6:50 p.m. Face masks must be worn by all patrons when moving through the space.

Daily updates on the production can be located on the Coal City Theatre Dept. social media pages—Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

"Although the weather for the weekend looks ideal for an outdoor production, should inclement weather occur Monday, Oct. 12 will serve as a rain date," Micetich shared.

Meeting

everyone back into Village Hall, as long as social distancing could be accomplished.

"The challenge we have is if we have anyone [outside the board] who attends the meeting it becomes a [social distancing] challenge," the mayor said.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz agreed that, along with technology have been the challenges in the meeting

structure during the pandemic.

The board attempted one in-person meeting, but the available technology made it difficult for anyone attending remotely to hear what was being said in the room.

"I can look into seeing if we can do that better," Fritz told the board.

The capacity of board meeting room does not provide the space necessary for all of the elected and appointed officials to gather in an

acceptable socially distanced way if three or more members of the public choose to attend.

Although no one would be turned away from in-person attendance, Fritz said if the appointed officials continued to attend virtually it would provide some additional space.

Halliday said he didn't want to force anyone back into the room who was not comfortable, and he suggested a hybrid option that would allow both in-person and remote attendance based on the preference of the board member, appointed officials or member of the public.

Trustee Dave Togliatti said he supported the idea of getting back to in-person meetings if possible.

Fritz said he will look into the board's options moving forward given space and technology constraints.

In other matters from the Sept. 23 meeting:

- At the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board, trustees granted a variance request for the installation of a six foot fence within the corner side yard at 380 N. Kankakee St.

- Fritz reported the public works department will begin hydrant flushing throughout the village starting on Monday, Oct. 5.

- Mayor Terry Halliday reported he has received a number of favorable comments from residents regarding the look of South Broadway.

He noted there is still a check list of items that need to be completed and he is hoping and waiting for that to happen, including plantings in the various planters.

Halliday said he's also received comments about the number of planters, and just how many are needed to which he replied, "I don't have an answer for that."

- Trustee Sarah Beach provided the board with an update on the recent concert in the park featuring Cadillac Grove.

"It was a fantastic night with probably 80 to 100 people," she said, adding "for not having many events the one we did have was pretty good."

- Beach further reminded her fellow trustees that it was Small Business Week and encouraged them, as well as the community to go out and support the town's small businesses.

Halliday replied with a similar call to support the town's businesses not only during the designated week, but throughout the year.

- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$52,231.95. Included in the bills was a \$4,000 payment for mailing water bills, \$99 for street signs and \$131 for evidence supplies.

Jennifer M. Cowie

10-06-81 - 12-25-19

We miss you and think of you every day.

Love, Mom and Dad

PUBLIC NOTICE

EARLY VOTING SITE - GRUNDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

General Election - November 3, 2020

Early Voting will begin on Thursday, September 24, 2020 and continue through Monday, November 2, 2020

LOCATION - Grundy County Courthouse (Lobby)
Grundy County Election Authority
111 East Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450

TIME -	Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (unless noted below)
Saturday	October 3 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	October 6 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 8 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 10 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	October 11 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Monday	October 12 CLOSED-COLUMBUS DAY
Tuesday	October 13 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 15 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 17 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 18 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	October 20 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 22 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 24 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday	October 25 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	October 27 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 29 8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 31 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Please call the Grundy County Clerk's office at (815) 941-3222 - Option 1, if you have any questions.

Please Note: Face masks required and cell phones are not allowed in the Grundy County Courthouse.

KAY T. OLSON
GRUNDY COUNTY ELECTION AUTHORITY

Award Winner

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USPS No. 120-060

Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
271 S. Broadway St., P.O. Box 215
Coal City, IL 60416

Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Free Press Newspapers; P.O. Box 327;
Wilmington, IL 60481

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

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the

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

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

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

COVID-19 metrics improve, Grundy off warning list

Virus complications claim sixth life

STAFF REPORT

Grundy County's COVID-19 metrics improved in the last full week of September, and therefore the county was moved off the state's warning list.

The Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] uses eight indicators when determining if a county is experiencing stable activity or if there are warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk. When a county reaches warning level in two or more of the eight metrics it moves on to the list.

In the past nine weeks, Grundy County has been at the orange warning level five times due to an increase in the test positivity rate. A warning is issued when the seven day positivity rate rises above 8% and Grundy has been as high as 9.9%.

The warning list is issued by IDPH each Friday and based on data collected a week prior.

For the week beginning Sept. 20, Grundy's test positivity rate fell to 7.1%, the lowest it has been since the last week of July.

The county is meeting state targets in all areas with the exception of new cases per 100,000 and remains at warning level for a 10th straight week as 82 new cases were reported in that last full week of the month.

If there are more than 50 new cases

per 100,000 people in the county it triggers a warning.

On Oct. 2, the Grundy County Health Department reported 46 new cases were reported in the prior seven days bringing the total number of persons testing positive for the virus to 693.

The health department is following 94 people who are currently ill and in isolation, and each of their close contacts.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a close contact is defined as any individual who was within 6-feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset [or for asymptomatic patients, two days prior to positive specimen collection] until the time the patient isolated.

Those with no symptoms are asked to self-quarantine for 14 days from their last potential exposure and should be referred for testing.

Those with symptoms should immediately self-isolate for 10 days after symptom onset and be referred for testing and medical care. Negative test results for contacts do no change the length of quarantine, it is still 14 days.

In the month of September, the highest number of cases reported by age group were among those ages 40-59, 78 total cases. The health department further reports 69 individuals between the ages of 20-39 were infected with 34 cases reported among those 0-20 and 60-79.

As has been the constant since the virus was first reported in the county, those age 80 and over have the fewest number of cases. However, four of the six

reported COVID-19 related deaths have been among this age group.

Grundy's health administrator Michelle Pruim reports a male in his 80s with underlying health conditions passed away within the past week as a result of COVID-19 complications.

As of Tuesday, IDPH was reporting a total positive case count for the county a 728 persons with a total of 11,448 tests administered. Within that total 136 cases were reported within the 60416 zip code, 313 cases from the 60450 area, 24 within zip code 60424 zip code and 13 from the 60444 area.

The state data is updated daily and county data weekly. Additionally, the state's testing numbers are based on tests performed, not the number of individuals tested.

The North Central Region that includes Grundy County, continues to see a decline in the positivity rate. As of Sept. 28, the positivity rate for the region was 5.2%. The rate on Sept. 21 was 5.4%, Sept. 14 was 6% and Sept. 7 was 7.2%.

As Pruim notes, this rate is important because if the region reaches 8% for three consecutive days, additional restrictions will be imposed upon the region.

Testing is available throughout the county through local hospital systems, and protocol at each location is subject to change based on availability of resources.

The IDPH has been deploying mobile testing units to offer tests to anyone—regardless of symptoms or asymptomatic. The health department provides regular updates on local testing availability on its social media pages.

Bruno honored as Lion of the Year

Bud Bruno has been a part of the Coal City Lions Club for 57 years. His service to the organization and community was recognized with his selection as the 2019-2020 Coal City Lion of the Year.

The Coal City Club is part of Lions Clubs International and as its mission statement reads, the organization serves, "to create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation." And, Bruno embodies the Lion's motto of, "We Serve."

"Bud has been a dedicated Lion's member for 57 years helping out the community and serving in many ways," said Mark Wills, past president of the Coal City Lions.

Bruno, now 91 years old, became a member of the Lions on March 13, 1963 when A.J. Dearth asked him to join the club. He remembers when the Lions were active participants in the Mazon Fair (Grundy County Fair) running the food stand which meant cooking the food and selling it all week. He was always part of the yearly fundraisers of broom sales and Candy Day. In more recent years he called numbers at the weekly Bingo sessions held at the Coal City Lion's Hall for which he had to be registered with the state of Illinois.

Bruno has been the club president three times, secretary, treasurer and has been an active leader in all positions throughout his 57 years as a member. He currently holds the position of membership chairman.

"I enjoyed all of my years of service as a Lion," Bruno said, adding, "if anyone is interested in joining our club please contact me or any member."

Bruno lives in Coal City with his wife, Phyllis. The couple recently celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary.

In recognition of his selection as Lion of the Year, Bruno was presented with a plaque of appreciation and recognition at the Sept. 10 Lion's Club meeting. His name was added to the list of other Coal City Lion's members that have been distinguished as Lion of the Year.



Courtesy photo

MARK WILLS, past president of the Coal City Lions Club, presented a plaque to 57 year member Bud Bruno [right] who was selected Lion of the Year.

Major celebration for new dance studio owners



Courtesy photo

ONE YEAR AGO this month, Coal City residents Jeni and Derek Tjelle purchased a dance studio and their daughters—Alexis, Libbie and Olivia—are leading students of all ages in discovering and developing in the art of dance. The Tjelle Family has been a part of the Major School of Dance for years, so when the opportunity presented itself they made the decision to go beyond students and staff to owners and directors. The Tjelle's purchased the business from Mary Jo Major who started the dance studio in a small store front along Division Street in the mid-1980s. As the business grew, Major moved into a new dance facility on East First Street and it was in front of that building, the Tjelle's gathered with their dancers and representatives from the village of Coal City for an official ribbon cutting and re-grand opening celebration on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Major Day, as it was billed, provided dance families to shop from the studio's boutique, as well as various vendors. There were also prize drawings and opportunities to meet the staff and collect some Major School of Dance merchandise. The studio offers instruction in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop and tumbling. They also offer classes in creative movement, yoga and Zumba. Flanked by their dancers, the Tjelle family joined village officials in cutting the bright red ribbon. Taking part in the ceremony were [left, from center] Alexis Tjelle, Derek Tjelle, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday, Jeni Tjelle, Coal City Village Clerk Pam Noffsinger, Coal City Village Administrator Matt Fritz, Libbie Tjelle and Olivia Tjelle.

Entrepreneurs in Africa save the day for Lauren Phillips

IOWA CITY, IA—When the COVID-19 pandemic shut down college campuses and businesses, thousands of planned summer internships disappeared too.

But 36 students in the Tippie College of Business, including Lauren Phillips, of Coal City, found a Plan B summer internship thanks to the university's relationship with the U.S. State Department's Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.

The Tippie students interned during the summer with alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship who own businesses in their home countries in Africa.

"It worked really well for the students and the fellows," says Dimy Doesca, director of the Institute for International Business in the Tippie College of Business and academic director of the Mandela Washington Fellowship at Iowa. "The students who wouldn't have anything to do received a unique international business experience and cross-cultural opportunity, while the alumni fellows received advice to help their businesses grow."

The Mandela Washington Fellowship brings hundreds of young entrepreneurs and policymakers from African countries to the United States every summer to learn about business and government. Since its inception, nearly 4,400 alumni have completed the fellowship. Iowa has hosted 25 fellows every year since 2016, and now has 100 alumni.

But the State Department postponed this year's program because of the pandemic. At the same time, employers around the country were dropping their summer internship

programs, costing university students the opportunity to build their careers with on-the-job experience.

Doesca saw an opportunity: match a suddenly internship-less Tippie student with a Mandela Washington Fellowship alum. Working with Cindy Meis, director of career management for the Tippie College's specialized master's programs, and Nicholas Kavanaugh, assistant director of undergraduate experiential learning, it took only about a month of planning for the African Innovators program to come together.

"Any student who wanted an internship was able to have one, even though it was different than what they expected," says Meis.

The African Innovators interns were 25 undergraduates and 11 graduate students, and came from most of the Tippie College's academic departments. The internships lasted from June 15 to Aug. 6, and the interns worked 15 to 20 hours a week from their homes across Iowa and the United States and, in the case of one international student, Brazil. They communicated with their mentors using Zoom, telephones, or email and were flexible with each other to work over time zone differences that ranged from five to seven hours.

Doesca says the interns were doing a variety of projects for the entrepreneurs, including a lot of digital marketing and social media. He says the pandemic shown the entrepreneurs the importance of social media and online marketing in reaching their customers.

He says interns also helped to build things like accounting recordkeeping, inventory databases, and

financial reporting systems. School and is in her second year at Iowa where she is majoring in International Studies.

Phillips, the daughter of Mark and Jen Phillips, is a 2019 graduate of Coal City High

	7		9				2	1
			1					
	5				6			3
					1	5	7	
	3							2
5		6					3	8
	4	3				7		
				9				
	2			4				9

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.

This week's puzzle answers

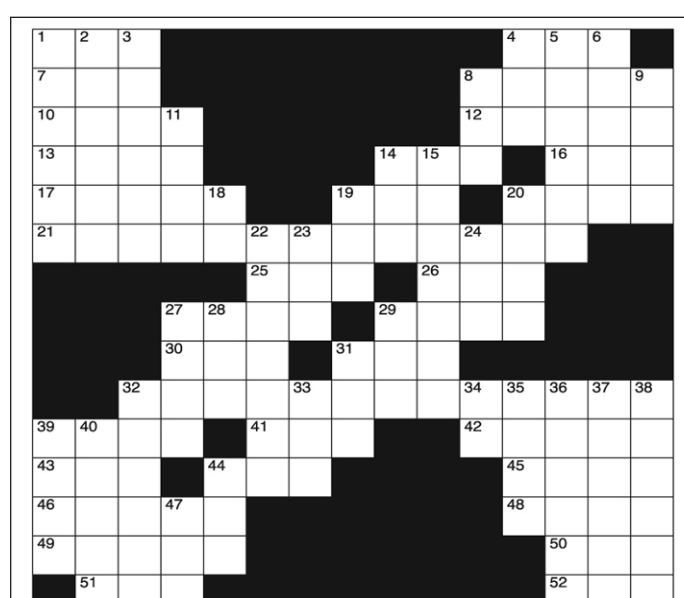
6	9	3	7	4	8	5	2	1
4	1	2	3	6	9	7	8	5
5	8	7	2	1	9	3	4	6
8	3	4	6	7	2	9	1	5
2	9	1	8	5	4	6	3	7
6	7	5	1	9	3	2	8	4
3	4	6	9	8	7	1	5	2
7	5	9	4	2	1	8	6	3
1	2	8	5	3	6	4	7	9

In Loving Memory of
Pat Bertino
 3/12/40 - 10/05/95

Mom has gone to heaven
 No more suffering,
 No more pain
 She went to be with Jesus
 She didn't go in vain
 She met up with her "Joey"
 Who was waiting at the gate

He took her to meet Jesus
 You know she wasn't late
 She'll meet her family in Heaven
 When we've finished our "life's race"
 We'll know where to meet her
 It's the very **BEST BEST** place.

Love, Janet, Sandy, JoAnne, Mike and families



- CLUES ACROSS**
- They look out for kids
 - Play
 - Water (French)
 - Prayer leader
 - Small constellation
 - Carta: influential royal charter
 - Pressure unit
 - Extrasensory perception
 - A symbol of "Aloha"
 - Portion of the small intestine
 - Psychedelic amphetamine
 - Very long period of time
 - British overseas territory
 - Cereal grain
 - Car mechanics group
 - Wish harm upon
 - At a specific prior time
 - Peyton's younger brother
 - UK firefighters' union
 - Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
 - Popular show honoring musicians
 - Basics
 - Honk
 - Trent Reznor's band
 - Patti Hearst's captors
 - Long-legged wading bird
 - Specialized biological grouping
 - A coin goes in it
 - Of the wind
 - One-time measure of length
 - A very large body of water
 - River in NE Scotland
- CLUES DOWN**
- Boston hoopster
 - A type of bribe
 - SE England county
 - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - "Hotel California" rockers
 - Italian province
 - Mischievous child
 - Popular street name
 - Boxing promoter Bob
 - Snakelike fish
 - Break into pieces
 - The Bay State
 - Time zone
 - Port city in Yemen
 - In name only
 - 007's creator
 - No (Scottish)
 - Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
 - Pie ___ mode
 - Don't know when yet
 - Supervises interstate commerce
 - Make a ringing metallic sound
 - Helps little firms
 - Pound
 - Lilly and Manning are two
 - Put on the back burner
 - Baltimore ballplayer
 - Cuddle
 - Poker stake
 - Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
 - Pouch
 - Not around

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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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.

My choice

WILMINGTON—Wilmington business owners: If you do not enforce a mask wearing policy with your employees or customers, I will not patronize your business now or ever! That's my freedom of choice!

Biden's loophole

WILMINGTON—Biden is a tax loophole hypocrite. The Wall Street Journal article reported Joe Biden and his wife exploiting tax loophole to avoid paying \$500,000 in taxes for two years of income. This wasn't reported in the left-wing media. Joe Biden says the rich don't pay enough, and they get too many tax breaks. Now that Joe Biden has gotten his tax breaks, he wants to take them away from everyone else. Biden made \$13 million in profits in his S-Corporation and avoided paying his fair share of taxes. Biden avoided paying his fair share of taxes by paying himself a small reasonable salary, less than 6 percent of millions of profit he actually made. So if he cares about Medicare and Social Security so much, maybe he should pay-up \$500K. When Biden's money was passed through an S corporation, he didn't pay Social Security or Medicare taxes on it. Biden is using the loophole that Obama and Biden administration could have changed. Even Obama opposed this tax code. And for the all the Trump haters, it is the same legal tax code that Trump can legally use. Trump is not committing tax evasion, and it most certainly is a legal tax strategy. But Biden doesn't think Trump should use it and cheat the IRS out of taxes. Biden is the man who said that paying more in taxes was a patriotic act. I am not rich, but I can't stand politicians that tell us they are an average guy. Bidens used the S Corp to save big on taxes! Joe made over \$13 million dollars in the 2 years after he left office. To add more insult to business owners, Biden wants more IRS audits for the rest of us. Don't vote for Joe, he is a fair and has no problem avoiding paying his fair share of taxes.

Disgusting debate

ELWOOD—I'm a kindergarten teacher and let me tell you that even my students behave better than Trump and Biden did during the debate. Time to vote in the Green party candidate.

For town's best interest

BRAIDWOOD—Greetings. I would like to start off with acknowledging all the attention I have been getting lately, that's good you are paying attention. To fire back at some lingering questions and subject matter from the last couple weeks of Sound-offs, I am really unsure of why people keep assuming someone is leading me in the direction of the wrongdoings I have been pointing out. I saw some issues, I filed the proper paperwork by FOIA, noticed the problems, wrote a speech to point out the problems. You know, using facts, real evidence, but then again, Mark Twain did once say, "No amount of evidence would ever persuade an idiot." Next, I know it may seem completely hard to believe, but I do, in fact, pay taxes to the great city of Braidwood, therefore, I am absolutely entitled to my voice being heard. How would you feel if I told you that you too have that same ability? I know, it's shocking. So no strings attached to any of us. Crazy, just lunacy. Can we also chat about the amount of time I have been a resident of the town, though completely irrelevant, some people insist on it being a thing. I plan on being here for at least 20 more years so I want nothing more than to help better the town, that literally requires zero seniority on residency. Not only is that just a silly statement, but it is playing into that small town good ol' boy's club that needs to just go away. Eventually that club is going to die out, and I don't want to see the town die with that club, do you? On to another issue. Just because I kind of "attacked" two city commissioners, that doesn't mean I'm done holding each and every one of those commissioners, along with the mayor, accountable. Each and every one of you people complaining about me should use that energy to do what I'm doing...holding these elected officials accountable. If my issue started with water, you bet I would be after the water commissioner and all his gang. As for the people who think my speech was lengthy, well that is because it was. I was nervous and was taking way too long to spit out my words. It's not easy getting up in front of people and holding them to their job. I do apologize for my nervousness, but at least I have the guts to go in person and ask why they are not doing what they are suppose to be doing. Next subject I'd like to address: an ordinance for a three minute commentary. While this is true, there is an exception, the mayor has the final say. That is for everyone, not just me, but it is in the ordinance for everyone to verify. There has been plenty of others who were up there longer than three minutes, so if you attack me, you must attack everyone who has gone and who will go longer than me. Likewise, talking out of public comment; there is a particular man, who is known to get all feisty in the back every other meeting, out of public comment. Let me reiterate, I wasn't the first and I bet I won't be the last. Finally, I would like to restate what I have

said online and now here for all to read too, Wayne Saltzman and Fay Smith, with dissimilar grounds, should resign as commissioners. Kind Regards, Nicole Shores

Out of respect

WILMINGTON—This is in response to the comment on Marney's opinion piece regarding masks. Sadly, we are in the middle of a public health crisis, a pandemic that has taken over 200,000 American lives and a million worldwide. To suggest that people who are wearing masks won something from whining is an absolutely horrible response. Nothing was won. Wearing a mask to keep the spread of this highly contagious virus low is the least you can do in order to be a decent human being. It is not about control, it is not about politics, it is about respecting your friends and neighbors. It reduces the number of cases and the spread, which in turn allows people to begin to go out more and patronize businesses so more businesses do not have to close, so we can recover this economy. My patience is running thin, it is running thin with people like you who act like petulant children kicking and screaming because you have to do the slightest act to help your fellow man and community in this time of crisis.

Act now on climate change

BRAIDWOOD—Right-wingers are the ones who are careless, irresponsible and selfish especially toward generations to come. Have you noticed how Republicans claim that they are the ones behaving responsibly and they criticize other people for being careless and irresponsible such as those on food stamps? They constantly criticize others for "free stuff" when in fact the corporations like Amazon and the super wealthy are getting more of a hand-out, obvious by our \$23 trillion national debt, than anybody else by getting tax breaks. They are mortgaging tomorrow by their dirty and wasteful methods today. If we do the right thing to slow down or stop the climate crisis we would save trillions in the future and that would be smart. Being progressive and bold regarding the climate crisis would be conservative. But instead of applying science to guarantee ecosystems to thrive, right-wing world leaders such as President Trump and Brazil's President Bolsonaro care only about getting rich while the world burns and drowns.

Making waves

BRAIDWOOD—To the young lady in Braidwood who has been stirring up so many problems lately, just remember those who start trouble in small towns stand out amongst the rest and not in a good way. You're doing a very good job at earning yourself a reputation. Keep in mind that making waves in normally calm waters will get you splashed with the muck you churn up.

Open up Illinois

WILMINGTON—Time to open up the state! Our small businesses and unemployed workers cannot survive an extended shut down. The Democrats will destroy our state. If Biden is elected he will do a national lock down. Even Dr. Fauci is not recommending another lock down. JB has been manipulating the positive covid numbers to scare us. Our positive rate is actually really low. Each day 400 - 700 covid positive numbers is from long-term care facilities. That's anywhere to 40-50% of all covid tests in a small segment of vulnerable population. Every one living outside of nursing homes is actually really low. I email the governor's office every week asking him to open the state fully. JB is causing panic and financial hardship in this state on purpose. Mostly because he cannot stand Trump. JB needs to start listening to the economist instead of scientist that are so narrow minded and cannot agree on how disease spreads, how long it lives on surfaces, effectiveness of mask, what it means to slow the spread. We've done it all and it's just time to open up bars and restaurants, schools, businesses and offices. People need to get back to work and their lives. The CDC posted survival rates and numbers speak for themselves. It's time to stop the oppressive governor. Indiana and Florida are now fully open. No one wants to get covid so wash your hands, don't touch your face and wear a mask, stay home if you feel sick. It's what you should do during cold and flu season. That's just common sense. I would encourage everyone to go to CDC not CNN and read these numbers for yourself. The CDC is also now estimating that only 65% of those who contract the COVID-19 virus actually wind up with any symptoms. That means 30% of those who feel fine and tests positive will never have any symptoms that would cause severe illness or death. If you don't want to do the research, here are the numbers. COVID-19 SURVIVAL RATES (per CDC): Ages 0-19 - 99.997%; Ages 20-49 - 99.98%; Ages 50-69 - 99.5%; and Ages 70 - 94.6%. Please email the governor because Fauci's claim that COVID-19 is "10 times more lethal" than the flu was total junk science. Here are Fauci's own words, "The overall clinical consequences of Covid-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%". Email the governor and let's move on and open the state.

more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%". Email the governor and let's move on and open the state.

Based on speculation

WILMINGTON—The New York Times article on Trump's taxes to a desperate attempt by left wing media that is the personal cheerleader from the Democrat party. The NY Times does not have access to Trumps tax returns. Remember, Trump has repeatedly said he will release his returns when his IRS audit is complete. There are definitely no personal tax returns for 2018 or 2019 either out in the public record. The NY Times has taken various tax data to



piece together what they believe Trump might have paid. The Times was able to verify portions of tax data available in public records. Tax data is not a legally filed tax return! The Times used portions of his 1985-1994 tax returns. Really? That's how desperate they are to get Biden elected. What they fail to print is that Trump has paid personally tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the Feds. Everyone that earns a paycheck pays payroll taxes, state income taxes, Social Security, Medicare and of course state and local property taxes. So lots of taxes. Take a look at your paycheck stub and look how much you pay in federal taxes. What Trump's accountants do is use the perfectly legal US tax code. If the Democrats in Congress (that included Biden who was in office for 44 years), NY Times, CNN, CNBC don't like the tax code, then they should vote people in that will change the tax code. I guess they only want the tax codes changed for Trump. Does anyone know what you owe to the IRS until your year-end taxes are complete? When what does your accountant usually do? They ask you if you have any other potential deductions to reduce your tax liability (charities, donations, mileage that are probably bogus). We all want to use legal tax codes to send less money to IRS. Even our own governor pulled out toilets to avoid paying \$320,000 to our very broke state. Even JBP found a way to pay less taxes. All Democrats want to do is raise taxes because they can't manage the money we work hard for and send them every year. And if businesses and business owners don't pay taxes, then why does the state and local leaders want more businesses and cry when businesses decide to move out of our high tax state? That article shows how pathetically desperate the Democrat party is.

Davy Lane billings

WILMINGTON— Thank you Nicole Kasalko for having the courage to confront Wilmington city officials regarding water usage on Davy Lane. If the city feels the billing that was provided at the City Hall meeting was accurate, then there is a serious problem. The taxpayers foot the bill for the audit to find leaks, but where is the audit for "The number of users connected to the system, including units of service" and "The number of non-metered users" per mmunicipal code 52.03? According to the "Will County GIS Data Viewer" there are a total of 59 units on Davy Lane. Per the billing provide by the City Hall, 17 units are not being charged for the \$35.91 sewer base fee. 6 units had no billing info at all. And, 18 all had the exact same billing? Where are the fines, liens, and water on fees? Makes one wonder if all the commercial buildings in town with multiple units are getting charged accurately?

Pure chaos

CUSTER PARK—Did we learn something from the first presidential debate? Yes, watching President Trump's behavior, we learned that kindergarten teachers are definitely underpaid. The debate was not a debate at all but pure chaos caused by the childish Trump shouting uncontrollably over the moderator. Trump neither followed the rules which his campaign agreed to nor did he look into the camera to tell the American people why he deserves a second term. For future debates, the moderator should have a kill switch on Trump's microphone to silence him because Trump's display of unhinged rage was painful to hear and an embarrassment to democracy. Included in the shameful shouting was Trump's encouragement to the racially violent Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by". Within minutes, the Proud Boys immediately adopted Trump's words as their logo thereby answering Biden's question that Trump identifies with these dangerous racist agitators. Trump is such a bully, the debate commission is changing the rules to stop him.

Painful to watch

WILMINGTON—There are several White House staffers who recently resigned in disgust due to President Trump's callous indifference to the 200,000 Americans killed by the pandemic but also due to his inability to bring people together to accomplish good things for the country. They stated that Trump's performance at the first presidential debate is how he conducts business as president. They say the west wing of the White House is a pit of vipers with Trump setting the vicious tone similar to the bullying, the name-calling and the belligerence Americans witnessed for 90 minutes on television. Watching the debate was painful. It's difficult to imagine that people have to work in such an environment every day. Kate L.

Thanks for nothing

WILMINGTON— In response to Kathy Kelly. Good luck expecting the city to help with your problem. I went to the city about a sump pump. My neighbor put in draining into my garage. No permit. I had the same public works man, building inspector, code enforcer officer

all said "illegally put in". About six months in a closed council meeting the vote decided it was my problem to get a lawyer. It's now going on two years and she's still being an idiot. So thanks city council for nothing. From Wilmington, Shirley, thank you.

Proper protest attire

WILMINGTON—I have watched daily videos from Seattle and Portland of what some call "peaceful" protests. No Covid masks; instead gas masks, helmets, body armor, baseball bats, rocks, frozen water bottles, cans of tuna, and the favorite: fireworks. It's really sad. It's anarchy and tyranny by the mob. Protest for the sake of protest. This is not representative of America and I urge you to vote!

Climate change

SHADOW LAKES—Explain this all you climate change aficionados. As the rainforests in South America are cut down, what is the mantra? Climate change, climate change! Every year the forests on the west coast burn. Did you see the pictures of the forest fighters hacking their way through the under bush to control the fires. Let's get back to the forest! Don't you think with the smoke circling the earth is healthy? I am sure that the smoke is loaded with all types of cancer causing agents, caused by the burning homes. Isn't the loss of all the forests going to have an affect on climate change? You hear nothing! Always, Margot Lane

The debate

SHADOW LAKES—A few notes on the debate. When the question came about "The New Green Deal" Did you notice Joe mumbled "no", then he mumbled "yes." He mumbled something about a few buildings, or something, and then subject was dropped. Go online and look up the green deal. It is more than a few buildings. See what AOC plan for this is. Also go to the Joe Biden website and see what he does support. Here is a website to go to all about the wind farms, you will see what this costs you. [https://townhall.com/columnists/dugganflanakin/2020/09/25/wind-turbines-generate-mountains-of-waste-n2576862...always, Margot Lane](https://townhall.com/columnists/dugganflanakin/2020/09/25/wind-turbines-generate-mountains-of-waste-n2576862...)

Simpleton

Have you noticed how President Trump criticizes Biden for getting old? Have you noticed how Trump constantly brags about how intelligent he himself is? These are indications that Trump is self-conscious about his shortcomings by projecting them onto others. Trump had a poor record of academic achievement throughout his life and he frequently makes mistakes when speaking, like when he recently said "herd mentality" rather than "herd immunity". In fact, during the debate Trump burst into a rage about how smart he is. But most people aren't buying it, including Republican opponents who have answered him back by giving him a taste of what he deserves. The Lincoln Project produced an ad immediately after the debate showing footage of the multitude of mistakes made by Trump caught on camera throughout his presidency. I myself will never forget how Trump was such a simpleton as to believe that the ingestion of bleach was a possible solution for the coronavirus. Ralph D.

Weather changes

WILMINGTON—First it was global warming now it's climate change and it is apparent that Irene does not know how to use a dictionary because if she did she would know the word climate means weather and the word weather means climate. If you listen to the people that want you to donate to global warming or climate change they're using your money for their benefit. If you don't believe that, take a look at Al Gore's bank book. Now you have to learn how to use a dictionary or thesaurus and then read some physics books so you can learn something instead of listening to polls that change with the wind.

Violating their oath

COAL CITY—Under the State of Illinois Constitution, it states under Article 1, section 2, that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor be denied equal protection of the laws. There is nowhere in any law book or legal document in the entire USA that gives any government employee the legal right to refuse to utilize all means available to protect every American citizen from any type of criminal activity in the state of Illinois or the entire USA. The penalty for refusing to comply with the state and federal law is prosecution of any government employee including any politician that refuses to aid the American citizens under the laws of the USA. How long are the politicians going to allowed to violate their oath of office without being prosecuted? Could this be a form of treason against the American citizens by the politicians?

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Asking for respect is hardly playing the victim

After my second column regarding mask wearing, we received a handful of Sound-off submissions.

I was anticipating that not everyone would agree with me, but this one caught my attention:



SIMON SAYS...
Marney Simon

"Yes, we respect your right to wear a mask. You could also put a bag over your head and we would respect your right to wear it. Our respect grows thin when you wave your pre-existing condition victim flag. Over half the country has some comorbidity pre-existing, but most don't use it as an excuse to bash their fellow citizens. Even with that, for your age group, stats show a 99 percent chance of recovery if you get sick with Covid. The mask believing group should be gracious winners, all of their whining and complaining has made the mask a state and local ordinance. They can pat themselves on the back for the 5,000 restaurants and food services that have closed in Illinois and won't be back. So give it a rest, you got your way. A truly fair newspaper would print the following info. CDC Data Sources "While coronavirus is obviously concerning and a very real threat to some people, name the elderly and immunocompromised, these data show that the risk for the rest of the population is quite low." Infection fatality rate estimates by age: 5-9 years-0.0016%, 10-19 years-0.00032%, 20-49 years-0.00092%, 50-64 years-0.14%, 65 years and over-5.6%, all ages-0.64%. Source: <https://osf.io/wdbpel/>

Much of this really does not deserve a response, particularly the appalling notion that people with preexisting conditions are playing victims.

By saying that your respect "grows thin" you seem to be implying that you were on board with staying a respectful six feet away from me until I told you that I am high risk, which now makes you not want to respect my space.

This is how a toddler

responds to stimuli they don't like.

Since this whole thing started, the emphasis has been on protecting those who are at high risk, yet apparently, these people now annoy you and you wish to disrespect them. This selfish lack of care for others is repugnant.

Even more repugnant is the idea that I should be a gracious winner. Apparently, this is a game to you.

An ongoing pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 of my fellow Americans and infected more than 7 million — including President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump — is not a win for anyone.

What I would like to focus on, however, is your ending.

First, that you equate an opinion piece as regular news which should be "fair and balanced" shows you do not have a grasp of editorial writing versus journalism.

That we printed my editorial — specifically an opinion piece written in first person and clearly labeled as my own point of view — does not somehow equate to a lack of fairness. What was written was my opinion that people without masks should not approach other people. I am not certain what death rates have to do with it. I don't know why 1 million dead worldwide is viewed as insignificant.

While I am sure your death rate statistics seemed like a gotcha moment of some kind, pandemics are not pandemics because of how many people they kill. They are pandemics because of how many people they affect across the globe.

At no point did I suggest that people should wear their masks because of how deadly the virus is. I asked people to wear their masks due to how contagious the virus is.

I tried your source, and was told "site not available."

So, I instead tried Nebraska Medicine. As you may remember, some of the very first cruise ship victims of the virus were transported to

Nebraska Medicine in Omaha. Nebraska Medicine has the premiere isolation and infectious disease research facility in the country — you may recall they also took care of the handful of Ebola victims we had in the United States in 2014.

According to Nebraska Medicine:

"COVID-19 can damage organs like the lungs, brain and heart for an unknown amount of time. Recovered patients have reported "long-hauler" effects in these areas:

- Brain: headaches, fatigue, insomnia, vertigo and "brain fog"

- Lungs: lung scarring, shortness of breath, chest pain and cough

- Heart and blood: blood clots, heart arrhythmia, diabetes and hypertension

Even younger patients with COVID-19 can experience lasting effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 5 weren't back to normal two weeks after testing positive.

Since COVID-19 is a new disease, we're still learning that long-term effects are likely. With so many unknowns, it's best to stay safe and avoid catching it in the first place."

These are my bigger concerns, not death rates.

But, if you want to focus on death rates, I'll turn your attention to another pandemic: Varicella. AKA the chicken pox.

Pre-vaccine, the death rate for chicken pox was .001%. It was so uncommon that it nearly always was only fatal the very old or the very ill. I myself am part of the population that contracted it at a neighborhood "chicken pox party."

As it turns out, the virus stays with you.

Decades later, chicken pox can produce shingles. Long term effects of shingles can include postherpetic neuralgia (long term pain, itching and burning), blindness, and Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, which can cause dizziness, hearing loss, and loss of ability to move parts of your face.

I am uncertain why people are so blasé about COVID-19 simply because it likely won't kill you, when we know

Census to continue data collection

A federal judge in California has blocked the Trump administration's effort to end early the door-to-door head counting for the 2020 U.S. Census. President Donald Trump had ordered that the census count end Sept. 30, but barring any reversal of the decision by a higher court, the head count will continue through Oct. 31.

On Oct. 2, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a message went out to census takers that day informing them data collection operations would continue through the end of the month.

As of Monday, 99.8% of Illinois households had been counted. In Grundy County 76.3% of households self-responded, up from 74.7% in 2010, and 78.3% of Will County households self-responded, also an increase from 2010 that found 76.9% sending in their data.

Locally, 66.1% of Braidwood households self-responded to the 2020 Census as did 76.3% of Carbon Hill, 78.9% of Coal City, 74.6% of Diamond and 68.7% of Wilmington households.

Anyone who has not yet completed the census to do so online at my2020census.gov.

-Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report



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Circle jam at Godley Park Dist. set for Oct. 10

There will be a circle jam on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the rec hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone includ-

ing musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are held on the second Saturday of each month from January to November, and are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more.

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- Coughing or choking while chewing or swallowing

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OBITUARIES

Joan Meyer

WILMINGTON—Joan Meyer, 81, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 at her home surrounded by family.

Born Sept. 21, 1939 in Joliet, IL, Joan Margaret was the daughter of Michael Peter and Margaret Susan (Berscheid) Korst. She was raised in Joliet; attended St. Mary Carmelite Grade School; graduated from St. Francis Academy with the class of 1957, and went on to attend Joliet Beauty Academy. On May 10, 1958, Joan married Bernard Meyer in St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Joliet by Bernie's uncle, Reverend Bernard E. Burns, and together they raised their family and were happily married for the following 62 1/2 years.

Joan worked as a hairdresser and owned and operated her own salon for 32 years. She was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and enjoyed being active with the Inwood Fitness Water Aerobics for many years. Joan loved to travel with the love of her life, Bernie, and together they made many memorable trips to Florida, Shipshewana, Brown County and the Smokey Mountains to name a few places. Deeply loved by her family, Joan will be remembered as a devoted wife and a loving mother and grandmother, who cherished her family. There is no doubt that she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Bernie; three loving daughters: Natalie (Ray) Sugg, of Lockport; Corinne (Glenn) Rodighiero, of Shorewood and Tracy (Tom) Schejbal, of Limestone; dear grandchildren: Eric (Andrea)



Sugg, of Lostant; Scott (Wendy) Sugg, of Plainfield; Caitlyn Rodighiero, of Shorewood; Nicole Rodighiero, of Key West, FL; Crystal Sugg, of Temecula, CA and Lauren Schejbal, Lucas Schejbal, Lindsey Schejbal, Logan Schejbal and Landon Schejbal, all of Limestone and cherished great-grandchildren: Payton, Liam, Evie, Jameson, Laila, Serina, Olivia and Maddie, as well as her faithful companion, Lulu.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents.

The family received friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 in Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Reverend Sebastian Gargol and Reverend Charles Wheeler concelebrated.

Following Mass, Joan was laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to St. Jude Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Joan's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Joan-Meyer

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

Robert Shear

COAL CITY—Robert L. Shear, 84, of Coal City, went to his heavenly home on Sept. 26, 2020 at home with his family by his side.

Born April 12, 1936 in Wilmington, he was the son of John William and Anna Marie (nee Henke) Shear. Robert was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a great friend to all. He was a member of the Christian Life Assembly and was a long-time resident and business owner in Coal City.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Jean (nee Hakey) Shear, who he married Dec. 18, 1954 in Morris; one son, Robert (Elaine) Shear Jr.; three daughters: Bonnie (Dan Goodman) Ryder, Karen (Mike) Cairns and Brenda (John)



Zierman; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, John and William Shear and one sister, Norma Reynolds.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial services for Robert will be held at the Christian Life Assembly in Diamond, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. with a visitation one hour preceding services.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with the arrangements.

Karen M. Prombo

Karen Marie Prombo, 60, of Morris, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 at her home.

Born March 10, 1960 at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL, Karen Marie was the daughter of Harry and JoAnn (Potts) Wysocki. She was raised by her grandmother, Regina Potts and was educated in Roseland, Park Forest and Crete-Monee, where she graduated from Crete-Monee High School with the class of 1978. On Oct. 10, 1986, Karen married Edward Prombo in Matteson, IL. Karen was employed for Orthopedic Associates in Munster, IN for 20 years. She was an active member at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister. Karen took pleasure in planting flowers and landscaping her shrubs. In addition she enjoyed crafting, going to the zoo, and was an avid White Sox fan.

Survivors include her husband 32 years, Edward; son, Phillip Prombo, of Chicago; sister, Terri Wysocki, of Matteson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Linda (Robert) Pogliano, of Coal City; Roseann (James) Tibbott, of Morris; Gloria (Jeff) Hodge, of New Lenox; Michael (Beth) Prombo, of Palatine; Steven Prombo, of Chicago; William (Terri Kay) Prombo, of Morris and Christopher (Robin) Prombo, of Waterloo and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as



her special Uncle Bob and Aunt Jan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and dear grandmother, Regina Potts.

Per Karen's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home in Morris from 9-11:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at 12 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

A private family inurnment will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Karen's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, 60450.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Karen's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Karen-Prombo

Cremation services and memorial arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

Rita Styck-McWherter

HERSCHER—Rita Styck-McWherter, 75, of Herscher, IL, formerly of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 at home.

Born Sept. 25, 1945 in Kankakee, IL to the late Clayton Clarence and Margaret Mary (nee Larkin) Rynearson. Rita retired at the age of 62 from Plant Services contracted with Exxon Mobil. She loved to bird watch and was a member of the National Bird Watchers Association. She also enjoyed horticulture and exhibited that through the many plants she grew. Rita enjoyed crafting and boating with her late husband, Mac, and most importantly loved spending time with family.

She married Henry (Wanda) Styck July 31, 1965 in Kankakee and together they had two children, Tina (Don) Fleischauer of Herscher and Henry "J.R." (the late Cindy) Styck, Jr. of Dwight, IL; seven grandchildren, Holly (Robbie) Wilke, Dustin and Cassie Fleischauer, Jason, Brandy, Brittany and Jamie Stanton; four great-grandchildren, Emma, Sofia, and Nevaeh



Stanton, and Robert Donald Wilke; one sister, Sue (the late John) Fiessinger of Kevil, KY; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was her husband, William "Mac" McWherter (8-22-2018), whom she married September 5, 2005; brothers, James (Marcie), Kevin (the late Robyn) and Terry Rynearson; one sister, Sandra Dee Dickerson; and one sister-in-law, Kathy Rynearson.

Visitation for Rita will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Thursday, Oct. 8, from 4-7 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. All attendees will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing standards.

Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment will be in Custer Township Cemetery. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336

Sound-off, continued from page 4

Always raising taxes

SHADOW LAKES—Calling about the sound-off in this week's paper called "A bargain" by Renee K. I don't really think she quite understands how Democrats work taxes. Democrats in my time have never lowered taxes, period. The majority of them are very wealthy, they have a very high income. So why would they want to tax themselves? You have to be blind not to see this and I hope you read the commentary on page 11 of the newspaper by Brad Weisenstein. I think he can obviously explain it better than I can, so if you have this week's paper go and read the commentary on page 11. Dan Hill.

Avoided paying

WILMINGTON—Biden's tax platform includes getting high-income Americans to pay more in taxes and eliminating write-offs used by the rich. Biden did just that in his recent tax returns. Biden and his wife avoided paying \$500,000 in payroll taxes, Medicare and Social Security taxes. The Biden's used a tax loophole to allow them to bypass the 3.8 percent self-employment tax on \$15 million in income. If Biden is going to "talk the talk" about the rich paying their fair share and the immorality of tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy, it might be more effective if Biden also "walked the walk." Biden could help save Medicare and Social Security if he paid his fair share.

Dam people

WILMINGTON—Great picture of the two people clearly trespassing at the dam site. Put up barricades, fencing, signs in whatever language you want. It will do no good. Bottom line is you can't fix stupid.

Destroying the ACA

CUSTER PARK—To Jim of "Unaffordable." Do you realize you get a tax deduction proportionate to your income if you have Obamacare insurance? If still too expensive, buy private insurance. Either way the Obamacare law (ACA) forces all health insurance companies do the right thing by making them cover preexisting conditions. Also, the ACA forces insurance companies to pay your costs without limiting the lifetime dollar amount. These two features improved private insurance for consumers making the ACA revolutionary. Have you forgotten what it was like before the ACA? For people with preexisting conditions, health insurance was unaffordable and in general everyone worried about exceeding the lifetime limit of what their insurance would pay. Some people had good health insurance through their jobs but they were the lucky ones. Yes, the ACA relieved these problems of the American health insurance nightmare. But since becoming president, Trump is destroying the ACA out of spite thereby making health insurance more expensive. Trump hates Obama's legacy more than he cares about what is good for the people. Gary W.

Job well done

WILMINGTON—To Ken Ewensen and Wilmington Public Works employees: your professional work replacing the sidewalk on Fulton Street is greatly appreciated.

Vote no on tax

COAL CITY—Don't believe a word they say about this so called "fair tax." Voting yes for the graduated income tax change is giving JB Pritzker and Mike Madigan to okay to raise taxes anytime they want. Do you really think these two can be trusted not raise taxes on the middle class. After all the COVID spending, loss of businesses and the killing of Illinois' economy, Madigan and JB will target the middle class within the first year. The only ones who won't be affected are those on welfare. You pay more taxes, they get more free services...how fair is that?

Layoffs coming

WILMINGTON—It's sad that massive layoffs are coming from Disney, Allstate and the airlines. But Republican Senate Leader McConnell doesn't care about economic suffering caused by layoffs and is not moved to pass legislation for helping people who are stricken by the pandemic. That's the Senate's job and that's McConnell's job but McConnell refuses to do it. Nevertheless the Senate is in such a hurry to confirm the new Supreme Court justice, someone eager to eliminate health insurance for tens of millions and remove preexisting condition coverage for half our population, it can't do it fast enough. This reveals the nature of the Republican Party. It's despicable and

you might be one of its victims. Irene D.

The pandemic

COAL CITY—For those who still think President Trump has done a good job fighting COVID-19, consider that Japan has had a total of 1,578 deaths whereas our death toll is 210,000. This means the U.S. death toll as a percentage of total population is 50 times that of Japan's death toll as a percentage of total population. It's another statistic which verifies that our country has the worst performance in the world controlling the pandemic. Kurt K.

Thief strikes again

COAL CITY—I replaced my Trump sign and it was stolen again. I hope they are also stealing the Biden signs too. I bet not....so again they are trying to steal the election in one way or another. I have the right to my opinion and you have the right to yours. This is called freedom of speech which is at stake in this election as you can see from the actions going on here. Sorry to say this will not change my mind... only cement it and ignite my activism. What are you trying to prove?

City boy

BRAIDWOOD—It's obvious that President Trump is a city boy who wasn't listening during biology class. Trump's suggestion to sweep millions of acres of forest floor is laughable. I have family out west and they are Republicans who believe that we shouldn't even fight the fires but let everything burn. Perhaps because they are evangelicals, they don't believe in getting off their duff to obey God's command of stewardship toward the earth. The bottom line is that the debris on the forest floor is beneficial to the forests. As a matter of fact, sweeping the forest floors would make matters worse by removing protective mulch that protects pine trees from the ravages of drought. Furthermore, the cost of sweeping millions of acres would be put to better use by spending the money mitigating the climate crisis which causes the forest fires in the first place. Let's face it. We must do something eventually and the sooner we start the cheaper and more effective it will be. Right now we are committing suicide. Ann S.

Fact checking

CUSTER PARK—Checking the facts about what was said at the first presidential debate leads to the following conclusions: manufacturing jobs increased by half a million under Trump but some of the increase has been lost since the pandemic; regarding violent crime, it decreased about 16 percent under President Obama and is about the same under President Trump; prescription drug prices are increasing under Trump; the forests burning in the west are 60 percent under federal control so Trump is to blame for the problem and should not be blaming the states for bad forest management; according to epidemiologists more than 100,000 lives would have been saved from the pandemic if shutdowns in March across the states would have been a week earlier. Last but not least, Trump's childish temper tantrums show he must shout and scream because his powers of reasoning are lacking. We see this all the time with children, adolescents and adults who are desperate. A. Weidner

Vote to survive

BRAIDWOOD—Contrary to what the fake news media says, President Trump showed tremendous leadership regarding Covid-19 pandemic. He cut off travel from China in January while the Democrats were trying to impeach him. He warned of the dangers of the coronavirus in his Feb. 4 State of the Union Address. He took swift action to supply states with medical equipment. He displayed calm and steady transparency during his daily press conferences. He was simultaneously accused of failing to use his authority and exceeding it. In a blink of the eye, church services were banned, gun shops closed, freedom of movement criminalized. At the same time, violent Antifa/ Black Lives Matter Marxists have been allowed to riot in our streets without consequence. This should serve as a dire warning of how fast our freedoms can be taken away and those freedoms will be taken away if the Democrats win in November. They will move quickly to destroy Medicare with Medicare for All, severely restrict our religious liberty and free speech, confiscate firearms from law-abiding Americans, destroy our economy with taxes and their "Green New Deal," stack the Supreme Court, punish churches and pastors who oppose same sex mar-

riage and abortion. Even more alarming they will permanently cement their hold on power by making it impossible for any conservative to ever again win the presidency by abolishing the Electoral College, allowing millions of illegal aliens to vote, and eliminating all voter ID requirements. That's why the 2020 elections are a battle for the very survival of America as we know it.

It's everyone's right

COAL CITY—Dan Hill, of course looters and thieves should be arrested and punished. But not all protesters loot and steal. In fact there are more peaceful protesters than bad guys. And sometimes it is the White Supremacist groups who cause trouble to blacken the protesters' image. It's a Constitutional right to protest. You and others are trying to tie them all together because you don't like what they are protesting about. However as a proud vet who fought for the same Constitution the protesters are using, and curbing them would be un-Constitutional, you should defend their rights to protest. And right now the big stealers, traitors, self-serving crime guys, like Roger Stone, Manafort, Bannon, Cohen, Flynn, and others, who get off, get convicted but get short sentences for their crimes, or like Roger Stone who has so much dope on Trump he gets pardoned after admitting his guilt are the big problem. I bet the looters who are caught will get more time and never see a pardon. M

Made my day

COAL CITY—The Sound-off letter "Unfit for Office" about President Trump's obsession with personal vanity made my day. Furthermore, General Kelly, General McMaster and Rex Tillerson have attested that Trump was never mentally fit for office in the first place. Trump has a lot of nerve criticizing Biden for what Trump himself is guilty. It's called projection and Trump does it on a regular basis.

Joe shows compassion

BRAIDWOOD—Thank you Joe Biden for showing kindness and compassion to a man who doesn't seem to even understand those words. We join you in hoping President Trump recovers quickly and also all his minions who have also contracted the virus. Kudos for pulling negative ads. You really should just learn his quotes, but you are better than that.

Such a shame

WILMINGTON—It's such a shame what the VFW has done to one of its members. They can't pay their bills nor attract more customers but they can bar one of their own for something allegedly what some of themselves are always doing. I have been to their queen event and many women stand there with open arms to get a hug from this person. Don't you think you should pay more attention to your business? One of your own bartenders/employee contracted Covid and you closed for one day where others have to close for 14 days and be quarantined. Sounds like you think you are above the law. This man is one of the most selfless people I have ever met. He always puts the VFW and the people/other members before himself. I have seen him at every event and every gathering for the VFW including being a part of the honor guard. And on countless other occasions I have seen him doing the yardwork for the VFW for free. He has always been a huge help during vent and also planning. He has always been good to me and my family. I know the VFW just lost me and my family ever coming into their establishment again. We will find somewhere else to go.

God bless him

WILMINGTON—I don't understand how the VFW can ban a veteran, a gentleman vet at that, who always has respect for women of all ages from 6 months to 100 years old. I have known him for many years and I am a veteran's wife, 74 years old and cannot say enough good and kind things about this man. God bless him and all the veterans at the VFW Post 5422 except the ones at the top who did this to him.

Disgraceful display

BRAIDWOOD—It's difficult to believe that any American could have watched our president's disgraceful display on Tuesday night and still defend him, but they do. He lies, cheats and is a bully. But some still defend him. Even his more and more prominent and thoughtful Republicans have denounced him and his behavior and have announced they are going to vote for Joe Biden.

Unwind with a La Floridita Daiquiri

The essence of the classic Cuban Daiquiri is rum, sugar, lime juice. For over 100 years this proven combination has helped to beat the heat on those hot, humid summer days at Havana's La Floridita.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Despite the fact that the classic three-ingredient version of the Daiquiri is the "correct" version, the house Daiquiri at La Floridita adds a little something extra, and get this: it is served frozen.

Yes, cocktail snobs, the house cocktail at the birthplace of the Daiquiri is served frozen. Who knew? The bar staff at La Floridita will make your Daiquiri however you would like it, but their house special is the "La Floridita No. 4," as listed on the menu since 1935.

Other than the crushed ice, what's the difference? The La Floridita splits the "sweet" component between granulated sugar and maraschino cherry liqueur. The result is a subtle bittersweet cherry note in a cocktail that is neither too sweet, nor is it too sour. The combination of the reduced sugar and maraschino liqueur brings balance to a drink that has always been too sour for some, too sweet for others.

Legend has it that Hemingway himself had a hand in inventing the La Floridita. Hemingway loved rum, especially during the time that he spent in Havana. As much as he loved Cuban rum, many of the Cuban cocktails were too sweet. Hemingway was not a fan of sugary drinks, and even before he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes he disliked sweets.

He asked a bartender at La Floridita for a Daiquiri, but his instructions were to "double the rum, and cut the sugar." He was on to something, but the drink lacked balance, so a few drops of maraschino liqueur were added. Now, it was per-

fect. How perfect? According to the legend, Hemingway once drank 17 of them in one day. Quite the barroom feat.

Of course, the Hemingway legend surrounding this drink could be just that, legend. Nothing more. Very few of these anecdotes can be proven, but one thing is for sure: Hemingway is at La Floridita right now. Seriously, there is a life-sized bronze statue of the man himself at his favorite spot near the end of the bar.

However the La Floridita Daiquiri came to be, I'm glad that it did because it is an amazing cocktail. I realize that this drink is not "the" Daiquiri, but a delicious spin-off that has more depth than the original. The La Floridita pairs with meals, especially Cuban cuisine. Also, the drink is an excellent compliment to a fine Cuban cigar.

You may be thinking that this sounds wonderful, but how am I going to make this drink without Cuban rum? Unless you have a bottle of Havana Club 3 Year in your home bar, you will have to find a rum to substitute for the Cuban stuff. The rum that is closest to light Cuban rum in flavor profile is Flor de Cana Extra Dry. If you are unable to track down a bottle of Flor de Cana, the standard Bacardi Light Puerto Rican Rum or Cruzan light rum will also get the job done.

When it comes to maraschino liqueur, Luxardo is going to be the most widely available option, and also your best option. Luxardo Maraschino is a high-quality French liqueur that is adored by chefs and mixologists the world over. If you are unable to locate the big green bottle of Luxardo, Maraska and Stock are also quality maraschino liqueur brands that perform well in mixed drinks.

Fresh lime juice is always



best. Limes can be juiced ahead of time if you are expecting company, but remember to shake your lime juice prior to pouring.

On that note, the portions listed in the recipe below are for a single drink. Floridita preparation is a process, and in the interest of time you may want to batch your drinks to prepare three or four at a time. The La Floridita staff typically prepares four at a time, so they would start with 2 oz. lime juice, and 4 teaspoons of granulated sugar, then take it from there.

The classic Floridita preparation calls for the lime and granulated sugar to be added first. Once the lime and sugar are added, give your blender a quick pulse. This will dissolve the sugar, if you are using granulated sugar.

Next, add 1 1/2 cups of crushed ice (per drink), and the maraschino liqueur. Blend the ingredients on high, pouring in the rum slowly as the drink is blending. Be careful here, measure out your rum before you pour unless you have a very keen eye for the pour. If you have tended bar in a past life, you've got this.

As far as glassware, the Floridita is served in "Martini" glasses, but the pictures and video that I have seen from the bar lead me to believe that these are served in oversized cocktail glasses. In other words, your standard Martini glass may not hold this drink, perhaps a larger Coupe glass

would be a better fit.

This is a great "first" rum cocktail if you are new to rum, or are looking to move beyond rum and Coke. I have never been to Havana, but if I ever make it down that way I plan on pulling up a barstool next to Ernest at La Floridita. I'm not above taking a picture with him, either.

The classic La Floridita Daiquiri is built in a blender and served in a chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

Combine in blender:
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. granulated sugar
Pulse blender to dissolve sugar, then add:

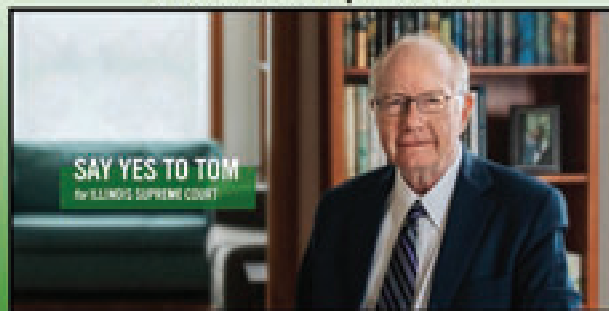
1 tsp. maraschino liqueur
1 1/2 cups crushed ice
Blend on high
Add 2 oz. light rum while blending

Pour into chilled cocktail glass, garnish with lime wheel
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Gernenz graduates from UW

Amy Gernenz, of Mazon, was among the summer graduates at UW Oshkosh College of Letters and Science where she received an associate of arts and science degree.

Please join me in supporting Justice Tom Kilbride for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court. Tom is a fair judge, a kind man, independent and a leader on the Supreme Court!



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NOTICE:

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, safety precautions and also a lack of some raw materials, furniture plants aren't operating at full capacity. This has caused a delay in getting our furniture delivered in a timely manner. We are working with our suppliers trying to expedite our orders and will continue to do so. This has been a trying time for us here at Nelsons and we really appreciate our customers' patience and understanding. We thank you for your business and look forward to assisting you with your furniture needs.

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DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10



Courtesy Photo

JUMPING INTO ACTION — The Custer Fire Protection District was among multiple departments working on saving a victim at an accident scene.

Custer Fire to pass out free smoke detectors

STAFF REPORT

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the Custer Fire Protection District will be driving through Custer township on Sunday, Oct. 11 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. passing out fire safety literature and fire hats for the kids.

They also have a number of free smoke detectors available. Any Custer Park resident in need of a smoke detector should call 815-458-9326 and leave a message.

"Smoke detectors are the most important thing you can have in the house," said Bob Hussey, trustee of

the Custer Fire Protection District.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 38% of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present. The risk of dying is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Those who can't physically install their smoke detectors should let the Custer Fire Protection District know and assistance will be given.

The smoke detectors were made through a generous donation by Wilmington and Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware

stores. Volunteers from the

fire department approached the Wilmington Whitmore Ace Hardware to seek out a discount for smoke detectors. The store then went above and beyond and donated 36 smoke detectors to the fire department. Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware matched that donation.

When you hear them driving by on Sunday, come out and say hello.

Because of traffic concerns along Route 113, residents can also stop by the station and pick up a literature packet in the box next to the front door.



FOUR MEMBERS OF the Braidwood Fire Protection District were recently promoted. Pictured (from left) are Assistant Chief Christopher Jude, Captain Jacob Bolatto, Lieutenant Michael Tenerelli and Engineer Felicia Ehringer.

Braidwood Fire Protection District

Personnel

63 employees; 3 Trustees, 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Fire Chief, 5 Officers (1 Chief Engineer, 1 Safety Officer, 3 Captains and 1 Lieutenant), 1 EMS Coordinator, 1 EMS Educator, 31 - Paramedics, 23 - EMTs, 55 - Certified Firefighters through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 2 Interns, 3 Cadets and 1 Administrative Assistant

Apparatus

Fire Engines/Pumper/ Tankers: 2411 (1996 Alexis Engine,) 2412 (2002 Alexis/Spartan Pumper Tanker), 2413 (2018

Alexis/Spartan Metrostar Chassis), 2416 (1997 E-One Heavy Rescue Squad), 2419 (2004 Smeal/Spartan Chassis)

Ambulances: 2012 Ford F-450, Advanced Life Support Ambulance, 2020 Demers/Ford F550 Ambulance,

Other: 1996 Ford/Alexis Brush Truck, 1992 Ford Road Rescue, 2020 First Responder Boat A16S and boat trailer, 2003 Ford F-350, 2011 Ford F-450, 2011 Alexis Tactical Rescue Trailer, Williams Fire & Hazard Control Foam Trailer, Chief's Buggy (2018 Chevy Tahoe), Operations Officer Buggy (2012 Ford Expedition), Command Vehicle (2015 Yukon XL)

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Keep items like dishtowels, bags and curtains at least three feet away from your kitchen stove.

Wilmington Coal City Braidwood
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DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10

Coal City Fire on the right path

The Coal City Fire Protection District is on track to log over 2,000 calls in 2020.

As of Oct. 4, the first day of Fire Prevention Week, the department had responded to 1,553 calls for service—a combination of fire and emergency medical services (EMS).

The district has experienced a steady increase in calls year-over-year and the volume of calls between 2018 and 2019 increased by 13%.

On average the department is responding to 173 calls per month, compared to 154 last year, and based on those numbers it looks like 2020 will end with a 12% increase in service calls.

The department is comprised of 46 members led by fire chief James Seerup who is assisted by deputy chief Karl Wexelberg, both were sworn in to their new positions Aug. 20.

Seerup, who joined the department in 1998, assumed full-time duties this week. He said he wants the department to be one others look to and one that the public has the utmost confidence in.

“We will continuously upgrade our equipment and continue on a path that brings us the highest level of our training,” Seerup said.

On the topic of new equipment, Lt. Nick Doerfler, who serves as the department’s EMS coordinator, reports in the past year two Lucas CPR devices were purchased and brought on-line in the front line ambulances.

“These units assist in performing perfect CPR allowing our members to focus on other life-saving measures at the time that a person’s heart stops beating,” Doerfler said.

As the department enters the final quarter of what has been a demanding year given the on-going pandemic, and the resulting protocols that came with serving the community’s health and safety needs, the department appears to be on a new path.

And, the chief says its the right path.

“We are looking forward to working together for a successful future,” Seerup said.



COAL CITY FIRE Protection District firefighters participated in a multi-company training exercise at the Braidwood Fire Protection District’s training tower on Oct. 1. Firefighters participated in a number of scenarios including ladder placement and extinguishment.



Courtesy photo

THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION District opened up Station 2 for operations on Monday, Aug. 10. The new facility will serve the Elion Logistics center, as well as parts of the district west of I-55.

Wilmington Fire connects with the community

BY MARNEY SIMON
STAFF EDITOR

Fire Prevention Week looked different for the members of the Wilmington Fire Protection District this year, who normally would be in the thick of high school football games and interacting with students from Wilmington School District 209-U.

Fire Chief Tim Zlomie oversees 11 full time workers, including two full time chiefs and nine fire-medics., as well as an administrator as well as around 26 other part timers.

“We always try to be out in our community,” Zlomie said. “This year is so different [due to COVID-19].... So, that will be something our guys miss, going out doing and getting the interaction with the kids. We’ve never closed, obviously, with COVID-19, so, anytime people have questions or needs, we always want them to feel free to contact us and use our services, no mater what.”

The district has three ambulances, and is currently out to bid for a new engine, which is expected to take about a year to complete.

One new addition for the district is its

new station, as plans to open the doors to a second location finally come to fruition in 2020.

In August, the district opened the doors on its second fire house, Station 2, located at 29745 Elion Boulevard, near Lorenzo Road and I-55 inside the Elion Logistics Park.

An engine and ambulance will be assigned to Station 2 with staffing of between two and three Firefighter Paramedics and Firefighter EMTs.

Station 2 will serve the logistics center, but is also strategically placed for quick response to I-55 and the western residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Wilmington, such as O’Brien’s Subdivision, Phelan Acres and Cottage Road, as well as anywhere in town that needs to be addressed.

The district hopes to have an open house at the new site next spring.

Zlomie said that despite the pandemic, it’s business as usual for the department.

“We’re here to serve our community, no matter what that means,” Zlomie said. “Even if it’s as simple as helping someone up or down, we’ll do that. We gladly do that.”



Keep leashes and collars near the door. If you need to leave your home in an emergency, keep your pet gear handy and close to a safe exit. If your pets are not microchipped, be sure they have identification on their collars in case they become lost during a home evacuation.

K9 RIKKI
Coal City Fire Protection District

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Solar storms and their impacts on Earth

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:
Are there any environmental or health risks associated with the solar storms that have been hitting the Earth recently?

— Betsy R., Suwanee, GA

Solar storms have been in the news lately, but the truth is these naturally occurring solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from the Sun happen all the time — or at least a few hundred times a year from what we can tell here on Earth. They are caused by large-scale magnetic eruptions from the Sun that send particles into the atmosphere at high speeds. But luckily for us, the only threats these solar storms pose within the Earth's atmosphere are to our technology.

According to the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), harmful radiation from these flares can't pass through Earth's atmosphere to physically affect humans on the ground; however, when intense enough, they can disturb the atmosphere in the layer where GPS and communications signals travel. Both CMEs and solar flares, if powerful enough, have this disrupting effect.

"When a CME strikes Earth's atmosphere, it causes a temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field," reports Deborah Byrd, editor of the EarthSky.org website. "The charged particles can slam into our atmosphere, disrupt satellites in orbit and even cause



Courtesy Photo by Keith Williams, FlickrCC

WHILE SOLAR STORMS may be harmful to our communications technologies, they are also behind the amazing galactic light show visible from some northern latitudes in winter called the Aurora Borealis.

them to fail, and bathe high-flying airplanes with radiation."

Besides disrupting navigation and telecommunications systems, solar storms can also cause electricity blackouts down below on Earth. One example happened in Quebec on March 13, 1989. A particularly strong CME caused a power failure that stretched across Quebec and parts of the Northeastern U.S., blacking out the region for nine hours and affecting six million people in the process.

The technological effects of solar storms can be worrisome, but scientists can track and predict these storms in order to mediate their potential negative impacts on a region. Additionally, one positive result of solar storms in places that lie at higher lati-

tudes is the appearance of the radiant Aurora borealis (also known as the Northern Lights) during these phenomena.

While there have been plenty of solar storms lately, this year actually marks a low-point for such activity — a so-called Solar Minimum — in the solar cycle. The Space Weather Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the next peak of solar activity will be in July of 2025.

Amateur astronomers interested in tracking solar storms should check out SpaceWeatherLive.com, a nonprofit, all-volunteer project out of Belgium which coordinates information from several websites on a range of topics including astronomy, space, aurora and related subjects.

One of the site's cool features is a free glimpse into the last three days of solar storm activity hitting the Earth's atmosphere.

If you would like to become more involved in the process of tracking solar storms, the Solar Stormwatch II project led by University of Reading in England looks for volunteers to help record data. Volunteers can virtually aid the project by observing CME data and imagery on the project's website and recording/outlining what they see.

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Gas dips in Illinois

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 3.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 45.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.89/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state Monday was \$1.89/g while the highest was \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.17/g Monday.

The national average is down 4.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 49.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. "It's been a fairly quiet

week for gas prices yet again, but with oil tanking last week, there's a possibility motorists may see a renewed downward direction in average prices in the days or weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "However, according to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand inexplicably rose last week to the highest level since August, breaking with conventional wisdom that fall demand is typically weak. While we have no direct reasoning for the rebound, five of seven days last week saw much above the prior week's gasoline demand, in fact, Friday saw the highest gasoline demand since Labor Day. If demand continues to somehow defy such conventional trends, we may see an end to the possibility of future declines."

Madigan won't testify before Investigating Committee

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

House Speaker Michael Madigan said Friday, Sept. 25, he will not voluntarily testify before the House Special Investigating Committee that is probing his role in a bribery scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison.

In a two-and-a-half-page letter to the committee, Madigan called the committee "a political stunt" being orchestrated by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, and said the ongoing federal criminal investigation, "is more important than Mr. Durkin's political theatrics."

"For the record, I am not exercising my Fifth Amendment rights by not appearing before the committee," Madigan wrote. "As I have said before, I have done nothing wrong."

Madigan, a Chicago Democrat and the longest serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history, was implicated in the bribery scheme in July when officials with ComEd entered a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office in which they admitted that over a period of years, they awarded jobs and contracts to close associates of Madigan in order to curry his favor for legislation that benefited the company.

Madigan has not been charged, and the deferred prosecution agreement did

not explicitly state that he had personally requested the favors or had direct knowledge of them at the time. He is referred to only as "Public Official A," although the agreement makes clear the public official is the speaker of the Illinois House.

Republicans have filed a charge under House rules accusing him of "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust." During the committee's first meeting Sept. 10, GOP members introduced a list of witnesses they wanted to testify voluntarily. The list included Madigan along with several past and current employees of ComEd.

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Unemployment claims increase 13% in a week

There were 29,390 initial unemployment claims for the week ending Sept. 26, which was an increase of 3,414, or 13%, from the week prior, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security. New claims were more than four times higher than the same period a year ago.

Nationally, there were 837,000 initial claims for the same period, a decrease of 36,000 from the week prior.

Continued claims in Illinois decreased by 6% from the week prior, to 502,314, a decrease of more than 34,000 as COVID-19 and associated economic restrictions continue to wreak havoc on the job market.

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Nearly \$700 raised for local food pantries



A GOLF CART parade on Sept. 12 in Shadow Lakes raised \$690 in cash and over \$2,000 worth of non-perishable food items for local food pantries. Other golf carts were decorated with the themes of dinosaurs, Rick and Morty, an ice cream truck, American themed and more. Pictured: Greg Machak in front of his winning pirate ship themed golf cart with Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons.

Elks offer free children's orthopedic assessment

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

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

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

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

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Community calendar of events

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

Thursday, October 8

- 8 to 11:45 a.m., Community Care Center, 112 S. Center St., Braidwood, food pantry open on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m., Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., open Monday through Friday
- 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, open every Tuesday and Thursday, one member of each family allowed, patrons must wear a face mask, social distance, answer health questionnaire, and no children allowed unless otherwise approved
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., for questions call 815-216-3288
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7 p.m., Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District meeting, 104 W. Main St., Braidwood

Saturday, October 10

- 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Haunted Lolli Land Drive-Thru Toy Drive, First Christian Church, 455 W. Southmore Road, Morris, to benefit Grundy County Heroes & Helpers, admission: new unwrapped toys or \$20 per person, reservation required at wendy@gchhinc.org, closed from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday
- 5 to 8:30 p.m., Godley Circle Jam, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley

Sunday, October 11

- 6 to 7:30 p.m., NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meeting, online on zoom, register at www.namiwillgrundy.org/online-support-groups, each Sunday

Monday, October 12

- 4:30 p.m., Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition meeting, virtual meeting on Zoom, find information on Coalition Facebook page, second Monday of each month

Tuesday, October 13

- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Police & ESDA Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St, second Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Ordinance & Licensing Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., second Tuesday of each month

Wednesday, October 14

- 7:45 A.M., TOPS 1024 meeting, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington,
- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Health & Safety Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Water, Sewer, Streets & Alleys Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7:30 p.m., Wilmington School District 209U Board of Education meeting, Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court

Thursday, October 15

- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington

Friday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 20

- 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.

Wednesday, October 21

- 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
- 6 p.m., Custer Fire Protection District Board meeting, Camelot Education cafeteria, 35445 S. Washington St., Custer Park, third Wednesday of each month
- 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer School District Administration Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

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IL paying down credit card debt

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

With the economy showing signs of life despite the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinoisans were among the leaders nationally in paying down credit card debt.

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, Illinois ranked fifth in the nation in paying down debt in the second quarter of this year. Analyst Jill Gonzalez says the pandemic and the tumultuous

job market forced people to take a hard look at the finances.

"I think that job security was top of mind, so even if they did not lose their job and lucky enough to hold onto to them, I think they were spending as if they were unsure of the future," Gonzalez said.

WalletHub's quarterly credit card studies are based on analysis of the latest data on consumers' finances available from TransUnion as well as the Federal Reserve and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

According to the study, the average household in Illinois owes \$8,339 in credit card debt, following a \$491 decrease in the second quarter. Nationally, U.S. consumers paid down \$58.1 billion in credit card debt. That followed a record first-quarter pay down of \$60 billion. As a result, WalletHub now projects that U.S. consumers will end the year with a slight reduction in credit card debt for the first time since the end of the Great Recession in 2009.

Gonzalez said spending in the fourth quarter of the year will increase, but will fall far short of last year's numbers.

"I think we are already expecting about a 40 percent drop than usual," Gonzalez said. "I think we will see the spending pick up in the fourth quarter, but hopefully we see the paydown continue as well."

California, Texas and Florida ranked first, second

and third, respectively, for the most credit card debt pay-down in the country, while the bottom three were Vermont, Wyoming and North Dakota.

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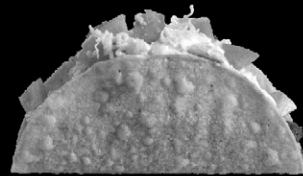
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- OTHER OCTOBER EVENTS -

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Sun., Oct. 18	Noon	Moose Riders

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21407 W. County Road, Wilmington. Fri., Oct. 9th & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-3pm. Baby items, home decor, furniture, toys, bikes, grill, yard tools, work shop misc. cc41ab

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Free - 5 black/tiger striped kittens, 3 female, 2 male, 6-7 weeks old and litter trained. Call or text 815-474-7908. fr40b-42a

GARAGE SALE

1003 N. Joliet St., Wilmington, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 9am-2pm, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-?, Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-?, Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-1pm. Six family sale - new born, XL men's & women's clothing, girls & boys clothing, Halloween outfits, towels and blankets. Lots of stuff. It is cheap. fr41b

155 W. Walnut, Coal City, Wed., Oct. 7th from 3pm-6:30pm, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 10am-3pm and Fri., Oct. 9th from 10am-2pm. Girl's juniors clothing, antiques & primitive decor, home & outdoor decor, Christmas, Fox racing boots & gear. Barnwood cabinet & other unique items, roll top desk, love seat, oak TV trays, go-cart frames. ck41ab

GARAGE SALE

145 South Kenard St., Braidwood, Thurs., & Fri., Oct. 8th & 9th from 9am-4pm. You've been asking for it and now it's here! Seller works at The Buckle! Women's small through XL & maternity clothing, Under armor & Nike boys clothing, new Halloween costumes, household items new IB, toys, crib and changing table, power wheel, and lots more! cc41ab

985 Maple St., Wilmington, Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-2pm. Kids toys, TONS of girls clothes sizes 8-14/16, Women's clothing, women's plus size clothing, all seasons and in good condition-smoke free home. cc41b

180 S. Railroad St., Braidwood, Thursday through Sunday, October 15, 16, 17, & 18 from 8am-5pm. Tools, lots of misc. Too much to list. cc41a-42b

388 E. Main St., Braidwood, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-5pm & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-1pm. Best junk ever! Local old bottles, geodes, crystals, primitives, tools, antiques, old fishing lures, jewelry, love seat, crocks, fall, canopies, costumes, blankets, kitchen, everything you might need. Mask up. ca41ab

The last sale of the year! Fri., Oct. 9th, Sat., Oct. 10th & Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-2pm. Located at Bay Hill Marina, 6555 North Will Road, Wilmington. Interstate 55 to Lorenzo Rd, head west to County Line/Will Road and turn right, follow that until it ends and we're on the left. If you're coming from Rt 47 take Pine Bluff Rd to County Line/Will Rd and turn left, go to the end of the road and we're on the left! We have something for everyone. Tools, parts, furniture, girl's canopy bedroom set, generators, boats, cars, 6 table and chair sets & lots more, too much to list! cc41ab

HELP WANTED

Dawn of a New Day Care Center in Mazon, is now hiring qualified teachers. Call now, 815-448-2530. cc38a-41b

Reliable experienced Heating and Air Conditioning Service Tech needed for residential equipment. Knowledge of mobile home ground units a plus. Wilmington and surrounding areas. Must have references and own transportation for service calls is a plus. Above average wages, mileage and gas reimbursed weekly. On-call position with the opportunity for bonuses and growth. 815-476-6615. ch41a-42b

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Joliet Optometric Practice seeks experienced candidate. High School Diploma or equivalent; minimum 3 years optometric/optical experience. Availability to work most Saturdays and some evenings. Good attendance record is a must. Great interpersonal and customer service skills. Multi task, answer phones to schedule patients and answer general questions. Willingness and flexibility to learn and adapt in a variety of situations. Eagerly assist others to increase office efficiency. Check eligibility for vision and eye health insurances. Provide the most appropriate selections for the patient. Ability to sell premium lenses, glasses and contact lenses. Skilled to fit, adjust, dispense, and inspect glasses before dispensing. Knowledge of inventory and product availability. Desire to help promotion and growth of the business. Compensation negotiable based on skill level and experience. Excellent opportunity for challenge to build the practice, and as a result, your income. Possible advancement to management position. Competitive wages. Resumes only with email addresses. Respond: adforhelpwanted@yahoo.com

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MISCELLANEOUS

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4 trio Purple Martin houses. \$45 each. Call 815-302-7600. cc41b-43a

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant 2020CH30 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 4, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1320 W PRAIRIE ROAD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 08-29-400-002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGA-

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Madigan's stronghold isn't what it used to be

It's well known that the Illinois House Republicans (along with pretty much all Illinois Republicans) are using House Speaker Michael Madigan's bad reputation to bludgeon their Democratic opponents.

Madigan has been enormously unpopular in Illinois, and it's probably worse now because he's been in the news so much during the long federal investigation into ComEd and the company's resulting deferred prosecution agreement with the US Attorney in Chicago.

A special House investigating committee has been impaneled to take testimony about the federal probe and consider whether to discipline Madigan for "conduct unbecoming a legislator," which is helping to keep him in the news.

And add the more recent news about Democratic Rep. Stephanie Kifowit's announcement last week that she will run against Madigan for speaker in January and it's been a complete media circus for the longtime pol.

Kifowit has not yet identified any allies and isn't exactly an odds-on favorite to defeat Madigan. She's votes more

conservative than many in the House Democratic caucus. She was the only House "Present" vote on the minimum wage increase bill and she hired a public relations person who is raising money for the Republican opponent of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, putting her at odds with her party, the Black Caucus and labor unions which fund the Democrats.

But the mere fact that she stood up and announced her bid is an indication of how Madigan's political strength is not what it used to be.

Anyway, the last time the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute polled Speaker Madigan's job approval rating was last year. It found 71 percent disapproved of the way Madigan did his job while only 20 percent approved - a 51-point difference.

Those results weren't all that different from the same poll's question on whether Illinoisans supported a new state tax on retirement income.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

73 percent opposed it while 23 percent supported - a 50-point margin.

Normally, opposition to a retirement income tax is an easy lay-up for Illinois legislators in both parties. Just score some no-brainer points with the folks back home and move on to the next question.

But some brainiacs always want to start a "discussion," and it often blows up in their faces.

This time, it's blowing up in others' faces.

"One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income," Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat, told the Daily Herald back in June. "And, I think that's something that's worth discussion."

Frerichs' quote has opened the door to House Republican attack mailers in numerous districts against Democrats who voted "Yes" on the graduated income tax last year and also against Democratic House candidates in general.

"Mary Edly-Allen supports the tax hike amendment," one recent GOP mailer exclaimed about the freshman Democratic state Representative from Libertyville. "Her Springfield pals admit the amendment would open the door to a brand-new tax on retirement income. That means your pension, your 401(k) plan, and your retirement plan would be taxed and sent straight to Springfield."

The mailers are being sent to other districts (Metro East and southern Illinois, for example) where the tax is also

not polling great. But, said one House Republican source of the tax issue, "We're talking about that everywhere."

The mailers have the added benefit of ginning up opposition to Gov. JB Pritzker's "Fair Tax" constitutional amendment, which House Republican Leader Jim Durkin has vowed to defeat. So, it's a twofer.

"Politician Janet Yang Rohr wants to tax your retirement income," another Republican mailer warns about Rep. Grant Wehrli's (R-Naperville) Democratic opponent.

"Yang Rohr is backing the graduated income tax. This plan would not only raise taxes on the middle class, but also on retirees. The State Treasurer has admitted this is a tax on retirees. There's no question that ordinary people will suffer. Protect your retirement. Vote 'No' on Janet Yang Rohr."

To be fair, if Treasurer Frerichs hadn't said what he said, the Republicans would've found another way to make the same argument. But Frerichs did make it easier.

And Gov. Pritzker can't really complain about taking somebody's mention of a graduated tax on retirement income and twisting it into an attack on all retirement income taxation because he did the very same thing in the 2018 Democratic primary. His top two Democratic opponents, Chris Kennedy and Daniel Biss, both tentatively supported a tax on upper-income retirees, but Pritzker distorted that into TV ads claiming the two wanted to tax all retirement income.

Karma can be problematic.

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

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FREDDERIK DOUGLAS
Early Childhood Center



EMERSYN HALL
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OWEN KOEHN
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JADEN FRIDDLE
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COLE WATSON
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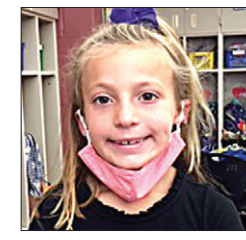
STEELE EATON
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JACK GAGLIARDO
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PATRICK BORDEWYK
Early Childhood Center



PAISLEY EDMONDS
Early Childhood Center



JUSTINE JONES
Early Childhood Center



JOEL HERNANDEZ
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TOBY ZIMMERMANN
Early Childhood Center



GRAYSON ELLIOTT
Early Childhood Center



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Elementary School



JILLIAN ERHARD
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Elementary School



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Elementary School



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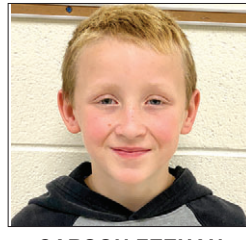
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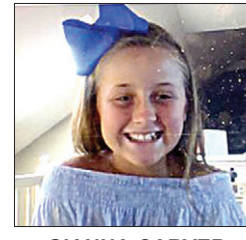
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The Free Press Advocate (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....	1,929
The Braidwood Journal (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....	1,166
The Coal City Courant (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....	1,904
The Prairie Shopper (by mail to these communities: Braidwood, Custer Park, Coal City, Carbon Hill, Diamond, Elwood, Essex, Mazon, Morris rural routes (Goose Lake), Ritchie, Symerton & Wilmington).....	14,504
Total	19,503



CARSON FEEHAN
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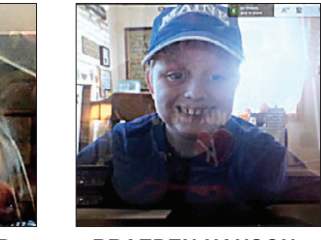
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Middle School

September showers, falling temperatures

STAFF REPORT

Fall arrived in Grundy County last month, bringing cooler days and noticeably less sunshine.

The Grundy County Emergency Management Agency's [GCEMA] weather data division reports the average daily temperature for September was 65 degrees,

roughly 10 degrees cooler than the preceding month. The highest daily temperature for the month was recorded at 86 degrees on Sept. 3 and the daily low of 40 degrees was posted Sept. 19.

Grundy residents saw a significant increase in precipitation as 3.62 inches of rain fell on the county. The highest 24 hour liquid precipitation amount was posted at .72

inches on Sept. 6. In that one day of rain, the county received almost as much as it during the entire month of August. That rain event resulted in just over 1-inch of rain in the Coal City area.

GCEMA reports there were 10 days with measurable precipitation and the September showers brings the total precipitation for the year to 30.15 inches, about five inches shy of the total rainfall at this same time last year.

The monthly weather report also clocks daily wind speeds and the peak wind gust for the month was posted on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 33 miles per hour.

Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

Title of Publication.....	The Coal City Courant
Publication Number.....	0120-060
Date of Filing.....	Sept. 30, 2020
Frequency of Issue.....	Weekly
No. of Issues Published Annually.....	52
Annual Subscription Price.....	\$40, \$48, \$54
Location of known office of publication:	271 S. Broadway St., Coal City, Grundy, IL 60416-1534
Location of headquarters of general business offices of the publishers:	P.O. Box 215, Coal City, IL 60416-0215
Names and complete address of publisher, editor and managing editor:	Publisher: Eric D. Fisher, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481; Editor: Ann Gill, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 Managing Editor: Eric D. Fisher, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
Owner: G-W Communications, Inc., P.O. Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481	Eric D. Fisher, 111 South Water, Wilmington, IL 60481 Janet M. Fisher, 111 South Water, Wilmington, IL 60481
Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total of bonds, mortgages or other security: None.	
Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Sept. 23, 2020	

Extent and Nature of Circulation:	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Actual Number Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run).....	1625	1650
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside-County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541 (Include Advertisers' Proof Copies/Exchange Copies).....	87	83
2. Paid In-County Subscriptions (Include Advertisers' Proof/Exchange Copies).....	537	522
3. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other non-USPS Paid Distribution.....	890	943
4. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS.....	0	0
C. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1) (2) (3) (4)).....	1514	1548
D. Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, Complimentary and Other Free)		
1. Outside-County.....	0	0
2. In-County.....	10	10
3. Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS.....	0	0
4. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means).....	21	23
E. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d and 15e).....	31	33
F. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f).....	1545	1581
G. Copies Not Distributed.....	80	69
H. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h).....	1625	1650
I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c/15g x 100).....	98%	98%
PS Form 3526 Worksheet:		
A. Paid Electronic Copies.....	319	323
B. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15C) + Paid Electronic Copies.....	1833	1871
C. Total Print Distribution (Line 15F) + Paid Electronic Copies.....	1863	1904
D. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies).....	98%	98%

Eric D. Fisher, Publisher. Date: Sept. 30, 2020

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Foreclosure notice of 1320 W. Prairie Road PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant, 2020CH30

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 4, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: PART OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER SECTION; THENCE DUE WEST 376.40 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER SECTION TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 0 DEGREES 26' 20" EAST 99.50 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 27 DEGREES 28' 50" EAST 43.95 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 07' 00" EAST 62.65 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 23' 20" EAST 70.65 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 33' 10" EAST 291.05 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER SECTION, THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 20' 30" WEST 203.64 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER SECTION TO A POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL SITUATED IN MAZON TOWNSHIP; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Commonly known as 1320 W PRAIRIE ROAD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 08-29-400-002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-20-04486 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2020CH30 TJSJC#: 40-2248

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2020CH30 I3157238

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, October 7, 14 and 21, 2020.

Attorney Black files petition for name change PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS Case No. 2020MR162

IN RE THE MATTER OF: Lawrence LeRoy Kinney, Petitioner

NOTICE is given that at 9 a.m. on November 16, 2020 in the upstairs courtroom of the Grundy County Courthouse, located at 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, before Judge Robert Marsaglia, the Petitioner, Lawrence LeRoy Kinney, shall request the Court to change his name to Lawrence LeRoy Kenney. LAWRENCE LEROY KINNEY Frank J. Black Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211 P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594 Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 23, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, 2020.

Attorney Black files Wray estate claim notice PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 91

In the Matter of the Estate of John T. Wray, Deceased CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of John T. Wray. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Kathleen Wray, 1805 Waverly Way, Montgomery, IL 60538, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. KATHLEEN WRAY INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR Frank J. Black Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street Suite 211 P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594 Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 23, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, 2020.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act. Tenant: Linda Lindner, 75 E. Pine St., Coal City, IL 60416, Unit G-29 If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Oct. 15, 2020 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien. Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Black files Harford estate claim notice PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 90

In the Matter of the Estate of Douglas L. Harford, Deceased CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Douglas L. Harford. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Debra L. Harford, 650 S. Baker Road, Mazon, Illinois 60444, whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. DEBRA L. HARFORD INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR Donald F. Black, #218081 Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street Suite 211 P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594 Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 23, Sept. 30 and Oct. 7, 2020.

COALER SPORTS



THE COAL CITY football team comes out of the helmet during a 2018 home game introduction. The For the Record series by the Coal City Courant has led to Dream Team nominations of Coal City football players.

The keepers of school records

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Records are not only hard to achieve, they can be hard to find

Fifteen weeks ago, the Free Press Newspapers published the first "For The Record" story which turned into a series reporting on record holders among athletes at Wilmington, Reed-Custer and Coal City high schools.

We quickly gained an appreciation for coaches and athletic directors who have kept these records current.

You can't just do a Google search for say "Reed-Custer high school records" and have them at your fingertips. Same, for example, for Wilmington High School soccer or Coal City volleyball.

Ofentimes it took a lot of digging.

We credit the Wilmington Catbackers Football Club for keeping football stats up-to-date, at least for the past 28 years. We also thank the Coal City football program for keeping individual stats current and available.

The Reed-Custer football records is where we ran into a problem. There have been five different coaches over the past 10 years and somewhere along the line the record books were lost.

"Those were kept by the head coaches and passed along," said Reed-Custer Athletic Director Chuck Anderson. But there came a coaching change at some point when that didn't happen.

"What I've been trying to do since I've been here each season is have the coaches keep track of them and if there are any changes, let me know so I can keep track of them," Anderson said.

While the coaches gather the stats throughout the season, in the end it's the athletic directors who become the keepers of the records.

"There wasn't like a set file

Write in your CCHS football Dream Team players

	First pick	Second pick		First pick	Second pick
Quarterback	_____	_____	Defensive End	_____	_____
Running back	_____	_____	Defensive End	_____	_____
Fullback	_____	_____	Defensive Tackle	_____	_____
Wide Receiver	_____	_____	Defensive Tackle	_____	_____
Wide Receiver	_____	_____	Nose Tackle	_____	_____
Tight End	_____	_____	Middle Linebacker	_____	_____
Tight End	_____	_____	Outside Linebacker	_____	_____
Center	_____	_____	Outside Linebacker	_____	_____
Guard	_____	_____	Cornerback	_____	_____
Tackle	_____	_____	Cornerback	_____	_____
Tackle	_____	_____	Free Safety	_____	_____
Guard	_____	_____	Strong Safety	_____	_____
Kick Returner	_____	_____	Kicker	_____	_____
Coach	_____	_____	Punter	_____	_____

Once complete email to sports@fpnusa.com or mail to 111 S. Water St, Wilmington, IL 60481 or 271 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL 60416

I could go to gather the information. I did some digging and gathering when I came here and tried to contact former coaches, and see what they had."

He said the school has benefited in other sports when there were tenured coaches.

"With baseball, for instance, when Jerry Cougill was here, it was continuity so he had all that stuff," Anderson commented. "It's different than other situations when you have seven or eight coaches in one sport. Usually when somebody leaves the district, trying to get that information is hard. That was one of the first things I did when I took over was try

to find some of that stuff."

He learned how valuable it is to keep good records too. Like in 2015 when they were inputting information on the Illinois High School Association's website to see if the boys basketball team set a record for three-point shots.

"I usually update the records on IHSA," said Anderson. "When we booked a barrage for national three point makes back in the mid 2015s, we had to do a lot of digging and the coaches brought that to me and said, 'hey, I think we broke a record here' so we had to dig, contact the National Federation and then when I found out we were stacked with IHSA, I sent it to the IHSA."

Coal City Athletic Director Dan Hutchings deals with the similar problems with keeping records but the Coalers do it the same way. They check with the coaches at the end of the season.

"It can be challenging to keep the records," said Hutchings. "But it should be up to each and every coach and they can pass it onto the coach that succeeds them."

With coaches using different technology for stat taking, it can be hard to keep track of the records.

"It's hard to do that because every coach has a different platform and it's not like we have the time to go back and do those stats from 1980s. We kind of have an idea who is like an 1,000-point scorer in basketball. Those are nice things to have but it's hard to do."

At Wilmington, Wilmington AD Brian Goff tries to keep up with records but sometimes the turnover of coaches in some sports presents challenges.

"We try to get the numbers right with the coaches but with the changes of coaches, that becomes an issue," said Goff. "Some of these coaches

kept it on pen and paper, and others on floppy discs so those were hard to find."

For overall season records the IHSA.org website is a great source. Team information on the site is updated by athletic directors and coaches. It includes season records broken down for each team, playoff appearances, placings for each season and more. With the exception of state record holders, individual school record holders are not available.

Strides in digitizing individual stats have been made with web-based sports sites like Gamechanger, Max Preps and Illinois Matmen. They tally

up player stats from game results but again, the problem is not all coaches utilize these services.

Another problem for athletic directors is records aren't always inclusive of the early years. For example Wilmington football dates back 73 seasons, Coal City 42 and Reed-Custer 41, so there are some gaps. The question becomes do you post what you have?

One thing learned is that fans have a strong interest in current records. The feedback we got from publishing the series was terrific with comments from past players, teachers and parents.

When we came up short

on RCHS football stats it was encouraging to know a couple of moms in the Touchdown Club were combing through back copies of the Braidwood Journal hoping to gather stats from games dating back to 1980. The task is a big undertaking.

To pull together the most recent year for Comet football we relied upon Maxpreps which has the seasons from 2016-17 to current. IHSA got us team records but we wanted more so we went the old-fashioned route, past newspapers.

We went through the last 17 years of football stories in our archives, pulling passing stats, rushing stats, receiving stats and sometimes even defensive stats when they were accurate.

After compiling every game from every year, we focused on the five best rushers, the five best passers, the five best receivers and some return men. We even compiled all-purpose yards which used a mention of all four of those components of the game (rushing, receiving, passing, return yards).

It took us countless hours and 15 weeks to complete the For the Record series and it was worth it during a time when real sports was sidelined during the coronavirus.

Now, we need a new project.

In the spirit of the NFL football season and fantasy football, we got to thinking it would be great if there was a fantasy football team or "dream team" for each high school sports teams.

The first sport up is football.

Below you will find a chart with offensive and defensive positions with lines to fill in the blanks. Complete it, cut it out and send it back into us at 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

The responses will be utilized for a final summary of dream teams.

Coal City Coalers Team Pride
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Amy Hoffmeyer

Winner of a large 2-item
Pizza, carry-out only

Must redeem by Oct. 12, 2020

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for the past 34 years!"

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

"It can be challenging to keep the records," said Hutchings. "But it should be up to each and every coach and they can pass it onto the coach that succeeds them."

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COALER SPORTS

Coalers scrimmage with Reed-Custer in last match before regionals



Photos by Shawn Long

COAL CITY'S Luke Crater lines up his putt while getting a second opinion from his partner during Coal City's scrimmage match with Reed-Custer on Thursday.



Photos by Shawn Long

OUT OF THE SAND—Coal City golfer Cody Hazzard has no problem hitting out of the sand during Thursday's match against Reed-Custer.



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Photos by Shawn Long

COAL CITY'S Ava Houston watches her ball after using an iron to chip it onto the green.

Reed-Custer, Wilmington, Coal City vie in golf regionals

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington and Reed-Custer golf teams competed the same regional yesterday while Coal City was paired up against bigger schools as the Illinois High School Association adjusted the golf playoffs due to the coronavirus.

Only the top four individuals and top two teams advance to the sectional this year. Under normal conditions the top three teams and the top 10 golfers advance.

The Wildcats and Comets compete Tuesday in the Grant Park Regional with Beecher, Crete (Illinois Lutheran), Donovan, Grant Park, Mokenca, Ottawa (Marquette), Peotone, Seneca and St. Anne.

The Coalers traveled to Lisle (Benet Academy) against Darien (Hinsdale South), Joliet Catholic Academy, Lemont, Lisle Benet, Manteno and New Lenox (Providence Catholic).

Results from both meets were unavailable as of press time.