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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## Superintendent search moving forward

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The Unit 1 Board of Education has made finding a superintendent to succeed Dr. Kent Bugg a priority.

Bugg has 20 months left on his final contract. While that might seem like a considerable amount of time to some, the Board of Education understands it may take a while to find the right person for the job— although what makes a person right for the job has yet to be defined.

The qualities and skill set necessary for a successful tenure in the superintendent's post may not be the same as it was a year ago or even a couple of months ago.

"If Dresden closes this job is much different than it was two months ago," Bugg told the Board of Education at its meeting this month.

Should Exelon proceed with the intended closure of the Dresden Generating Station in November 2021, the school district's tax base will significantly shift.

Property taxes paid by the power generator account for about 60% or \$16 million of the school district's more than \$30 million budget.

The significant loss of tax dollars can not be fully made up on the backs of local taxpayers, nor a single new industry. Therefore, cuts will be forthcoming.

Bugg is working with local leaders on efforts to keep the plant open, but should it shutdown efforts are being made to ensure community safeguards are in place. The superintendent is working on a proposal that would ramp down the annual tax payments. However, as the community has learned in the past few months,

"I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH SITUATION FOR SOMEBODY TO BE HANDED THIS MENU AND FOR YOU TO SAY, 'ALRIGHT THESE ARE THE THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO.' IF THERE IS A WAY TO EASE THAT TRANSITION FOR SOMEONE NEW, I THINK IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER."

**DR. KENT BUGG**  
UNIT 1 SUPERINTENDENT

nothing is guaranteed.

With so many unknowns the Board of Education has directed its finance groups to put a financial plan in place during the 2021-2022 school

year and implement it with the 2022-2023 school year, the first without Bugg as the district's leader.

This is something that has the superintendent concerned.

"You're going to bring someone new in the 22-23 school year that is going to have to implement a plan that they have no say in, no involvement in. I think that is going to be tough and I think the board is going to have to think about that process given the landscape we are or could be in," Bugg said.

"I think it's going to be a tough situation for somebody to be handed this menu and for you to say, 'alright these are the things you have to do.' If there is a way to ease that transition for someone new, I think it would be important for the board to consider," Bugg said.

The superintendent said there

are a lot of options for that, but those are decisions that must be made by the seven-member board.

Under the leadership of president Ken P. Miller, the Board of Education has been discussing the various steps to finding a superintendent and has teamed with the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) to initiate the process.

Late last month, the board held a discussion with an IASB representative on the development of a superintendent search timeline. The process of putting that profile together will take a couple of months to complete.

Miller polled his colleagues to determine if the process should begin immediately or if they were comfortable pushing the superintendent search off a year.

"For me, I think we should start

SEE SEARCH, PAGE 2

## Activities for elementary kids



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School students arrived tested out the new activity trail on Monday morning. After the students left for the day on Friday, Oct. 16, faculty and staff headed outside to create a colorful trail full of activities through the school courtyard. The concept of creating a fun, outdoor activity for students to utilize during the school day was the idea of elementary school art instructor Julie Brncich. Under her guidance, school staff painted various activities on the sidewalk including a balance beam, lilly pads to squat on, hurdles to jump, ants to march with and a snake to sidestep on. Students discovered the new trail when they arrived for class on Monday and had an opportunity to test it out during their physical education classes.

## Grundy County assessment data rolled out

STAFF REPORT

Assessment notices started arriving in mailboxes last week, and listings posted in local newspapers displayed the assessed values of the 27,000 parcels that make up Grundy County.

The assessed value of the county is up \$100,000 million to \$2.5 billion, according to County Board Chairman Chris Balkema.

Grundy County's 2020 assessment data has been released by the county assessor's office about seven weeks earlier than during 2019.

Balkema reports great improvements have been made in the process, including the utilization of the CIC tax software program the county began implementing about two years ago.

Last year was a quadrennial assessment year for the county, a time when every property is looked at and compared to based on sales ratios from the previous three years to determine a market value. The process begins at a county level and moves down to township section and if necessary neighborhood to ensure all properties are assessed the state required level of 33.3% of market value.

In 2019 the process was completed manually within the county assessor's office on 26,260 parcels.

Since taking over the department this summer, the county's new assessor integrated the tax software program to streamline the work within the office, as well as for property owners.

Working with the directors in the county's technology and geographic information systems departments, assessor Deb Ritke has pushed out a considerable amount of property data that is available through the county assessor, treasurer and GIS websites.

And, for the first time the assessor's office will be accepting assessment complaints electronically.

Property owners can now file a property tax appeal and upload related documents to the assessor's office with the click of a button, without a visit to the county courthouse. Of course, residents can still file in person, but the new system is in place for those who choose to use it.

SEE ASSESSMENTS, PAGE 2

## Concrete crushing can continue

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

John Trotter was given the go ahead to carry on with his recycled concrete crushing operation.

An extension of an industrial conditional use permit was unanimously approved by the Coal City Village Board last week, a decision based on a positive recommendation from the town's Planning and Zoning Board.

It was after considerable discussion and a demonstration of the crushing equipment that Trotter operating as Paper Mill Investments, LLC was ini-

tially granted a conditional use permit in 2017 for the hauling, storing and processing of recycled concrete at 235 E. Oak St.

Trotter had previously been granted a temporary permit to store concrete waste on the site following the 2015 tornado, but it had expired when he approached the board for a conditional use to continue the storage and processing of the materials.

The permit was granted to allow Trotter to prepare the property for sale. He acquired the industrial site after a fire destroyed the massive warehouse facility.

The concrete—legally conforming to state environmental standards—hailed to and processed at the site is being used to establish base elevation and to date, about have the site has reached its topographical height of 571-feet above sea level.

"Much like the past approval, the current conditional use that had been recommended for adoption contains a number of limitations in light of the extension for the crushing of materials at this location," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz.

The original permit came with conditions including the days and

times the crushing machine was allowed to operate within a maximum of three seasons.

Last month, Trotter petitioned the village for an extension of the permit with some modifications, namely the length of the season.

The extension approved still limits the operation to three crushing seasons, however it increases the number of processing days.

Per the terms, Trotter can crush materials six days a week between December 1 and April 15, with Monday

SEE CRUSHING, PAGE 2

"MUCH LIKE THE PAST APPROVAL, THE CURRENT CONDITIONAL USE THAT HAD BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION CONTAINS A NUMBER OF LIMITATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE EXTENSION FOR THE CRUSHING OF MATERIALS AT THIS LOCATION."

**MATT FRITZ**  
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

## Audit finds village finances in order

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

An audit of the village of Coal City's finances has once again found them in order.

"We are issuing a clean opinion, no misappropriations or glowing concerns," said Brian Zabel, the town's long-term auditor.

As he does each fall, Zabel

provides the Village Board with an overview of the audit conducted by his staff at the close of the town's fiscal year—April 30.

"The Village Board annually receives an audit to be assured the finances of the village are being expended according to the annual budget plan and the cash on hand balances against the fund

reserves reported within the village's financial system," said Matt Fritz, Coal City's village administrator.

According to Zabel, the village's net position increased by \$319,288 in fiscal year 2020, for a net position of \$45.2 million.

In his report, Zabel said the largest portion of the village's net position—99%—

reflects its investment in capital assets that include land, buildings, machinery and equipment; less outstanding debt related to those assets.

He further informed the board the town's total assets decreased by \$839,414, with a governmental net position increase of \$385,025.

"As of the close of the current fiscal year, the village of

Coal City's governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$2,228,934, a decrease of \$604,917, in comparison with the prior year. Approximately 29% of this total amount, \$654,917, is available for spending at the government's discretion [unrestricted, unassigned fund balance]," Zabel reported. "At the end of the current fiscal year,

unassigned fund balance for the general fund was \$883,145 or 24% of general fund expenditures."

SEE AUDIT, PAGE 2



# Search

that profile process and do the surveys of the community because we are trying to answer the question of what are the characteristics we are looking for in the next superintendent," said Shawn Hamilton, the board's vice president.

What's best for the district moving forward is what the board is seeking to find out. Is that someone internal with ties to the district and community or someone from outside the area with no direct connection to the faculty, staff and community that has no concerns with making cuts and saying no.

If one were to ask board member Jeff Emerson, the response would be, in his own words, "a spin in a different way."

"You might want someone that doesn't have a tie to Ken Miller, Jeff Emerson or the president of the teachers union. Someone with no ties that puts his head down at night and it's just part of the job," Emerson said.

"I know we talk about building relationships and

wanting to be a part of a process with all of this, but do you really want somebody that is in the heart of the community, in the heart of the organization and out there?" Emerson questioned.

"You don't bring people in that have been in that company for 30 years or 20 years or 5 years. You bring people in from off the street who say this is what we have to do," the board member said.

Board member Quint Harmon shared similar thoughts, saying the reality of someone internally being the one forced to make cuts and hand down difficult directions, "it's not going to be pretty, it's just reality."

Overall, the board was unanimous in its decision to get the process started, deferring any further discussion on qualifications and hiring to a future meeting.

Although there will be plenty of discussion ahead on what skills are being sought in the district's next leader, board members appear to agree with Bugg that under the current circumstances the timing of selecting his successor is important for the organization to understand.

# Coal City posts 78.9% Census response

**BY ANN GILL EDITOR**

The counting is complete, the U.S. Census Bureau has finished collecting responses for 2020 Census.

The decennial census closed Oct. 15. Although it will still be some time before local communities receive relevant data including population counts, they do know the percentage of residents who responded to the once a decade questionnaire.

According to information provided by the Coal City Village Clerk Pam Noffsinger, 99.9% of Illinois residents and 76.4% of Grundy County responded to the 2020 Census.

On a local level, the clerk reports as of Oct. 14, 78.9% of Coal City residents responded to the survey, with 76.9% of Carbon Hill residents and 74.7% of Diamond households completing the questionnaire.

Noffsinger told the village last week that some enumerations and self-responses are still yet to be calculated. The Census Bureau states the final count will include responses received by Oct. 22 so long as they are postmarked by Oct. 15.

"Once everything comes

in and they have done the calculations we will get a report to see what demographics changed, but I don't expect that in the near future," Noffsinger said, thanking those who participated in the count.

The census has been counting the country's population every 10 years since 1790. The data collected is used to determine, among other things, the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to draw congressional and state legislative districts. It allows determine how billions in federal funding is distributed to programs like Medicaid, block grants and nutrition assistance programs.

In other matters from the Oct. 14 virtual meeting of the Coal City Village Board:

- At the recommendation of the village engineer, the Village Board approved payments totaling \$200,582.36 to D Construction for its work on the annual street and alley improvements.
- Administrator Matt Fritz reported there are still a few items remaining to be completed as part of the South Broadway reconstruction project, including a the installation

of a drain at the corner of Broadway and Gordon Avenue.

He added that a plan is being put in place for the long term care of the planters that line the roadway.

- Fritz told trustees he is currently in the process of putting together an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program [ITEP] grant for additional beautification along Broadway.
- Chief Tom Best reported the department's new officer Brian Pustz has reported to the Police Training Institute [PTI] at the University of Illinois — Urbana-Champaign campus and began his studies on Oct. 11. During the training, officers from the department will be made available to assist him with the training as necessary.
- The board was informed the North Central Illinois Council of Governments [NCICG] has started accepting applications for the housing rehab program and has identified a few households that that qualify for the grant program.

Additional verifications must be completed, as well as inspections.

The administrator anticipates NCICG will have a recommendation for the village to consider by the end of the calendar year.

Trustee Dan Greggain announced the village's Public Health and Safety Committee will hold a virtual meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

- On the topic of virtual meetings, Trustee Tim Bradley, who conducted the meeting in the absence of the mayor, noted there was discussion at the last board meeting about getting back to in-person meetings and that is being considered.

However the most recent took place via Zoom.

"As most of you know, I got COVID last week, so thank you for bearing with us for another round of meetings from home," Bradley said.

- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$50,933.54. Included in the bills was a \$2,164.69 payment for flags, \$275 for a advertisement in the high school yearbook, \$100 to Grundy County in animal control fees and \$2,740.80 to seal coat two parking lots.

The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 28. It has not yet been announced if the board will continue with virtual meetings or resume in-person gatherings.

# Audit

He further noted revenues to the general fund were \$8.5 million this includes dollars coming in to the water and sewer and special revenue funds. With expenditures of \$7.7 million, this resulted in a change in position of just over \$300,000. The village ended the year with a cash position of \$3 million.

The town's total liabilities at year end were \$16 million and includes an underfunded pension of \$5.9 million which is a decrease in liability from the prior year.

"As far as things to point out the general fund did end up down for the year from the \$1.2 million that we had set as a threshold its fund balance in the \$800,000 range now and all other funds, with exception of capital project are positive and I think in good position," Zabel said.

Based on the village's current financial picture, Fritz said, "the largest matter confronting the board is its current cash position in light of remaining in wait for matching capital funds to offset the expenditures for the South Broadway reconstruction project in light of delayed general fund receipts in the current fiscal year due to property taxes having gone out later than planned."

Zabel credited Fritz and village treasurer Kristi Wickiser for their work in tracking and reporting the town's finances.

# Grundy County records new COVID-19 cases

**STAFF REPORT**

The Grundy County Health Department reports 74 new cases of COVID-19 have been identified in the county bringing the total number of infections in the past seven months to 823 persons.

The new cases were reported to the health department between Oct. 9 and Oct. 16. And, with these new cases, the health department reports it is now following 105 people who are currently ill and in isolation, and each of their close contacts.

According to local health department data, so far this month—Oct. 1-15—there have been 140 individuals test positive for the virus. By age group there have been 21 cases reported in individuals under

age 20, 43 in the 20-39 age range, 49 amongst those age 40-59, 25 cases among those age 60-79 and two individuals age 80 and older.

In its weekly report, the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] is reporting Grundy County is meeting COVID-19 metrics in all but one category—new cases per 100,000—thus the county remains at the blue level for a third consecutive week.

The data is based on COVID-19 activity in the county for the period of Oct. 4-10. During that time the state reports 126 new cases per 100,000 residents, this metric has been at warning level for the past 11 weeks, as it is triggered when the number of cases exceeds 50 per 100,000.

The county did see an

increase in its test positivity rate from 6% to 6.5%, however it remained under the 8% target. The state further reports 679 tests were administered to county residents in that time period.

IDPH updates the data daily and residents can visit its website for updated information.

On a regional level, Grundy County is part of the North-Central Region that has had a seemingly stable positivity rate.

As of Oct. 12, the region was showing a positivity rate of 5.6%, the rate on Oct. 5 and 5.4% on Sept. 21.

To date, the lowest published rate for the North-Central Region was 2.5% on June 26. The highest published rate was 7.7% on Sept. 2. This

rate is important because if the region reaches 8% for three consecutive days, additional restrictions will be imposed upon the region through the state of Illinois.

Two of the 20 counties that make up the North Central Region are on the state's most recent warning list. Neighboring Will County was also named to the list and new mitigations are going into effect in Will and Kankakee counties this week.

Testing is available through local hospital systems, and protocol at each location is subject to change based on availability of resources. Mobile testing units organized by IDPH are also available throughout the region and locations can be found on the IDPH website at dph.gov

## Thank You

The family of Nancy Lyons wishes to thank you most sincerely for your expressions of kindness and sympathy. We wish to warmly thank you for all your comforting words, cards, monetary donations, flowers, dishes of food and genuine acts of kindness in our time of sadness. A big thank you goes out to Matt Baskerville and all the staff at Reeves Funeral Home as well as Pastor Mark Hughey and the New Hope Presbyterian Church for their caring, prayers and thoughtfulness. Thank you again for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

# Crushing

to Friday operations from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon.

The first season will begin Dec. 1 and end April 15, 2021.

No more than 25% of the material recycled onsite during the prior crushing season may leave the site. The remaining materials processed on site must be used

for the grade elevation and once that is established, if within the three allowable seasons, the operation must conclude.

Storage of materials can remain on the site for up to five years, and Trotter said since the material is being laid as crushed there should be no large piles of materials left on site.

None of the adjacent property owners spoke concerning the request, however one village resident did address the Planning and Zoning Board with con-

cerns regarding the release of particulates in the air and the additional noise pollution so close to the intermediate school.

"The Planning and Zoning Board discussed these items and found the petitioner to have addressed such concerns and found the limited timeline for the requested operation to assist with the concerns brought forward," Fritz shared with village trustees.

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"The Planning and Zoning Board discussed these items and found the petitioner to have addressed such concerns and found the limited timeline for the requested operation to assist with the concerns brought forward," Fritz shared with village trustees.

# Assessments

"I hope everyone notices the immensity of being able to file your tax complaint on line. I think that puts us in rare air. I don't think there are a lot of other counties out there doing it, but I think the timing is fantastic especially this year due to COVID," said county board member Mike Onorato, who serves as chairman of the county's Elections, Tax and Technology Committee and Board of Review.

Based on the various changes put in place over the past few months, Onorato said property owners now have the ability to do a lot of their property tax compliant research from a home computer.

"I'm super excited. This has never been done before, so kudos for bringing us into the new age," Onorato told Ritke during a recent committee meeting.

Ritke reports all relevant property data and forms were updated through her office prior to publishing the 2020 assessment notices on Oct. 15.

With the 2020 assessment data released, Ritke called on the public to open their mail and take a look at their assessment, their market value and compare that to their records from the past two years.

"Go on-line and review the property information that is available. The web portal for Grundy County has updated information for the parcels and there will be property record cards also available through our GIS system so it will be pretty easy for [people] to point and click at their comparable properties on the map, so were happy about that," Ritke said.

By state statute, property owners have 30 days to appeal their assessment. Therefore,

the deadline to submit a complaint—electronically, by mail or in-person— is by close of the business day [4:30 p.m.] on Monday, Nov. 16.

Ritke said the electronic filing will streamline the process for property owners and the Board of Review.

As a result of the pandemic, the Board of Review will not be holding interactive hearings this year, so decisions will be based on the evidence submitted with the appeal.

Onorato tentatively expects the Board of Review to have its work completed by the end of the calendar year.

Ritke is now working on county abstracts and calculating the equalized assessed values for each of the county's taxing districts.

Based on the changes being made within the office, Ritke is confident this will result in the time line going forward to get back on track, meaning tax bills will go out in

a timely fashion.

This year bills were a couple of months behind, resulting in taxpayers making back-to-back payments and delaying payments to the various taxing districts.

Traditionally, tax bills are issued in May and July with

payments due in June and August.

Questions related to the 2020 assessments and appeals should be directed to the assessors office at 815-941-3269.

**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

## Bingo

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

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor

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G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the

# A community's cook retiring

BY ERIC FISHER  
PUBLISHER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marilyn knew cooking for 100 would be different than cooking for the family table so she signed up for culinary arts at Joliet Junior College.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Photo by Eric Fisher

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

of learn as they went. It was a time when she was influenced by the French cooking of American cooking teacher and TV personality Julia Child.

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

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

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

Preparing for an event was a full-time task that involved menu planning with clients, ordering supplies, trips to Joliet to multiple stores and more. Three days out prep work would begin, continue on day two and climax the day before. The morning of a wedding were always hectic as she strived for freshness and the perfect temperature before transporting food to the venue.

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

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

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

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

"It was rainy, cold and very windy and the overflow of people quickly became an issue. It was extremely stressful for us because I'd never done that big of a party. But everyone's attitude was wonderful. People would come in, get their food sit down and eat, and then get up so other people could sit down and eat. And the bride and groom just took it all in

stride knowing they couldn't do anything about it and they were going to have fun anyway. It just all went very well."

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

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

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

"It was this time of year, it was fall, and these people had decorated to the hilt. I mean, there were mums, corn stocks, pumpkins... I mean anything you could possibly think of to make it look fall and very grand. I felt slightly intimidated because it was so grand. Once we served everything everybody loved it, it was very gratifying. The whole night, I mean they even had fireworks, was just the neatest wedding."

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

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

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

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

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

"I'd didn't mind that much because I got to sample her cooking," he quipped. "Yep, I was her guinea pig for some recipes but I also turn away from some things I just can't eat anymore...like pulled pork. Give me a pork chop or pork loin any day, but please no more pulled pork."

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

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

Marilyn said probably the most requested item on her menu was the easiest to

# Prairie Partners name Volunteer of the Year

The Goose Lake Prairie Partners have selected Jan Alexander as the Prairie Partners Volunteer of the Year for 2020.

A resident of Oswego, Alexander joined the Prairie Partners in 2010.

During her first couple of years with the Prairie Partners she was especially keen on demonstrating quilting during the annual Cabin Festivals. However, as the group experienced low return on the profits of serving sandwiches during its festivals, they were looking for ways to make a profit from the service.

Alexander stepped up and took a certification class allowing her to cook at Cabin Festival and Prairie Day. She found a grill that had been discarded, repaired it and delivered it to the park.

Instead of having to hire a cook with a grill, the Prairie Partners now enjoy grilling independence. Recently, the group was gifted with a new grill and report they will continue to achieve raising funds for education its visitors with the contributions Alexander has willingly given to the park and the organization that serves as the volunteer arm of the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area [GLPSNA].

The Prairie Partners report that when in the food tent, Alexander's presence brings camaraderie and laughter to make for a joyful day.

Alexander has also been an asset to the organizations project planning. Her voice has been heard on many occasions with thoughtful contributions to discussions, be it in a meeting or over the phone.

As Volunteer of the Year for 2020, Alexander's name has been added to the Honor Roll of volunteers recognized for their contributions to the Goose Lake Prairie Partners, GLPSNA and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The plaque of volunteers recognized for their contributions hangs in the GLPSNA Visitors Center, 5010 N. Jugtown Rd., Morris.



Courtesy photo

**GOOSE LAKE PRAIRIE Partners 2020 Volunteer of the Year Jan Alexander.**

## Library seeking Veterans pictures

The Coal City Public Library District is currently working on a Veterans Day tribute video to be shown on its Facebook page and website on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.

They would like to include pictures of any Carbon Hill, Coal City, Diamond and Goose Lake veterans whether they are alive today or have passed.

Pictures can be e-mailed to [dana@ccpld.org](mailto:dana@ccpld.org) or stop by the library at 85 N. Garfield Street in Coal City and they will scan the photo. Include the name, branch of service and years of service if possible. Veterans are also welcome to come to the library and do a short video.

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Reports	8,285
Properties	1,268,237
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Shares	56,043,222
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## Grundy teen entrepreneurs wanted

Grundy teens with an entrepreneurial spirit are invited to join the new GEEK Club — Grundy Enterprise for Entrepreneurial Kids.

This project is a collaboration of Community Foundation of Grundy County and the public libraries serving the county — Morris, Coal City, Three Rivers, and Fossil Ridge. Teens in grades 9-12 are invited to join.

Interested teens are asked to respond to survey that can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3K88P86>.

Those who apply before Oct. 22 will be invited to an informational Zoom meeting at 4 p.m. on Oct. 22.

The Community Foundation plan is to have GEEKS meet via Zoom twice a month. At each meeting they will have a speaker relating to entrepreneurship plus whatever ideas the GEEKS decide they'd like to address.

Questions can be directed to the Community Foundation or the teen librarian at your local library.

Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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## For shame

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

## The unfair tax

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

## In school learning

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

## Taxing our retirement

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

## Call for a ride

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

John Guistat, Reed Township Republican Chairman.

## Escorted out

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

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

## Preventive measures

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

## Opposite reaction

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

## Trump's accomplishments

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

## Go to jail

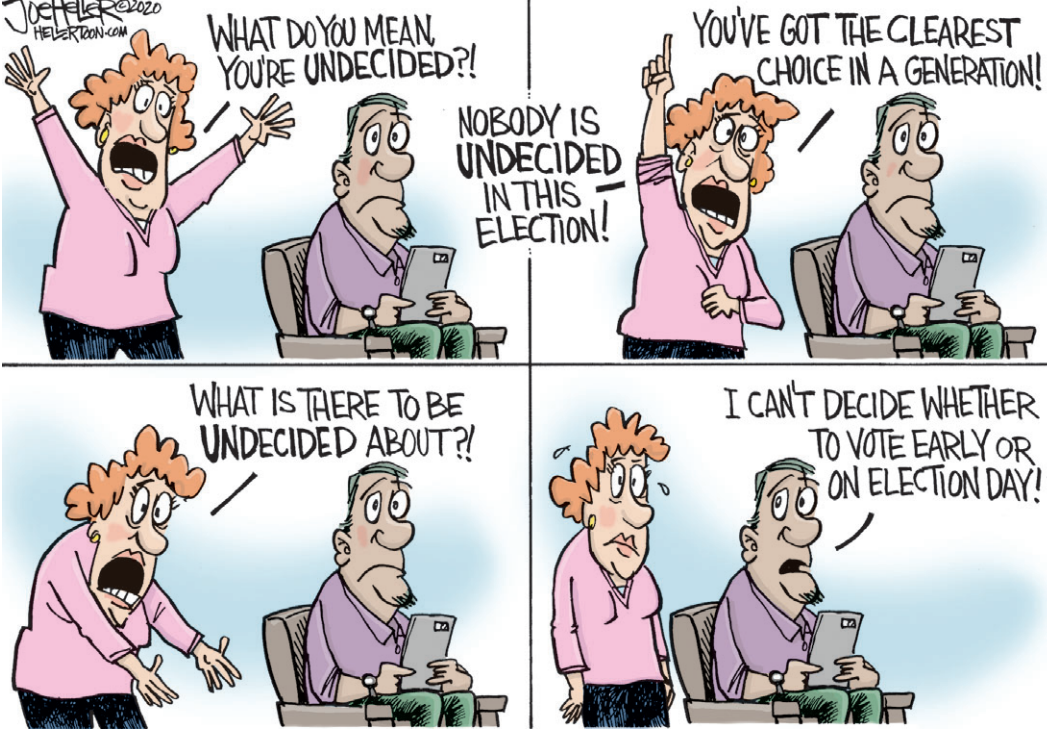
WILMINGTON—If you are losing your political signs make sure you write your name and address on the bottom. It is a seven-year jail term for messing with political signs and a \$750 fine. If you have your name and address on the signs and someone gets caught with it they can go to jail for seven years.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

## Willing to wait

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

## Enough is enough

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



## Not a laughing matter

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

## Full of hot air

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

## Fair tax truth

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

## Share your plan Joe

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

## Make a difference

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

## Support Judge Barrett

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

## Rounding up

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

## Shameful strategy

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

## Uncooperative candidate

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

## Shoo-in

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

T. Lockwood, Wilmington

## God will know

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

SEE SOUND-OFF PAGE 11

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# FAMILY



Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Sorg

## Allen, Sorg united in marriage



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

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

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

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

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

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

## Wanted: Your engagement or wedding announcement

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

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

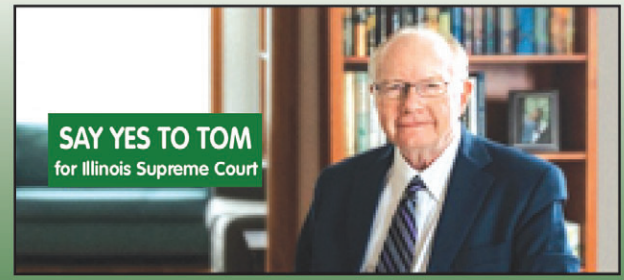
Newspaper announcements of engagements, wedding and anniversaries make the special times in your life so much more memorable and make great keepsakes for your scrapbook.

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

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[riversidehealthcare.org](http://riversidehealthcare.org)  
\*Seeing patients 18 months and older

# Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com)

## Thursday, Oct. 22

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

## Friday, Oct. 23

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

## Saturday, Oct. 24

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

## Sunday, Oct. 25

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

## Tuesday, Oct. 27

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

## Wednesday, Oct. 28

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

## Thursday, Oct. 29

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

## Friday, Oct. 30

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

## Saturday, Oct. 31

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

## Sunday, Nov. 1

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


## Monday, Nov. 2

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

## Tuesday, Nov. 3

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

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## In need of meals or food? Here's help

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

January/February-United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Rd. Coal City

March/April-Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 110 S School St. Braidwood

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

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

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

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

## Statewide cookout adds carp to menus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

• Ashburn: Saturday, Oct. 24, the Black Fire Brigade will prepare and serve Asian carp burgers at Black Fire Bridge, 8404 S Kedzie Ave., Chicago.

• Peoria: Kelleher's Restaurant, 619 SW Water St., will be serving Asian carp items on their menu during the coming weeks.

• Springfield: Beginning Oct. 21, customers can enjoy a

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

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

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

## Come take a seat



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

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



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## Hungry heron picture devours Forest Preserve photo competition

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

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

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

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

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

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

Serafini is the fifth month-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Elks offer free orthopedic assessment

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

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

services at this clinic.

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

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

## Scheduling your mammogram is just as important as EVER.



One thing the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped or postponed is cancer.

**That's why you can't stop getting routine cancer screenings, including mammography.**

For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American College of Radiology recommends an annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

**Mammography really does save lives.**

We are pleased to offer three-dimensional mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) in Channahon, Diamond-Coal City, and Morris!

Call 815-942-4105 to schedule your appointment.

Self-referral without a physician's order is accepted.



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Deadline  
Wednesday,  
Oct. 28

# Saluting Our Veterans and those currently serving!

**We need your photos of Veterans and Soldiers**

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

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

**Please note:**

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

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

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

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Veterans Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Years Served \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_  
\*Town \_\_\_\_\_

**Send photo and form by email to the following:**  
[news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)  
**or deliver to:**  
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Free Press Newspapers  
111 S. Water Street  
Wilmington, IL 60481

\*Not required.

**For more info call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315**

## OBITUARIES

## Terri Raspanti-Barnes

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

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

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



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

Terri was preceded in death by her father.

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

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

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

## Rich Foland

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

## Billie G. Daniels

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Helping seniors recognize fake news and propaganda

*Dear Savvy Senior,*

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

*Frustrated Daughter*

Dear Frustrated,

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

**Why?**

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

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

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

**Where to get help**

To help your mom detect and combat



SAVVY SENIOR  
Jim Miller

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

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

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

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

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

Some other free course options you should look into include Senior Planet, which is offering a one-hour online course on "How to Spot Fake News" at [SeniorPlanet.org](http://SeniorPlanet.org).

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

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

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

## ComEd offers help to families

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 'Go to bat' for bats at Midewin

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

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

Lewis has been studying nature and wildlife for as long



Photo by Cynthia Cox Benson

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

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

"I love to explore nature,

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

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

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

## Grace Lutheran Church offering crafts and 3 more ways to worship

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

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

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

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

of a high-risk population.

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

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

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

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

## Final call for Chamber Christmas elves

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

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

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

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

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

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



# What's with all the Santas?



Courtesy photo

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

## Hines VA outreach team returns to Grundy County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Courtesy photos

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

## LyondellBasell volunteers lend a hand

Global Care Day observed with food distribution in Coal City

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

were stocked with items from the food drive.

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

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

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

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

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# Sound-off, continued from page 4

## A nightmare coming

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

## Biden's gun attack

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

## Mail in votes

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

## Let's move on

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

## Not the victim

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

## Have patience

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

## Do not understand

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

## Right and wrong

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

## Freaks and fanatics

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

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

## Again?

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

## Lied before, lie again

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

## Favoritism

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

## Town hall highlights

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

## Courage and character

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

## Stop zigzagging

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

## A true diplomat

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

## Bloody hands

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

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

## Soft on Biden

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

## Military might

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

Dan Hill

Essex Community Club (Formerly Essex Lions)

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### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

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

### AUTOS

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

### BOATS

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

### DUPLEX FOR RENT

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

### ESTATE SALES

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

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

### GARAGE SALE

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

### GARAGE SALE

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

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

### HELP WANTED

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

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

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

### HELP WANTED

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

### HOMES FOR RENT

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

### LOST & FOUND

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

### GET HELP APPLYING FOR A FOID CARD

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

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

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

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

### REAL ESTATE

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

makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://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](mailto:pleadings@il.cslegal.com) Attorney File No. 14-20-04486 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2020CH30 TJSC#: 40-2248 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2020CH30 13157238. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., Oct. 7, 14, and 21, 2020.

### REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-1, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE Plaintiff, -v- DAVID BZDILL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, ALLEN REYNOLDS, ERIC BEAZLEY, LUKE BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant 2019 CH 33 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 7, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 18, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 3770 WILL COURT, MORRIS, IL 60450 Property Index No. 05-16-226-016 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$212,795.48. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser

will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 19-6979, THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL, 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales. JOHNSTON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710 E-Mail: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com) Attorney File No. 19-6979 Case Number: 2019 CH 33 TJSC#: 40-2212 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019 CH 33 13157931 Published in the Free Press Newspapers, Wed., Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

### MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

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

### PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 [slewis@trinity-services.org](http://slewis@trinity-services.org). ch22b-tfn

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

**A Thousand Words Photography**  
385 N. Second Ave. Coal City  
Mandy Eaton  
815-791-2913

### Deb's Way Trucking

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

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

**Bohac Dirtworks**  
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and Lakes  
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Demolition  
Office:  
815-458-2542  
Cell Phones:  
405-5981 - John  
791-0153 - John Jr.  
791-0750 - Justen

Bradley Pest Control  
Termite/Pest  
Specialist.  
Real estate inspection  
Rodent Control  
and Exclusion  
Call Phil at  
815-405-5020  
cc42a-42a

### Julie's Remodeling

Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, welding repairs, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., call 815-791-5731. cc28b

### Alling Handyman Service

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

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

### Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience.

Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc40a-51b

### SITUATIONS WANTED

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

## ESTATE SALE

### PART #2

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

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

### PUBLIC AUCTION

**SAT., OCT. 24 AT 10:00 AM**  
(RAIN DATE SUN., OCT. 25)  
**741 KRISTIN LANE, WILMINGTON IL**  
GO TO AUCTIONZIP.COM I.D. 9525 FOR LISTING AND PHOTOS  
**OWNER: MRS. FELICIA (THOMAS) ALBERICO**

### PARTIAL LISTING

FLORAL SOFA, LOVESEAT, CHAIR W/OTTOMAN-COUCH AND LOVESEAT-SIX PIECE FOUR POSTER BEDROOM SET BY PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE, BEAUTIFUL-LINGERIE CHEST-ARMOIRE/ENTERTAINMENT CENTER BEAUTIFUL-QUEEN ANNE COFFEE TABLE, END TABLES- FERN STAND-CEDAR CHEST- SIX PIECE VTG WROUGHT IRON PATIO FURNITURE-SEVERAL IRON PLANTERS-TWO WICKER CHAIRS & SMALL TABLE-8 PC. PATIO SET-SUN DIAL-NUMEROUS YARD-SEVERAL BIRD HOUSES-TWO BOSE FREE SPACE OUTDOOR SPEAKERS- LAWN CHAIRS-WEBER GAS GRILL W/SIDE BURNER-

### EXERCISE EQUIPMENT:

PRO FORM CROSSWALK 400 TREADMILL-ULTRA TOTAL GYM MACHINE-SLIM STRIDE 360 BIKE-HEALTH RIDER FITNESS MACHINE-NORDIC TRACK SKI MACHINE-

BRUNO JOEY VSL 4000HW INTERIOR VAN POWER LIFT FOR A WHEEL CHAIR OR SCOOTER-PRIDE JAZZY PASSPORT PORTABLE ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR-PACE SAVER PASSPORT ELECTRIC WHEEL CHAIR-ADVENTURER 3 SPEED ADULT TRICYCLE-

BOSE 901 SERIES VI DIRECT REFLECTING SPEAKER SYSTEM -SONY FLAT SCREEN TV- FISHER STEREO SYSTEM AND COMPONENT CABINET-

PFALTZGRAFF TEA ROSE & WINTERBERRY DINNERWARE PLUS NUMEROUS COMPLETER PCS-EIGHT PLACE SETTING OF MIKASA CHINA-HOMER LAUGHLIN J49N6 DINNERWARE-WM RODGERS FLATWARE- ELEGANT GLASS WARE-ROOSTER FIGURINES-NOVELTY ITEMS-REVERE PROLINE COOKWARE-CALPHALON COOKWARE-NESTING BOWLS-CROCK BOWLS-CHICAGO CUTLERY KNIVES - KITCHEN APPLIANCES & HOUSEWARES-

COSTUME JEWELRY- BEDDING-LINENS-TOWEL ETC.-

FOUR H.D. FREE STANDING METAL CABINETS-AMANA DBL DOOR REFRIGERATOR- FILE CABINETS-HOOVER DELUXE STEAM VAC-HOOVER FLOOR MATE-CANON 170 CAMERA W/ZOOM LENS-GALILEO TELESCOPE- FLORAL DECOR-BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS DECOR -

JOHN DEERE GX75 LAWN TRACTOR-HARMONY HONDA 215 LAWN MOWER-HOMELITE WEED EATER-MANTIS MINI TILLER-KARCHER K386 POWER WASHER-22" EXCALIBUR WEED EATER-CRAFTSMAN 2 PC. ROLLING STEEL TOOL CHEST-NUMEROUS HAND TOOLS-YARD AND GARDEN TOOLS-WERNER WOODEN EXT LADDER-LUMBER-

**ANOTHER PARTY WILL SELL TEN BB GUNS AND 15 PLUS POCKET KNIVES-**

**AUCTIONER NOTE:**  
THE CONTENTS OF THIS AUCTION ARE EQUITABLE.  
**HINTZE AUCTION SERVICE INC.**  
BOB HINTZE LIC# 44000682  
PHONE: 815-228-7634 815-252-1911

ATTENTION: FOR YOUR PROTECTION DUE TO COVID 19 CONCERNS WE ENCOURAGE WEARING A FACE COVERING AND MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING. THANK YOU.

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For more information call 815-476-5405 or apply at 1197 South Buchanan, Wilmington [www.trinityservices.org](http://www.trinityservices.org)

## Real Estate and Personal Property Auction

**Sat, November 21, 2020 @ 10:00 AM**

**Address: 488 N Center St, Braidwood, IL**  
Directions: 1/2 mi East of I-55/IL-113 exit 236, then South 1-1/4 mile.

**Real Estate: 3-Bedroom 2-Bath**  
Ranch Home on a 0.41 acre lot on the east side of Braidwood. 2-Car Garage. Family Room at back of house and Living Room in the front. Central Air. Mature Shade Trees. \$10,000 Non-Refundable Earnest Money Down Day of Sale.

**Estate Auction: Furniture, Mower, Tools, Lawn/Garden and much more.**  
OPEN HOUSE DATES: OCT 20 & 27 from 4-6 PM - or call for a viewing!

**Personal Property Auction @ 10:00 AM**  
**Real Estate Auction @ 12:00 PM**

Auction conducted by Richard A. Olson & Assoc Morris, IL 815-942-4266

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FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convent. Certified Professionals. Call 312-598-1758 or visit [RefrigerantFinders.com](http://RefrigerantFinders.com)

# Taking the anti-Madigan route has its bumps

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**CAPITOL FACTS**

Rich Miller

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

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

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

In other news, Costa

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

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

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

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

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

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New-Fresh Honey,  
Butternut, Buttercup,  
Spaghetti & Acorn Squash,  
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(Corn Stalks are free)

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1099 S. Water St., Wilmington  
815-476-2700

Plenty of room to stretch out, enjoy local bands and comedians on weekends. Wash it all down with a nice selection of beer, win, and spirits.

Remember to  
**SHOP LOCAL**

www.wilmingtonilchamber.org

# Illinois unemployment claims continue to rise

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

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

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

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

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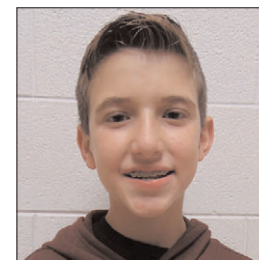
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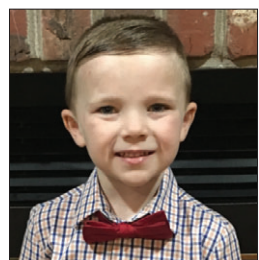
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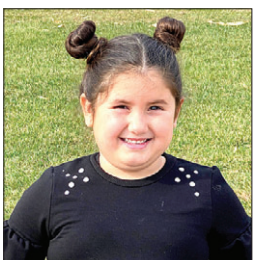
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## Cops answer the calls

### STAFF REPORT

Police activity in the village of Coal City continues to steadily increase with the number of calls growing by 5.4% between August and September. In the first month of the pandemic (March to April) the number of calls for service handled by Coal City Police Department officers dropped 42%. Since a low in April—281 calls—the total number of calls handled by officers has continued to increase with a five-month average of 426 calls. According to the department's monthly report to the Village Board, officer activity during September was 526 calls including 340 officer-initiated calls, up from 316 in August and 235 in July. Although the department continues to see increases in calls for service, overall activity remains below officer activity in the first couple of months of the year. To date, the department has handled 4,299 calls—officer initiated and requested response—1,899 of those resulted in a formal report. In the month of September, 282 calls resulted in a report. Officers also filed seven criminal charges, issued 15 ordinance violations and handed out 52 traffic citations based on 170 stops.

## Post 1336 observes Heritage Day



SATURDAY, OCT. 3 proved to be an overcast and chilly day for the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Women's Club Heritage Day held in Carbon Hill Park. Regardless of the weather, St. Juvin Post 1336 set up its booth to hold the annual free flag raffle event along with its 50/50 fundraising raffle. Coal City resident Deb Hazlett was the lucky winner of the U.S. Flag kit and Nancy Wynn, of Goose Lake, won the 50/50 raffle and generously donated her winnings back to Post 1336.

### Foreclosure sale of 3770 Will Court

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS  
MILL CITY MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2017-1, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST AS TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, -v- DAVID BZDILL, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF LINDA M. BEAZLEY A/K/A LINDA BEAZLEY, ALLEN REYNOLDS, ERIC BEAZLEY, LUKE BEAZLEY, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant 2019 CH 33

#### NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above case on August 7, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 18, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:  
LOT 4 IN WILLOW RIDGE SUBDIVISION IN THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH RANGE 7 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MARCH 25, 1988 IN PLAT CABINET F AT SLIDE 123 AS DOCUMENT# 292904 IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
Commonly known as 3770 WILL COURT, MORRIS, IL 60450  
Property Index No. 05-16-226-016  
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.  
The judgment amount was \$212,795.48.  
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/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, JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125, Chicago, IL, 60606 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number 19-6979.  
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE  
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite #1125  
Chicago IL, 60606  
312-541-9710  
E-Mail: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com  
Attorney File No. 19-6979  
Case Number: 2019 CH 33  
TJSC#: 40-2212  
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 2019 CH 33  
13157931

### Foreclosure notice of 1320 W. Prairie Road

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS  
THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant, 2020CH30

#### NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above case 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/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@ilcslegal.com  
Attorney File No. 14-20-04486  
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002  
Case Number: 2020CH30  
TJSC#: 40-2248  
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 2020CH30  
13157238

### Coal Bin to dispose of property

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, a sale or other disposition of property by COAL BIN STORAGE INC will be held at www.BID13.com, auction ending on October 28, 2020 at 1 p.m. to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, John Haney, 4 Balmoral, Diamond, IL 60416, Unit B13, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$420, plus attorney fees and costs.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 14 and 21, 2020.

### Attorney Black files Stangland estate claim notice

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 93  
In the Matter of the Estate of Robert J. Stangland, Deceased  
CLAIM NOTICE  
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Robert J. Stangland. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Betty J. Stangland, 365 Twilight Drive, Morris, Illinois 60450, 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.  
BETTY J. STANGLAND  
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 Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

### Laki Hawaiian Ice files as new business

#### LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name  
Publication Notice  
Public Notice is hereby given that on October 13, A.D. 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Laki Hawaiian Ice, 190 E. Southmor Rd., Morris, IL 60450. Dated this 13th day of October, A.D. 2020. Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4, 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: Fredrick W. Otte, PO Box 820, Portage, WI 53901, Unit #44.  
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Oct. 31, 2020 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 14 and 21, 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: Jamie C. Adcock, 2150 E. Clark St., Diamond, IL 60416, Unit #100.  
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Oct. 31, 2020 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 14 and 21, 2020.

# COALER SPORTS



File Photo

**COAL CITY 2012 GRADUATE** Matt Burchfield was selected by Coal City Courant readers to be a tight end on the all-time Coaler fantasy football team.



File Photo

**COAL CITY COURANT READERS** selected Coal City senior Logan Miller to be on the all-time Coal City football fantasy team.

## Coal City Courant readers help develop Coal City 'dream team'

BY SHAWN LONG  
STAFF WRITER

With the NFL holding Fantasy Football every year, it sparked a "what if" scenario.

What if the Coal City football program could choose players from the past to form a dream team?

We polled Coal City Courant readers for input and after two weeks came up with a dream team made up of all-time Coaler standouts.

**Quarterback**  
At quarterback, readers selected passing leader Cody Onsen.

Onsen played for the Coalers from 2009-12, passing for 3,578 yards with 2,235 yards and 28 passing touchdowns coming during his senior season when the Coalers went 4-5.

Their second string quarterback would be 2010 graduate Colt Smith, who passed for 2,317 yards, completing 57.33% of his passes.

**Running backs**  
Daniel Jezik and Zach Smith are top picks for running backs.

Jezik, who ran for a career-leading 3,043 yards, would be the halfback while Smith, who amassed 3,028 yards from 2004-06, is the first and second down back.

Jack Dibble, who graduated in 2014 and gained 2,720 career rushing yards, would be their third selection for some depth at the running back position. Dibble would most likely play in the third and fourth quarters. Either way, whichever running back plays, they'll produce.

**Wide Receivers**  
Matt Halloran, Nick Arndt

and Brad Schmitt make up their receiving corps.

Halloran is a smaller target at right around 5-10 but he was fast, playing like a true slot receiver (Julian Edelman).

Halloran is the leading receiver for Coal City, snaring 77 passes for 1,594 career yards from Onsen.

Arndt is 6-3 215 and that made him an excellent target for Jeffrey Hodgen to throw to.

During his senior year, Hodgen threw to Arndt 30 times for 534 yards and seven touchdowns. Arndt is currently second on the all-time receiving yards list at Coal City, catching 72 passes for 1,202 yards.

Schmitt would be our third option but our number two wide receiver on the edge while Halloran would play in the slot.

Schmitt led a 14-0 1993 state championship team. He accumulated 1,088 career receiving yards and is an excellent option to go to.

**Tight End**  
Matt Burchfield, who graduated in 2012, presented a big target for Onsen to throw the ball to. He ended up snaring 52 balls in his Coaler career. He would be a perfect tight end with the catches he made. He had that height and great hand eye coordination to go up and make those tough catches.

Their second tight end selection was Ryan Wharrie, who has the fourth most receiving yards in Coaler history with 999 on 74 receptions. Wharrie was known as being sure-handed. That is what a tight end is supposed to be so our readers think Wharrie would make a tremendous addition at the tight end spot.

### Offensive Linemen

The center will be Josh Hinkelman, who led the 2005 team's offensive line, paving the way for over 1,500 yards rushing and over 1,500 yards rushing during their near title.

Matt Long graduated from CCHS in 2015. He played center and opened holes for Dibble. Our readers thought he'd be a great second option for center.

The picks for guard are Keegan Grant and Logan Miller.

Keegan, who played for the Coalers from 2002-05 was a massive offensive lineman at 6-4 289 lbs. and strong too. As previously reported Grant lifted a 575 deadlift and a 560 squat to shatter school records. He was great at opening holes for Smith.

Miller still plays guard for the Coalers. He's a senior and he's a big reason that Daniel Jezik broke for well over 2,000 yards rushing to lead the entire state. At 6-5 290 lbs. Miller is our readers pick for the other guard spot.

The tackle picks were senior Daniel Cueller and 2020 graduate Blake Strnad.

Cueller and Strnad worked together with Miller to ensure Jezik, and other Coaler runners had room to run, paving the way for 3,314 yards rushing and 35 rushing touchdowns. They were not only good run blockers but they protected Payton Hutchings, who threw for right at 1,000 yards with 17 touchdowns. He hardly ever got sacked.

### Edge Rushers

The defensive end picks included 2020 graduate Brady Crawford and Jacob Jasnosz.

The two were top tacklers on a Coal City semifinal football team, who fell to Richmond-Burton. The defense itself gave up just 124 points in 13 games. That is a little over nine points per game.

Crawford was quick to get around the tackle and also had some power to bust through to get to the quarterback while Jasnosz used the bull rush to get to the quarterback on countless occasions.

Crawford finished his two years on varsity with 131 total tackles with eight sacks and one fumble recovery along with a pick six.

Jasnosz was a two-year starter on defense as well, finishing with 113 total tackles, eight sacks and one fumble recovery.

### Defensive Tackles

Our readers selected 2005 graduate Matt Watson and Coal City assistant wrestling coach Nick O'Bert to be our defensive linemen.

Watson, who was 6-3 240, was just a beast inside, using that lower body power to barrel his way to the quarterback. During their 2004-05 state runner-up year, Watson compiled 19 sacks with 123 total tackles. He finished his high school career with 232 tackles.

O'Bert was a powerful defensive lineman and play proved it on the field as he is tied for the team-lead with eight fumble recoveries. He and Watson would be good on those goal line situations to plug the middle and stuff the ballcarrier in the backfield.

### Linebackers

Linebacker picks included: Ben Sisk, Matt Powell and Nate Natyshok with Kyle Lardi, and Austin Pullara earning honorable mention.

Sisk, Powell and Natyshok are listed as the top three tackle leaders so there's a good reason our readers picked them.

All players were excellent at playing sideline to sideline.

Natyshok, who finished with 273 tackles, will be slotted at outside linebacker because of how quick he was to get to the football.

Sisk, who leads with 354 tackles, will play middle linebacker because he is the best tackler on the defense.

And Powell, who ended up with 342 stops, will be slotted as the other linebacker with the speed to run any play down.

Lardi, who finished with 262 tackles, will be a backup to Powell or Natyshok.

And Pullara, who ended up with 253 career tackles which is currently sixth best, will be a backup for Sisk.

### Corners

Schmitt was selected as the number one corner and for a good reason. He finished his high school career with 15 interceptions.

Rich Scerine, who finished with 12 career interceptions, was picked as the number two corner that will be slotted on every team's number two

receiver.

At the slot corner spot, our readers suggested Brandon Howard or Joe Van Duynne.

Howard, who played with the 2004-05 Coalers, would be a great slot option as he finished with 12 career interceptions.

VanDuynne, who was a big part of Coal City's 1993-94 championship team, would also be a great option as he has 11 career interceptions.

### Safeties

Our readers suggested Brad Littleton and Brian Naiden would be good options to fill the safety roles.

Littleton, who graduated in 2016, finished with 11 career interceptions, leading us to believe he was not only good at covering man-to-man but also very good at jumping routes.

Naiden, who was a 2006 graduate from Coal City High School, finished with nine career interceptions so we'd be leaving the middle of the field in some pretty sure-handed defenders.

### Specialists

Kicker picks included Ben Rouse and David Druse

Rouse was a 2006 graduate, who converted on 50 of his 58 point after kicks during the 2005 season. He also made four field goals with a long of 48 yards. Rouse boomed a punt 73 yards during a title game against Lombard Montini in 2004 as he was also used as a punter.

Druse, who graduated in 2010, is actually on the state record list, hitting four field goals in a game. He's currently third. The field goals were from 42, 31, 31 and 33 yards so he was definitely efficient and could also hit the long ones.

The punter picks were 2002 graduate Dan Tucker and Littleton.

Both guys had strong legs and could boom the ball down the field that more times than not would force the opposing offense to have to drive the ball down the field and score from deep in their own territory.

Littleton had the most yardage accumulated on punts with 4,275 yards on 113 punts with an average of almost 38 yards per punt (37.83).


Tucker ended up punting the ball only 46 times for 1,774 yards with an average of well over 38 yards per kick (38.65).

The kick returner would be none other than 1994 graduate Craig VanDuynne. VanDuynne is the top kick returner in school history, having topped 700 return yards with 772 career return yards. As mentioned in the state record story, he is currently 13th on the list for all-time kick return yardage.

Timm Kroeger would be on the other side returning kicks, accumulating 541 all-time kick return yards. Kroeger was a 2008 graduate, who used his small stature to hide maneuver through the defense. His speed helped him too.

At punt returner, our readers selected Tucker, who finished with 558 career punt return yardage which would put him 10th on the state list for total punt return yardage in a career.

A backup for punt returner was Howard, who would not be a bad option as he's currently second on the list for punt return yardage with 503.



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

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

The Board said winter sports details will be given October 28. "We understand that student-athletes, coaches, parents, officials, and fans are anxious to learn more details about the plans for IHSA winter sports," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We feel like we are making positive strides in our discussions with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to be allowed to conduct IHSA winter

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

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

summer season sports.

Winter sports (basketball, wrestling, boys swimming & diving, cheerleading, dance, bowling, girls gymnastics), which remain in their traditional season, will have no accommodation related to the by-law.

"The Board determined it was prudent to make modifications to the independent team by-law for the sports that were displaced from their traditional high school season," said Anderson. "They also came up with what we believe is a reasonable compromise for summer sports. The Board is hopeful that the high school teams will be given priority when conflicts occur. We believe making a modification now will allow high

school coaches and non-school team coaches to begin communication on how they can collaboratively resolve scheduling conflicts."

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

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

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

## Coal City says farewell to their golf seniors, tennis senior



Courtesy Photo

**LEVI COUNTERMAN** is escorted by his parents Caleb and Jessica Counterman during Coal City golf senior night at Cinder Ridge Golf Course. This was Levi's first year playing golf. He also plays soccer and tennis. After high school, he plans to attend a four-year university to pursue a degree in engineering.



Courtesy Photo

**CONNOR GASS** is with his parents Troy Gass and Jill Steffes during Coal City golf senior night. Connor played golf due to the football season being postponed to become one of the top 12 golfers in the Illinois Central Eight Conference. He wants to attend a four-year university to study engineering.



Courtesy Photo

**DERRICK MUELLER** is with his mother Tammy Mueller during senior night at Coal City. He played golf for two seasons. He also participated in Scholastic Bowl for three years and baseball for two. Derrick plans to study civil engineering in college.



Courtesy Photo

**CADEN HENNESSY** is accompanied by his parents (from left) Ronette Ksiazak and Pat Hennessy during Coal City golf senior night. Caden joined the golf team in lieu of the football season being postponed. He is involved in the musical, madrigals, plays football, wrestling and track and field. After graduating, he plans to attend Joliet Junior College. After earning an associate's degree in law enforcement, he plans to transfer to a four year university to study criminal justice.



Courtesy Photo

**TYLER JOHNSON** is escorted by his parents Tonya and Jeff Johnson during golf senior night. Tyler has been a member of the Coalers golf team for four years, becoming a two-time IHSA sectional qualifier, an All-Conference golfer and currently one of the top three golfers in the Illinois Central Eight Conference. He has also played tennis for three years. He plans to attend Joliet Junior College to enroll in the operator/industrial maintenance program.



**COAL CITY SENIOR Skyler Wickiser** is escorted by her parents Kristina and Denny Wickiser during tennis senior night. Skyler has been a member of the tennis squad for four years. She is involved in Student Council, Varsity Tennis, Varsity Poms, Student Ambassadors, Debate Club, Ping Pong Club, National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society, Link Leaders, Prom Committee, Coalers with Character, Math Team, FBLA, GSA and model congress. She plans to attend a four-year university to major in sociology with a minor in political science. After college, she plans to attend law school to become a children's custody and adoption lawyer.

## The Coalers would be making 10th consecutive playoff appearance

BY SHAWN LONG  
STAFF WRITER

Under normal circumstances the Coalers would be one week away from vying for the football playoffs. But thanks to the governor and the Illinois Health Dept, football won't be played until at least February (we hope) as long as the spread of the coronavirus is in check.

The "what if" factor, as in what if the Coalers had been allowed to play fall ball, makes

me believe Coal City would be getting ready for their 10th straight playoff appearance.

Coal City lost a talented group of seniors that led them to a 12-1 record, bowing out in the semifinals. But the players who are about to be seniors are just as good.

Spring football just won't be the same.

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

Without fans will there be

a need to inflate the giant Coalers helmet and stock up on fireworks? The way I see it now is the pregame ritual will be players and coaches lining up to be tested for covid-19 symptoms.

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

If fall ball had been allowed, like in the four states

surrounding Illinois, we'll not have had to deal with the winter weather that still will be around probably through the end of March.

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

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

What about the actual temperature?

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

According to the Weather-us.com, the average temperature for Illinois in February last year was 15 degrees. March didn't get much better with temperatures reaching 26-36 degrees.

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

We can't change that. All we can do now is speculate on what will be and what might be when the players take the field in five months.

We suspect Griffin Johnson will be leading the offense at quarterback. Last year Griffin completed 1-of-2 passes for 17 yards and a touchdown.

He was the backup to Payton Hutchings who rarely ever came out of the game but

this season, he'll get his time to shine. He not only logged time as a quarterback but as a defensive back as well. He recorded 29 tackles, two TFLs, two interceptions and a fumble recovery so he will again see time as the number two corner.

You'll see a skill player who can just do-it-all in Asa Cooper, who will play wide receiver, running back while also returning the punts and kicks.

During the 2018 season, Cooper played a significant amount as a sophomore, accumulating 554 all-purpose yards with eight overall touchdowns.

During the 2019 season, Cooper was a problem for defenses as Hutchings' number one target, catching 24 passes for a team-high, 331 yards. He rushed for 131 and accumulated 396 return yards, scoring six overall touchdowns (three receiving, two rushing and one pick six).

Asa was not only a tremendous weapon on the offensive side of the ball but a starting corner as well, coming up with 26 tackles, three tackles for a loss and an interception for a touchdown.

Cooper will definitely be up for the challenge when that time comes.

If the Coalers were playing right now, they'd have an attack of junior Ashton Harvey, senior Connor Gass and senior Connor Rijske manning the backfield duties. They may use junior Antonio Contrerez as well but those are the backs that logged the most time last

season.

Harvey was the third leading rusher last year for Coal City with 208 yards and three touchdowns on 30 carries. However, he was known well for what he did on the other side of the ball. He played sideline to sideline as the team's starting outside linebacker, whipping down opposing ball carriers with great force. Harvey was second on the team in tackles with 90 as a sophomore. He made 9.0 TFLs, one sack and picked off four passes, scoring one defensive touchdown on a pick six.

Gass ran for 132 and a score, busting for five yards a pop while Rijske was near five yards a carry, running six times for 29 yards.

Junior Contrerez ran the ball 16 times for 60 yards.

Kyle Burch will be a senior at the tight end role as he logged six catches with two touchdowns. Burch also played an outside linebacker position opposite to Harvey, collecting 46 tackles with a sack to go along with it.

There's very good chance the Coalers will be competitive with the Illinois Central Eight Conference.

When Coal City comes out in the spring, expect a tough team, who will always play like they've got something to prove.

One thing is certain though is that even though they'll still be playing under the same Friday Night lights, spring football just won't feel the same.

## ★★★★ Caleb ★★★★★ Counterman

Grundy County Board - District Three

A Candidate You Can Count on

**About Me**

- Married for twenty-two years with two sons at Coal City High School
- Over twenty years working for families and community with six years in professional community management
- Family history of military service and law enforcement
- Conservative with strong moral beliefs

**I Am Committed to**

- Honest and ethical servant leadership
- Investing in our county through lower taxes and greater job promotion
- Enhancing transparency and accountability within government
- Defending law and order and personal liberty

Find out More! Counterman for Grundy County

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