



## “And Then They Came For Me!”

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## Biden comes to MCC with big plans, big spending and big costs

By STAFF

July 7, 2021, was an interesting day locally as President Joe Biden flew in to give a speech at McHenry County College. Much speculation and rumor surrounded his choice of McHenry County for a speech concerning his "America Jobs Plan."

No doubt aware of the county's conservative roots, Biden harkened to the words of the late President Ronald Reagan. He spoke of his administration representing the "American morning" at the start of an "American century."

Considering those words, few were left in doubt that the choice

of McHenry County was purely political, based on propping up local democrats, such as Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Sean Casten, Rep. Lauren Underwood, and Gov. J.B. Pritzker. Many believe it was a choice based on challenging conservatives in the last republican stronghold of Northeastern Illinois. The reason that Democrats gave is that MCC



President Biden arrives at MCC.

is looking to invest in CNC and machining courses, which, they say, fit with the President's human infrastructure plan at community colleges.

Whatever the true reason, the President spoke of his plan to "Build Back Better." His plan in-

volves a vast infrastructure and jobs plan.

Tyler Wilke, the McHenry County Republican chairman, sees problems with the plan. "We all want good infrastructure, good jobs, America to thrive on the world stage," he said. "We want safety for our families, clean air and clean water, beautiful nature, good education systems, good healthcare, a safe home. However, the president's plan will go far beyond the roads, bridges, and ports that are normally considered as infrastructure.

"The bill will also fund programs for vast water re-piping, high-speed affordable internet access for all Americans, and, what the president and Democrats are calling, 'human infrastructure.'

Wilke said that this human infrastructure includes a minimum of 14 years of "free" education.

"That puts the American people on the hook for grade school, middle school, high school and two years of free college," said Wilke. "The president even wants to move in the other direction providing free pre-school for children 3- to 4-years old.

Wilke said that more emphasis should be placed on the trades, manufacturing workers, and health care workers. He said that



A large crowd outside the college had less-than-favorable messages for the president.

the president is rewarding unions for their political support, including teaching unions, which will benefit greatly from Biden's plan.

About two-thirds of the way through his speech, the president turned to the theory of climate change. This infrastructure bill includes a push from diesel to electric buses for both public transport and schools. He also wants to hire union contractors to plug existing natural gas wells that his plan would cap. He wants to build an electric grid that fits with a focus

Biden continued on Page 12



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**McHenry County RESPONSE**

McHenry County Response is published by the McHenry County Republican Party as a response to the absence of a free and fair press.

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Photo Courtesy of Highway Photography

As guns sales increase dramatically, more and more women are purchasing firearms.

## Second Amendment remains under attack in Illinois

By DAVID A LOMBARDO

Of all the divisive issues separating left from right, the Second Amendment evokes the most extreme emotions and vitriol. The left views guns as a facilitator of violence and the Second Amendment as outdated and subject to limitations.

In a July 12<sup>th</sup> interview with Capitol Connection, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), said, “We have more guns in this nation than anyone who wrote the Second Amendment could ever have envisioned... Just in the last week or two, we have seen hundreds of guns being confiscated by the Chicago police and community after community that have just too damn many guns out there.”

The left continues to focus on severely limiting gun ownership if not completely disarming American citizens. Their mantra is that the Bill of Rights is not absolute. They argue, “You can’t yell fire in a crowded theater” referring to perceived limitations to the First Amendment. It is a specious argument since doing so can cause harm to the public and does not legally qualify as “speech” as it pertains to the First Amendment.

The right quotes Thomas Jefferson: “The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.” It is most often used with reference to the proposed banning of modern sporting rifles dubbed assault weapons by the left.

The more the left talks about gun control, the more guns are sold. Americans purchased an estimated 2.3 million firearms this past January. A study conducted by Northeastern University and the Harvard Injury Control Research Center found that a record 17 million people bought guns last year. Significantly, many democrats crossed the aisle on Second Amendment issues.

Second Amendment continued on Page 7

## Welcome to 2nd Issue of Response

Welcome to the second issue of McHenry County Response published by the McHenry County Republican Party. And, as the name suggests, it is intended as a ‘response’ to the media which has abandoned the principles of journalism and increasingly serves as a mouthpiece for a Democrat party.

The theme for this issue is Liberty and the current threats to liberty in America today. This posed the biggest problem when creating such a publication; there are so many topics that fit this theme that it is difficult to narrow down and prioritize them.

The Democrats have gone from seeking control of health care, and with it one-fifth of the economy, to seeking federal control of schools, elections, and, with the pandemic, the rights of Americans to move about freely while dictating the wearing of masks and receiving vaccinations for COVID.

As usual, the Democrats are increasing taxes while applying more-and-more regulations making it difficult for small businesses to survive. Those that survived the pandemic hardly need new hurdles from the government getting in their way.

As the media sings the Left’s praises, and bashes conservatives, many Americans are basing their opinions and ideas on misinformation. Many would be better informed without the media.

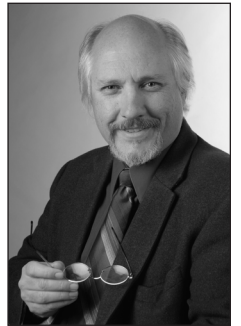
A dishonest 4<sup>th</sup> Estate is a direct threat to liberty. The media’s job is to inform the public so people can make wise decisions. When the media fails in that job, we are all at risk.

Consider the statements of July 8 by President Joe Biden’s Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra when he was insisting that the government has a right to know if someone is vaccinated or not. That’s an alarming statement in and of itself. But consider his other comments:

“It is absolutely the government’s business ... if we have to continue to spend money ...”

“We want to give people the *sense* (my italics) that they have the freedom to choose.”

“We try to give people as much freedom and choice as possible ...”



Rich Rostron

I have often argued that money is power and the more money the government controls, the more power the government has. The first of these quotes bears that out.

As for giving people ‘a sense of freedom,’ that’s not a concern when people are actually free. And it’s not the government’s job to give people freedom; it’s the job of elected officials to recognize the restraints on government power and approach those restraints with extreme caution – erring on the side of caution whenever in doubt.

But these quotes, which Becerra tried, rather lamely, to walk back the next day, fit perfectly with how most conservatives see Democrats.

Recently, I caught a part of CNN’s Fareed Zakaria giving a monologue on the dangers of individual liberty. He’s right – individual liberty is messy. You have all these people with all these opinions running around daring to express themselves.

On the other hand, communism and other oligarchies and dictatorships are neat and tidy. People are more inclined to keep their opinions to themselves when the government may ‘express its displeasure with what people say.’

But if ‘neat and tidy’ sounds better to you, I suggest you go to one of those places in the world where you can try that kind of government out for yourself. Otherwise, I recommend that you relax and embrace the mayhem that is liberty. Hopefully, the pages of McHenry County Response can help you decide.



## Effort to cancel ICE contract fails

By STAFF

With the public seating area filled to capacity, 80 seats set six-feet apart for COVID-19, the McHenry County Board voted strictly along party lines May 18 to maintain its contract with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and continue housing illegal immigrants at McHenry County Jail.

The public commentary portion of the meeting was extended numerous times to allow all who signed up an opportunity to speak. Commentary, both public and by members of the board, delayed the vote until after 10 p.m..

Many boisterous opponents of the contract held up signs ranging from “CANCEL THE ICE CONTRACT TODAY” to the word “ICE” in red with a black circle around it and a diagonal line through the name. But not everyone in the audience was opposed to the contract.

Marlene, a McHenry County resident, pointed out that, with the crisis at America’s Southern border since Joe Biden was elected president, “We’re going to have more illegal immigrants coming in (to McHenry County) rather than less.”

Numerous opponents to the

ICE continued on Page 7



Hillsdale College Pres. Dr. Larry Arnn speaks in Crystal Lake May 15.

## Dr. Arnn speaks in Crystal Lake about state of education and nation

By RICH ROSTRON

Imagine a kindergarten that never graduated a toddler who couldn’t read. This was one of the messages from Dr. Larry Arnn, the president of Hillsdale College, when he spoke at the McHenry County Republican Party’s ‘Lincoln Leadership Dinner,’ May 15, at D’Andrea Banquets in Crystal Lake.

While Arnn is the president of Hillsdale College, he said the school has opened a significant number of charter schools for children in grades K through 12 across the country.

When he speaks of kindergarten-aged children learning to read at Hillsdale’s charter schools, it’s in comparison to a March 8, 2013, USA News story titled: “Shocker: 80% of NYC graduates unable to read.” Whether the situation is actually that bad or not, most would say it’s remarkable for 5-year-old kindergarten children to know how to read.

“Education ... by its nature, it is not something we’re doing to them; it’s something we’re doing with them,” said Arnn when describing Hillsdale’s approach as participatory rather than based on lectures from above. However, he doesn’t think it’s extraordinary for children to read at that age.

“If they’re not starting to read by kindergarten, either they’re impaired, or you (educators) are standing in the way.”

Arnn also spoke of how many

schools in the country are pushing social indoctrination, such as ‘Critical Race Theory’ and concepts such as ‘White Guilt.’ He asked rhetorically how it’s possible that “you don’t feel racial animosity, but you can’t cure it?”

### Challenges Facing America

Beyond discussing education in America, Arnn spoke of what makes people think.

“About 18 months, 24 months – a miracle happens with children,” he said. “They talk.”

He said that the common noun, a word that names a person, a place, animal, thing or idea, is the basis for human wisdom. He said that people use their voice to distinguish what is just from what is unjust. “Every time we see a thing to which we can ascribe a common noun, we see its essence,” he said.

Arnn said that “the human soul stretches itself out to ‘know.’” But the political approach in America today “involves the destruction of human reason.”

He accused politicians of seizing on the pandemic to increase their power in government and using COVID-19 to alter election laws. “It’s not the rule of law ... anymore.”

He said that the current political environment poses a serious challenge to the ability of Americans to maintain liberty with a government where power resides in the hands of the people. “We’re going to have to think and speak and argue better than we ever have,” he said, if Americans hope to preserve liberty.

## What is Hillsdale College?

In order to reject governmental interference in the operation of Hillsdale College, the university does not accept students who are using federal grants or loans; such funding comes solely from private contributions.

The school was founded in 1844 as Michigan Central College in

Spring Arbor, MI. In 1853, it moved to Hillsdale and changed its name. Its Articles of Association include a statement of gratitude to God for the blessings of “civil and religious liberty” and the goal of providing “sound learning (that) is essential to the perpetuity of these blessings.”

Known for its anti-slavery reputation, more than 400 of its students volunteered to fight for the Union during the Civil War. Four of them earned the Congressional Medal of Honor, three became generals and 60 gave their lives. Speakers at the college during the war included Frederic Douglas and Edward Everett (who preceded Lincoln speaking at Gettysburg when the president made his Gettysburg Address).



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## Supreme Court rules in favor of Arizona voting integrity Decision flies in the face of Dem's claim of "voter supersession"

By COLE LAUTERBACH  
The Center Square

(The July 1) ruling upholding the legality of Arizona's ban on ballot harvesting is being hailed as a victory for election integrity and a tragedy for minority voting rights.

In a 6-3 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court said Arizona's restriction on who can deliver a completed ballot to be counted doesn't run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. The law limits who can handle a ballot to immediate family, a personal caretaker or someone living in the same household.

An appellate court in San Francisco ruled the law disproportionately affected minority voters in violation of the landmark Voting Rights Act.

Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote for the majority, disagreed. "The mere fact that there is some disparity in impact does not necessarily mean that a system is not equally open or that it does not give everyone an equal opportunity to vote," he said.

### State officials reacted to the opinion

"Today's verdict is a win for election integrity safeguards in Arizona," Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich told The Center Square on Thursday morning. "The Constitution allows states to implement common-sense voter integrity measures. There's nothing incompatible about increasing voter turnout but also keeping confidence in the integrity of the vote."

The Democratic Party of Arizona, which challenged the law in court, said the decision sets a dangerous precedent.

"It's impossible to ignore that this ruling and these voter restriction laws are the culmination of Republicans' longtime efforts to sow distrust and doubt in our election system, with politicians like Mark Brnovich leading the charge," party chair Raquel Terán said. "In open court, the Arizona Republican Party's own lawyer admitted that the purpose of the laws was to gain political advantage. This is just the latest proof that Republican leaders are willing to betray Arizona voters for their own political gain."

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, who announced her candidacy for Arizona governor

last month, said the ruling means Congress must act to stop what she called discriminatory voting laws.

"The Voting Rights Act was passed to protect the right to vote and to fight against racial discrimination," she said. "The Supreme Court weakened one of our country's landmark civil rights laws. It is a truly sad day for the future of our democracy."

Brnovich said these descriptions of the ruling are an "absolute mischaracterization" of the election integrity laws he defended in court.

"No one is being disenfranchised," he said. "Actually, comments like those expose the hypocrisy of the left. There are states like Delaware, Connecticut and New York where some bureaucrat has to approve your reason for absentee voting.

Arizona has made voting convenient, but we also need to maintain integrity in the vote and in the process."

The author of the legislation, Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, R-Scottsdale, also criticized Democrats for mischaracterizing the measure.

"Four years ago, I authored Arizona's ban on ballot harvesting to protect the integrity of our elections and ensure free and fair elections in Arizona," she said. "Despite Democrats' continual effort to exploit the judicial system to circumvent the will of the public and levy false accusations of racism and suppression, I'm gratified the U.S. Supreme Court saw through the rhetoric on behalf of the voters."

Opponents of the ballot harvesting ban said the opinion is one more reason Congress should act on H.R.1, which would set federal voting standards and take away much of a state's ability to govern its elections.

Brnovich, who announced he's entering the race to unseat Democratic U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly in 2022, said the freshman senator and others who sponsored H.R.1 are seeking to undermine states' rights enshrined in the Constitution.

"He's sponsoring a bill that would nationalize our elections," Brnovich said of Kelly. "It undermines traditional notions of federalism. The states created the federal government. The federal government didn't create the states."

**"He's sponsoring a bill that would nationalize our elections."**

— Republican Mark Brnovich

## Left's silence on Cuba is deafening

By RICH ROSTRON

While Leftist in America burn the American flag, turn their backs when the national anthem is played and claim America is "systemically racist," Cubans have taken to the streets protesting against the communist in more than 40 Cuban cities. In a stark juxtaposition, though it's against the law to do so, protesting Cubans are marching while proudly carrying the American flag.

The Cubans are demanding freedom. And, while President Joe Biden said the United States "stands firmly" with the Cubans, that support isn't noticeable from the socialist wing of Congress.

As reported by Sean Hannity of FOXNews, "Democrats affiliated with the far-left Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) have so far remained silent while the DSA appears to back Cuba's communist regime against protesters demanding freedom."

Socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) was quoted in the New York Post as having tweeted of the protests, "All people have the right to protest and to live in a democratic society." But Sanders then blamed the protests on the U.S.

"It's also long past time to end the unilateral U.S. embargo on Cuba," he said.

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# Department of Defense is purging nebulously defined “extremists”

By STAFF

Stars on his shoulders and a wall of campaign pins on his chest, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, represented an imposing figure when he took a seat in the House Armed Services Committee, next to Defense Sec. Lloyd Austin, to discuss the 2022 Defense Department Budget. Imposing or not, Republicans on the committee were not intimidated.

Republicans were up in arms about WOKEism in the military and the teaching of Critical Race Theory.

Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) asked why Lt. Col. Matthew Lohmeier was relieved from his post with Space Force. Gaetz said Lohmeier was relieved because he published a book, “Irresistible Revolution” that is critical of critical race theory.

“He was relieved because of his thoughts and his critique of Critical Race Theory,” said Gaetz.

Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO)

pressed Sec. Austin to provide a definition for the term ‘extremist’ after the military was shut-down for an entire day to address concerns about extremists in the ranks.

“Does the Department of Defense have a clear definition of extremism?” she asked repeatedly.

But Austin dodged the question. “We’re focused on extremist behavior, not what people think or political ideas or religious ideas.”

When Hartzler pressed him, he said, “I believe that 99.9 percent of our troops are focused on the right things ... (but) small numbers of people can ... have an outsized impact on our organization.”

Hartzler asked him to explain the new screening process that the military is employing with members of the military. She asked, “What, specifically, would you be screening for?”

Austin replied, “We want to make sure we’re bringing in the right type of people ...”

Rep. Gaetz asked, “How should

the Department of Defense think about Critical Race Theory?”

Austin said, “We don’t teach Critical Race Theory ... We are focused on extremist behaviors.”

But Gaetz said, “It is particularly concerning to me that you have hired a Critical Race theorist (Bishop Garrison) to give you advice on personnel matters.”

“On July 27, 2019, Bishop Garrison Tweeted about former President Trump, ‘He’s dragging a lot of bad actors out in the sunlight – normalizing their actions. If you support the president, you support that. There is no room for nuance.’”

While denying that the Department of Defense is teaching Critical Race Theory, Sec. Austin said, “This is the first I heard of Bishop Garrison being described as a Critical Race theorist.”

Though Austin categorically denied the military is teaching CRT, Rep. Michael Waltz (R-FL) read a letter he received from the superintendent of West Point military

academy that referred to a CRT class syllabus using a book titled, “*Critical Race Theory: an Introduction.*”

Waltz then showed Austin a flyer for a seminar titled, “Understanding Whiteness and White Rage.”

The woman teaching the cadets “... described the Republican Party platform as a platform of white supremacy.”

“When our future military leaders are being taught that the constitution and the fundamental civilian institutions of this country are endemically racist, misogynist and colonialist, and, therefore, it is their duty to resist them, what does that mean for a future cadet who one day will be sitting where you are?”

Gen. Milley angrily denied that the U.S. military is teaching CRT. He argued that the military needs “to be open-minded and widely read.”

“I want to understand white rage and I’m white,” said Milley.

**Cuba** continued from Page 6

At the same time, many mainstream media sources are blaming the protests on the pandemic.

A story on the CNN Website reads, “Thousands of Cubans took to the streets on Sunday to protest a lack of food and medicine as the country undergoes a grave economic crisis aggravated by the

Covid-19 pandemic and US sanctions.” But conservatives have taken issue with that portrayal of the crisis.

In an opinion piece on FOXNews, Jimmy Failla wrote, “Democrats have been pounding the table on oppression in the U.S. for years, but when you contrast the quality of life between our country and a place like Cuba, you quickly real-

ize America doesn’t have an ‘oppression’ problem, it has a ‘stupid’ problem.”

Other conservatives point out that the protesters aren’t yelling “COVID” in the streets. Instead, the word the protesters are using, while the government cracks down brutally, is “Freedom.”

The Cuban community in Florida has also taken to the streets in support of the Cubans. As reported in an ABC News story, a “large group of protesters gathered at a busy Miami intersection” in solidarity with the protesters in Cuba.

Santiago Rivera, an organizer of the group, was quoted in the ABC story as saying, “This isn’t politics, this is brotherhood, this is humanity and common sense.”

Sen. Marco Rubio, whose family escaped from Cuba, asked, “I don’t know why it’s hard for Biden to criticize Marxists?”

51% of all voters believe it is likely that cheating affected the outcome of the 2020 presidential election.  
(Rasmussen Reports, April 13, 2021)

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**Second Amendment** continued from Page 3

According to the study, approximately one-fifth were first time buyers with women constituting about half of that number.

Illinois is the hotspot in the battle over the Second Amendment. But pro-Second Amendment Republicans have little say in the fate of the Second Amendment when the Democrats have tight control of the legislature and governorship.

Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association, told *McHenry County Response*, “The second amendment is a difficult issue in Illinois, but the ISRA carries the fight for all Illinois gun owner’s rights to the state legislature every session.”

While no democrat returned the paper’s calls, their anti-Second Amendment agenda is clear with proposed legislation making significant changes to the Firearm Owners Identification card (FOID) and private firearm sales.

HB1091 (aka Fix the FOID) would end private firearm sales by individual owners forcing all sales to go through an FFL (Federal Firearms License). Mandatory FOID and concealed carry fingerprinting is also on the table. FOID card expiration would be reduced from 10 years to five years with 300-percent increase cost. HB 1091 did not pass but HB 562 did.

HB 562 does have some positive aspects including the consolidation of the FOID card and concealed carry permit with a single renewal date.

On the downside, it makes private firearm sales more complicated. The seller has two choices: Person to person transfers including NICS at an FFL or person to person transfers using the Illinois State Police FOID verification system. The buyer is required to provide a record of the transfer to an FFL within 10 days.

The seller has to maintain a record of the sale for 10 years. This facet of the law becomes effective January 1, 2024. Pearson noted that with the U.S. Supreme Court now more Second Amendment friendly, current litigation to end the FOID card has a better chance of success.

Democrats have an overarching desire to ban sporting rifles. Illinois residents can count on that and other anti-Second Amendment laws if voters continue to elect anti-Second Amendment legislators.

## ABC demonstrates blatant media bias with Texas election reform story

By RICH ROSTRON

How do you recognize bias in the media? If you’re not sure what to look for, it isn’t always that easy to see. But if you do have an idea of how to recognize media bias, it’s often easier to find than most people would think.

Monday, July 12, David Muir gave an excellent example of media bias while performing as the host for ABC’s World News Tonight. The topic of the story was a push in the Texas legislature to pass voter reform.

Muir, no doubt reading from a script provided by an ABC ‘reporter,’ explained that Democrat legislators in Texas were crossing the border into other states so that Republicans, who have a majority in the Texas legislature, can’t follow through on the legislation. Muir also explained that Texas was joining 17 other states that have passed similar legislation.

In the coverage, Muir referred to the Texas Republicans as pushing restrictive voting measures that would make it difficult for some people to vote. He characterized the proposed legislation as an attack on voting rights. He also mentioned that Vice President Kamala Harris praised the Democrats for leaving the state.

In terms of giving the other side of the story, one Republican was quoted as criticizing the Democrats for failing to stick around and do the job they were elected to do.

What’s wrong with that? Is anything missing from that story?

Ask yourself, do the Republicans agree that their measures are designed to restrict the rights of Americans to vote?

Republicans have made it very clear that

they are passing laws to increase election integrity. Maybe Muir and ABC don’t agree. Maybe they don’t believe them. But, as journalists, does that excuse them from including the Republican perspective in the story – the perspective that goes beyond criticizing Democrats for skedaddling across the border? Of course, not.

The Red states that have passed election reform this year have generally required voter ID. They’ve generally rolled back measures of gubernatorial overreach during the pandemic where mail-in-ballots were accepted with almost no reasonable voter verification. But, otherwise, the measures have not been ‘restrictive’ at all.

A recent poll by the New York Post found that 78 percent of Americans agree with voter ID. But the mainstream media continues to beat the drum that voter ID laws are designed to inhibit minority voting. The premise is that, somehow, minorities are less capable of obtaining IDs.

The first state to pass a voter reform law was Georgia. The state was punished for its effort when, under pressure from the WOKE crowd, Major League Baseball shifted the All-Star Game to Colorado. President Joe Biden was one of those who attacked Georgia for the new voter regulations in that state.

Few journalists looked into the matter further than what they heard from Biden or MLB. Those who did found that Georgia’s new voter laws were less restrictive than the laws on the books in Biden’s home state of Delaware.

For those who find it difficult to recognize media bias, the lesson is that bias is often most visible in what the media doesn’t say or the questions the media fails to ask.

**ICE** continued from Page 4

contact called supporters of the contract “racists.” William Olson suggested that board members who voted to keep the contract were “soiling their reputation.” And Peter Artenburg said that ICE is “a fascist enterprise.”

Tyler Wilke, the McHenry County Republican Party Chairman, said, “I don’t believe anyone here is against *legal* immigration.” He felt that people who came into the country illegally, and then committed other crimes while here, should be held accountable.

Larry Mason, a retired police officer, said Il-

linois has the fifth-highest number of illegals in the country and that those numbers are going to increase. “We cannot afford supporting people ... who are here illegally.”

Joe Gottemoller (R-Dist 3), said that the arguments for canceling the ICE contact are “based on a false premise.” He said that the County Board does not have the power to resolve the immigration issue in the country.

**Addendum:** *The Illinois Legislature has passed “Illinois Way Forward Act” restricting detaining of illegal aliens on behalf of ICE. The McHenry County Board is expected to challenge the law in court.*



## Is it time for Article V Convention of States to restrain government?

By Timothy Beck

Congress has amended the US Constitution 27 times and passed six amendments still awaiting ratification by the States. There are two ways to amend the Constitution.

The words “We the People” indicate that ‘the people’ are sovereign over the federal government, not the other way around. The original intent was to form a limited federal government.

The Declaration of Independence specifically listed the rights as “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.” It also made the case that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive to those ends, it is the right of the People to alter the government.

What happens, therefore, when the size and intrusiveness of the government grows to the point when it becomes destructive to those ends?

The answer is laid out in Article V: “The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for pro-

posing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof....”

All 27 amendments that were added to the Constitution were proposed and passed by Congress and then ratified by the required three-fourths of the States. But what happens when it is not in the best interests of the constantly growing federal government to alter its growing power?

Fortunately, one of the delegates to the 1787 Constitutional Convention, George Mason of Virginia, realized that in the proposed text of Article V, Congress would have sole power to propose amendments. He explained that an oppressive Congress would never agree to any changes that would restrain a tyrannical legislature.

He proposed that the language be changed to require Congress to call a Convention of States upon application by two-thirds of the States. Mason’s proposal was unanimously approved and incorporated into the Constitution, and unanimously approved by the States’

delegates on Sept. 15, 1787.

It’s important to note that (contrary to the narrative advanced by the Left today) a Convention of States is not a Constitutional Convention, nor does it allow for rewriting the entire Constitution. Article V does enable two-thirds of the States (34) to call a convention for the purpose of proposing amendments.

The Convention of States requires that an application to Congress on the amendments to be addressed must be the same. Therefore, in connection with the current call for a Convention of States, the application passed by 15 of the required 34 state legislatures calls for a convention “to propose amendments to the US Constitution to impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress.”

The question is whether members of Congress who advocate a bigger, more intrusive federal government, will object to calling a Convention of States? Additional information is available at: [www.conventionofstates.com](http://www.conventionofstates.com).

## White House collusion with Social Networks raises dire warnings

By STAFF

White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters that the White House is flagging “misinformation” on social networks and working with big-tech social networks to have such posts removed.

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy also spoke of a need to “confront misinformation” on the Web. “Everyone one of us has the power and responsibility to make a difference

in this fight. Lives are dependent on it,” he said, referring to questions some have posted about the safety of COVID vaccines.

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), however, found the effort alarming. “Monopoly companies, acting in concert with the government, to say you can say this, you can’t say that ... that is just antithetical to the first amendment ... and free and open debate.”

Hawley asked who gets to decide

## How does ‘Cancel Culture’ fit with free speech?

Some who try to deny the existence of ‘Cancel Culture.’ Others spin the ‘Cancel Culture’ to point at the group that is most often cancelled.

‘Cancel Culture’ is the term to describe the use of social, political, and/or economic pressure to punish those who don’t toe the line in terms of ‘politically correct’ perspectives.

Proponents of ‘Cancel Culture’ say it gives the unempowered a voice and reduces perceived harm. But others point out is silences opinions and discourse.

Those who see ‘Cancel Culture’ as a threat ask, “What about free speech?”

Evidence suggests the ‘Cancel Culture’ is not easily controlled once unleashed. Consider the following as targets of the ‘Cancel Culture’: Mister Potato Head - he lacks “gender neutrality.”

- Dr. Seuss because imagery is “racist and insensitive.”
- Paw Patrol fails to recognize race-based police violence.
- The Muppet Show for stereotyping.

While that list is almost humorous in its absurdity, many do not see the ‘Cancel Culture’ as a laughing matter. And some of the other examples of targets of ‘Cancel Culture’ appear to bear that out.

Harry Potter Author J.K. Rowling was targeted for suggesting that only women could menstruate. Even HBO’s Bill Mahr referred to it as McCarthyism in reverse.



# What is Critical Race Theory and can it stand up to the scrutiny of logic?

By RICH ROSTRON

‘Critical Race Theory’ – Americans are hearing those words with increasing frequency these days. Schools around the country are training their public-school teachers to teach CRT. The military, though claiming otherwise, are pushing instruction of CRT on some among their ranks. So, what is ‘Critical Race Theory?’

CRT has proven to be a polarizing “theory” with the essential premise that America was founded on racist principles and that “systemic racism” permeates every aspect of America’s government and culture. Opponents, however, disagree both with the premise of CRT and with the true objective of those who are pushing it. They point to the thinly veiled Marxism of CRT.

They point out that, as stated by Glenn Bracey, a professor of Sociology and Criminology at Villanova, in an online article in *en-volve*. “Critical Race Theory’s Marxism is fundamentally a spiritual concern.”<sup>1</sup>

In an ABA – American Bar Association – article, “A Lesson on Critical Race Theory,” Kimberle Crenshaw, argues that CRT “cannot be confined to a static and narrow definition” but is “an evolving and malleable practice.” She argues that “racism is not a bygone relic of the past” but rather that it “permeate(s) the social fabric of this nation.”

According to CRT, people are divided into two groups: “Oppressor” and “Oppressed.” Those groups are also referred to as “Exploiters” and “Victims.”

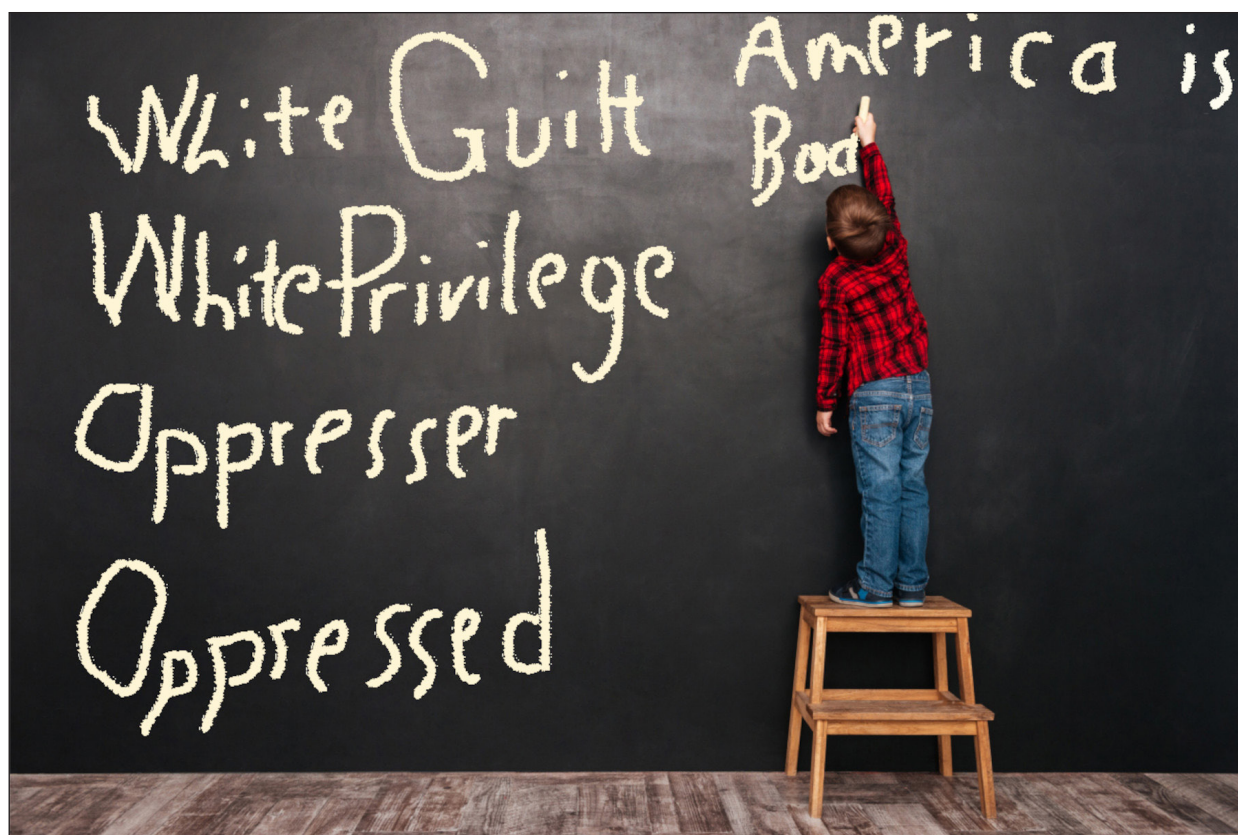
The Marxism of CRT fits with arguments from proponents who claim that the constitution and capitalism are both inherently racist.

## Possible to challenge CRT?

The way CRT is constructed appears to set a trap for anyone who would dare to challenge the ‘theory.’ Those who disagree with CRT are generally called out as demonstrating their “White Privilege” and “White Rage.”

In spite of that built-in difficulty defense mechanism, there are those who have the audacity to challenge CRT anyhow. One of these is The Heritage Foundation.<sup>2</sup>

A portion of the description from The Heritage Foundation reads, “CRT underpins identity politics, an ongoing effort to reimagine the United States as a nation riven by groups, each with specific claims on victim-



ization.”

Explaining the history of CRT, The Heritage Foundation explains that it is an outgrowth of Critical Legal Theory, a Marxist ideology with an “unhealthy dollop of Nietzschean relativism.”

As the piece explains, “Unsurprisingly, given its name, CRT makes everything about race the prism through which its proponents analyze all aspects of American life – and do so with a degree of persistence that has helped CRT impact all aspects of American life.”

James Lindsay, an author and founder of New Discourses, a Website that discusses current political ideologies, said, in a video on PragerU, “If it (CRT) takes hold, it will completely change the very nature of America and the way you live.”<sup>3</sup>

He goes on to say that the premise of CRT is that, if someone is a member of a minority, they “are a victim of a system that is rigged against you – a system that doesn’t want you to succeed.”

He said that CRT assumes “racism is present everywhere and always. They look for it critically until they find it. And they always find it.”

Lindsay said that, according to CRT, the “American experiment was given a 400-year tryout and it doesn’t work.” But he also offers advice on how to confront CRT.

“Don’t be intimidated by the heads I win, tails you lose logic of the self-destructive, America-hating anti-reality idea. Don’t be bullied into thinking you’re a racist while you know you’re not or a victim when you know you’re not.”

## CRT adorably refuted

A viral video of a black father and his young daughter has confronted CRT in a way that intellectuals can’t touch. In the video, the father, Kory Yeshua, says to his young daughter, “Daddy teaches you can be anything in this world that you want to be”<sup>4</sup>

And his daughter replied, “It doesn’t matter if you’re black or white or any color.”

He speaks with his daughter about how they treat people based on who they are and not what color they are. “Critical Race Theory wants to end this. Not with my children. My baby is going to know that, no matter what she wants to be in life, all she has to do is work hard and she can be that,” said Yeshua.

1. <https://en-volve.com/2021/05/30/busted-top-official-admits-that-goal-of-critical-race-theory-is-to-build-the-church-of-marxism/>

2. <https://www.heritage.org/civil-rights/report/critical-race-theory-the-new-intolerance-and-its-grip-america>

3. <https://www.prageru.com/video/what-is-critical-race-theory/>

4. <https://www.prageru.com/video/the-most-adorable-takedown-of-critical-race-theory-in-existence/>



## VOID The FOID and Support The Second Amendment

By **DARREN BAILEY**  
Candidate for Illinois Governor

Since swearing in as Senator in January, my office has handled more than 300 cases for constituents having issues with their FOID and CCL (Concealed Carry License) cards. Unfortunately, some instances have law-abiding gun owners left empty-handed for more than 18 months due to a 'COVID-19.'

Because of a complete failure led by JB Pritzker, the state of Illinois is illegally forcing citizens to wait on an Unconstitutional card while depriving them of their God-given constitutional right to defend themselves and their families. Time and time again, we have legislators in Springfield who do not have a FOID card and have zero personal experience with

the process of obtaining or using a FOID card or a gun sponsoring these terrible anti-gun proposals. And anti-gun legislation gets more and more ridiculous each year.

Sadly, I'm not surprised they don't care people are waiting more than a year for *permission* to exercise their God-given constitutional rights. I'm not surprised some anti-gun legislators want to quadruple the cost for honest gun owners, add more bureaucracy, and mandate fingerprints for honest Illinoisans to exercise their Second Amendment right.

FOID cards serve no purpose except to tax and add undue burdens on honest Illinoisans wanting to exercise their constitutional rights. It's NOW time to reform this broken and outdated process; it's time to eliminate it. As I've said many times, VOID

THE FOID and let honest people protect themselves and their families.

With a driver's license or a state ID, you can perform a background check at the point of sale, which is what they currently do with a FOID card. Nearly every state does it this way, but Springfield Democrats continue to make laws that affect law-abiding Illinoisans who follow laws to stop criminals who do not follow laws.

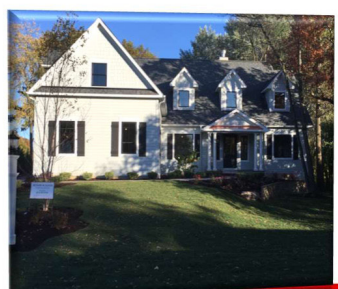
Whether it's a family practicing home defense or hunting, or a single mother trying to protect herself and her kids, I have and will continue to defend their rights. And I WILL NOT add undue burdens on them to protect their loved ones.

Some common sense points I've made in the General Assembly regarding the Second Amendment:  
1. The Second Amendment

is clear and "shall not be infringed," precisely what liberal Democrats keep trying to do with their radical policies.

2. The FOID card is outdated, unnecessary, and needs to be eliminated.  
3. If we are trying to stop crime, we don't do it by making it harder for honest people to protect themselves from crime. And we don't do it by handcuffing and defunding our law enforcement (another thing Springfield gets wrong).

I am running for Governor to support and stand up for the constitution, the Second Amendment, and the rights of hardworking Illinoisans and taxpayers. However, I have learned we need more people in Springfield, top to bottom, who understand the implications of bad policies and have the backbone to stand up to the pressure and do what is right.



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# Juneteenth is America's holiday, if we choose to make it so

By RICH ROSTRON

June 18, President Joe Biden signed a bill making June 19<sup>th</sup> a national holiday known as Juneteenth honoring the day in 1865 when slaves in Texas learned that they were free. This is a holiday all freedom-loving Americans can and should celebrate. And considering the price America paid in the Civil War deciding the issue of slavery, it is truly a national holiday.

Many on the Left see this as a victory complementing their push to

characterize America as “systemically racist” and whites as bearing racial guilt. It fits with Critical Race Theory and the narrative that America was founded on the principles of racism rather than liberty. But, for anyone willing to pay attention, it actually does the opposite.

The price America paid over the issue of slavery is mindboggling. After Americans maintained the anti-slavery movement for 70 years, the issue erupted into the nation's most bloody war. One out of every 50 Americans alive at the time died in the war. One out of every 4.4 Americans who fought in the war died. If the same war was fought today, and the death rate was the same, 6.2-million

Americans would die.

Overwhelmingly, those who died in the war were white males. The Congress that voted for the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment was comprised almost exclusively of white men. The Congress that approved the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments (making everyone born in the U.S. a naturalized citizen and granting the right to vote to black men, respectively) was also almost exclusively comprised of white men.

This doesn't absolve America of her guilt of slavery or racism.

But it is deeply disingenuous to hold slavery and racism up as evidence of America's guilt without also presenting the other side of the story. Should we condemn those who fought, including those who died, fighting in the war that ended slavery as equally guilty? Should we similarly condemn their children and their children's children?

The idea that racism is wrong is a concept fought over and handed down from generation to generation of Americans. It wasn't discovered or invented by the proponents of Critical Race Theory. That America would willingly accept the struggle over racism is undeniable evidence that America has a conscience. Historically, this is not such a

common thing for a nation to exhibit.

As part of Critical Race Theory, young, white Americans are told that they bear ‘white privilege’ and ‘white guilt.’ Young blacks and other minorities are told that they are victims, oppressed by white oppressors. In the process, they are absolved, to the degree that a society and government can do so, of responsibility for their actions. It's not their fault. Both are harmed by these perspectives.

Young whites are disincentivized by the notion that they're unworthy. Blacks are disincentivized by the notion that it's someone else's responsibility – that someone owes them the success and happiness they seek in life.

America is a great country, first and foremost, because it has a conscience. Whatever her flaws, America is a great country because she doesn't hide from the truth, good or bad. And Juneteenth is an American holiday because it celebrates liberty and the willingness to pay the price to earn it.



## Would the Virgin Mary Have Aborted Jesus?

By CAL SKINNER

Did God create the Christ Child to die in Mary's womb? Of course not.

The destiny of Jesus was to die for our sins and rise from the tomb. Likewise, no baby should be sacrificed in an abortion.

Every child has a right to be born and achieve his or her God-given potential.

Yet, among Democratic Party politicians, virtually all support Illinois law, which allows a baby to be killed up until the day he or she is born.

Consider Illinois Democrat United States

Senator Tammy Duckworth, who is up for re-election this year. In an email to the Chicago Tribune, Duckworth said she did “not support any restrictions on a woman's right to choose or her access to safe, affordable reproductive health services.”

In other words, it's okay to abort one's child anytime during pregnancy. How is that not extreme?

And this leading Democrat's support for abortion until a baby's birthday is shared by most Democrat candidates. Clearly, they choose a selective application of the term ‘extremism.’

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Delivery will begin with a future issue of the paper.

## COVID provides glaring evidence of media bias

By STAFF

The Fourth Estate is the term used to describe the media in America and is seen as an essential element of a free society. Some, primarily conservatives, have questioned what becomes of America if the Fourth Estate doesn't embrace the importance of doing its job according to the highest standards of journalism?

Throughout most of the pandemic, the media compliantly accepted the World Health Organization's claim that COVID-19 originated with a bat from a wet market. Editors and producers of news programs didn't seem to find a story about the origin of the pandemic mildly interesting?

MediaCollege.com lists five key factors to gauge when considering whether a story is newsworthy:

- Timeliness
- Significance
- Proximity
- Prominence
- Human Interest

Timeliness refers to the temporal currency of a story. In other words, it's not a story that happened in the past and that doesn't matter anymore. The pandemic is clearly the biggest story of 2020 and 2021 so far.

Significance refers to the number of people affected by a story. It's doubtful that any story in the history of the planet has affected more people.

Proximity refers to the geography of a story. Where did it occur in relation to the readership and viewers of news programming? With a global pandemic, COVID-19 fit the proximity of newsworthiness no matter where someone lived. It would be difficult to find a spot that wasn't affected by the coronavirus. If there was, that would make for

quite a story in itself.

Prominence refers to the public stature of those affected. If it affects Hollywood stars, pro athletes, elected officials, such as the president, it has 'prominence.' Was anyone not affected by the pandemic?

Does any story have more human interest than a story about close to 4 million people dying around the globe? Does anyone



not know someone who had the disease or died from COVID?

According to the five points of newsworthiness, COVID-19 rings the bell with each. Would people take an interest in where the disease came from? Any news editor or publisher would have to find this a viable story. And yet the media ignored the story for an entire year. Anyone who suggested the virus may have come from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, was ridiculed and then ignored.

Those who accuse the media of bias have faced derision. The question, however, is how the media can look the public in the face after demonstrating such a glaring lack of interest in the story of the Century? It's equally questionable how members of the media can look themselves in the face?

## Extra unemployment benefits stymie hiring?

By TIM BECK

March 2020, the federal government passed the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES), which included an incremental \$600 per week of federal unemployment benefits to enhance unemployment benefits of workers impacted by the pandemic. The CARES Act covered gig workers and certain employees working part-time, who might not receive coverage from their state's unemployment program. \$600 per week is equivalent to \$15 per hour for a 40-hour week.

The original timeframe under the CARES act called for the benefits to be paid through July 31, 2020. In June 2020, the Congressional Budget Office provided their assessment of the effect of extending the \$600 per week benefit from July 31, 2020, to December 31, 2020. Some the key comments in the CBO's letter are as follows.

"Roughly five of every six recipients would receive benefits that exceed the weekly amounts they could expect to earn from work during those six months."

"The estimated effects on output and employment are the net

results of two opposing factors. An extension of the additional benefits would boost the overall demand for goods and services, which would tend to increase output and employment. That extension would also weaken incentives to work as people compared the benefits available during unemployment to their potential earnings, and those weakened incentives would in turn tend to decrease output and employment."

In the summer of 2020, the \$600 weekly federal benefit was extended through Dec. 31, 2020. Congress then passed an additional piece of legislation that included a provision to extend the federal benefit through Labor Day, but at a reduced rate of \$300 per week.

During 2021, at least 25 states ended their participation in the program. Many businesses continue to struggle to hire employees as the companies attempt to re-open their businesses.

In May, as the country began to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, there were 9.2-million job openings in the U.S. That number is slightly higher than the number of people who were unemployed.

**BIDEN** continued from Page 2

on renewable energy sources.

As part of that push, the Federal Government will put money into research and development of green technologies.

Those with tickets to attend the event were overwhelmingly given to people who support the President. He rallied that crowd by touting his brief record saying claiming an additional 3-million jobs were created since he took office

In that regard, the President failed to mention the strong economy that was brought to its knees

by the pandemic. At the same time, he took credit for bringing America to the verge of beating the virus.

After the 'shiny-new-car' sales pitch, Biden finally addressed the big question – the costs of his program. He said not to worry, "It's already paid for folks." However, he admitted the tax codes will require changes, that Fortune 500 companies need to pay their "fair share" while fossil fuel companies will be required to pay into a fund for the public good. He also said the upper income tax brackets will have their income taxes raised from 35 to 39 percent.



# Innovation and communication – the keys to wise investing

By BILL HAASE

Sadly, there are many people who don't know much of anything about money. And why is that?

In my 35 years of experience in the financial world, I've learned that most spouses don't talk about money. Which then leads to parents not talking to their children about money, and so on. And if we aren't willing to talk about money with those closest to us, then why would we talk to a stranger such as a financial advisor?

So, what do we do? We watch those folks on TV who are all knowing about the markets and money, and we listen on the radio in the car going to and from work, and we let that influence our investment ideas. Keep in mind, all those folks have an opinion of the market and have already positioned themselves based on that opinion.

They will gladly provide their

opinions; they all want to demonstrate how right they are. They're counting on you to follow their advice and help prove them right. After all, it's easy to listen to someone that you're not standing in front of, and act based on what you're told and believe is true. But, if you're like most, you never really do the homework to learn if what is being said is true.

I, however, would like to challenge you to think differently about investing. What is the one thing that has truly driven the market from its inception? INNOVATION!

Innovation is best defined as "the creation, development and implementation of a new product, process or service, with the aim of improving efficiency, effectiveness or competitive advantage."

Innovation doesn't care what party is running the country, what the rate of return is, or where the market is going. It

doesn't care about the day-to-day musings of someone on TV or radio. It cares about an idea that solves an issue we face today.

In my time in the trading pits of Chicago, I saw innovation many times. That includes the addition of new markets, such as stock options and interest rate futures, which helped stabilize other markets.

Today, innovation provides us with other solutions that include technology like robotics that can do the work of many people without complaining or asking for more money. Or how about vertical farming, where a farmer can grow 100 times more in the same footprint and use less water and no chemicals.

Innovation can even provide many financial benefits such as tax-free income in retirement and debt elimination prior to retirement, or how to grow your money in more than one way at a time, risk free.

In the future, we need to look out for the coming of other ideas, like 10G. It's not like 5G as it's a whole new way to move and acquire information faster, using the current infrastructure. But the really big area to focus on is technology that provides health benefits, things like MRNA where they're finding potential cures for things like cancer and Hep-B.

There was a vaccine created within hours of the Covid DNA breakdown being provided to pharmaceutical companies.

As I said, innovation doesn't know or care about what party you belong to. It only cares about what it can do to make our lives more efficient and effective.

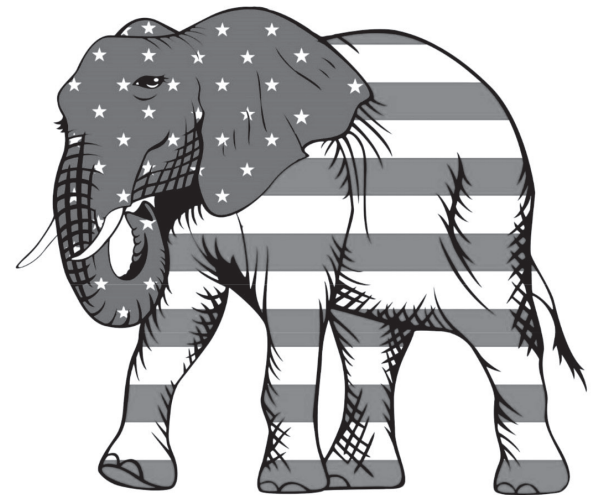
You'll notice I do not provide specific stocks to invest in. I am not a registered advisor, nor do I carry a securities license anymore. The burden of holding such a license limits my ability to invest in what I want, when I want. But that's another story.

## Resources for the Informed Voter

For a government "By the people ..." to succeed requires informed citizens. Our goal is that McHenry County Response will provide value to those who wish to stay informed. Here are a few other sources we've come across recently that you may want to check out.

- Darryl Cooper, offers an excellent explanation of why many Trump voters believe the 2020 election was stolen and why they are deeply distrustful the government and the media: <https://bit.ly/whyTrumpvotersareAngry>
- Andrew Sullivan's piece, "Our Politics And The English Language," explains what George Orwell would think of political discourse in America today: <https://bit.ly/OrwellDiscourse>
- This piece by Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT) explains how Critical Race Theory is dividing Americans while attacking civil rights and the American marketplace: <https://bit.ly/CRTattack>

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# Woodstock's Ethereal Confections survives pandemic

## Continues to support community

By RICH ROSTRON

"We spent an entire year coming in every morning trying to reinvent our business to survive," said Michael Ervin, who owns Ethereal Confections with sister, Mary Ervin, and their partner, Sara Miller. "Not to grow but to survive."

That was during the pandemic. Prior to that, Ethereal Confections, the confectionary and more, was growing exponentially.

The store, which Michael Ervin described as a company providing "food-based experiences including the café, the Speakeasy (in the basement), the event space (upstairs), our pairings, and our bean-to-bar chocolate," started with 400-square feet next to the Woodstock Theater in January of 2011. In 2013, they moved to a 3,000-square-foot location in the Southeast corner of The Square. In October of 2019, they moved to their current 10,000-square-foot location at 140

Cass Street, just off the Northwest corner of The Square.

While Michael said that it was

exhausting to survive the pandemic, he also said they were very fortunate. "A typical restaurant ... if people don't walk in the door, they don't make money." But Ethereal is more than just the physical location on the corner of Benton and Throop Street.

"It's not apparent walking into Ethereal how many other businesses that we touch," he said. "Frankly, that's how we survived."

The other businesses they touch include approximately 150 breweries around the U.S. and Canada that use ingredients

dients are used to make porters and stouts. They also have customers in Canada and Europe and have sold their chocolates in Asia.

They come to Ethereal "based on our sourcing and our quality products," he said, "ethical sourcing and really good flavor."

The chocolate they offer is so ex-

ceptional because of the talent of those working in their chocolate kitchen, but also because of a commitment to quality through the entire process. Michael and Mary have traveled to South America, Africa and Haiti, as well as other countries, to buy their cocoa beans directly from preferred growers.

While the diversity of products and services they offer went a long way to helping them survive the pandemic, Michael also expressed gratitude to others.



Ethereal Confections in Woodstock.



Courtesy Photo

*Ethereal Confections has worked hard to serve the people of McHenry County through the pandemic and is open for business now.*

from Ethereal. The distilleries use Ethereal's chocolate nibs in the brewing process. Other ingre-

"I'm appreciative of the customers, the support of the government and the city (of Woodstock) for working with us," he said.

However, he said there are some who don't feel comfortable coming out yet and it will take a couple years to really get back to the growth phase they were experiencing before COVID-19.

"We just started to realize the money that matches the investment when COVID hit," he said. "We had moved into a bigger space and expected to grow significantly."

Michael said that, while they conduct business around the country and globe, "We work and live here. We're trying to help make the community a better place."

"We're not a charity, but we know we can do good by the decisions we make as a business."

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Facebook.com/BobbyPitonforUSSenate

**How to Steal an Election?**

*Piton is featured in the 2021 documentary by Patrick Byrnes “The Deep Rig.”*

- 1) Before a single vote is cast, use Geometry to calculate the voting percentage for each candidate and the percentage attributable to a particular voting method.
- 2) Spread propaganda and lies through a corrupt mainstream media that supports the percentages that have been modeled in for the upcoming vote.
- 3) Plug in aggregate vote total and have the model calculate the exact number of votes by type and candidate for each and every precinct.
- 4) Take those predetermined outcomes and subtract out what votes "showed up" for each candidate and voting type.
- 5) Deploy phantom voters to make up the shortfalls that might exist in particular precincts.
- 6) Annihilate a particular last name out of a particular precinct if too many "unexpected" votes showed up and that precinct needs to be brought into balance with predetermined result for that precinct.
- 7) Bring in suitcases of ballots to backfill "phantom voters" to match the count for a particular precinct/county.
- 8) Don't allow the public to see the voting record updates until after the so-called winners are sworn into office.
- 9) Modify voter rolls by "outside vendors" who have access to the files to create plausible deniability. Don't allow the "log files" to be seen or have them mysteriously be gone.
- 10) Have those "outside vendors" switch votes from phantom voters to real voters who chose not to vote to cover up the crime.
- 11) No one audits real people that have historically voted when trying to spot the non-voter voting which makes this a perfect crime.
- 12) Repeat.... and recruit more corrupt clerks, coroners, and other traitors to defraud the American People.

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## El Condado de McHenry ofrece asistencia a aquellos que luchan con opioides y otras adicciones

Por LAURA CRAIN

Al igual que el resto del país, el condado de McHenry tiene un grave problema de opioides. Desde 2016, la Coalición de Abuso de Sustancias del Condado de McHenry ha centrado su trabajo de adicción en la crisis de opioides. El número de personas que mueren debido a una sobredosis relacionada con opioides es empujado por el número de personas que lidian con la adicción todos los días. Según el Cirujano General, uno de cada siete adultos se enfrentará a un trastorno por uso de sustancias (SUD). De ellos, solo el diez por ciento buscará tratamiento.<sup>1</sup>

El MCSAC proporciona educación y recursos mientras coordina datos y servicios para las personas que buscan tratamiento, recuperación y esfuerzos de prevención en todo el condado y sus alrededores. La agencia también ayuda a las familias y amigos de aquellos en el punto de mira de la enfermedad.

El condado de McHenry vio el mayor número de muertes por sobredosis en 2017 y se unió con socios clave, incluida la Junta de Salud Mental del Condado de McHenry, Northwestern Medicine, la Oficina del Fiscal del Estado del Condado de McHenry y muchos otros para desarrollar programas que llevaron a reducciones significativas hasta el año pasado. La tasa nacional actual de mortalidad por sobredosis es de 21.6<sup>2</sup> y la tasa de Illinois es de 21.9<sup>3</sup> (por cada 100,000).

Con 51 muertes en 2020, la tasa del condado fue de 16.5 por cada 100,000. A pesar de que las

cifras reales fueron más altas que el año anterior, la tasa se considera baja. El Condado de McHenry ha buscado formas basadas en la evidencia para abordar el SUD en un esfuerzo por mantener la tasa de mortalidad lo más baja posible.

1. La prevención es la primera línea de defensa. La coalición y sus socios ofrecen programas de educación gratuitos en escuelas, iglesias y eventos comunitarios. Los programas, a partir de tercer grado, cubren medicamentos recetados, tabaco, vapeo, alcohol y cannabis. Son interactivos

contra los opioides se centra en los esfuerzos de reducción de daños y se proporciona en todas las etapas del viaje de un individuo. Para alguien que no usa sustancias, esto incluye medidas de prevención. Para alguien que lo usa, incluye educación, suministros limpios, naloxona, tiras reactivas de fentanilo, atención básica / suministros de alimentos y recursos para el tratamiento.

3. Si alguien está tratando de cesar o disminuir su uso de una sustancia, la asistencia puede incluir un parche de nicotina, tratamiento asistido por medicamentos (MAT, por sus, por sus) o control del alcohol. En el condado de McHenry, la naloxona gratuita, utilizada para revertir rápidamente los efectos de una sobredosis de opioides, se proporciona a todas las agencias de aplicación de la ley a través de Northwestern Medical. Los miembros de la comunidad también pueden acceder a la naloxona a través de Live4Lali – (224) 297-4393 – basado en fondos de la Junta de Salud Mental del Condado de McHenry.

4. El tercer nivel se llama A Way Out. Permite a una persona entrar en cualquier departamento de policía local y recibir asistencia para conectarse a una evaluación de tratamiento con la ayuda de un navegador personal. Las personas también pueden llamar al (815)307-6326 para acceder al programa. Desde su creación en 2017, varios cientos de personas han sido

colocadas en programas de desintoxicación, tratamiento y recuperación residencial.

5. El cuarto nivel se centra en las inversiones en hogares residenciales de apoyo entre pares. El apoyo guiado y la vida sobria aumentan la posibilidad de que alguien practique las habilidades aprendidas en el tratamiento, encuentre un trabajo y redefina y reconstruya relaciones saludables. New Directions Addiction Recovery Services ha abierto muchos hogares grupales de 12 pasos y ha aumentado la oportunidad para que las personas permanezcan cerca de familiares y amigos a medida que crecen en la recuperación.

6. Por último, y lo más importante, el Condado de McHenry es un lugar para la conversación abierta y sin prejuicios sobre lo que está sucediendo en nuestra comunidad. El estigma asociado con el trastorno por uso de sustancias hace que sea un tema difícil para una familia criar, dejando a muchos a luchar en aislamiento. El objetivo es que la gente sepa que no hay necesidad de caminar este camino solo. El enfoque está diseñado para aceptar diferentes filosofías al tiempo que satisface las necesidades de las personas y las ayuda a sentirse seguras y valoradas.


En una emergencia, las personas que buscan ayuda pueden llamar al 911 o a la Línea de Crisis del Condado de McHenry al (800) 892-8900. Para obtener información que no sea de emergencia, pueden llamar a cualquiera de los números de McHenry County Cares o a la Coalición de Abuso de Sustancias del Condado de McHenry (815) 334-4048 o al número de teléfono móvil al (815) 701-6004.

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Los Servicios de Crisis del Condado de McHenry sirven como el primer punto de contacto para las personas que llaman que necesitan asistencia inmediata para emergencias de salud mental, problemas intensos personales, familiares y / o matrimoniales y referencias a servicios en el condado. 1-800-892-8900



United Way 211 está disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana para hacer referencias a agencias de servicios humanos y de salud, desde hipotecas, alquileres y asistencia con servicios públicos hasta bancos de alimentos, cuidado infantil, servicios de salud, capacitación laboral, ropa, refugio de emergencia, asesoramiento y más. 2-1-1



La Junta de Salud Mental del Condado de McHenry puede ayudar con preguntas sobre los recursos de salud mental y abuso de sustancias disponibles en el Condado de McHenry. 815-455-2828

**McHenry County Cares**

Funding provided by the Office of National Drug Control and Center for Disease Control

y pueden incluir programas parentales. Temas adicionales, incluyendo la ciencia de la adicción y la dinámica familiar de la adicción. Los expertos locales pueden proporcionar educación centrada en sustancias específicas.

2. El segundo nivel en la lucha



## County offers assistance to those struggling with opioid and other addictions

By LAURA CRAIN

Like the rest of the country, McHenry County has a serious opioid problem. Since 2016, The McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition has focused its addiction work on the opioid crisis. The number of people who die due to opioid related overdose is dwarfed by the number of people who grapple with addiction every day. According to the Surgeon General, one in seven adults will face a substance use disorder (SUD). Of those, only ten percent will ever seek treatment.<sup>4</sup>

The MCSAC provides education and resources while coordinating data and services for individuals seeking treatment, recovery and prevention efforts throughout the county and surrounding areas. The agency also assists families and friends of those in the crosshairs of the disease.

McHenry County saw the largest number of overdose deaths in 2017 and came together with key partners including the McHenry County Mental Health Board, Northwestern Medicine, McHenry County State's Attorney Office and many others to develop programs leading to significant reductions until last year. The current national overdose death rate is 21.6<sup>5</sup> and Illinois's rate is 21.9.<sup>6</sup>

With 51 deaths in 2020, the county's rate was 16.5 percent. Even though the actual numbers were higher than the previous year, the rate is considered low. McHenry County has sought evidence-based ways to address SUD in an effort to keep the death rate as low as possible.

1. Prevention is the first line of defense. The coalition and their partners provide free education programs in schools, churches, and community events. The programs, starting in third grade, cover prescription medications, tobacco, vaping, alcohol, and cannabis. They are interactive and can include parental programs.

clean supplies, naloxone, fentanyl test strips, basic care/food supplies, and resources for treatment.

3. If someone is attempting to cease or decrease their use of a substance, assistance can include a nicotine patch, Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT), or alcohol management. In McHenry

County, free naloxone, used to rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose, is provided to all law enforcement agencies through Northwestern Medical. Community members can also access naloxone through Live4Lali – (224) 297-4393 – based on funding from the McHenry County Mental Health Board.

4. The third level is called 'A Way Out. It allows an individual to walk into any local police department and receive assistance connecting to a treatment assessment with the assistance of a personal navigator. People can also call (815)307-6326 to access the program. Since its inception in 2017, several hundred people have been placed

in detox, treatment services, and residential recovery programs.

5. The fourth level focuses on investments in peer support residential homes. Guided support and sober living increase the chance somebody will practice the skills learned in treatment, find a job, and redefine and rebuild healthy relationships. New Directions Addiction Recovery Services has opened many 12-step group homes


and increased the opportunity for individuals to remain close to family and friends as they grow in recovery.

6. Lastly, and most importantly, McHenry County is a place for non-judgmental and open conversation about what is happening in our community. The stigma associated with substance use disorder makes it a difficult subject for a family to bring up leaving many to struggle in isolation. The goal is to let people know there is no need to walk this path alone. The approach is designed to accept different philosophies while meeting the needs of individuals and helping them to feel safe and valued.


In an emergency, people seeking help can call 911, or the McHenry County Crisis Line at (800) 892-8900. For non-emergency information, they can call any of the McHenry County Cares numbers or McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition (815) 334-4048 or the mobile number at (815) 701-6004.

**EVERYBODY NEEDS HELP SOMETIMES**

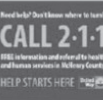
**IN A CRISIS? JUST NEED TO TALK? CAN'T FIND HELP?**




McHELP App can be downloaded from Apple Store or Google Play and is a quick click to reach crisis support and information via text. Anonymous access to trained, licensed crisis counselors in times of emergency, concern, anxiety or need.




McHenry County Crisis Services serves as the first point of contact for callers in need of immediate assistance for mental health emergencies, intense personal, family and/or marital problems and referrals to services in the county.  
1-800-892-8900



United Way 211 is available 24/7 to make referrals to health and human service agencies - from mortgage, rent, and utility assistance to food banks, child care, health services, job training, clothing, emergency shelter, counseling and more.  
2-1-1



The McHenry County Mental Health Board is able to assist with questions regarding mental health and substance abuse resources available in McHenry County.  
815-455-2828

**McHenry County Cares** 

Funding provided by the Office of National Drug Control and Center for Disease Control

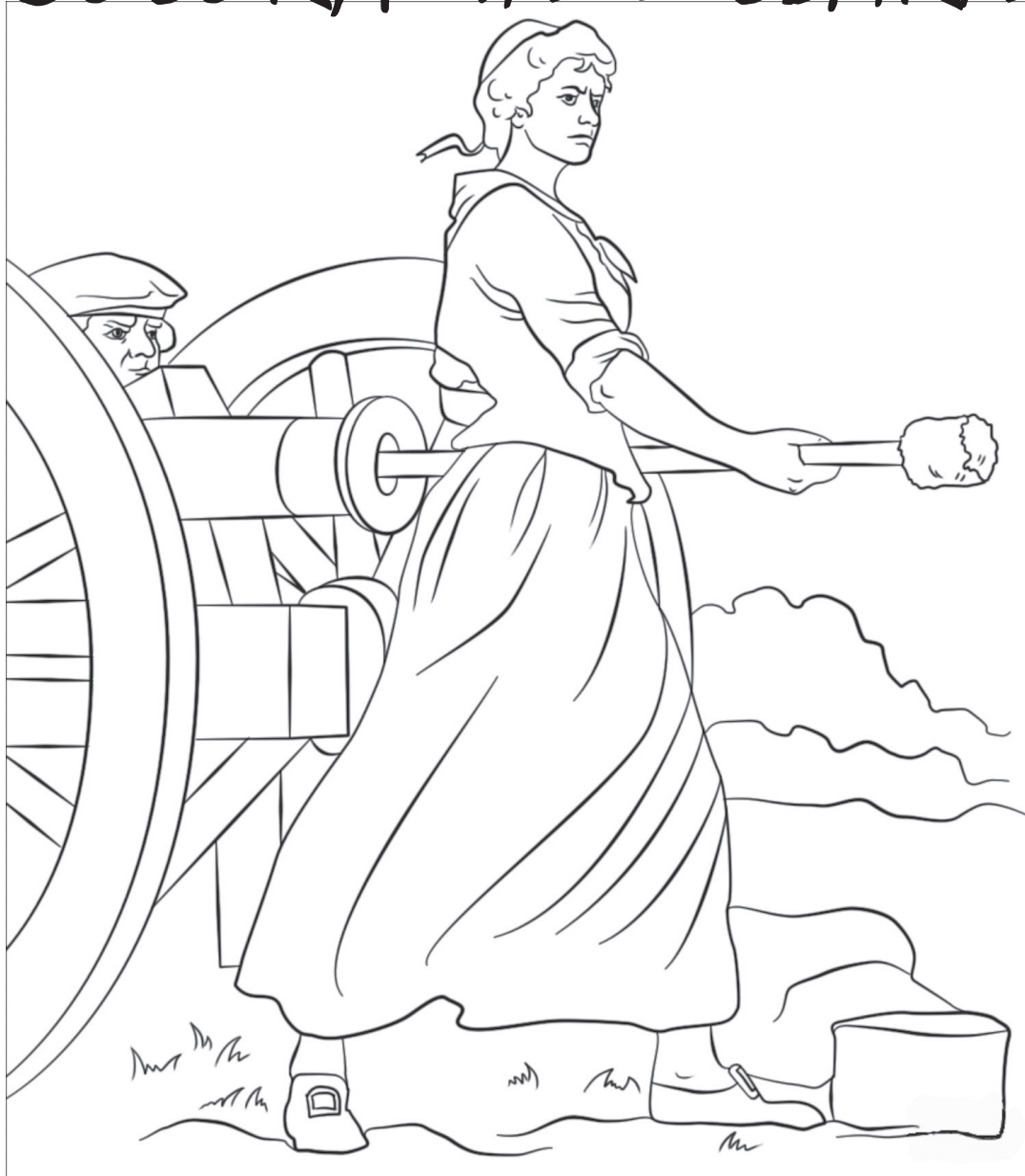
Additional topics including the science of addiction and family dynamics of addiction. Local experts can provide education focused on specific substances.

2. The second level in the fight against opioids is focused on harm reduction efforts and provided at all stages of an individual's journey. For somebody not using substances, this includes prevention measures. For somebody using, it includes education,

### Answers from **WHO SAID THAT?** on Page 18

1. John Paul Jones
2. Ben Franklin
3. Patrick Henry
4. Thomas Jefferson
5. Betsy Ross
6. Nathan Hale
7. Abigail Adams
8. Gen. Nathaniel Greene
9. Sibyl Ludington
10. Dr. Joseph Warren
11. Gen. William Howe
12. Thomas Paine
13. John Parker
14. Israel Putnam
15. Marquis De Lafayette
16. Marquis De Lafayette
17. John Adams

# COLOR, FUN & LEARN



Left: Molly Pitcher was a Revolutionary War heroine. Can you find out more about her on the Internet?

Right: Lexington & Concord were the first battles of the American Revolution. What was "The Shot Heard Around the World" and why was it important?

## WHO SAID THAT?

How many of these can you answer without the Internet?

- "I have not yet begun to fight." \_\_\_\_
- "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately." \_\_\_\_
- "Give me liberty or give me death." \_\_\_\_
- "When the people are afraid of the government, that's tyranny. But when the government is afraid of the people, that's liberty." \_\_\_\_
- "Today the American knight holds the commercial supremacy of the world." \_\_\_\_
- "I only regret that I have but one life to give for my country." \_\_\_\_
- "Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardor and diligence." \_\_\_\_
- "We fight, get beat, rise, and fight again." \_\_\_\_
- "Let me. I can ride as well as a man." \_\_\_\_
- "When liberty is the prize, who would shun the warfare?" \_\_\_\_
- "The rebels did more in one night than my whole army would have done in one month." \_\_\_\_
- "These are the times that try men's souls." \_\_\_\_
- "Don't fire unless fired upon, but if they mean to have a war, let it begin here." \_\_\_\_
- "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes." \_\_\_\_
- "The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind." \_\_\_\_
- Humanity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country." \_\_\_\_
- "Without the pen of Paine, the sword of Washington would have been wielded in vain." \_\_\_\_

- Marquis De Lafayette
- Gen. William Howe
- Betsy Ross
- Thomas Jefferson
- Gen. Nathaniel Greene
- Thomas Paine
- John Paul Jones
- John Adams
- John Parker
- Nathan Hale
- Sibyl Ludington
- Israel Putnam
- Abigail Adams
- Dr. Joseph Warren
- Ben Franklin
- Patrick Henry

(Answers on Page 17)



## No, seriously – MOVIE THEATERS ARE OPEN AGAIN! So, is there anything to see?

By STAFF

Yes, it's true; movie theaters are open again. You can pay your money for a seat that might recline, fill your arms with popcorn, candy and soda and watch Hollywood's latest fare on the silver screen – IN PUBLIC! But is there anything showing that's worth seeing?

Hollywood's schizophrenic addiction to violence continues unabated with a new movie about what happens when it's legal to kill people. *"The Forever Purge"* opened in early July. **Rated R**

Thankfully, comedy isn't completely dead. *"Long Story Short"* tells the tale of a man who, after marrying, discovers that years flash by every few minutes in

what is described as a "feel good comedy about second chances."

**Rated R**

For some drama, you can go see *"The God Committee."* It's a movie starring Kelsey Grammer about an organ transplant committee charged with deciding the fate of three patients – deciding which patient is most deserving. It challenges the viewer to make a choice between morals or money while the 'committee' puts itself in God's shoes. **NR-Not Rated**

One of the biggest films released in the receding shadow of COVID is the prequel *"Cruella"* about what led the infamous dog hater to develop such a love affair for fur coats. The film is set in the 1970s and stars Emma Stone. **Rated PG13**

Some may find *"12 Mighty Orphans"* represents something of a diamond in the rough. This movie tells the true story of orphans during the Great Depression who are led by a new teacher and coach to the Texas state high school championship. The film stars Luke Wilson as the teacher/coach. Wayne Knight plays the villain. **Rated PG13**

*"Secret Agent Dingledorf and His Trusty Dog Splat"* is strictly for the kids. The hero of the film, 10-year-old Bernie Dingledorf, has to save the world from villainous Dr.

Chuckles and his laugh machine. Don't expect to see this on the list of Oscar nominated films, but children of the right age might just enjoy this film. And it has a unique distinction; It's **Rated G** (How often do you see that anymore?)





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## Court supports challenge to Pritzker's COVID authority over young athletes

BY GREG BISHOP  
The Center Square

Parents of youth athletes suing the governor over his COVID-19 restrictions on youth sports will see a ruling on a motion for summary judgment after a circuit court judge denied the governor's motion to dismiss.

The equal rights case was brought by parents of student-athletes who say the governor prohibiting high school sports while allowing college and pro sports harmed their children.

Sangamon County Judge Raylene Grischow denied Pritzker's motion to dismiss the case Friday, saying the plaintiffs have adequately alleged their cause of action.

"The court recognizes defendants' position and arguments," Grischow wrote in her ruling. "However, this litigation is not yet at a point of judgment, but merely at the commencement stages. At this point, plaintiffs have adequately alleged their cause of action. Defendants' motion to dismiss is denied."

On Tuesday, Pritzker said he's confident his orders will prevail. "These issues have been adjudicated across the

state in different courts," the governor said.

Plaintiffs' attorney Laura Grochocki said Tuesday the governor hasn't faced an equal rights challenge.

"This is the serious challenge to his emergency powers, to the way that he has conducted himself as governor and he will not prevail because he simply discriminated without a rational basis against all of these students," Grochocki said.

Grochocki represents parents of students who've taken their own lives or suffered emotional and other physical trauma.

In his response when asked about the issue Tuesday, Pritzker downplayed the judiciary and went after the plaintiffs.

"People who just don't believe that COVID-19 is a serious illness have been the ones that are challenging this for the most part," Pritzker said. "Obviously judges are elected across the state and can have different opinions about these sorts of things."

His attorneys have argued the issue is moot because the restrictions are lifted. Grochocki said ensuring equal rights is far from moot.

"And the governor violated those rights without a rational basis," she said. "And we need to safeguard our freedoms now and in the future. The defense of constitutional liberty is never moot."

The next ruling in the case is a motion of summary judgment against the governor, which could take the case to the next phase.

Pritzker's attorneys have until July 16 to file an answer to the plaintiffs' complaint.



## Boos continue to swirl as athletes continue to disrespect America

By Staff

They're allowed to kneel, raise a fist or otherwise express their hatred for America. That, according to American Military News, is the decision "sanctioned by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), a policy the committee will likely adhere to at the games in Tokyo this summer."

As the article explains, expressions of displeasure with America have also included the wearing of clothes with "phrases like 'Black Lives Matter' or 'Trans Lives Matter'" The decision is described as supportive of "marginalized or minoritized populations."

The news is rife with examples of American athletes expressing themselves in such fashion. The most recent example is Gwen Berry.

While competing in the Olympic trials, Berry indicated she was "pissed" that the national anthem was played while she was at the podium receiving a bronze medal for the hammer throw June 27.

Quoted in a NY Post article by Sam Raskin, Berry said, "I feel like it was a setup ... they did it on purpose."

Berry turned her back on the flag and covered her head with her shirt, which read "Activist Athlete" on the front.

Some pointed out that Berry stole the spotlight from the two athletes who finished before her. DeAnna Price and Brooke Andersen were the gold and silver medal winners, respectively.

During his presidency, Donald



*There are times that are appropriate to kneel.*

Trump spoke out against athletes kneeling for the anthem. The practice was started with then San Francisco 49ers Quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

At one point, Trump had Tweeted, "Why is the NFL getting massive tax breaks while at the same time disrespecting our Anthem, Flag and Country? Change tax law!" But Donald Trump is hardly the only one to criticize the behavior.

In an Aug. 13, 2020, opinion piece from the Washington Examiner, Zachary Faria wrote, "... this form of protesting was always going to be divisive. The national anthem and the American flag were always our common denominator, the things we could always look at as the most basic unifying symbols of being an American."

As Faria continued, "Protesting during the national anthem has become indistinguishable from protesting the anthem itself ... especially doing so at the prompting of Kaepernick, who made it clear he doesn't have any love for America."

Faria wrote that these athletes "shouldn't be surprised when fans meet them with a chorus of boos."