

Downtown beautification Coal City submits ITEP grant application

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

In an effort to further enhance Coal City's downtown streetscape, town officials are seeking more than \$300,000 from the state of Illinois.

The beautification elements town officials have outlined were part of the original South Broadway reconstruction plan, however they were dropped from the project in order to maximize the total funding of \$4.5 million.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz said the hope had been the village could augment the Illinois project with Transportation date.

Well, the state has made the call for ITEP project submissions and the elements taken from the initial plan have been submitted as an ITEP application to the Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT].

Enhancements outlined in the ITEP grant request include the addition of 17 stamped asphalt crosswalks, just for were included within the reconstruction plan.

The larger part of the plan is focused on public art. The village had planned to coordinated with the Illinois Arts Council on this aspect of the project. However, Fritz said the arts council's funding has dwindled as the state that was commissioned after the 2015 storm by

Enhancement Project [ITEP] funds at a later prioritizes its spending so those elements are now being identified for completion through ITEP dollars.

The art elements would include sculptures, murals and mosaic title art within the walkways

Fritz reports if the grant application is approved, the village would commission custom art pieces from Illinois artisans including former Coal City residents Rick Romero and Dante DiBartolo, as well as well known street and mosaic artist Jim Bachor, of Chicago.

would also include a tornado sculpture created by students at Grundy Area Vocational Center

students in Betsy Cowherd's fourth grade class at Coal City Intermediate School. Funds to complete the project were raised by the students.

The tornado sculpture was given to the vil-lage with plans for it to be installed within the downtown area.

The overall cost of the project from stamped crosswalks and customized art pieces, to engineering and construction oversight comes in at \$375,025.

Based on information Fritz shared with vil-The art elements installed along Broadway lage trustees the art elements comprise the bulk of the cost at \$267,900.

SEE GRANT, PAGE 2

Restrictions in place As positivity rate increases, Grundy enters mitigation

STAFF REPORT

State imposed mitigations aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19 are now in place across Illinois.

Following three days of test positivity rates above 8%, Gov. JB Pritzker announced Sunday that Region 2—the North Central Region that Grundy County is a part of—would enter tier one mitigations today [Wednesday, Nov. 4].

The region's positivity rate went from 7.9% on Oct. 26 to 9.3% on Oct. 29 with 760 new cases of the virus reported within the region's 20 counties in a single day.

bars within the region are to cease indoor service and gathering limits for events such as weddings is limited to 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity—indoors and outdoors-whichever is less.

All restaurants and bars must close at 11 p.m. and reopen no earlier than 6 a.m. the following day.

Outdoor service can continue for bars and restaurants, as well as pickup and delivery services. There is to be no standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for service, outdoor tables should be set at least six feet apart, reser-

For the next 14 days, restaurants and vations are required and multiple parties are not to be seated together at tables.

Under tier one mitigations, gaming and casinos close at 11 p.m. and, if applicable, follow the same mitigations as bars and restaurants. And, there are to be no party buses.

The mitigations are in place for 14 days. If the positivity rate average is less than or equal to 6.5% over a three day period the region would return to phase 4 guidelines, if the rate falls between 6.5% and 8% the state would continue to monitor the area and if the rate remains over **SEE MITIGATIONS, PAGE 2**







STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

According to ISBE data, 37.6% of Grundy County's registered voters had cast a ballot as of Monday morning. The advanced vote total was at 13,725-6,634 mail-in ballots,

6,901 early votes and 190 grace period votes. As of Monday, 44% of Will County's registered voters had casting a ballot. Among the 203,964 ballots, 97,175 were mail-in ballots, 104,335 were cast at one of the county's 24 1,600 at Braidwood

IT'S BEGINNING TO look like Madrigal Season. The Coal City High School Madrigal Choir is in rehearsals for its annual holiday concert and show. Amid the pandemic, the choir is making some changes to its performances that will be filmed and available for streaming this holiday season. Jester Zoe Smith and Queen Addey Connor practicing their social distancing. The Madrigals first performance of the season will be Saturday, Nov. 14 at The 3 French Hens Holiday Market in Morris.

voting locations including Hall and 2,454 were grace period votes. Election officials and voters in both counties were

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

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

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

Election results are not official until after the re-tab and canvas that will including any remaining vote by mail bal-lots received and postmarked by Nov. 3 and valid provisional ballots cast on Election Day. In Will County, the unofficial totals can be viewed at

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

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

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

Peter Hancock of Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report

GROCERY LIST

Canned fruits and veg etables, rice, instant pota toes, cereal, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter, jelly, flavored gelatin, flour, sugar flavored gelatin, pasta and pasta sauce, macaroni and cheese, cake mixes and canned frosting, brownie mixes, pie filling, biscuit mixes, crackers, box dinners, canned soup, gravy mix, dry beans, boxed stuffing, fruit snacks, breakfast bars and tarts, granola, coffee, tea, flavored drink mix and juices.

Also, paper towels, toilet paper, hand/body soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth-brushes, feminine care products, laundry soap, dish soap and household cleaning supplies. dish soap laundry soap shampoo.

Scouting for food Annual Cub Scout Pack 466 food drive this weekend

STAFF REPORT

Cub Scout Pack 466 is scouting for food, and they are calling on the community to lend a hand.

For longer than anyone can remember, local scouts have organized a holiday food drive to benefit the Coal City Food Pantry. This year is no different, just a bit earlier in the season.

The scouts announced last week they were moving the annual food drive up one month, a change driven by the on-going coronavirus pandemic.

Due to guidelines, the food pantry must follow including social distancing and capacity limits, changes had to be made in the way the donations are delivered and sorted by volunteers.

Barb Kent asked organizers if the annual drive could be moved from the first weekend December to in early November, and they agreed.

The change will provide volunteers with additional

will be put to immediate use.

Items collected during the Nov. 8 food drive will be utilized to fill the boxes that are collected by families seeking assistance from the pantry on a monthly basis.

In Óctober, the pantry Food Pantry president assisted 99 families. Kent expects that number to rise in the coming month as a result of a resurgence in coronavirus cases

> the pandemic—March and of non-perishable food items, April-the pantry was assisting paper products, household

surge in cases and mitigations taking effect locally, the pantry will likely see more individuals and families seeking food assistance.

The door-to-door food collection begins Saturday, Nov. 7 when local scout groups pool their resources to distribute grocery bags to doorsteps throughout the villages of Carbon Hill, Coal City and Diamond. The sacks are to be In the first two months of used for making contributions

time to sort the donations that over 130 families. With the cleaning supplies and personal care items. All donations must be in sealed, original containers and display current expiration dates.

On Sunday, Nov. 8 the filled donation bags should be placed on door steps for the scouts and their helpers to

SEE FOOD DRIVE, PAGE 2





A POLITICAL DISPLAY set up along Division Street in advance of Tuesday's general election was damaged in the overnight hours of Monday as someone set fire to one of the flags and shot out the tires on the hydraulic lift.

Schools not immune to virus

BY ANN GILL FDITOR

When given a choice to return to inperson learning or continue with fall classes remotely, about 84% of the students in Unit 1 headed back to the classroom.

Thus 16% of the district's 2,114 students are full-time remote learners, but the number of remote learners fluctuates on a daily basis.

Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg reports the district usually has more than 16% of its student population in remote learning on any given day due to the guidelines set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] and Illinois State Board of Education [ISBE] that require students who show any COVID-19 symptoms to be excluded from in-person instruction.

The guidelines are part of the district's Return to School Plan and have been updated to reflect modifications handed down from the state agencies.

Since our first day of student attendance on August 19, we have been tracking any positive COVID cases of students and staff in our school district. Whenever we experience a positive COVID case, we follow all IDPH guidelines in terms of contact tracing and quarantines," Bugg stated in a letter he sent out to district families last week.

Bugg made it clear the district expects to experience positive COVID cases and that is why the Return to School Plan outlines specific protocols a family must follow when a student tests positive. Staff members also have to follow the protocols.

dents and 14 staff members test positive for the virus, the most recent case in a food service employee at the intermediate school.

Last week, Bugg called a meeting of the district's Citizens Advisory Committee as he was looking to gain some insight on the public's perception of how the return to school is going.

The superintendent shared what school officials see as successes and challenges in educating during a pandemic and he shared the numbers-inperson and remote learners and the COVID-19 case count.

It was from that information a committee member suggested it might be helpful for families who are considering a return to in-person learning to know what the COVID case count is within the district's school buildings.

Bugg took that idea back to district administrators who are now looking at creating a dashboard on the district's website that would provide up-to-date COVID statistics.

In the meantime, Bugg put the numbers on paper to share with families and explained the process of contact tracing and exclusion for close contacts, and that the Grundy County Health Department is consulted with every positive case.

Of the 36 total cases, there was one single incident at the high school were there was possibility of transmission occurring within the school. That is why the high school was temporally closed for 14 days in September.

"The encouraging news is that the evidence continues to show that we are not experience transmission of the virus at school. For every one of our positive COVID cases [other than the incident at the high school] we have been able to contact trace back to a source outside of school," Bugg said.

the protocols. To date, the district has had 22 stutact becoming COVID positive.

The 22 positive student cases involve two early childhood center students, one student enrolled at the elementary

school, three at the intermediate school [one starting the year in quarantine], four at the middle school and 12 at the high school.

The 14 staff cases include one per son at the early childhood center, five at the middle school, one at the high school, three in the district office, and three at the elementary school who started the academic term in quarantine.

The 14th case was reported just this weekend and involved a cafeteria worker at the intermediate school.

Contact tracing determined the staff member had not been in close contact with any student, however that was not the case with their fellow workers and as a result those staff members will be excluded from work for 14 days.

The news prompted an immediate deep cleaning of the school's kitchen to ensure the building and food prep area was ready for the start of new school week.

"Obviously we wish we never had a positive COVID case among our students and staff, but we understand that is not a realistic expectation," Bugg said.

Overall, the superintendent said mitigation strategies—face coverings, social distancing when possible, hand washing and enhanced cleaning and sanitation-have been effective.

As COVID cases across the state continue to surge, Bugg stresses those same strategies outside of school will help keep kids in school.

"The school district has no control over what happens once the students walk out our doors each day. By reinforce ing proper mitigation strategies outside of school, we enhance our changes of continuing to offer the face-to-face instructional and extra-curricular opportunities that we believe are available to the academic and social/emotional health of our students," Bugg said.

Author to present make

it a Hallmark Christmas

Anyone who really wants to submit to the Hallmark

She will have her own new Christmas book "Two

Channel, Russo will explain the rules and how to proceed.

Hearts for Christmas" available for purchase. Registration

Have you ever dreamed of writing

a Hallmark Christmas story com-

plete with romance and Christmas

magic? Do you enjoy the happily-

Join author Annalisa Russo

Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m. at the

Coal City Public Library to brain-

storm ideas and working plots to

write the holiday story of your heart,

ever-after every time?

worthy of Hallmark status.

is required and space is limited.

Political vandalism **STAFF REPORT** Division Street just east of First Avenue.

A Coal City businessman simply wanted to show his support for the presidential candidate of his choice. However, someone else seemed to disagree with his choice

Bill Shain put up an eyecatchy display supporting the reelection of President Donald Trump in advance of Tuesday's general election. The display featured Trump 2020 flags, signs and even a cardboard cutout of the 45th President. It all stood up on a hydraulic lift that had been placed on an empty lot he owns along

City's

amounts to 20% or \$75,005.

About \$60,000 of that would

be covered by payments the

D Construction-paid into a

beautification fund held by

the Community Foundation of

South Broadway contractor-

match

Grant

Grundy County.

Coal

When Shain viewed the display on Election Day it looked different from when it was put up.

In the overnight hours on Monday someone set fire to one of the flags, poured gaso-line over the lift and shot out all four tires with what appears to be a .22 caliber bullet.

The incident was reported to Coal City Police Tuesday morning. At this time no offender information is available. Anyone with information regarding the damage is asked to contact the Coal City Police Department at 815-634-2341.

The

Council

A roller coaster of temperatures **STAFF REPORT**

Temperatures were up and down during the month of October with a daily high that hit the low 80s and a daily low that dipped into the 20s.

The Grundy County Emergency Management Agency [GCEMA] reports the average monthly temperature for the month was recorded at 51 degrees with the high of 83 degrees on Friday, Oct. 9 and the low 21 days later on Oct. 30 registering 29 degrees. Overall there were 10 days with temperatures at 32 degrees or below.

Rainfall in the month of October is officially recorded at 1.66 inches with 11 days of measurable precipitation. The highest 24-hour rainfall was .55 inches on Thursday, Oct. 22 in Morris. Rainfall recorded in Coal City for that same time was significantly higher at 1.83 inches.

Mitigations

8% after 14 days additional mitigations would take effect.

Early in the pandemic, the village of Coal City and a number of other local municipalities put rules in place to allow outdoor dining, the outdoor consumption of alcohol and temporarily amended liquor codes to follow state

These contacts are attempted within 24 hours of lab notification.

Michelle Pruim, the county's public health administrator, reports residents often learn of their lab results before the health department.

"Residents are encourged to follow isolation and Marshall County at 4.9%. Regional and county specific data can be monitored on

the IDPH website. Local and state health officials remind residents to wear a face covering in public, maintain acceptable social distance and practice frequent hand washing and sanitizing.

COVID-19 testing is available through local hospital systems and mobile testing units organized by IDPH with locations that can be found by visiting the agency's website at dph.illinois.gov.

tive and were in isolation, as well as their close contacts.

North of Governments [NCICG] assisted the village with the grant application that was delivered to IDOT's Springfield office on Friday, Oct. 30 ahead of the Nov. 2

application deadline. NCICG director Kevin Lindeman reports the grant awards will likely not be announced until spring or

Central

unds that were remain ing from streetscaping beautification and rent payments from the project engineer.

summer 2021 and the work of installing the streetscaping would likely begin the following construction season.

Food drive

pickup beginning at noon.

As in the past, the Scouts are calling on area residents to support the effort by picking up extra items when they venture out to the grocery store this week.

Area residents who do not receive a bag and would like to make a donation can do so by placing items in the pantry's donation box located outside the south entry door of Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd.

Along with regular distributions, the food pantry will hold a holiday distribution this December.

All items collected this weekend will be delivered to the pantry and will be sorted by volunteers on Tuesday, Nov. 10, Wednesday, Nov. 11 and Friday, Nov. 13. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, volunteers must schedule a time to assist with the sorting of items. Individuals interested in lending a hand must call the food pantry at 815-216-3288.

Kent said the pantry is grateful to the scouts and community for its continued support of the pantry, especially at a time when there is a need for food.

Notice of Foreclosure, 775 N. 7th St.

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Argent Securities Inc., Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-W1; Plaintiff, -Vs.- Charles Schmidt Appointed as Special Representative for Patricia Nuccio, Ariana Nuccio, Kavanagh Grumley & Gorbold LLC, Unknown Owner and Non-Record Claimants, Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Patricia Nuccio; Defendants. 20 CH 16

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA NUCCIO

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as fol-lows, to-wit: LOT 2 IN BLOCK 14 IN THE VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL, GRUNDY COUN-TY, ILLINOIS COMMONLY KNOWN AS 775 N 7TH ST, CARBON HILL, IL 60416, PIN # 06-34-156-012

and which said Mortgage was made by: BENJAMIN FISCHER, the Mortgagor(s), to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of GRUNDY County, IL,

A s Document No. 458359; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending. NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appear-ance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, on or before November 30, 2020, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A UPDATE THAT DAY ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-

file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illi-noiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you HYPERLINK

223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610

Chicago, IL 60606

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Our File No.: 309097

13158720

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, October 28, November 4, and November 11, 2020.

guidance allowing to-go sales of cocktails.

Some of these rules remain in place to help ease the burden on businesses impacted by the mitigations that are slated to last through Nov. 18.

After four weeks of being in the blue, Grundy County returned to an orange warning level on Oct. 30 as the positivity rate for the reporting period of Oct. 18-24 reached 10%, up from 7.9% a week earlier. Within that time the state reports 208 new cases per population were 100,000 reported with 1,137 tests performed.

In its weekly update, the Grundy County Health Department reported 1,030 persons have tested positive for the virus since the first case was reported in March.

As of Oct. 30, the health department was following 177 people who had tested posi-

quarantine guidelines even before heating from the health department," Pruim said.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], persons awaiting test results should isolate and close contacts of positive cases should quarantine for 14 days since the last encounter with a sick individual.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] the countywide case count had reached 1,125 cases-211 from within the 60416 zip code and 488 from the 60450 zip code.

The state's COVID-19 data shows Grundy County's positivity rate was 13.5% as of Oct. 29 with 42 new cases in a single day.

As of Monday, Nov. 2, 14 of the 20 counties in the North Central Region were reporting positivity rates above 8%, some as high as 14.3% and the low for the group was



Happy Birthday Mimi Plough

From Your Loving Family

Vermillion Storage to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility State of Illinois, on November 23 2020 at 10:30 a.m. Vermillion Storage will Sell or otherwise dispose of items stored at Vermillion Storage, 6725 White Tie Road, Coal City, IL 60416, 815-634-2899,

Occupant: Debbie Shaw, Unit #410/ 431.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 4, and 11, 2020.

> Vermillion Storage to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act. State of Illinois, on November 23 2020 at 10:45 a.m. Vermillion Storage will sell or otherwise dispose of items stored at Vermillion Storage, 6725 White Tie Road, Coal City, IL 60416, 815-634-2899,

Occupant: Sean Smith, Unit #305 Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 4, and 11, 2020.



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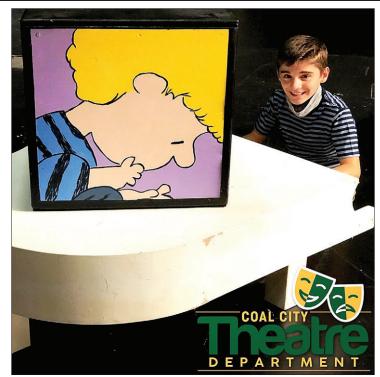
Deadlines for the Prairie Shopper Display Advertising: Thursday, 2 p.m. Classified & Public Notices: Thursday 5 p.m.

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

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

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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Ann Gill, editor



Courtesv photo

JORDAN OLSON takes his place at the piano as Schroeder in Coal City Middle School's upcoming musical production of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown."

Peanuts gang comes to life in middle school musical

STAFF REPORT

Charlie Brown, his beloved dog Snoopy and the entire Peanuts gang will come to life in Coal City Middle School's production of the musical classic, "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown.

Rehearsals are underway for the musical that will be available for streaming into homes Nov. 20-22.

The Broadway musical is based on the popular Peanuts comic strip created by Charles M. Schulz and will feature vignettes and production numbers featuring some of the comic's favorite characters including Lucy, Linus and Peppermint Patty.

In response to the on-going pandemic and restrictions for inperson performances, the musical will be filmed in advanced and made available for in-home viewing.

Director Jack Micetich has selected 23 students to fill the roles of the beloved cartoon characters. The students are divided into two casts-yellow and blue.

grader Eighth Mason Natyshok will lead the yellow cast in the role of Charlie Brown and Bella Byers will appear as his little sister, Sally.

Rounding out the yellow cast is Katie Huston, Lucy; Jordan Olson, Schroeder; Olivia Sage, Peppermint Patty; Logan Hausman, Linus; Bobby Stoudt, Dakota Snoopy: Clubb. Woodstock; Kyah Hawkins, Marcie, and Bella Bartholomew and Bridget Feeney.

Alex Carlson has been cast as Pig Pen in both casts.

The blue cast is led by seventh grader Dane Noffsinger in the role of Charlie Brown, Brody D'Orazio will appear as his dog, Snoopy and Melody Kinder is his sister, Sally.

Fellow blue cast members include Kylee Kennell, Lucy; Ethan Donnelly, Schroeder; Eliana Chernesky, Peppermint Patty; Theo Fritz, Linus; Caroline Childers, Woodstock; D'Arcy Ness, Marcie, and ensemble members Stana Milinkovic and Riley Walker.

Unit 1 names **Students** of the Week



GRIFFIN WINKE Middle School

ALAINA ANGELUS

Elementary School



ABBIE ANDERS Intermediate School

JAYCEE CHASE **Intermediate School**



SIENNA RUFFATTO **Elementary School**

LUCAS ROWADER **Elementary School**



KADEN MELVIN Early Childhood Center

CORRINE GIBSON

Early Childhood Center



RYLAND CLEMENTS

Intermediate School



REED HORRIE

Elementary School

Early Childhood Center

Early Childhood Center



BRADY MANERING

ELLIANA LEDDESMA Early Childhood Center



ELLIOTT ERHARD Early Childhood Center





SKYLAR HAMILTON Early Childhood Center



Fire damages unoccupied residence

caused a \$100,000 in damage to an unoccupied Carbon Hill residence.

Grundy County The Dispatch Center received a 911 call on Thursday, Oct. 29 alerting to a fire in the area of Perry and Sixth streets.

A fire is estimated to have patched at 9:14 p.m. and on arrival crews found fire coming from the rear of a single family dwelling at 685 Sixth St.

The residence was under rehab conditions and unoccupied at the time of the fire.

blaze was contained to the rear Emergency mined it appears to be acci- Emergency Services dental. No injuries were reported. Coal City Fire personnel

Laki Hawaiian Ice files as

new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

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 per-

sons 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

Attorney Black files

Gram estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

OF THE THIRTEENTH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE

<u>CLAIM NOTICE</u> NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Marian R. Gram. Letters of office

as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Susan Stangland, 1684 Dupont Ave. Morris, Illinois 60450 and Nancy Ascolani

1587 Fernwood Ct., Morris, Illinois 60450 whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite

211, Morris, Illinois 60450. Claims against the estate may be

filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E.

Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this

notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice.

Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the

clerk must be mailed or delivered to the

representative and to the attorney within 10

Published in the Coal City Courant

days after it has been filed.

Frank J. Black

P.O. Box 148

815-942-0594

201 Liberty Street Suite 211

Morris, IL 60450

Black & Black Lawvers

on Nov. 4, 11 & 18, 2020.

SUSAN STANGLAND NANCY ASCOLANI INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

No. 2020 P 100 In the Matter of the Estate of

Marian R. Gram.

Published in the Coal City Courant

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

on Oct. 21, 28 and Nov. 4, 2020.

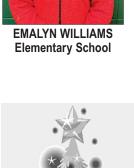
Public Notice is hereby given that on

were assisted by a number of local fire agencies including, but not limited to, Braidwood, Wilmington, Gardner, Morris, Elwood Seneca, Channahon.

AUBREE DEARTH

Elementary School

Assistance was also pro-Fire officials report the vided by the Grundy County Management The Coal City Fire of the structure, and although Agency, Grundy County Protection District was dis- the cause remains undeter- Sheriff's Office, Wilmington and Disaster Agency [ESDA], and MABAS 15 fire investigators. Crews cleared the scene shortly after midnight.



Grundy County Historical Society's Festival of Trees 2020

Special changes this year! We will be holding our annual Festival of Trees ONLINE. Plus we will have 3 Raffles also held ONLINE. This event is the major fundraiser for the GCHS Museum, and in order to continue it safely we decided to holid it Online. So you can bid on your favorite tree(s) and other pieces AND buy Raffle tickets from the comfort of your own home! In addition, you can also view all of our items at our Museum on the dates and times





IZEYA RODRIGUEZ Elementary School









Winding Creek Farm and Nurserv files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on October 21, 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 Winding Creek Farm and Nursery located at 2910 W. Goodfarm Rd. Dwight, IL 60420. Dated this 21st day of October, A.D. 2020. Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 4,11 and 18, 2020.

Request for proposals to digitize records for state's attorney's office

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP DIGITIZING RECORDS STATE'S ATTORNEY OFFICE COUNTY OF GRUNDY

Sealed proposals will be received for the digitizing and management of records in the Office of the State's Attorney. Sealed envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior "SA Digitizing RFP" and contain an original signature of the entire proposal packet and three copies labeled "Copy". Sealed proposals will be accepted until 10:00 am, Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 at the office of the County Administrator, 1320 Union Street, Morris, Illinois, 60450 At that time sealed proposals will be pub-licly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted. The County of Grundy is seeking

proposals for the digitizing and manage-ment of certain records in the Office of the State's Attorney. The scope of work includes scanning and document manage ment system for approximately 193 banker's boxes of paper records and subsequent destruction

RFP submittal documents are available at the office of the County Administrator, 1320 Union Street, Morris II 60450. 60450, or by emailing ggray@grundyco.org with "SA scanning" in the subject line. RFP documents are available for inspection online at www.grundyco.org/bids-and-rfp/. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

Proposals may not be withdrawn or revoked for a period of 60 days after submission deadline. The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive technical errors or informalities in the proposals Chris Balkema

County Board Chair

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov.4, 2020.

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Attorney Gordon files Bell estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

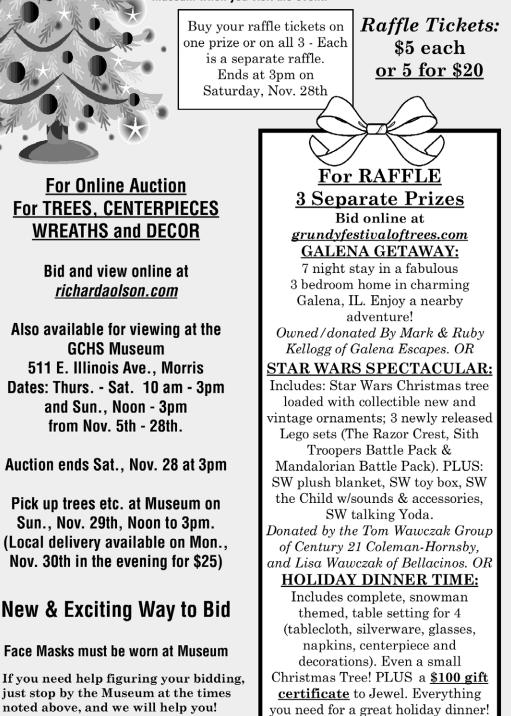
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, IL In the Matter of the Estate of RONALD LEE BELL, No: 20 P 48

NO.2019 46 <u>CLAIM NOTICE</u> NOTICE is given of the death of Ronald Lee Bell, and that Letters of Office were issued on June 1, 2020, to Daniel Bell, of Channahon, Illinois, whose attorney is Randolph M. Gordon, of 220 West Main Street, Morris, IL 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Grundy County, Morris, Illinois or with the representative, or both within six (6) months from the date of issuance of letters, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk

must be mailed or delivered to the repre sentative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

DANIEL BELL INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR Randolph M. Gordon Randolph M. Gordon, Ltd. ARDC #1691622 20 W. Main St., Suite 304 PO Box 547 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-2554 815-942-9212 Fax rmgordonesg@sbcglobal.net Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 4, 11 & 18. listed below. You may also purchase your Raffle tickets at the Museum when you visit the event.



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Lawrence Advertising

Online Raffle sponsored by Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby Free Press Newspapers readers



www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Attention voters

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

Enforce due date

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

All at a loss

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

Families still struggling

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

Slow down please

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

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

Cheap gas

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

Late treaters

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

the kids were under 10 and I didn't see a parent.

Not another 4 years

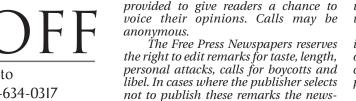
BRAIDWOOD—Today is Oct. 28. By the time this comes out in the paper we will probably have a good idea of who is going to be the president for the next four years. In today's paper I was surprised to see all the sound-offs stating that Trump has done so much for this country but nobody said what it is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

Blue states

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

River bone dry

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



Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line

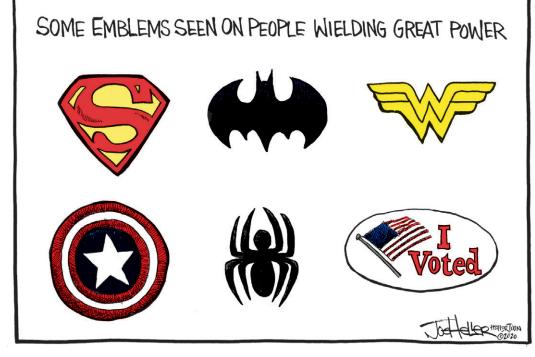
paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

To voice your opinion, please go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com, Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS



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

Privileged

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

Think about it

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

Not for America

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

Front line heroes

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



Don't do it alone

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

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Business as usual

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

Won't tolerate it

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

Mob behavior

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

Went so well

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

Kids having fun

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

Can't understand

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

Showing disrespect

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

Smooth as Sinatra

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

He is known as much for his offstage antics as he is for his velvety smooth on-stage

crooning. He sold over 150 million records, but only drank from one bottle of whiskey: Jack Daniel's.

Brian Rung

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

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

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

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



two decades. are going to taste



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

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

If you were serving Frank, you would have been briefed prior to the show on how he takes his whiskey. The instruc-

from Frank Sinatra and it was as simple as 3-2-1. monetary compensation from Three ice cubes, two fingers of whiskey, one splash of water. Then, you would wait for the

side demand for signal to bring another. Jack Daniel's was so That's all there is to it. Frank would occasionally drink Martinis with his Rat Pack brethren, but favored the Tennessee subtle sweetness and okay character of bourbon.

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

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

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

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

The distillery wanted to give something back, to say "thank you." Did Frank really go out of his way to promote the brand out of loyalty and love for the product? Yes, he tions were the same from the did. Frank never entered in to After the endorsement 1950s until the day he died, a contract or received any

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

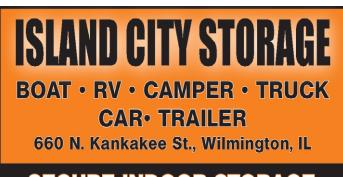
"I feel sorry for people that don't drink, because when they wake up in the morning, that is the best they are going to feel all day." - Frank Sinatra Whiskey, Frank's way is

built and served in a rocks glass.

Combine in rocks glass: 3 ice cubes

2 fingers Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey

1 splash of water Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



"Stopping advertising to save money is like stopping your watch to save time." -Henry Ford

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Extension for license plate sticker renewals runs out

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

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

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

The automatic extension containing their Registration renewing a license plate stick-ID and PIN numbers. If vehicle er, obtaining a duplicate driowners do not have a renewal notice or a current registration renewing a driver's license card, they should call the through the Safe Driver Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980. After obtaining their Registration ID and PIN numbers, they can visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com and go to the License Plate Renewal Email Notices" under online services. Since June 1, more than 1.5 million people have renewed their license plate stickers online. This is nearly double the amount renewing online during the same period

in 2019. White is reminding the public that if they renew online and pay with an e-check, the visit www.cyberdriveillinois. To register, drivers will payment processing fee is com.

ver's license or ID card, and Renewal program. People who conduct online transactions will avoid waiting in line at a facility.

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

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need their vehicle registration waived through the end of the card or past renewal notice year for the following services:

Morris Hospital new visitor restrictions in place

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

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

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

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

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In response to increasing Chief Nurse Executive at number of COVID-19 cases in Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "With COVID-19 incidence on the rise, limiting the cult times." number of people who come tain a safe environment for our tal.org/covid19.

patients, staff and community. We appreciate everyone's cooperation during these diffi-

For Morris Hospital's latinto the hospital and all of our est visitor restrictions and facilities is one way we main- guidelines, go to morrishospi-

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COVID-19 testing is now available on-site at all four locations for symptomatic patients seeking care for flu-like symptoms.



Expanded Walk-In Hours in Channahon, Morris & Diamond-Coal City! 8am-7pm Mon-Fri 8am-2pm Sat & Sun



Immediate & Convenient Care locations in: Channahon - Diamond-Coal City - Morris - Yorkville

Our Immediate and Convenient Care clinics are a perfect solution when you're not feeling well and your provider isn't available, or when you have a minor to moderate injury that doesn't require the advanced care of a hospital emergency department. With on-site laboratory and x-ray, we are here to help you start feeling better now. No appointment needed!

morrishospital.org/urgentcare

Midewin virtual celebration on Veterans Day Fioritto's



Morgan Stanley

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

U.S. Military Veterans and their families took the photographs as participants in the for 2021 that highlights key "At Ease" Nature Platoon at dates in conservation and nat-Midewin NTP. The program is intended to encourage U.S. Military veterans to connect with natural resources and for people everywhere to experience the prairie through the lens of their cameras. The project is through a community partnership with the USDA Forest Service and Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods. Staff with Brushwood Center began the "At Ease" program six years

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

Fifteen photographs of nature scenes at Midewin NTP are featured in a Date Planner ural resources. The Date Planner was produced by the USDA Forest Service. The Date Planner is available on the Brushwood Center and Midewin NTP websites.

The USDA Forest Service features the photographs in an online photo album created especially for Veterans Day 2020: www.flickr.com/photos/usfs_eastern_region/albu ms/72157716650460151.

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

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



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

www.BrushwoodCenter.org/V eteransPhotoReception.html. U.S. Military Veterans and visit: their families are welcome to

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

Forest Preserve's calendar dog needs loving home

Lollipop, a sweet one- in 2020 raised almost \$6,000 year-old hound mix, needs a for the shelter, funding that loving home after having a rough start in life.

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

Lollipop's tale is being told as part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's 2021 Dog Park Calendar fundraising effort, which raises money for the humane society, the oldest nokill shelter in the county.

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

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

was used for food, medical treatments, supplies and other After giving birth to a litter necessities that helped keep the animals safe and healthy.

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

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

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

A family that takes Lollipop in would sign a fosterto-adopt agreement, which means they would be foster parents until the dog was healthy and then they would adopt her once her medical treatment concluded. That would allow the humane soci-



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



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William R. Conte

Portfolio Management Director



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.



ety to pay for all her treatment and monitor her condition until medical intervention was no longer necessary.

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

calendars can be ordered willcountydogs.org through Nov. 13.

company of other dogs."

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

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

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

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

In need of meals or food?

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.

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

www.kuzmacarecottage.org Coal City Food Pantry at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 É. McArdle Rd., south entrance is open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and

Thursdays 1-3 p.m. Information: 815-216-3288

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

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. McArdle Rd. Coal City

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

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

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

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

Nov./Dec.- Assumption of the BVM, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City

Coordinator: Cindi Grove 815-941-1220 or cell: 815-735-1432

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GOP pushes back on Pritzker's mitigation efforts

Lawmakers say evidence lacking that bars,

restaurants are major source of spread

BY PETER HANCOCK CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD

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

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

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

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

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

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

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which showed COVID-19 positive individuals studied were "twice as likely to have reported dining at a restaurant" than those who tested negative.

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

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

Republicans haven't been the only ones questioning data it's taken us some time to work about bars and restaurants. On Oct. 27, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, a Democrat, was interviewed on the PBS NewsHour where she said the mitigation plan there would effectively shut down one of By Oct. 31, eight of the the city's major industries.

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

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

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

Representative Brad They have also cited, Stephens, R-Rosemont, in sub-among others, a study by the urban Cook County, also questioned the accuracy of the data that state and local health officials are using.

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

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

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

Brady called on Senate

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

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

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



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Pritzker calls for more federal aid

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

BY PETER HANCOCK CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - Gov. IB Pritzker on Oct. 21 renewed his call for more federal aid for struggling state and local governments as well as small businesses, but talks in Washington may be stalled until after Election Day. "We believe the federal government needs to step in here, both with greater dollars available to small businesses, targeted to small businesses, as well as for local governments and state governments to support the small business-es across our state," Pritzker said at an event in Chicago. "We have programs that do that. The federal government can reup the programs they've created for that. Those are all things that are going to be needed to get through the COVID winter that's ahead of us. Pritzker was speaking to reporters after touring the DLV Printing plant in Chicago, one of roughly 2,800 firms in Illinois that took part in the first round of the state's Business Interruption Grants, or BIG program, which provides aid to businesses to offset expenses or losses related to COVID-19. That program is funded with money from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or CARES Act, which Congress approved in March, shortly after the pandemic hit the United States. The state of Illinois received roughly \$3.5 billion in CARES Act money to pay for expenses related to its COVID-19 response. According to information on the Illinois Comptroller's website, however, the state has already spent more than half of that money, a little over \$1.8 billion. The largest share of that money, roughly \$557 million, has been spent by the Illinois Emergency Management

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

The CARES Act also provided another \$1.4 billion in aid that went directly to large cities and counties with populations over 500.000 as well as \$250 million that the state is disbursing in the form of grants to smaller local governments Under federal rules, however, CARES Act money may only be used for certain direct pandemic-related expenses. But since the pandemic hit, state and local governments throughout the country, including Illinois, have seen steep drops in revenue as businesses were ordered to close or scale back operations, unemployment skyrocketed, and the travel and tourism industry ground to a virtual halt. In recent days, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has been negotiating with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on a second relief bill and President Trump has signaled his support for one. But national news outlets including the Washington Post reported Wednesday that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY., has urged the White House not to strike a deal with Democrats before Election Day. State Comptroller Susana Mendoza said in an interview Oct. 21 that state and local governments would be better off if an aid package were passed before Election Day because if Trump is not reelected, there would be no incentive for him or the Republican-controlled Senate to act on anything until the new administration takes office in January. She also said it would be 'catastrophic" for Illinois if Congress fails to pass another stimulus package that includes aid for state and local governments. That's because the state of

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

"And if we don't get that, then you're talking about incredibly draconian cuts to

core programs that people need as well as, you need to come up with the revenue somehow," she said. "So, you know, it's cuts - which you cannot possibly cut yourself out of \$5 billion that you have to make up for. So, it'd be combination of cuts, a combination of borrowing, which only kicks the can down the road further, and a combination of significant revenue increases.'

6 Col



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John Bollino

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com

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

Jacqueline Marks _

Tammy Cardwell

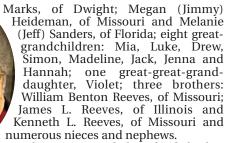
GARDNER—Jacqueline "Jackie" Marks, 88, of Gardner, and formerly of Sullivan, MO, passed away Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

BITUARIES

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

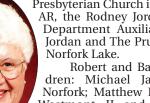
_Yvonne P. Kilpatrick _

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

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

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

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



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

Robert and Babe had three children: Michael James (Susan), of Norfork; Matthew Robert (JoAnn), of Westmont, IL and Mari Beth (Fred) Ruegsegger, of Norfork; grandchildren: Leslie (Jerry) Hernandez, of Venus, TX;

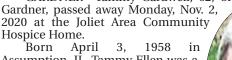
Paula (Ryan Erdmann) and Jenny Kilpatrick, of Westmont, IL; Sarah, Alex, Ian, Andrew and Elliott Ruegsegger, of Norfork; great-grandchildren: Ryean (Jose) Rincon and Stephanie and Jerry Michael Hernandez, all of Venus, TX; great-great-grandchildren: Zariah Rincon, TerriAnna Sedberry and Jayden Hernandez, all of Venus.

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

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

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

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



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

Saint Mary Nativity Catholic Church in Joliet. Tammy worked for many

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

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

Catapult a pumpkin

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

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

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

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

Remember our veterans by sponsoring a wreath

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

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

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

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

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

Grave specific sponsorship

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



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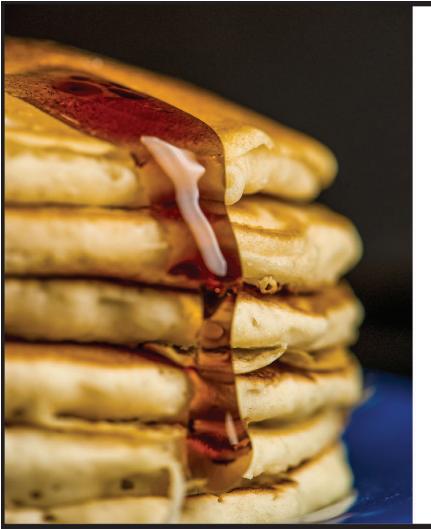
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410 N. Broadway St. Coal City, IL 60416 v Phone: 815-709.0920 E-mail: grundywill@hopeforafuture.com v www.preganancyresourcecenter.org

Will County and Lewis University have partnered offer the 5th annual W County collection of pump kins for recycling.

From 9 a.m. to noon o Saturday, Nov. 7, student parents and residents an encouraged to bring the pumpkins and gourds Lewis University Romeoville. Lewis Physic Club will be operating cata pults! The will be free docu ment destruction servic offered and electronics rec cling of up to two TVs.

to ill	Veteran's name:
р-	Section and grave marker (required):
on Is,	Contact phone number (required):
re eir	Will you be there to place the wreath yourself: Yes_No_
to in	Non-specific grave sponsorship
cs a- u-	One wreath at \$15
ce y-	Family: four wreaths for \$60
5	Business: 10 wreaths for \$150



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How seniors can save on prescription eyeglasses

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

Need Spectacles

Dear Need,

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

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



To locate Advantage plans in your area that provide vision coverage, go to Medicare.gov/plan-compare coverage,

or call 800-633-4227. But before enrolling in a plan, check the benefit details to ensure the plan's vision coverage includes routine eye exams, eyeglass frames and

If you are currently enrolled in original Medicare you can switch to a Medicare lenses) simply by asking. AARP Advantage plan each year during the open enrollment peri- eye exams (dilation included)

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

and March 31. If, however, you don't want to change your Medicare plan, you can still get coverage by purchasing a vision insurance policy see eHealthInsurance.com. Vision policies typically start at around \$11 to \$13 per month for an individual, but before signing up make sure your savings potential is worth the cost of the monthly premiums and required copays.

Purchasing eyeglasses from discount retailers is another way to save.

You also need to find out if you are eligible for any discounts. Ask your optomitrist if they provide discounts to membership groups like AARP and AAA. AARP members, for example, can get 30 percent off a pair of glasses (frames and also offers \$55 comprehensive

at participating eye doctors. See AARPVisionDiscounts.com for more information.

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

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

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

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org.



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

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

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

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

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

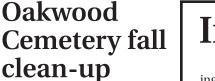
Teacher Vanessa McNeff's fifth graders from A. O. Marshall Grade School in Joliet attended a "Trouble in the Water" field trip earlier this month to learn how water resources must be protected locally and globally.

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

To learn about the online offerings, visit bit.ly/forestfieldtrips.



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



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

Infant Safe Sleep Awareness

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

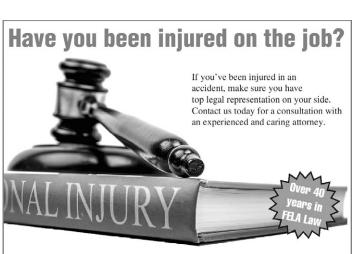
across social media, the department collaborated with the Illinois Child Death Review Teams to promote the ABCs of Safe Sleep on billboards in Springfield, Bloomington and Chicago.

"Infant safe sleep deaths are preventable; and although it is encouraging to mattress and tightly-fitted see the number of infant sheet. The crib should be Although the COVID-19 deaths due to unsafe sleep free of pillows, blankets, pandemic naited plans for decrease from one year ago, in-person awareness events parents and caregivers must remain vigilant and put their infant to sleep Alone. on his or her Back, in a safe On his of her buck, ... Crib - every time," said Illinois DCFS Acting Director Marc D. Smith. In 2019, 108 infants in Illinois under the age of 1 died as a result of being put pack and play if one is not to sleep unsafely. 87 were available.

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

Infants sleep safest alone in a crib with a firm bumper pads, stuffed animals and toys. Infants should never be placed on an adult bed or couch to sleep. If parents of young children are traveling, they should call ahead to make sure their accommodations include a crib and bring a





Veterans **Day Tribute** will be virtual

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

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

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Wilmington yard waste pickup available

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

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



CCHS to sponsor blood drive

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

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

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

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Questions & Answers

passed. Republicans such as

George W. Bush, Newt Gingrich

(former Republican Speaker of

the House), Rudy Giuliani, Mitt

Romney and John McCain all

agreed verbally that protecting

our planet from climate

change was not a partisan issue. It wasn't until 2008 when

Obama tried to pass policies to

help reverse and mitigate cli-

mate change that special inter-

ests began to really intercede

in U.S. environmental politics.

reason for hope in the genera-

tions of Republican youth join-

That being said, there is

Not everybody is talking about climate change

Dear EarthTalk: How can it be that climate change-the major planetary issue of our time and a primary issue for Democrats-isn't even on the agenda for Republicans in the upcoming elections?-- Will Harris, Bridgeport, CT

Americans, regardless of political affiliation, all live on this planet together and share its ecosystems and resources. Yet there is a deep divide among us with regard to environmental policies and climate change. Nothing underscores this divide more than Donald Trump's rolling back of nearly 100 mostly Obama-era regulations environmental since 2017.

And during the 2020 National Republican Convention, climate was not mentioned once, apart from Trump's bragging about leavthe Paris Climate ing Agreement.

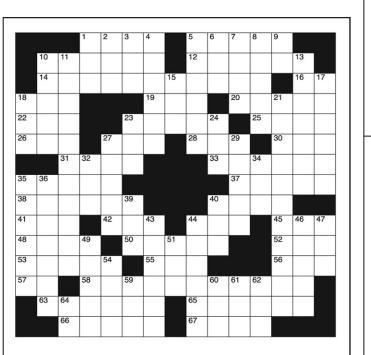
Climate and environmental issues were once a bipartisan concern. As early as 1900, Republicans and Democrats in Congress were passing bills on environmental issues together. One of these bills, for

example, was the Endangered Species Act which was passed

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3		9		8			5		
				6			2	1	
5						8		7	

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

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





BACKER and other young Republicans started the BENJI American Conservation Coalition in 2017 to merge their conservative and conservation values.

ing the table who are dedicated to making climate change a prominent issue for the Republican party. One recent study found that millennials and younger Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to view government efforts to reduce climate change as insufficient (52 percent versus 31 percent). Similarly, 78 percent of younger Republicans (against 53 percent of older ones) agree that alternative (non-fossilfuel) energy sources should be a priority, numbers that bring hope to those already working on climate change issues.

American The Conservation Coalition (ACC) is an advocacy group started by Benji Backer and other young Republicans in 2017. Backer said his drive to start this group after his freshman year of college came from his love of nature that was inspired by his family. "They were Audubon members

Nature Conservancy members. But they were conservative, and I grew up not thinking that the environment should be political at all," says Backer.

Another youth-led advocacy group that has emerged is the Young Conservatives for Carbon Dividends (YCCD), which supports carbon taxes to reduce greenhouse gases. Founder Kiera O'Brien grew up in Alaska and says that she and fellow Republicans have seen the impacts of climate change first-hand in the rapidly warming region.

As things worsen globally, many others, despite party affiliations, will likely come to similar realizations. The question is, can each and every one of us band together to make impactful change before it's too late?

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send auestions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Standby deer hunters won't be allowed

No standby deer hunting will occur at state hunting sites for the 2020-2021 seasons

That's the biggest change announced by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) last week as part of health and safety protocols implemented in response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Deer hunting during the firearm, muzzleloading rifle, CWD and Late Winter deer seasons on state sites where special permits are issued through the regular statewide drawing will be limited to those persons already in possession of a site permit at the beginning of the season.

In the past, standby drawings were held to fill unmet quotas or allow additional hunters to go afield once others had harvested deer. These drawings often resulted in crowded conditions at site offices.

It includes the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area in Wilmington, Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area/Heidecke State Fish and Wildlife Area near Morris and Mazonia-Braidwood SF&WA near Braceville.

Upon arriving on-site, hunters should report to the normal check station and follow instructions as posted or as given by site staff. The 5:00 a.m. check-in time will be waived; hunters need only check in before going afield.

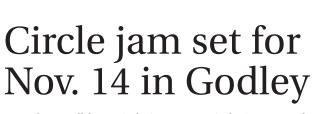
Self check-in and check-out procedures are already in place on these sites.

Hunters should follow all public health guidelines issued by the Illinois Department of Public Health, including wearing masks when social distancing cannot be achieved and refraining from congregating in parking lot areas.

Through responsible actions, hunters can help ensure that site hunting programs continue to offer Illinoisans healthy outdoor recreation opportunities.

The archery season is underway while the firearm season will be Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 3-6

Available for adoption



There will be a circle jam on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the rec hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone including musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

ř

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

will There be no December jam.

For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139.



Answers: A. flight

B. wing

0

altitude

D.

ascent

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WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to aviation. NPSALE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Upright post on a boat 5. Sentimental person 10. Native American tribe 12. Wear away 14. Where you're going 16. Doctor 18. Popular Chinese dialect 19. One point east of due south 20. Northern sea duck 22. Note 23. Wives (law) 25. Trigonometric function 26. A way to communicate (abbr.) 56. Shed tears 27. Swiss river 28. No (Scottish) 30. Commercials 31. Large instrument 33. __ Chantilly, __ de Menthe 35. Small, saclike cavities
- 37. High and thin in tone 38. Treat extremely well 40. Famed track star Usain 41. Secure web connection (abbr.) 42. Rob of energy 44. Paving material 45. Cool! 48. Tip of Aleutian Islands 50. Indicates silence 52. Water in the solid state 53. Security interests 55. Popular hoopster Jeremy 57. Low frequency 58. Harmful bacterium 63. Common language: lingua 65. Standards of perfection 66. They consist of two parts 67. A detailed description of design

screen material

CLUES DOWN

1. More (Spanish)	32. Computing platform (abbr.)
2. A subdivision of a play	34. Snakelike fish
3. Japanese title	35. Greatly horrify
4. More jittery	36. Despicable person
5. Fabric	39. Tell on
6. Luke's mentorWan	40. Ballplayer's tool
7. Cleaving tool	43. Central Brazilian town
8. Ancient city of Egypt	44. Court game
9. 36 inches	46. Land
10. Farewell	47. "The Partridge Family" actress
11. Second to last	Susan
13. Improved by critical editing	49. Retract a statement
15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)	51. Data executive
17. Fancy attire	54. Capital of Yemen
18. Farrow, actress	59. Portable computer screen materi
21. Completely opposed	60. Electronic data processing
23. Supervises flying	61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
24. Pouch	62. Resinous substance
27. True firs	64. Rural delivery
29. Mistake	

- Solve the code to discover words related to aviation. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = T)
- 18 15 10 16 22 Α. 19 Clue: Soaring through the air
- В. 23 15 20 10 Clue: Part of an aircraft
- C. 7 18 22 15 22 13 26 25 Clue: Height of an object
- 5 9 25 20 D. 7 22 Clue: Climb upwards

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flying nun. I've starred in many top films, including one with Tom Hanks.

Answer: Sally Field

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Either way outcome will be 'horrible'

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

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

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

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

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

For generations now, trict back in mid-July (ironically, at suburbs), but not its own rules. The in city, fact. imposed even tighter restrictions on restaurants, taverns, parks, beaches, etc. than the rest of the state, which is allowed under Pritzker plans. But

the city and the mayor have known all along agreements between political that local governments cannot impose looser regulations than the state's.

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

Complying with the mayor's demands would undermine the governor everywhere else in the state. problem as it is.

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

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



Rich Miller

it's all about disleaders and the furious anger of the hospitality industry.

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

stricter protocols.

Those successes

alone should be

enough to prove that the spread is

indoor dining and

drinking are cur-

follows conflict, so

news consumers

aren't getting that

message. Instead,

But coverage

when

slowed

tailed.

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

way out of the nesses cope and the main complainers about Illinois' rules (other than Lightfoot) are unwilling to vigo demand federal action. vigorously In order to make this more

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

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

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

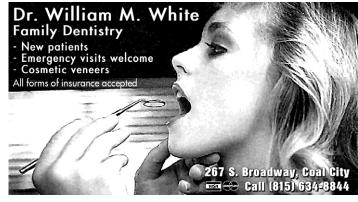
Or let it all burn, and Pritzker is not going to do that. So, "horrible" seems the

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

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

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Illinois gas prices drop at an accelerated rate

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

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

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Janet Fisher-Schatz WEB: ajsprint.espwebsite.com

The national average price of gasoline

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.0 cents has fallen 2.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.12/g. The national average is down 6.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 48.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

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

GasBuddy.

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

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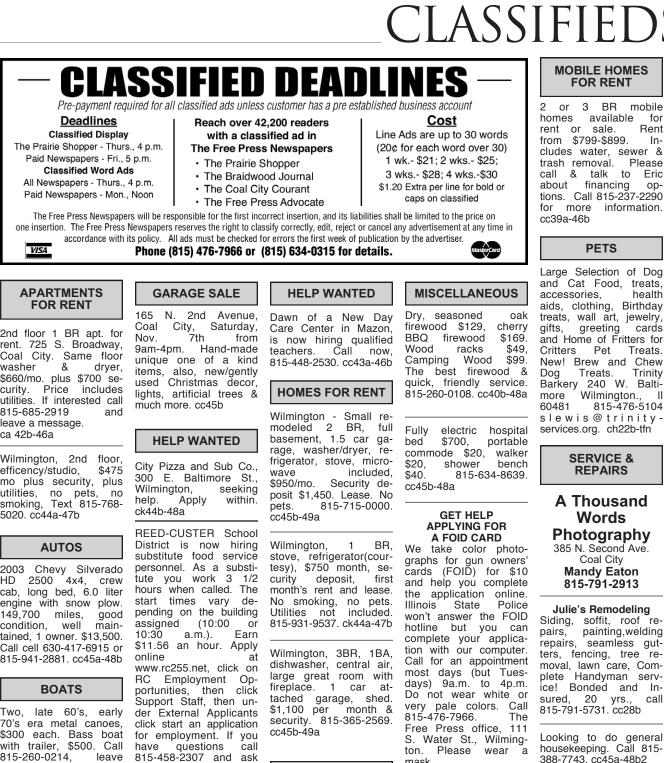


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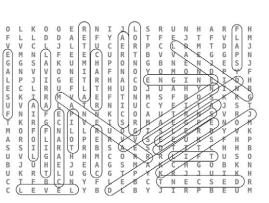




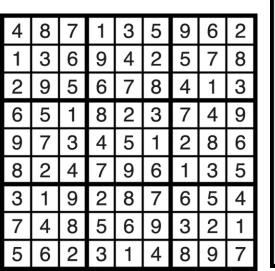


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COALER SPORTS



KRISTA WATSON was selected by her old battery mate Kirsten Verdun to be a catcher on the Coal City softball dream team.

KIRSTEN VERDUN was a unanimous choice to pitch on the Lady Coaler softball dream team.

Dream team, continued from page 14_

who graduated in 2008 and went on to play for Winnona State.

"She was our third basemen in freshman and sophomore year," said Verdun. "She played for a very good travel organization, hit in the heart of the lineup for us so she's definitely one who would fit well in that spot. She and Katie Crawford were really good upperclassmen with how well they led us."

Brittni Manietta, Molly Manietta, Makenna Emerson and Madison Emerson were also recommended to play third base.

Brittni, the third basemen for the 2008 third place team, hit .294 with a home run, five doubles and 16 runs batted in. Her sister Molly was a part of that team as well as the 2010 state championship team.

Molly hit .337 with six home runs, six doubles and 23 RBIs that season.

After one season at Youngstown State, she transferred to University of Illinois at Springfield where she made their record books. Manietta is ninth in career home runs, belting 12 from 2014-16. She's eighth in RBIs with 67. She also had the most putouts at first base, making 1,066 career outs Makenna is second in doubles during a season, tied with Verdun with 19 doubles in 2016. She also was second overall in career steals, swiping 41 bags. She was named All-Conference during her sophomore and her junior seasons

Madison followed in her sister's footsteps at third base and was very effective as she batted .402 during her senior season with five home runs and 33 runs driven in. As a result, she made All-Conference player during her sophomore (2018) and junior seasons (2019). She missed out on her senior season in 2020 due to the Coronavirus but was in a prime spot to add on.

An honorable mention pick for the hot corner would be 2019 graduate and Tusculum University commit Zoe Wills. Wills had power at Coal City during her two season on varsity as she was tied for the lead on the club with five home runs, sporting a .270 average in 2019.

Second base

At second would be Bryanna Phelan who was a member of the championship and third place state team.

She was a two-time All-Conference player with a .450 average, driving in 15 runs during the 2010 season. She scored 77 times that year, which ranks third in Illinois for single-season run total. "She was a phenomenal athlete," added Verdun. "She was fast, a speed player. Bryanna Phelan would be a true centerfielder but she played second base for us because it's just where we needed her.' Phelan played at Northern Illinois University where she batted .340 to lead the Huskies during her senior season in 2015. She was third for NIU in hits with 50, runs scored (31) and on-base percentage (.386). She was also tied for the team lead with 16 multi-hit games. Leah Campos was also selected at second. Campos

played second base for the Coalers from 2015-17 before attending college at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA where she earned Second-team American Rivers All-Conference selection at third base during a season where she hit .373 with two home runs, 10 doubles, two triples and 21 runs driven in to help the Knights to a 26-12 record.

Catcher Behind the plate Verdun picked Krista Watson, who was her battery mate in 2010.

Watson was second on the team coming into the state championship game with a .554 average, nine home runs, 19 doubles and 78 RBIs.

"In my opinion, she could've been the best shortstop to ever come through Coal City but she had to catch because no one else could catch me."

She went on to play for Augustana University where she still made the school record books.

Along with playing the fifth most games at AU (167), Watson drove home the fourth most runs (101), she total the second most bases (295), the most doubles (42), the fourth most hits (179) and the second most home runs in Viking softball history as she hammered 22 from 2011-14. Natalie Teague was another standout catcher selected. The senior catcher batted .478 last season with a long ball, eight doubles, two triples and 22 runs driven in. She was a big bright spot on a 10-17 team. She was also very good at handling her pitchers and at fielding her position. She committed to Ferris State University for the 2021 season. Teague earned all-conference during the 2019 season.

Giordano was a speedy centerfielder, who would be used more for her tracking ability than for her bat. As a freshman, Giordano hit .221.

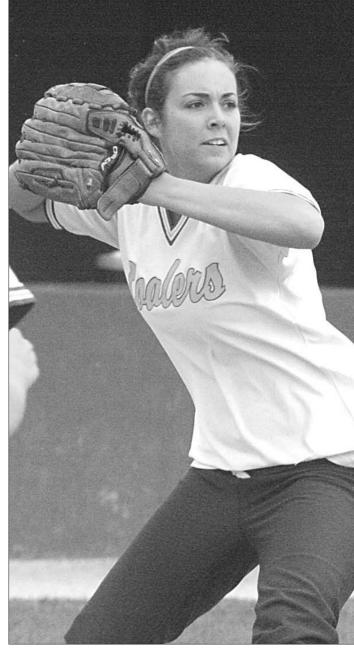
Burroughs hit .255 with three home runs, 11 doubles, a triple and 37 runs knocked in. She was also very good at her position.

Meents was another selection for outfield because of her speed and ability to track down any ball.

She leads the Coalers with 64 career stolen bases and stole 64 in 66 attempts. Meents had the single season lead for steals with 43 and would be an excellent edition at the top of the order.

Hannah Boresi was another standout outfielder on the state championship team. As a freshman in 2010, she hit .204 with two home runs, two doubles and 12 RBIs.

Sydney Singleton, who graduated in 2019, was a very good slap hitter who hit leadoff. She along with Abbie Cullick would be honorable



Makenna went on to play at Olivet Nazarene University where she finished with a .350 batting average, hitting 10 career home runs with 32 doubles, four triples and 121 runs driven in.

First base

At first base, Verdun likes Kristen Arndt, who was fourth on the team in average with a .405, had 5 home runs, even doubles and drove in 53 runs.

"Her numbers speak for themselves," added Verdun. Kristen and Krista were a great 3-4 hitters after me. There weren't a lot of holes in our lineup that season."

She went on to play at Joliet Junior College where she played one season for the Wolves, hitting .319 with a home run and 14 runs batted in 69 at bats.

Another selection at first base was Kristyn Daigger.

Shortstop At short, Courtney Delach

and Lauren McGlasson were top suggestons.

Delach was an important part of the third place team as a senior, hitting .426 (40-for-94) with 13 doubles, a triple, a home run and 27 runs driven in. Delach was selected as an All-Conference selection during her junior and senior seasons.

McGlasson was a bigger part of the 2010 team, smacking six of the team's 38 home runs with a .337 average. **Outfield**

In the outfield are Madison Giordano, Rachel Burroughs and Taylor Meents. mention in the outfield.

Singleton hit .375 during her senior season with two doubles, a triple and 23 runs scored.

Cullick was all-conference during her junior season, posting a .410 batting average with seven doubles and 26 runs scored. She stole 17 bases and had 26 overall. Cullick's senior season was canceled due to the Coronavirus.

Madelaine Ragain was also mentioned as a selection in right field. Ragain was second on the team with a .423 average in 2019. She hit nine doubles, a triple and drove in 19.

File Phote CAROLYNN KRATOCHVIL was selected by Kirsten Verdun to be third basemen on her Lady Coaler softball dream team.





COALER SPORTS

Hopes are high there will be boys and girls basketball seasons

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

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

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

Lady Coaler basketball coach Brad Schmitt is excited for the players and thinks sports can be a big part of a kid's happiness.

"I think sports are important for a kid's mindset," said Schmitt. "I don't like seeing the kids walk around like they're in limbo having to dodge everything that's thrown at them."

He hopes for the best knowing that ultimately it will be up to the school board and health department to make the final decision.

"I think that once this is all over, we're all going to have to be understanding."

IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said the IHSA wasn't budging and they're going to play basketball with the guidance of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

"You know at some point, I think over the next month or whatever time frame, we'll figure out if this is a legal issue for us as an association or if it is for our schools - and then we'll have to pivot, as we've been pivoting a number of times throughout this school year," Anderson said.

"This is a step forward to really say that as an association we think we can do it safely, and we want it for our students.

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

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

begin on Nov. 30 ending on Feb. 13.

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

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

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

If they are allowed, all fans will be masked and spread out with at least six feet between each family and 30 feet away from the team benches which will both be placed on the side with the scorer's table.

The same goes for the players on the floor. Even if they're playing, they will have to be masked. Players on the sidelines will be in face coverings, spaced at least six feet away from another team member or coach.

It is reccommended for players to bring multiple masks to replace sweaty ones throughout games/practices.

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

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

Physical celebration will not be allowed. That includes fist bumps, handshakes, hugging or any other type of celebratory interaction.

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

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

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

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

Other game specific guidelines include spacing out Basketball seasons can the throw in and omitting the



File Photo KYLE BURCH is a leader of the 2020-21 basketball team and will hope he gets to play his senior year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

must be worn by everybody.

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

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

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

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

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

Competition times should be spaced out.

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

Former standout pitcher suggests this softball dream team

BY SHAWN LONG STAFF WRITER

Who would make the roster for a Coal City softball

well," Verdun noted.

Crawford was 13-0 that season with an earned run average of 0.92, fanning seven batters a game, and she is well

dream team?

We polled Courant readers on who they'd pick and one, former Lady Coaler All State pitcher Kirsten Verdun, helped us make up this fantasy team.

Verdun led Coal Čity to a third place state finish in 2009 and a state championship in 2010. Her success at Coal City and in college playing for DePaul University is a mile long.

She is the leader in almost every pitching category, leading Coal City and the state in single season wins (40-0). She is the leader in no-hitters in a season, spinning 10 gems in 2010. If no-hitters weren't impressive enough, Verdun threw four perfect games that season.

She would rank sixth in strikeouts during the regular season, fanning 480 batters in 2010.

Verdun had a .565 batting

average with 12 home runs. At DePaul University, she is third in career home runs as she belted 37 out between 2011-14. She's the leader with 156 career walks. Her on-base percentage ranks just behind Reed-Custer standout Missy Nowak, as Verdun got on base at a .477 clip. Verdun also had the fifth best slugging percentage which was .589.

From the circle, Verdun is second in career wins (105), second in career punchouts (954), second in complete games (105) and second in innings (924.2). She was also named second team All-American in two seasons, earning the nod in 2012 and 2014.

Another standout pitcher is Katie Crawford, who was a senior when Verdun was a freshman.

"My sophomore year, we went undefeated until postseason and she split the other half of the games so I pitched 10 games and she pitched 11 games, and we both did really



MAKENNA EMERSON was selected to be a third basemen on the all-time Lady Coaler softball dream team.

deserving of a spot on the list.

"She played competitively, had a good high school career and then went on to play in college.'

At North Central College she pitched 11 wins with a respectable, 3.94 ERA through four seasons.

Morgan Youskevtch was another name mentioned as a standout pitcher at Coal City. She collected 14 wins in her first 19 games during her senior season in 2013, leading the Lady Coalers to an 18-12 record.

Morgan signed to play col-lege softball at Roosevelt University where she was starting pitcher for three seasons.

Emily Aichele is another top choice for pitcher, throwing a few seasons for the Coalers between 2014-16.

She was 18-11 with a 3.93 ERA in 2013 as she led the Coalers to an 18-12 record.

Leslie Youskevtch was another standout pitcher. Leslie pitched from 2016-18 and she was

Youskevtch pitched 376 innings with 31 wins while fanning 277 batters in her career at Coal City. She earned Interstate Eight All-Conference in 2016 and 2017.

She also was 62-for-204 offensively with 34 runs driven

Youskevtch went on to pitch at University of Wisconsin at Platteville and played a little bit as a freshman, pitching just two innings. She wasn't able to pitch this year (2020) because the coronavirus ended up canceling their season.

Paityn Smith was an honorable mention selection on the dream team. Smith earned All-Conference during her final season at Coal City with a 2.04 ERA including 130 stikeouts over 130 innings. Third base

At third base, top prospect is Carolynn (Kratochvil) Novak







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