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Gosnell, Katherine - Covid-19 Journal

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Kate Gosnell
Coronavirus Journal

Tuesday March 17, 2020

Yesterday I saw a friend, Myrtle, post on Facebook she was keeping a record of the corona virus events. She said it was for the future grad student who would have to research the virus and it was important to keep records as we were experiencing history. I find myself inclined to agree with her. So, here are my thoughts for today.

The world has gone nuts. Everyone has lost their minds. The local Walmart has empty shelves. The paper towels, toilet paper, packs of water, all of it gone. I think all the packages of meat were sold out too, but I didn't see it for myself. My friend came back to town last Friday. She told me her family went shopping because they needed groceries on Sunday. The very last package of Charmin was put on the shelf. Her mom mentioned to another shopper that the last package was put on the shelf. Then two ladies proceeded to race each other down the aisle to be the first to grab it. Because toilet paper is out, people have been buying up tissues, paper towels, and baby wipes to use instead. I saw a post this morning warning people not to flush the wipes because it would clog up the pipes and the water plant would have to shut down to clean the wipes out of the system before it can be turned back on.

I saw a story the other day some brothers bought up thousands of containers of germ-x thinking they could resell it and make a profit. But now they can't find anyone to buy it and their stuck with all this germ-x. This is what really ticks me off. People buy things in bulk, whether it be in panic or for selfish reasons and that prevents people who do need it from being able to get it. I heard a story the other day that an elderly couple asked a young lady walking in the store to go grocery shopping for them because they were too scared to go in the store. If people would stop and use their brains for once, there would be plenty of supplies to go around. The CDC says have enough for 30 days, not 6 months. People are buying up supplies specifically meant for babies because the normal stuff is sold out. That's just selfish. The most annoying part is in Coles county there have been 0 cases of covid-19. 0. A couple days ago there was a news release that Sarah bush had a confirmed case of covid-19. After that news release, one of the private schools in Mattoon closed citing that as the reason. The dude was from an entirely different county and was the first case in that county. Sarah bush services 10 counties. People all over the world are flooding hospitals because they're panicking. If they have a slight cough or fever, they run for the hills thinking they have corona and are going to die. It's cold season, like calm down. People are spreading rumors that the virus lasts for days on surfaces despite the fact the science says it only lives a couple of hours on a surface.

I understand there are places in Europe that have been hit extremely hard by this. Italy has a death count in the 2,000. But from what I have heard, the level of infection in Europe is starting to level off. The quarantine policy seems to be working. The US is doing something similar. College campus has closed for the rest of the semester and moving all classes to online.

This doesn't impact me all that much as I only have 1 class for professional skills, and I spend most of my time working on my honors thesis. Eastern also extended spring break an extra week. Broadway has effectively shut down. The winter guard season ended 2 weeks before champs and that was devastating to tell the girls that they were done. This was especially difficult to tell the seniors. I feel bad for everyone whose job depends on working with the public; teachers, museum workers, performers. Gov. Pritzker said people can collect unemployment while schools are closed but I want to know who is going to pay for this. Its pulled from taxes placing more strain on those that have managed to keep their jobs. And you have to go to the unemployment office, how does that conform with quarantine. It doesn't. he clearly hasn't thought this through. He also shut down all bars and restaurants for the next two weeks in the entire state of Illinois. His reasoning is that because he told people not to go to saint patty's day celebrations but people in Chicago did any way. On Sunday he issued a notice that because people chose to ignore him effective as of the end of day Monday night, all sit down portions of restaurants will be closed. I can understand that for Chicago but there have been minimal cases in the rest of the state. It's like he forgot the rest of the state is not Chicago. I don't know. He's just throwing a fit because people aren't minding him. At least curbside services and drive throughs are still functioning. Several restaurants around town were offering free kid's meals to help feed kids in town as the schools are shut down for 2 weeks. They can't do that if they're closed.

Going forward, I have no idea what is going to happen. Hopefully everything levels out soon and things can go back to normal. As of this moment, Lincoln Log is closed and until it opens, I don't have a job. And that's assuming the schools are willing to bring their kids out there. Who knows if graduation is going to happen? It's a large gathering and as of right now, all gatherings over 50 people have been canceled. For the rest of the semester. I was planning on doing an internship in Indianapolis in the fall but anyone's guess if that will happen. I just wish people would think instead of panic, it will make things go so much more smoothly. People are irritating.

Friday March 20, 2020

Something new seems to happen every day. The number of cases keeps rising although in the US either the lethality rate or the number cases in ratio to the population is only about 1.5%. Of the major world powers, the US has the lowest. Italy has over-taken China with the most amount of deaths, but I read somewhere that Italy has the oldest population in the world. Of course, they're gonna be hit hard, the virus can be lethal to people over 60. Its less likely to kill young adults and adults. But I did see a story this morning that man, maybe in his mid to late 30s died from the virus after visiting Disney land. My friend told me about lady in her 90s agreed to help run a voting station in town as the primaries were on Tuesday. Her excuse, she needed to do her civic duty. Like people decided to purposely not vote because they didn't want to spread the disease. You can also mail in your vote, there's no need to have physical voting stations.

While I still think this is an overreaction in our part of the country, seeing as there still have been zero cases here, I can understand being cautious. The disease is spread through respiratory droplets meaning you can infect someone without you or them realizing it. Something does need to be done. But seriously, people need to calm down. A guy went to high school with was ranting on Facebook the other day how he has some of the symptoms of Corona but he can't get tested because there is a shortage of tests and hospitals are turning people away unless its serious and yet celebrities seem to be getting tested without presenting symptoms. I really just want to tell him, calm the bleep down. You don't have corona. We are still in cold and flu season and cold symptoms are similar to corona symptoms. Even if the test did confirm it, there's no vaccine for this. No matter what you have, you should stay home and not share your sickness. You don't need a test to tell you that. Also, actors like Tom Hanks were traveling the world and are in the prime age for death, they have more of a need to be tested than you. I'm not sure about this but I know they quarantine people who were traveling and coming back to the US, wouldn't surprise me if they were testing people too. All of this is the presidents and VP's fault. He cut finances for emergency medical programs and preventative measures for things just like this. He put the VP in charge of this and Mike Pence is an absolute moron who doesn't know the first thing how to respond to this. Someone who is competent and ideally a medical professional should be in charge. I saw a post on Facebook that people with anxiety issues seem to be less panicked than the normal people; almost as if the years of imagining worst case scenarios has helped prepare us to face actual bad scenarios. Clearly this seems to be the case as few people are losing their minds. I actually saw video in a news report of grown adult older women (maybe 40s) were legit fighting each other over toilet paper. Thankfully, yesterday Walmart announced they are now putting limits on items such as toilet paper and paper towels. Because that will protect you from the virus. Walmart also shortened their hours again. A few days ago, they switched from 24 hour to closing at 11 pm. As of yesterday, they now close at 8:30 pm. The world must be ending if Walmart is changing their hours.

Last night I got an email from EIU. As of now, they are kicking students off campus unless they have absolutely nowhere else to go. They even are offering to refund students room and board fees which amounts to a little over 3 million. They also cancelled graduation. Before, I wasn't sure I even wanted to go, I'm really not into being the center of attention but now that it's gone I kinda want it. I busted my butt for 4 years and all I get is my diploma mailed to me? I understand why it has to happen and I had the very distinct feeling they were going to cancel it but all of us that are graduating deserve better. They have offered to let people graduating in May walk the stage in December but who knows where I'll be. Who knows if I will have a job, who knows if the museums will even be open to let me do an internship? Do I plan on my summer job or do I take steps to find another one? My career plans were based on working in museums and now who knows if that will even be a viable career choice for a few years. There is so much worry and everything seems out of control. I just want to know what it is I'm supposed to do. I don't like not knowing. I just want this to be over with so things can get back to normal. Dr. Holly emailed me letting me know that he won the grant for the archeological dig in Newfoundland a couple days ago. But, in light of the email sent out last night, the probabilities of the trip happening sank to almost zilch. Although I don't know why,

we still have 3 and half months before the trip happens. A lot can happen in a week let alone 3 months. We will just have to wait and see what happens. With any luck, the next 2-week quarantine will curb the infection rate and bring it down so all over this will be an overreaction and not our new reality.

Saturday March 21, 2020

Last night the gov. issued an executive order for people to stay home and only essential personnel allowed to be out and about for work. According to the article I read, there is a total of 585 cases in 25 different counties with 150 just yesterday and 5 deaths so far. With this order, Illinois joins California and New York as Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York City are the top 3 largest cities in the US. He has called in the IL National Guard to help in relief efforts and have police patrolling to help encourage people walking in groups of more than 10 to disperse. According to him, the goal is to educate and not arrest. Apparently, there's been rumors running around that the guard was moving equipment into Chicago area to secure martial law, but the gov. firmly denies this. However, my friend did tell me that the Mattoon police department was prepping their riot equipment. If Mattoon, a small town where there have been no cases at all in the county is taking those kinds of measures, one would have to be pretty naive to think a city like Chicago isn't taking the same preventive measures. I completely understand these measures for a city like Chicago as people are in much closer quarters than down here. I just find it harder to justify such actions for the lower state where there are dramatically less cases and easier to have space between people. Of course, there would be riots if only part of the state was shut down and the rest of the state functioned as normal.

I decided to go to the store today to pick up some cookies and look for some stuff Walmart was out of. Mom was worried, she didn't want me to go. She's flipping out because my dad is currently labeled as necessary medical personnel. If I catch something, I'll probably give it to them and that means my dad won't be able to work until all of us are fine. When I got back, she grilled me if I washed my hands or not. Which I did before she tracked me down, scrubbed my hands and my arms. At the store I was careful to mind my distance from other people, didn't touch anything unless I had the intention of taking it, and I passed one of the cashiers coughing so I made a hard nope and circled around to go to different check out. While I still think a lot of peoples' attitude are an overreaction, there's no harm in being cautious. I saw the outages first-hand. There was no milk, of potatoes all I could find were the over-priced single packaged ones that no one wanted to spend that much money on. This is just crazy. There's mass paranoia that everyone has something. I am very sure that I am fine and this trip to the store isn't going to hurt me, but I can't lose this nagging feeling in the back of my mind. The what-if. I just feel very anxious and on edge because I don't know what's going to happen and everything feels like it's out of control. I'm ready for all this craziness to be done.

Sunday 22 March 22, 2020

Today is mom's birthday. I made her pancakes for breakfast. I feel bad that we can't go out to eat or do anything special for her. Pancakes feels like the least I can do.

It appears in Europe things continue to get worse. I saw a headline yesterday that Italy experienced its deadliest day yet. I didn't open the article, seeing all the news just gives me anxiety. I also saw there was a spike in cases in Spain. My thoughts turn to Sadie Armstrong. She is a friend who is doing an exchange program and is in Murica. This can't be easy although I'm very surprised they didn't send her back to the states when the outbreak first started gaining traction. I did see this morning that the governor of Florida, or maybe it was South Carolina, closed all beaches to the public because young people were unwilling to give up partying over spring break. According to a Trevor Noah report, there was a lady on the board that didn't want to do it because it would dent the revenue from tourists and judging from all the people in the comments going on about red and blue, she must have said something about a democrat conspiracy. People were singing the praises of a democrat gentlemen that laid into her about serving the people and not themselves. The stupid barely adults aren't helping things either. There were saying in interviews that they don't care about the illness and it's not going to stop them from partying. People in the comments were going nuts. "If they would just stay home then we can get through the stay at home order faster." They're not wrong. The faster we curb the infection rate, the faster we can kill the virus. Senator Kamala Harris posted on twitter a picture of a lady that's a mom of two teenagers being a test subject for a vaccine. I admit I'm rather confused. There lots of places around the world working to create a vaccine but they're not scheduled to be done until the middle of next year. Seems a bit early for human testing in my mind but as I mentioned for the sake of my own mental health, I've been keeping my distance from the news.

I think the news in contributing to the hysteria. The news has been nothing but the virus for weeks. While I think it is important to cover all news, including the pandemic, spending all of their time on this and nothing else is causing people to panic and make them think that this is the end of the world. The illness has a high recovery rate. Only those with compromised immune systems, the old, and the very young, have a higher chance of death. But based off the news you wouldn't get that. And even when they have medical professionals on to talk about it, people don't listen. All they hear is "I'm a doctor, this is contagious, people can die." People can die from the flu; I believe the flu has a higher rate in both number of cases and death in a year than the corona. People can die at any time. Of course, we shouldn't purposely put people in a position in which they could contract something to end their lives early. I suppose what I'm saying is why do people choose not to be concerned about something that we deal with every year and yet people are flipping out about this. Seems hypocritical to me. Especially these antivaxxers. Vaccinate your ding dang kids. Measles are coming back because people aren't vaccinating their children. It's a guarantee people walking around without boosted immune systems are contributing to the problem. Those parents need to be prosecuted for not protecting their kids. It's shameful.

My uncle's new wife's (sorta) son was on a mission in Mexico City. Yesterday, my aunt and uncle received an email in the evening the mission was sending him back to the states and they needed to come get him at the airport. When he got back, he was supposed to self-quarantine for 14 days. Problem is, he never arrived in Cincinnati where he was supposed to get off. No one knew where he was as of last night, not even the Mexican mission. I have yet to

find out if they found him. I'm hoping he just missed his flight and was chilling in the airport until it was time for the next flight out. I heard he was reassigned to the New York, New York City mission but it's anyone's guess if that will happen for a while. Right now, I'm doing my best not to lose my mind. I'm an introvert and I enjoy my time alone. But there's something about being told I can't do anything that bugs me. There's been talk of closing parks and in my mind that's a bad idea. People need to be in the sun to get the vitamins they need to stay healthy. Yes, I have a yard even if there isn't anything in it. People who live in apartments or in bigger cities need to have someplace to go. Studies prove people are healthier and happier than when they are around plants. Social distancing is fine but detaining people inside will make people more susceptible to illness. I hope we get through this soon.

Monday March 23, 2020

I went to Walmart this morning. There was a decent amount of people there, about the size of the slow time of day. More people than I expected to be there considering the gov. order. I saw only a couple people coming in wearing gloves. One lady had one surgical gloves and mask. For a county that has 0 cases, that feels like overkill to me. They had restocked a little. I grabbed the last bag of regular flour but it was a larger bag so we should be good on flour for a while. They were sold out of skim milk, so I grabbed a gallon of 2% instead. Walmart has implemented that people can only buy one gallon of milk and one package of toilet paper per visit trying to prevent the mass selling out business. I've never seen anything like this, bare shelves, people panicked. It troubles me.

NYC has been identified as the epicenter of the outbreak in the US. Nearly half the cases are located there. In Illinois as of 2 days ago, there was 500 something cases in Chicago and maybe a max of 20 cases per county in the surrounding counties. I looked at a map of cases county wise and for the rest of the state, the few counties that do have cases have a max of 3 cases. The county right below Coles only has one case and it's the one that Sarah Bush reported I think almost a week and a half ago. I think I was harsh on the gov. Before but I think his actions are good for Chicago and the surrounding areas. He's trying to curb the infection rate and get ahead of it before it blows into something uncontrollable. I still question his idea of people claiming unemployment. I found out you can file for it online which is good but with massive amounts of people out of work how are the slim few still employed supposed to support everyone with their taxes? The gov. is having police patrol in Chicago breaking up groups of 10 or more in Chicago; he's really fighting to keep people away from each other. The gov. has been really harsh on Donald Trump and rightfully so. Yesterday, Trump sent a tweet specially calling out gov. Pritzker but addressing it to all other gov. and news media that have been criticizing him for not taking action sooner. It was usually trump fashion in that it basically called them losers and unable to be real leaders and to lay him as he bears no responsibility in this. While I don't agree with everything Pritzker does, I do commend him for trying to help people and taking action. That's certainly more than that louse has done. He has daily press conferences and its painful to watch or listen to. There was one I watched because Trevor Noah did a thing about it in which Trump said something incredibly stupid, saying the state department is also called the deep state or something incredibly idiotic like that, and the man standing behind looked like he died inside. Full on buried his face in his hands. I also read that

he made a comment about this one drug showing it was fighting off the virus and then 3 people in Africa died from overdosing on said drug. The man has 0 idea that what he says has repercussions. I can't wait until we vote him out of office this upcoming election. I saw someone post on Facebook a thing about how trump wanted to close boarders, bring businesses home, and some other crap he promised, and it was all for a reason. That really made me angry, but I didn't want to waste my time doing the research to rebut their post fully and completely. He had no idea a pandemic was going to happen. He was doing that because he's xenophobic and racist. He disbanded the pandemic team that was created under Obama during the H1N1 virus. He deserves nothing but criticism.

I haven't been following things all that closely but there was an amendment to support businesses through the economy crash because of the pandemic. I'm not sure who proposed but based on the issues people have been pointing out about it, I'm guessing it was the republicans. It created a slush fund and major benefits for the uber rich. It also provided either limited or no protection for workers themselves. I know senator Harris was posting on Instagram about voting no. As far as I know, the amendment was voted down. I heard rumors Paul rand did something about the bill but wanted to submit an amendment, but I don't know. No one really knows what's going on. People are just mad at everyone and the bigger corporations are taking advantage of people's panic. I feel bad for small businesses, who knows how many will reopen after this.

Tuesday March 24, 2020

I'm unbelievably bored. I have been inside and not gone anywhere interesting in a week. I'm getting tired of watching tv. Social media is the only thing I can mindlessly stare at and it's irritating me, so I don't want to even do that. I know that if I keep looking at it, I'm gonna call out people on their xenophobic and racist posts and will end up burning a bunch of bridges. People are arguing about how the virus is a politically tool. Can you all just shut up for 5 seconds and do what you're told? Stop arguing. Just because you have a free platform on social media does not mean you get to spout whatever nonsense strikes your fancy. People are incredible closed minded. Before all this blew up people were actually making the argument the virus was a hoax being used to garner democratic support against the republicans because it was an election year. People irritate me. I just get more and more irritated being stuck inside and not being able to escape the idiocy.

My friend's grandpa is dying of pneumonia at Sarah Bush. I feel incredibly bad for the family. She lost her other grandpa a couple of years ago. And in the midst of all this madness for it to be happening too. If he dies within the next month or so, the family probably won't get to have a funeral. Other people have had to make that decision, most famously Reba Macintyre for her mother. It's not right, not having the opportunity to properly mourn loved ones when they pass. It's incredibly hard. I plan on making some banana cookies for them today. Its barely anything but it is the least that I can do.

Wednesday March 25, 2020

It's only been a day, but I feel less anxious now that I'm not looking at Facebook multiple times a day. Still super bored though. I have little motivation to do anything. I have my thesis to write but I just don't want to. Someone started a petition at eastern for teachers to just give all students passing grades and end the semester early. I think that's just lazy people taking advantage of a bad situation. I don't get that; I have to turn in a finished product, or I don't graduate. Same with all the other students in my capstone class. I'm sure there's other classes like this. Ending classes early isn't going to fly.

My friend's situation has gotten more complicated. As of yesterday, her grandpa was fine, but he can't function on his own. He can't go back to the nursing home, but her family can't give him the care that he needs. They're all rather stressed. This is a lot to handle at any time, but especially now during all this virus stuff. 2020 already feels like the longest year ever. Natural disasters, viruses, everything is trying to kill us. I see memes everywhere about how politicians are chill with killing grandma to save the DOW. This is rather twisted, but the world is over-populated. This is just facts. While it is hard and regrettable, mother nature finds a way to downsize populations to manageable numbers. It's rather Darwinian in thought but it's true. All the massive illnesses, the Black Plague, The Spanish Flu, to some extent you could include H1N1, they all had large death tolls but in the long run they removed a chunk of the population allowing the people that survive access to the remaining population. Survival of the fittest; a bottleneck.

My friend and I were discussing having another video game day at my house; something to keep her mind off her family issues and to relax. My dad is chill with it, but my mom isn't which is surprising. As my dad is the medical personnel, I would think if anyone would be worried, it would be him. But no, mom thinks I'm not taking this seriously by going to her house yesterday to drop off cookies and her coming over to play video games. I'm not social distancing. If we were someplace that actually had cases of illness, I would be much more cautious than I already am. But we have 0 cases. I am cautious but not anxious. I don't see a reason as to why we can't hang out at home. I heard yesterday Ohio has closed all borders. No one is allowed to travel through it. My friend thinks it's a matter of time before Illinois does the same. I could see that happening in Chicago, restricting movement. They kind of already have but haven't officially closed borders. I think it would be an overreaction to close Illinois when the issue lies in Chicago and not the rest of the state. Mattoon has announced that we are officially in a state of emergency. My friend's dad thought Illinois towns and cities are prepping for the worst because the president and our governor are in perpetual measuring contest, constantly going after each other. Trump is certainly petty enough to refuse to give the state any assistance because the gov. refused to kiss his ***. Under this, the state keeps the right to shut down any sort of travel and establish curfews. I think I heard that already they are stopping movement between Mattoon and Charleston. Guess I'm not getting my library books back to campus. Living under martial law is honestly kind of a scary thought. I've never experienced this before, and I don't deal well with forced authority (as might have been noticed by now). The thought that now one can go anywhere without having an idea on them; police can stop and detain anyone just for standing outside; it just makes me nervous.

I saw this morning that congress has proposed another bill offering a couple trillion-dollar aid to bail out businesses. Trump wants to open the country by Easter in an effort to fix the economy, but health experts are largely against this. The death count in Spain is currently higher than it got in China. I think Italy is in the same boat. My friend told me yesterday some experts are encouraging social distancing up to a year. I think it's safe to say that our world is not going to be the same after this. At least, it won't revert for a while.

Thursday March 26, 2020

I am struggling to get up the motivation to do anything. I have my thesis to work on, but I just don't want to do anything but watch tv all day. I'm so bored.

I've learned a bit more about the virus thanks to a video posted by Dr. Mike on YouTube. He's a doctor in New York I think that has a channel and has been posting weekly (ish) updates on the virus. So, there is a possible vaccine that is being tested that starts with a c; chloro-something. It takes two existing drugs used for other illnesses and combines them and has shown that it decreases the amount of the viruses present in the sinus cavity. But problem is other people need this drug for their other illnesses and they can't get it because people are panic buying it up. Trump bears some blame for this by talking it up in his press conferences. Dr. Mike said an older couple heard this and this compound is used in pool cleaner I think it was so they both drank it thinking it would keep them safe. The husband died and the wife is critical condition. This is the power of the media. The shortage of proper masks that aren't surgical masks is getting worse. Doctors are trying to function in hospitals by using and reusing loose surgical masks. They are leaving themselves open to getting sick and if they catch it because of poor protection, who will take care of people then? No politicians are thinking about this. There aren't nearly enough ventilators for all the people that need them. Drive through testing places have been set up where people get their noses swabbed and results back in a couple days. I remember seeing news reports where cars were backed up for miles because people wanted tested. Honestly, I don't fully understand why get tested. There's no vaccine. A test will tell you yeah, I got this virus. If you're sick, you should be staying away from people anyway. You shouldn't need this test to tell you yeah you got this thing that probably won't kill you if you're a healthy adult. I think the only people that should look into getting tested are individuals that have a higher risk of a severe reaction, meaning older adults and people with a compromised immune system. And folks wonder why there's a shortage of tests. Yes, Trump administration did not look into making nearly enough tests but the media is promoting panic and so everyone wants a test. I did also learn that Trump didn't cut funding for the CDC. He proposed cuts but congress shot it down and increased funding for them the past couple of years. He did excuse the team that was appointed by Obama that I think was an office of team or whatever it's called in the white house; like the state department.

I wish the weather would get out of the 50s and stop raining already. I'm sick of being stuck inside. I want to get out and go hiking on some trails. In general, I'm tired of being cold. I'm so over all this pollen and allergy crap. I'm ready for all this to be over. I just want my life to get back on track.

Friday March 27, 2020

The second wave of cancellations has hit. Yesterday a whole slew of different things have decided to close for the time being. This about week 3 of no church meetings and as of yesterday, the prophet decided that all temples were to close until further notice. Drum Corps has cancelled its 2020 season and I can only imagine how painful this must be for all the students and staff that has already been working hard and prepping for it. Everything is closed or cancelled, I've never seen anything like this before. I haven't studied a time in history in which something like this has happened. Even the Olympics have been postponed and it takes something massive to disrupt those.

My sister messaged me yesterday asking if I was going to be sent to the store soon so I could pick up stuff for her. She says she's not scared of Wal-Mart, but I think she's at least a little worried. I told her it would probably be a few days before I went back so she decided to place an order and do curbside pick-up. I'm of course wary of sick people and avoid up close contact when I can, but there's not a reason to be scared of the store especially in a place where there are no cases of the virus.

It was yesterday I believe that a bill was passed through congress that offered immediate monetary relief for people that is dire circumstances, bailout for businesses, and extra funding to go towards hospitals and supplies. I'm glad something was finally passed. Though Trump keeps going on about wanting to open the country back up and get people back to work by Easter, the likelihood of that keeps shrinking. The longer this continues, the more assistance people are going to need. Gov. Pritzker has released statements that he thinks the stay-at-home order might extend past the April date he set when the order was first announced. When the virus first started, I thought it would have died out by April, May at the latest. Now, I'm not so sure. I read that the US has overtaken has having the most amount of cases in the world. I saw someone comment that we have the most because we have done the most testing, hence the most amount of confirmed cases. I'm not sure if that's true, the person didn't provide any evidence of this, but it seems like a logical argument. I remember hearing in China, they stopped testing people and just assumed if people were presenting symptoms that had the virus without testing to make sure as they were low on tests. Regardless of the amount of cases, the US still has a low number of deaths compared to other countries. The sad part is people are taking what seems to me to be a simple statistical argument and turning into a bigoted, racist, and political argument. On the same article someone made the comment about how US still doing better because we have lower death rates and somehow transitioned from that to how China will never be a superpower. I thought, I hate to break it to ya, but China already is one you idiot. The US was already divided because the ugly racist underbelly that has presented itself under Trump but now it's gotten worse. I remember seeing a report about how Asian Americans were literally being beaten over the virus. Trump hasn't helped things by only referring to Covid-19 the China virus or Chinese virus. He has helped people associated their fear and uncertainty with China and so those individuals lash out at Asian individuals because it makes them feel like they're taking back a modicum of control. Can literally fight back against the virus. It's despicable. I understand the fear but that is no excuse to attack people because

they share Asian features. It makes me ashamed to be an American. No wonder the rest of the world hates us.

On a more positive note, one good thing that has come of this is a lot of people and companies are releasing free online learning for students so they can continue to learn despite school closures. Today, my favorite Egyptologist Sarah Parcak is doing a free lesson video for the Shipiro (?) School YouTube channel. She's going to do a lesson about what it's like to do a dig and what her experiences have been. Although this is meant for younger children, I'm just as interested and excited. I'll take anything to learn about my future profession. So, until that comes up, I will be watching Expedition Unknown and make the pre-made, just bake, chocolate chip cookies I have in the freezer. They're the big kinds too. Man, I'm going to get so fat from this. All I eat is deserts and chicken nuggets. I know I should take it easy, but when I'm stressed or anxious, I eat. Not the greatest coping mechanism but I'm trapped inside, and the weather isn't great for going outside. I just want it to be warm.

Postscript:

When I decided to start this, I set into my schedule that I would do one entry a day, usually between 10 am and 1 pm. I had written my entry for today until I saw the updates on twitter at 11 am and I was so disgusted I had to add. I was looking for updates from Parcak on her video lesson. Instead I found a flood of people talking about how the President was trying to haggle over the price of ventilators. He reportedly was upset the hospitals in New York City were asking for 30-40,000 ventilators. Trump said they were getting by with two and now they want thousands and was apparently confused by this. Is the moron blind? The fact that when the virus gets bad enough that a ventilator becomes necessary has been well established already. The idiot is so concerned about costs of life saving machines that he seems to have forgotten what they are for. I could understand if there was a shortage of funds to buy the machines but from what I can tell that isn't the case. I noticed some people are presenting the case that he is doing this purposefully because NY is a blue state. He has made it very clear he supports the white red states and lashes out at blue ones. While I don't to believe that he is petty enough to do this; his track record makes inclined to think so. He is a despicable waste of space. In this instance I agree with a tweet from Andy Lassner, an executive producer of the Ellen show. It is a strong word which I do not use lightly, but I hate him.

Saturday March 28, 2020

Apparently, I got the date wrong for Dr. Parcak's lecture. The video went up 45 minutes ago... whoops. I'm watching it now so it should have some interesting stuff and I'm excited.

Today the weather has finally reached 70! But of course, it's going to rain this afternoon. I'm seeing about convincing my friend to go to Douglas Hart with me, but she's had her hands full with her grandparents. As an introvert, I'm usually pretty chill with staying in my room and not speaking to anyone for days but I'm starting to feel anxious and stir-crazy.

Trump is again getting into fights with officials, this time in Michigan. I haven't found the tweet/ comment in question but from the reaction I've been seeing, it sounds like he told

Michigan to screw themselves because he's mad at their gov. Sounds like him. The case rate in Illinois has gone up, both in Chicago and the number of counties that have been affected. Coles still has 0 cases and the surrounding counties still seem to be largely ok. I think this is linked to the spring break fiasco. I saw a map either last night or this morning that cases have been mapped using GIS of students who contracted the virus while on break in Florida and track them back to their home states. Illinois was included although most cases were linked to the Chicago area and the St. Louis/ Edwardsville area.

Grandma came by today. She asked mom to pick up material and print off patterns for a mask. She has a cough; I wonder if it's a cold or if its allergies. I wasn't sure why she wanted one but now with the cough it makes more sense. My grandpa has a compromised immune system because he had an infection in very early January. We try and keep our distance best we can. He didn't get out of the car when he visited, we waved at each other through his car window. I'm sure grandpa isn't happy about not being able to visit his friends. Now he just sits at home all day. It's kinda sad. My other grandpa was visiting family in Florida over the winter and my dad went to pick him up a couple weeks ago. Luckily, he got him before all the craziness started. That grandpa caught pneumonia while he was there and was in the hospital for a week. He recovered a bit and last I heard he was staying with my aunt until he feels good enough to go home. I worry about him a little, he lives alone and in the Quincy area. He's also diabetic which leaves him more susceptible to getting the virus. I don't particularly want him staying with us, but I also don't want him getting sick either.

I saw a post on Facebook earlier this morning that made me pause and think. I know the aim of the post was to make people feel guilty and emphasize their selfishness but still, made me think. During the Holocaust, Jews such as Anne Frank, hid in attics and small crawl spaces for years in virtual silence to avoid getting caught so we can manage to stay indoors for a couple weeks. The post has a point. Jews managed to survive in confined spaces to save their lives. But I do think drawing the comparison is a logical fallacy. The situations of the Jews and our situation now are very different. You can't compare apples and oranges, even when attempting to try and guilt trip people. We also have very different societies and our current one is extremely interconnected. Humans are social people and once you have something it is difficult to let it go. And no one is actively searching us out to kill us. We are not living in perpetual fear, unless you include the people having panic attacks because their convinced, they will get sick and die by stepping foot outside. I've noticed people like to share these kinds of posts reminding people they should stow their complaining as others have it worse than you. It might appear like they are encouraging people to be humble but more often than not, I feel like it is the individual's attempt to appear high and mighty in a sea of sinners. Interestingly enough, at least on my Facebook feed, the people who share these kinds of posts are Trump supporters. Maybe trying to make themselves appear to be moral lighthouses to cover the fact they support a worm of a man.

Sunday March 28, 2020

Today Dr. Mike posted a video where he interviewed Dr. Fauci who has been the face of the covid-19 in Washington. He is up to date on the medical trials going on and is at all the press conferences about it. Here is a brief overview of what was talked about:

There is testing underway but nothing being tried can be verified as helpful, yet as not enough trial runs and testing has been done to draw a conclusion. There isn't enough evidence, but he hopes to have some idea of which drugs are helping within the next couple of months. Dr. Fauci was asked about when should we start to break social distancing and he said we should start opening up travel to get supplies to people as soon as the infection curve starts to decline. They should also study areas with little or no cases as guinea pigs to see if the virus comes through and create procedures of what to do if the virus does make its way into the community. Dr. Fauci thinks the virus is going to be seasonal. While cases in the US might go down in the summer, they will go up in colder places and then make its way back to the US in the Fall. That's why a vaccine is so important; we need something now and make the most of the summer to prep for when it comes back. When asked about the higher rate of younger people getting ill in the US than in China, he said the majority of 30/40 year-olds that are sick have underlying conditions but there are those that are otherwise healthy that are getting seriously sick so we need to forget the idea that the young are fine and can't be hurt by the illness. He also reiterated that young people can be carriers for it so while you might not be experiencing symptoms, you can still have it and then pass it. Dr. Fauci doubts that the virus can re-infects people immediately. While immunity might not be lifelong it will probably last a few years. He recommends health care professionals take measures to reduce the amount direct contact doctors have with people but as the nation is in need of doctors, they can't just stay away. He also says PPE should only be for people interacting with sick people. He also says they are working on a way for people to self-administer the tests, so doctors don't have to touch the patient. He thinks that the US got hit so bad because of our tourist industry, case in point New York City. 56% of new cases appear in NYC. But he is proud that people there are taking social distancing seriously. He also mentioned that some countries are reporting high cases of pneumonia but low cases of covid-19. Both he and Dr. Mike suspect they are choosing to misidentify the virus to make it appear that they are not a high-risk area.

Dr. Fauci did an interview with Trevor Noah 2 days ago answering questions about the virus:

The mortality rate for covid-19 is 10 times higher than the flu being at 1%. He says the primary way of spreading is coughing or sneezing or handshaking. The virus lives the longest on plastic or steel for a few hours. On packages the virus lives a very short time so there's no real need to worry. The young are not invulnerable to the disease, they can get sick and can easily spread it to people who can't fight it off. We have a social and moral responsibility to protect others. As of 2 days ago, there were no proven medications for covid-19 but there are trails that are happening. There are stories circulating about these drugs kind of working but it has yet to be proven, as is the case the chloroquine drug. People set an arbitrary timeline for quarantine and social distancing and it's impossible to predict when the curve will flatten. In other countries such as Korea and China, the virus cycle lasted about 8 weeks. NYC has been harder hit because it is more crowded and the massive number of tourists and were massively infected before outside actions could be taken. As for the rest of the country, it is largely going

to be a case by case basis. He firmly believes that people will be protected from reinfection for a few years.

All of this is crazy. I had no idea this would be a cycle. Now I have no idea how to prepare for the upcoming year. If the virus comes back, does this mean that everything is going to close again? How am I supposed to plan for my education and finding a job if I have no idea if the world is going to shut down again? I saw photos the other day that roads going into Chicago have been barricaded by police and are patrolled. I did find out that the roads between Mattoon and Charleston are not closed down. The state of emergency that Mattoon is in has the power to do so but nothing has been acted upon so far. Some of the local restaurants are hurting because of this. We tried to order from the Honeybee Café because they had told my friend and I they were doing curbside service, but they had to close because they were not getting enough business. I worry if they will even open again. Staying closed this long has to hurt their business.

Yesterday, my friend and I went out to Douglas Hart to stretch our legs and I broke out my Pokémon Go. It started to pour on us while we were walking so we had to cut it short. Later that evening, I was at my friend's house having a conversation with her dad as he was prepping vegetables to take to his mother down the street, they lost power. It flickered 3 times and then went out for about a half hour. My sister on the opposite side of town lost power too. My parents didn't lose power, but they lost their internet. This month, not only that but this year, it's just been one thing after another. It's eating away at my mental stability. If it's this bad for me, I can only imagine how bad it is for my friend and her family.

Monday March 28, 2020

Today is the first day of classes. I have an online ZOOM class about interview techniques. This is the only in-person class I will have for the rest of the semester and honestly kinda glad. I wasn't really into driving to campus once, maybe twice a week for a 50-minute class. Of course, now I gotta figure out how to get my library books and book for class turned back in. There's an outdoor slot at textbook rental which I can drop my book off at now that I know the roads aren't closed. Don't know if Booth Library is open though; need to find that out.

It turned on a CNN clip of Dr. Fauci being interviewed earlier this morning and the current predictions say the virus death count could get between 100,000 -200,000 if precautions are not taken so he was able to convince Trump to extend the social distancing guidelines through the end of April. He's been trying to tell Trump this for a while, but I guess it took seeing such a massive number for the information to get it through his thick skull. Dr. Fauci said that trump got it right away, but I find that hard to believe. In the press conference yesterday, he implied that nurses and doctors were stealing masks hence the massive shortage and call for hundreds of thousands of masks. How dare he, not to mention that sentiment is nothing short of idiotic. Why would they be taking something that is necessary to have at work. Who thinks, "Oh, I'm gonna take all these masks home and not keep them in a place has a lot more virus exposure than the local Walmart."? I find it hard to think there are still people that

support a stain like him. He's not that bright. Or maybe the number of deaths possible; make him feel bad that he's been thinking about business and not the human cost.

CNN also had a handy dandy counter of cases according to the info put out by John Hopkins University. Around the world there 734,900+ cases worldwide and 34,600+ deaths. In the US, there's been total 139,700+ cases and 2,400+ deaths. Those numbers are higher than I thought. Makes me feel bad for NYC because they still have half of US cases and according to Dr. Fauci, numbers are still going up. New Orleans is apparently experiencing the same thing, probably because of the spring break fiasco, but I don't know the exact number for them. He said bigger cities in Midwest, I'm thinking he means Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, etc., are doing well so far but they could easily take a turn for the worst, so precautions are key.

I did hear yesterday that there's been movement to create a test using blood or plasma or something like that to identify the virus in asymptomatic people. It's still early in its life but I hope something can be done with it. I also found out the rough voice Dr. Fauci has is not his normal voice, but he has been talking himself horse. He's said in a couple different interviews he gets 4-5 hours a sleep a night but usually only 4 because of how hard he's working. I feel so bad for the man. He is working so hard to protect people and I'm sure he deals with a number of stupid people.

I have to say I enjoy videos made by John Oliver. He is intelligent and its clear he does his research. He's been doing videos on Corona virus and I've learned quite a bit. I didn't know that some gov. are not taking this seriously and shutting down their bigger cities. Leaders are arguing that they are willing to die to protect the economy and turn this into a "fighting for the American dream" bull. That's incredibly stupid. How do you protect anything if everyone if dead? I also learned that in places like Italy and Spain there are mass graves you can see from space and skating rinks have been turned into makeshift morgues. That's terrifying. I don't understand how gov. and social leaders can say it's no big deal when there are places in the world that bury the dead from the virus with bulldozers. Trump recently made the claim that he's a wartime president. Uh, sure... whatever floats your boat you moron. I don't think this is something to be proud of when he had such a delayed reaction and keeps denying the seriousness of it. He's so reluctant to acknowledge that his ego has gotten in the way. He's actually made the comment that people didn't want him to open the country at Easter because they wanted the nation to crash economically to ruin him.... Who wants that? We all live here; no one wants to have another great depression. Everything is just going to crap. No one knows what's going on and local leaders are struggling to contend with the national government. Everyone is mad at each other and no one is thinking about the bigger picture. It's upsetting.

Tuesday March 29, 2020

I wish it would just warm up. The high is mid-40s today. And because it won't warm up and the weather regulate, my allergies are kicking my butt. I constantly have headaches. Being indoors helps to block some of the dust but this also means I'm breathing the same air in the same environment every day. I just need to move somewhere where there isn't any dust or pollen or gross stuff.

I saw a couple days ago an article about the CDC recommending people playing video games. I didn't click on the article so I'm not sure if its legit, but I can understand why. RuneScape released an archeology skill yesterday, so a lot of people were playing. It was nice to be able to chat with people from all over. We were all sharing in the confinement and there was a sense of solidarity. Of course, people are crass and complaining but underneath it, it was just nice to speak to another person. I didn't engage in the world chat much; I mean I mainly stuck to the side and read the messages. But for a little while it made it easy to forget that there's a virus outside that wants to kill us. The escape is probably much needed for those living in places like NYC. Candy Crush also is doing a thing this week offering unlimited lives. Help keep people busy and pass the time being stuck at home.

I saw a thing that yeast is running low. People are buying up all the yeast and doing a super amount of baking. I don't blame them. I bake to get my mind off things. It's too bad people don't realize you can catch yeast out of the air and make your own sourdough starters. Might help with the yeast shortages.

I'm finding it difficult to find the motivation to do things. I went to class yesterday and I wrote about 2 pages of my thesis. Mom keeps getting on me about studying for the GRE. I know I need to but it's just a struggle to make myself want to study. Mom just walked in to complain about how she still has deadlines for work, but she has none of the equipment she needs, and the email isn't working. She says her bosses know but there's nothing anyone can do about it. This is headache for everyone.

Wednesday April 1, 2020

The local count of cases has gone up. I got in contact with my high school friend Kalie who works on the Covid-19 floor at Carle hospital in Champaign. She said there are 24 confirmed cases but only 6 are severe enough for the patient to be in the hospital. 3 of the 6 are being confined to the ICU. She says the state case number has gone from 3,000+ to 5,000+. I remember a report that more counties have reported cases however the majority are still limited to the Chicago-area. Sarah bush reported a couple days ago that they had 2 more confirmed cases, but both were from other counties. Coles still has no reported cases. Kalie says there are running low on PPE and are taking handmade mask donations. I know I was rather flippant about all this in the beginning, but things are rapidly getting out of control and dangerous. I still believe that I am at a very low risk level for getting the illness, but I worry for people like Kalie. They are putting themselves at risk every day and this virus is very contagious. The numbers keep going up and we've almost hit 200,000 cases and around 4,000 deaths across the nation; I'm starting to get scared. When will this end? I'm seeing about hitting up Joanne Fabrics to pick up a mask kit to send some over to Carle. I just sit inside all day it's the least I can do.

My friend's grandfather passed away this morning. She is dealing. She said that he was doing worse and worse the past couple of days and now he is out of pain. She also said her dad is keeping busy and she thinks it hasn't quite hit him or her grandma yet. I feel for them. This can't be easy to deal with.

I have an update on Andrew. They found him. As it was related to me, he did not get on the plane in Mexico. Mom thinks he may have mentioned to the ticket people that he didn't live in Ohio, where his ticket was set to go. So, they worked to get on a flight to Louisville and he ended up leaving 3 days later. My aunt and uncle were alerted this a few hours after the plane landed in Ohio. Now he is back home and is hanging out in quarantine. Happy ending to a stressful story for my uncle.

Thursday April 2, 2020

I have no idea what day it is. If I wasn't keeping this journal, I wouldn't even know that we're in April now. The days blend together and I'm struggling to get any motivation to get any work done. Couple days ago, I was so sick and tired of streaming services that I just laid in bed in silence and played candy crush for 2 hours. The noise was irritating me. Mom is trying to help motivate me to do stuff but, it's not helping much. Yesterday I went outside to help mom in the garden. This is the first time I've been out in sun in a while. It felt nice and to play in the dirt again.

There's a record number of people filling for unemployment. I think it's around 6 million. I wish I could file for unemployment because I needed to save money for the internship I have planned for the fall. But because I'm a dependent and I hadn't started my job (I was supposed to start the week after the quarantine was put in place), I don't qualify. And all state parks have been closed so who knows when my job will open back up; it might stay closed all summer.

Dr. Mike published another video yesterday discussing 10 FAQ about covid-19. Apparently, there's been some weird stuff floating around. There was a viral video of a doctor washing vegetables with soap, which you shouldn't do because the vegetables absorb the soap and it's bad for you. Apparently, some gov. said drugs like ibuprofen made covid-19 symptoms worse but there's no evidence to support this. Dr. Mike also said that WHO has never recommended for the public to wear masks because it doesn't protect you from others but others from you. It leaves you with a false sense of security and there's a shortage of masks for health professionals. He also mentioned that if someone has the disease and touches your food, the likelihood that you will contract it is very low. I see people posting, shaming people for eating out and not shutting down fast food places. People will find anything to complain about just for the sake of complaining, even if it's unfounded.

I'm making a trip to Walmart today to pick up my prescription and grab stuff for my sister. My grandma made some reusable masks and dropped them off yesterday. I'm considering wearing it but at the same time, it's rather pointless. I am not sick and it's not really going to protect me from others. But I also feel bad because grandma went through all the effort to make them for us and then I'm not going to use it. I think my dad uses them because he is still dealing with older people. All healthcare workers need to take extra precautions so as not to get something from their patients and not to pass something to their patients. I also wanted to take a moment to correct myself. Somewhere previously, I think I wrote that the

Swine flu swept through the states in 1918. It was in fact the Spanish flu, not swine flu. I also learned historians have theories the Spanish flu originated in Kansas and it was called Spanish Flu because Spain was the only country that was honestly reporting its case numbers and therefore had the highest amount of cases. A comedian I follow on YouTube who goes (ginger kid) posted a video telling everyone it will be ok because the last major outbreak in 1918 lasted 2 years. He has a history degree and studied it. He said that we will come out of this because in response to that pandemic, there were technological innovations and the way the economy functioned shifted. He argues the same thing will happen here and we will be alright. They lasted 2 years so we can do it too. I'm not sure if he is right, only time will tell. I certainly hope he is though.

P.S.

Walmart has changed dramatically since the last time I was in there. Last time they had closed down some of the checkouts, but the majority were still open and both self-checkout sections were open. Today, they had closed off all but one entrance; literally using shopping carts and caution tape to create boundaries. They had signs showing where to enter and where to exit and an employee stationed outside to watch for crowds and make sure people obeyed directions. First off, what they're doing is creating a bottleneck. They said it was to encourage social distancing, but they ended up confining people to a tighter space. People had more space between them when they could come and go from any direction. Just seems counterproductive to me. Then, inside, they closed down even more checkout lines and had one self-checkout section open. Again, stupid choice. People are standing in longer lines waiting for the self-checkout because they don't want to interact with a human cashier, so they end up not being 6 feet apart and they block aisles and whatnot further into the store. I can see the decision was made out of good intentions but, it lacks any sort of common sense. It's a big old mess. And I see even more people walking around with masks. A few are wearing gloves. I do not see the point, the mask will not protect you from others so the only people who should be wearing a mask are those who have a cough, are sneezing, or are sick. Its sheer stupidity. Why can't people actually do some research other than what CNN and Fox News is telling them? I suppose that might be a bit judgmental coming from a history major but still, feels like lack of common sense to me.

Friday April 3, 2020

I saw a Trevor Noah video last night and I learned some things. I had an idea this might happen, but people are actually buying up guns. What on earth is that gonna do? Shoot at the virus? Are they expecting the purge? People are morons. I also learned that people are sending threats to Dr. Fauci because he's been open that the US did not react quickly enough to prevent the spread. People are so blinded by loyalty and buying into the crap he sells that they are rejecting plain facts. Dr. Fauci now has a security detail to protect him. The poor man is working himself ragged and doing interviews all the time. The last thing he needs is to worry about people coming to attack him.

I also learned that what Mattoon Walmart is doing is bare minimum enforcement of policy. Other stores, usually in bigger cities, have locked it down so only a certain amount of people are allowed in at a time. One person goes in for every person that comes out. They also set in place a rule that one member of the family was allowed in to shop, again to minimize the number of people that are going in. Mattoon has enforced the one entrance/exit, one jug of milk and toilet paper per visit, and closing down of some checkout lines, but none of the other things. I suppose that makes sense considering we are a low risk area, but I would think keeping things normal would be more beneficial for getting people in and out quickly then limiting the number of places people can buy things and not how many people can go in.

My trip this summer, as of 5 minutes ago, was officially cancelled. I was supposed to attend an archeological dig in Newfoundland with Dr. Holly but it's clear the world isn't going to be getting back to normal. Who knows when international travel will open back up; I was looking at attending graduate school in Europe but who knows if that will happen or even when universities will open back up if the virus is going to be cyclical. I hate this not knowing anything or not being able to plan. Its working away at my nerves.

Saturday April 4, 2020

Yesterday afternoon the CDC issued a notice for all people to wear masks when they're in public. Things must be bad if they're doing that. There's already a shortage of masks of medical professionals and now that need is going to go way up with every person in the states fighting to get one. Our local Joanne Fabrics is closed down, no longer delivering mask kits to people who want to make them which is just going to make things more chaotic. Mom said the nearest open Joanne's is in Terre Haute which is an awfully long way to go to get material. So much for staying home. Mom also told me yesterday that a lady who is a caretaker in Mattoon takes care of a person who has covid-19, but I have yet to see any reports about it. Until I see an official report because all cases have to be reported to the state, I am going to remain skeptical. Someone coughing does not covid-19 make. Doesn't hurt to be precautious though; be alert but not anxious. My dad went to the store today as we are stocking up to not have to go to the store for 2 weeks. He wore a mask and gloves. My dad hates wearing all the stuff. He told me 2 days ago that he wasn't going to wear his mask until he had to. If he is and gloves as well then, it's something serious.

I heard a couple days ago that a Navy officer reported that a case had been found on his ship and so he reported it. I am not up to date with the full story as the news is only reporting bits and pieces. If you watch CNN, they are bashing trump for firing him because he reported it. If you watch Fox, they are calling the man a traitor because apparently it let the Russians know that we were weak? I don't know, something like that. I don't watch Fox because it's nothing but lies and racist bigots. Not that I fully trust news channels like CNN has they have a clear agenda in their reporting, but I trust them lightyears more than I do Fox. I saw a video yesterday circulating that as this gentleman left the ship, as he had been immediately removed from his position, the people on the ship applauded him. I don't understand. It seems this man saved lives by reporting the case and stopping its spread early. I don't understand why the response was to then fire him. It's painful to think that people in power are more concerned

with their appearance and egos than the wellbeing of the people they have be elected to look after.

The weather was in the mid 60s yesterday so in the late afternoon I went out to help my mom plant strawberries. She bought all the produce to sell at the farmers market this summer but at this rate, who knows if a farmer's market will happen. And even if the restrictions are lifted, I wonder if people will be brave enough to venture out? I saw an ad the other day for a department store and it was an odd experience. Our world has dramatically changed in a way in which people aren't willing to get close to each other. Public places are being avoided and the only real hotspots are grocery stores and places selling essential items. The thought of going to a department store for a new pair of shoes or a summer outfit is...odd. When I see advertisements, my first thought when I see people next to each other, no matter when the ad was filmed, is that they aren't standing 6 feet apart. It's odd. Covid-19 has been shoved down our throats and nothing else has been reported on for weeks. It's all anyone can think about. It's a looming shadow ready to swallow us whole. Social media is full of shaming, people panicking and looking for a scapegoat. A couple weeks ago, I was thinking about graduation, graduate school, an internship. Now I think about my grandpa who lives near Quincy who refuses to take isolation precautions or wear a mask even though he is at high risk for contraction and death by this virus. My other grandpa, who is also at high risk, refuses to get out of the car when my grandma comes into town; not even just to walk up the sidewalk to see us. I think about what if they get it, none of us can be there with them or we will get sick too. The changes to my thought process happened so quickly, it's difficult. You read about epidemics and pandemics in the history books but to experience it is something else altogether. I'm a believer in hands-on learning but this is rather ridiculous.

Sunday April 4, 2020

I watched an interview this morning with Chris Cuomo, the news reporter and the brother of New York gov. He was diagnosed with covid-19 a little bit ago and he went on the air to talk about what the illness is like. He says people have a fever for days and he constantly checks his oxygen level to avoid catching pneumonia. He says nights are the hardest for him and he sleeps in short spurts all day because it's a struggle. He says he has hallucinations and is losing weight rapidly because he sweats so much. I knew the virus probably sucked but I didn't realize it was like that. I can't imagine having to go through that for 2 weeks. Chris said he had a really bad night last night, so his brother dressed up in a tutu and danced outside his house to cheer him up. The brothers may disagree about politics but it's nice to see that they really care about each other. News people also said Chris is continues work even though he's sick and exhausted.

I saw last night on Facebook that gas in some places is \$1.40; I've never seen it that low. I asked my friend if she or her family knew why the prices were so low, but she wasn't sure either. I guessed it might be because practically no one is buying gas but I'm not sure. Either way, I'm gonna top off my tank tomorrow, take advantage of the low prices. I don't think I'll ever see prices this low ever again. It's too bad that they won't stay this low, it would make commuting places a lot more wallet friendly. I'm bored out of my mind. I'm stuck at home and I

can't even hang out with my best friend. She only comes up from Tennessee 2, maybe 3 times a year. It bothers me that she's only a 5-minute drive away and we can't even hang out. It bothers me that I can't go where I want to go, that I can't visit my grandparents or my sister. Everything has been upended and I know that life will get back to normal, but I can't push aside the nagging thought that what's the point. Why should I try? Why give it the effort if there's a possibility it won't happen? Mom keeps trying to motivate me to do things, to finish my thesis and study for the GRE, but it's a struggle. It's hard to get past the thoughts that creep in.

Monday April 5, 2020

The state case map has been updated as of yesterday. There's a little over 11,000 cases in the with 70 counties reporting at least 1 case. Champaign county now has 56 cases. There's been a little under 300 deaths, but Coles is officially still sitting at 0 cases. It makes me anxious to hear the stories my mom tells me and makes me wonder if cases are going unreported. My anxiety has been getting worse over the last couple of days. First, I started having stomach problems and acid reflux. I can't sleep soundly through the night; I go to bed in the early morning hours and don't climb out of bed until 8:30 or 9 which is odd for me. Last few days I noticed that I'm having a harder time breathing, like I can't take in a full breath. I'm always on edge and I can't relax. I've struggled with anxiety since middle school, but it's been a long time since I felt like this. I considered going to my doctor and asking for anxiety medication, but they converted the Carle center I go to into a covid-19 testing center or something like that. I have no idea if my doctor is even available to meet with to discuss the possibility.

My goal is to finish the first full draft of my thesis this week. The sooner I can get it done, the better I will feel. This project is just weighing on me. Thankfully all my research is essentially done, I just need to write it. Dr. Patterson also recommended I put something together for the online research fair, so I have to put a presentation together for that. Then I just need to record my presentation and I have done everything to get my degree. I am just ready for all this to be over. I have no idea how I'm gonna get a job though. I knew I could work in a museum but now they're all closed. How am I supposed to plan for my future if I don't know if they're even going to open?

Tuesday April 7, 2020

I feel much better today. Yesterday I had a panic attack and had a little cry session. My sister also has anxiety and I talked through it with her. She recommended I get a therapy app; its help people deal with their stress, anxiety, depression, etc. on their own and will connect people to therapists should they need the extra help. It also helps that the high for today is upper 70s. It's warming up, its sunny, and the air just feels better. I didn't sleep well last night but the sun helps me feel awake and energized. I actually feel like doing something.

My sister sent through text yesterday in the family chat; Coles county has its first confirmed case. No mention of what town the person was from, but I think I'm ok. The Coles county health department released a statement that the person is being quarantined and they have alerted people who came in contact with them to the best of their ability. Everyone in my family is still operating as usual so I think we are all ok. Allergies are kicking my butt though. The

warm weather is nice, but it stirs up all the pollens and this past winter we didn't reach a full freeze, so everything wasn't killed off. I just have to make it through the next month and a half and hopefully the sinus pressure will let up. I forgot to get gas yesterday and I don't really feel like leaving the house today. Maybe I'll do it some other time.

Trump is again promoting the malaria treatment as a cure for covid-19 although there is no evidence to prove this. While it appears to have some effect in current trials, it is not a cure. Trump is also bashing Pritzker again. I didn't watch the press conference, so I have no idea what he was complaining about but I'm guessing he was mouthing off because gov. Pritzker continues to criticize him and calls on him to do more. I don't agree with everything the gov. does, but I do think he is helping Chicago. It is one of the 3 largest cities in the US and yet Chicago has a lower infection/death rate in comparison to the other large cities. It is relatively being controlled, kinda sorta, more so I think than NYC. He's doing more than this administration is doing. Trump is concerned with his ego and complaining about "nasty" questions he gets at news conferences. I can't stand him. If the decision is not made to have ballots turned in by mail, I am willing to risk infection so that my butt will be at the voting place and contribute to the effort to boot his butt out of office. His presidency is a stain on our country.

Wednesday April 8, 2020

I saw a post on Facebook the other day that only 35% of residents in Coles county are observing the stay at home order. I couldn't find any research to support this and I'm not sure if I believe it. But if you look at the things I do know, it leads to maybe the number is exaggerated but it has the right idea. Our local Walmart is not following national protocols fully and I heard a factory in Arthur was still functioning until one of the workers was diagnosed with covid-19. Although I'm wondering if their including people they see walking around in these numbers. It is important for people to get out and stretch their legs, get in the sunshine. Being outside and in nature is extremely important to our overall health. I'm reminded of the meme I saw that humans are basically big house plants. We need food, water, a safe place to live, and sunlight. The masks and the 6-foot spaces between people is meant to be precautions but we need to go outside. I see people constantly complaining and asking people spotted outside to be punished. There are some people that don't have the luxury of a lawn and no place to go outside. They need this opportunity.

Trump says this week will be the hardest week yet and from what I'm seeing, he's right. Yesterday was NYC deadliest day with a little over 700 deaths in one day. In big cities, people are going out because of the nice weather to celebrations and gathering together. In big cities that have outbreak problems, going to celebrations is incredibly stupid. Some places are cracking down; I saw a video the other day of police officers breaking a 1-year old girl's birthday party when the attendees became belligerent. I don't understand. You're in a big city where it is known cases are spreading and yet here you are being stupid and gathering together. The Wisconsin primaries were the other day and because Trump refuses to allow voting to happen by mail, people had to go in and gather to vote. Worst yet, I saw some pictures of people going in without a mask. The CDC is clear that everyone should wear masks in public because you can

be asymptomatic and spread it. Better safe than sorry. There's a difference between cautious and paranoid but people shouldn't be walking around recklessly.

Fox news is being sued for spreading false information on COVID-19. Lately they have been buckling down that the virus is under control and the precautions aren't necessary anymore. Over 700 people died in NYC yesterday. That's 200 more than the day before. In big cities, the outbreak is spreading. This thing is not under control. At all. It's an odd thought that Trump wanted to open the country by the end of this week before he was finally convinced not to. The stay at home orders have been extended until the end of this month so we will see what happens. I recently found out that some states haven't been under a stay at home order and their gov. aren't taking things very seriously. That is mind blowing. Being cautious but not anxious does not mean reckless. Stay at home orders; as boring and cabin fever-y as they might be, are very important during this time.

I saw a notice the Bernie Sanders has ended his 2020 campaign today. Honestly, I have no idea who is still in the race at this point besides Joe Biden.

I think I might go for a walk today. The high is 77 I think, and it's supposed to get cold next week. I want to take advantage of the warm weather and sunshine while it's here!

Thursday April 9, 2020

So, I have no idea what's going on with Bernie. I saw that the media said he was pulling out and that Trump was nervous because this left Biden largely unopposed. But then I see other things that Bernie is suspending his campaign to donate the funds to virus relief but will still appear on the ballot. I'm very confused what is going on. The media isn't helping things by running misleading headlines.

I didn't end up going walking yesterday but I wish that I did. A storm came through quick and hard last night. Tornado style winds, heavy rain, and lightening. Came in in maybe a half hour lasted about the same amount of time. But I brought a cold front in with it so now it's cold again and I don't particularly want to go outside.

NYC is continuing to struggle with the outbreak. Cuomo announced either yesterday or today that they are allowing everyone to vote with absentee mail in voting to protect everyone. Keep people from gathering. I see things where moronic religious people are still gathering for Easter services. I hope they all get the virus. Serves them right for being morons. No amount of church is gonna protect you from the virus. Take that lady that's "covered in Jesus's blood." We decided that were going to have a special Easter breakfast. We usually go to grandma and grandpa's house for Easter brunch but obviously that's not happening this year. Trying to get some normalcy. Last night, my mom planned a family game night over Zoom. Myself, mom, and daddy logged on from here at the house and my sister and Bro-in-law logged on from their house. We played a couple rounds of Bingo and mom had "quarantine prizes." Some of which were a slightly used lint roller, a plastic bead necklace, a couple bags of popcorn, a container of lentils, a bag of jimmy john salt and vinegar chips, and a 5-dollar bill. Bro-in-law won the first two round and my sister won the last. So, the whole box of prizes went to their house. I was

one number away from winning the last round. Daddy didn't try to win because he says if they win it then its junk that leaves the house.

More cases are popping up around central Illinois. I think I saw on the local news there was a new case in Taylorville at the correctional facility. I think it was a civilian worker and one of the officers that were positive, but I saw the article in passing so I'm not sure. I haven't heard any new reports about any local cases. ABC news said in a video that went up today that the death amount in the US has spiked again. NYC had a record day for deaths yesterday, but the video also said that it appears the curve is starting to flatten. But other big cities are still being watched. But the prediction for death count is now around 60,000 instead of the 100,000 predicted a couple weeks ago. There's plenty of conspiracy theories as to why the big difference. Some say that they gave a purposely inflated number so they could come back later and say we only had *this many* cases instead of the 100,000 predicted. Dr. Fauci said that when working with models and predictions, numbers will be big just by their nature. Now with more data, the numbers will be lower, and I think I believe Dr. Fauci, but I would not put it past politicians and this administration to take advantage of the lowering numbers and use as it as a campaign strategy. I'm so sick of all the politics being thrown into this. Since when did death and trying to keep people well turn into political ammunition.

Dr. Fauci talked about in an interview with the Today Show that anti-body tests are being developed to tell people if they have been infected with Covid-19, but not necessarily currently infected. This test can help identify which people have had and identify individuals who have developed an immunity to the virus and allow people to return to society. He hopes for mass testing and maybe it will happen, maybe it won't. In the interview, they discussed the likelihood of the world ever returning to normal. Dr. Fauci suggested getting rid of handshakes all together, to limit personal contact. But I don't think so. This is not the first time the world has gone through something like this. There was one 100 years ago and yet we still have handshakes, crowded concerts, Mosh pits. I think if this was something people were really concerned about, there would have been mass changes in the way human interact put in place during that last epidemic. It makes little sense in my mind to have a pandemic and then not do anything and decide I'm gonna wait until the next one to do something. I think it's more people did something in the immediate aftermath such as limiting touching. But once you get into generations that were too young to remember or weren't born, things will just repeat and will go back to the way they were before. I do not think any changes they suggest will stick. Historically, they haven't outside food and water sanitations (black plague). It will be a waiting game to see what happens, but I hope if anything, this will now force parents to vaccinate their kids. Stupid idiots.

Friday April 10, 2020

I've been struck how people have been brought together by the virus. People are posting positive messages everywhere Businesses are offering free or discounted kids' meals to help feed kids since schools are shut down. Starbucks started offering free coffee in the mornings to medical personnel. People have been working to make masks to donate to hospitals as their supplies are running out fast. I saw the other day deployed troops are now

being forced to wear masks, but the government doesn't have the supplies to give so calls have been going out for people to make masks to donate to them. Everyone has had to adapt so fast the changes that just keep coming. Some have gotten super religious and are posting scripture all the time. Saying how fasting and prayer will help the nation recover faster. The church has asked everyone, not just members, to fast today and pray for a recovery to the economy, the virus ending, and reduce the amount of deaths. Maybe college has made me cynical but, I don't think fasting is going to do anything. Prayers won't do anything. Thoughts and prayers haven't stopped school shootings. You can pray all day long, but it means nothing if you don't get up and do. Prayers won't make a vaccine, science will. Prayers won't stop people from going out in large groups when they aren't supposed to. Other people have become bogged down in conspiracy theories and politics. I'm just sick of all of it.

Life has been so wrapped up in the virus that normal everyday things seem so odd. Yesterday I saw in the local news somewhere in central IL, a man had been arrested in a shooting at someone's home. My first thought was, why was he outside. In just the month of quarantine and social distancing, I've been conditioned to think that being around people is bad. Normal crimes seem odd. People interacting with other people is odd. Anything outside of the virus and staying at home is odd. Sometimes I wonder how long it will take for my mentality to change from suspecting everyone from having a sickness.

My friend wanted to go to the movies today, but the theater has been closed until further notice. I suggested she come with me to turn in my textbooks, a chance to get out of the house and stretch our legs. But it has been postponed for a bit. One of her professors sent out outlines to be edited and she got 2 papers written by white southern boys on religion, politics, and AIDS. So needless to say, extremely uneducated outlines and they're gonna take some work so who knows if we end up going out today. It's still chilly out, I'm wishing for warm weather again. My allergies are kicking my butt. I am taking all the sinus medication to help the congestion in my head and help the headache I've had since yesterday.

Saturday April 11, 2020

My friend and I ended up going out yesterday. It was nice being able to get out in the fresh air. We stood at the pond for a couple hours just chatting; the water is relaxing to watch. It was nice actually getting to spend time and talk to each other. We're gonna try and get together again at some point, try to keep in contact so we don't go crazy from just working all the time.

I've seen videos of Trump talking about reopening the economy soon. I understand that people need to go back to work for things to pick back up again but I think nothing should open until the doctors say it's alright. They're the ones who are on the front lines and have the best idea how things are progressing.

Easter is coming up and it feels weird to not spend the day before cooking and getting ready to go to grandma's. You never realize how much the little things mean to you until you can't do them anymore.

I saw news update that Coles county case count is now at 3. The news report I heard a couple days ago was correct. Of the 3, 2 were employees at a correctional division. One was a deputy sheriff and the other a civilian employee. As of the report, no inmates or correctional officers show signs of being ill and those that tested positive are being quarantined. But the article says that is likely the number of cases in Coles County is going to go up. My friend told me the Champaign-Urbana police department. A couple of officers had to deal with a drunken man who had a fever and was coughing. All of them are in quarantine until someone gets tested and see if covid-19 is involved. Last I heard, the Champaign case amount is in the 40s. I think I agree that numbers are going to keep going up until a vaccine is made. Hopefully as it warms up, it'll drive down case numbers and allow time for a vaccine to be made.

Postscript:

According to the 6 o'clock news, there have been 1300 new cases in Illinois in the last 24 hours and 80 some people have died in the same amount of time. Thankfully those numbers aren't close to that of NYC but it's still scary. Scary to think that it's starting to pick up momentum someplace I live. Luckily, cases that are popping up are largely limited to the Chicago area and the larger cities such as Springfield and Edwardsville. The news station also has a notice telling people to not touch their face and disinfect frequently. It makes me pause and think. What kind of a world are we living in where its normal to have health warnings playing? What will the world be like after? Will we even get there? There are ads that say we will get through this and have parades and parties again, but I'm wondering is that the case? Will we trust being in close quarters with people again? Will employers change their policy on sick leave after this? Will they not and we have a repeat?

Sunday April 12, 2020

Today is Easter. It feels weird not making Easter lunch, not making my traditional eclairs, or going to grandmas. But it's nice to have somewhat normalcy by having our downside version of Eastern Breakfast lunch. Mom put together an Easter egg hunt for me this morning. She hid 11 eggs and each egg had a riddle. On a cardboard box were clouds with words on them. Some of the words were right, most were wrong. The right answers were identified by a sticker on the back of the cloud. One you find all 11, you can open the box. They were all pretty easy riddles. Of the 11, I only drew wrong answer on 3 of them but was able to figure them all out on my own. Inside the box, they put a certificate of completion from the "Easter Bunny" and 20 bucks for a future night out. Once I got through it, we put everything back together and took it over to my sister's house. Bro-in-law had to left for work right when we were pulling up so we drove around until my sister picked up the phone so we could make sure she was home. When we knew for certain she was there, we hid eggs in her front yard and taped the instructions written in the form of a poem from the Easter bunny. It was daddy's idea to write it as a poem, but mom and I came up with the actual lines. Once everything was set up, mom knocked on the door and we took off before my sister would see us. We drove around the block to make sure she heard mom knocking and found the stuff. It was fun to see her out front searching for eggs. Although we can't be together like we usually are, we can still do things for each other. My

sister is going to hide all the eggs again for Bro-in-law when he gets home from work and then they're going to solve the riddles together.

It supposed to rain later and it's a good night for video games. Every Sunday evening for the last few weeks, I've been playing a chapter of Harry potter Lego. I'm not doing any schoolwork on Sundays to protect my sanity and I like the harry potter Lego games. Although I don't know if I want to play that or RuneScape. They have an Easter event going.

Yesterday, the death count reached 20,00 nationally. This happens in the midst of Trump running his mouth about opening the country and get the economy up and running again by May 1st. Not that I've ever listened to him but now I've really stopped listening. Yesterday he was tweeting reviewing which news channel on Fox he liked. I don't know if it was yesterday or the day before, but he was talking about giving a pardon to this one dude. The TV show on Netflix called Tiger King has picked up steam and everyone is talking about it. I've never seen it and I have no desire too. It about this redneck dude that runs a tiger sanctuary that was accused of killing a competitor and I think it wasn't determined if he did it or not but he's in prison. Trump wants to give him a pardon. The moron is desperately trying to distract people from his failure with the virus by talking and doing random things. Trying to win people over by freeing someone that's hot in popular culture right now. The idiot. I hope he get covi-19.

2020 is trying to kill us. Massive storms are passing through creating damaging winds and rains. The storm that passed through here a couple days ago went over parts of several states and caused some tornados. I saw a report yesterday that a volcano somewhere became active and was spewing smoke and ash. Earlier this year there was a helicopter crash killing a famous basketball player. Tornados hit Nashville in either February or March. There were wildfires that ravaged Australia for months. I think I remember seeing multiple hurricanes were being forecasted for the summer. On top of the virus it's been a bad flu season. It's mother nature's revenge. As people has been inside, pollution has been pulled back and the waters are clearing, particularly in Italy. Dolphins have been spotted there. Maybe nature is trying to off us so she can fully fix herself. Who knows?

Monday April 13, 2020

Mother Nature is at it again. Storms have been hitting the south hard. Tornados were reported last night and killed at least 18 people. It was reported that there 40 reported tornados covering all the southern states. The bad weather continues today along the East coast.

I'm watching John Oliver's video he put up yesterday. I learned Trump created a program to give loans to business which they wouldn't have to pay back if they continued to keep paying employees. Trump bragged that it was going well and smoothly. Of course, by now it's no secret he's just trying to save face when everything is falling apart. The forms for the program went out the night before and banks were completely confused about what the heck is going on. People are struggling financially, and millions are trying to or already have filed for

unemployment. Oliver also pointed that when people go on unemployment, they lose their health insurance provided by their jobs. I hadn't thought about this before. Health insurance is so important on a normal basis but incredibly more so when a pandemic is out and about. I also learned Amazon is a horrific company that had horrible paid sick leave guidelines. The person had to be quarantined or test positive for the virus but it's incredibly difficult to get tested. A gentleman helped to organize a union strike and he was immediately fired, and notes leaked from a board meeting to make him the face of it because he wasn't smart and inarticulate. I'm thinking I'm going to start boycotting their stuff. Oliver brings up a good point, I wonder what will change after this is over: paid sick leave, universal health care, the unemployment system.

Trump is now attacking Fauci because Fauci said earlier this weekend that lives could have been saved if social distancing had happened sooner in an interview with CBS. In a tweet (what else) he called what Fauci said and added a hashtag #FireFauci. Fauci has been working incredibly hard at the expense of his own health. It's pathetic that a qualified doctor can't speak truthfully about an important topic because the ignoramus man at the top can't stand to be contradicted. I watched the interview that was in question. He carefully danced around the topic and never called out Trump by name. He talked about some things that were being done right and when asked about doing things sooner he said of course earlier action would've helped but nothing can be done, and we must make do with what the world is now. I felt he was diplomatic in his answer and clearly was being careful because of the moron in the white house. I think his responses were being cherry picked and framed in a negative way by Trump and then by CBS when reporting about the tweet. The majority of Americans at this point approve of Fauci and his handling of things. I'm afraid that if Trump manages to turn people against Fauci, he will be fired and an unqualified idiot, probably with no medical experience, will be put in his place. The US needs a competent person leading us through this. Nowhere in that description falls Trump or Pence.

On the Homefront, Practically the entire southern portion of the state is under a wind advisory today. Yesterday 10 new cases were confirmed in Macon county bring it up to 35. Of that, 25 cases are in senior living care facility. Champaign county, as of yesterday is at 85 and 2 deaths. There haven't been any new cases reported. There are currently 40 people who have it and 43 have recovered from it. 8 are hospitalized. 58% of people affected are white and 61% are female. On Sunday, there were 43 deaths and had the largest one-day increase with 1672 cases. Pritzker noted that the increase is due to an increase in testing. But he also says Chicago may be nearing the peak. He says numbers show that people are following social distancing. As of last night, when the article went up, Illinois has 20,852 known cases and 720 people have died from it. The total US case count is 558526. The next highest case count of the moment is Spain with 169496 cases. The irresponsibility of the administration and not taking action fast enough is clearly evident in the case numbers. The lowest count is Yemen with only 1 reported case.

A fire was reported in Rantoul in what used to be a Mexican restaurant last night. It's under investigation. At this moment, it seems a little odd. With everything closed, it seems odd a fire happened. Maybe electrical issues?

Tuesday April 14,2020

The white house released a statement that Trump has no intention of firing Fauci. Clearly, they have no control on that man. I saw a press conference in which a female reporter called him out on his statement that the president should have total control. He refused to answer the question and got angry at her. That's all he does at these press conferences, belittle and bully reporters because they try counter the illusion that he has everything under control. I think he fully realizes that he is unqualified for this job but is too prideful to admit defeat. He thinks asking for help is a sign of weakness. I wonder if its rooted in his childhood. Either way, he is unfit to be president. Fauci went on air to say that he had been misinterpreted in the CBS interview. They're talking about the news outlets but I'm sitting here like, the man in charge said it first and is no one going to say anything? The poor man is trying his best with his hands tied behind his back.

Gov. Cuomo went on the air yesterday to say that NYC is seeing signs of the curve starting to flatten and we shouldn't make the virus about politics. Apparently, Trump posted on twitter that the governors can't reopen the states and the economy; only the president can. This was in response the NE coast banning together across the states to create a plan to crack down on social distancing and getting the NE sector back on its feet. All this was done without talking to Trump. Cuomo pointed out, and frankly I agree with him, the gov. Are the ones who shut the states down in the first place, not the Trump. If the gov. didn't have that power and the power in state's rights, then it would be trumps call. But as this is, at this point, a state's rights issue, trump has no say in this. He didn't want to shut things down before it is frankly childish that he wants all the credit for reopening the country and the economy. All he is thinking about is his ego. The gov. is in a better position to react because the virus hit different parts of the country with different strengths. They are better situated to understand the issues in their state and how to respond. This president was throwing rolls of paper towels to hurricane survivors, what does he possibly know about handling a national crisis.

I heard The Coles county case count is up to 7 but I haven't seen any proof of this. Champaign county now has 37 active cases, 48 recovered, and 9 in the hospital. Most of the reported cases seem to fall within the 30-70 age range. Transportation to places like retail stores and recreation have decreased dramatically and people visiting parks, in Champaign county anyway, has gone up 112%. The state shows similar trends put the park count has only gone up 24%.

I've been thinking about teaching and schools a lot recently. I never really understood how difficult homeschooling is. I don't think I've really appreciated how difficult schooling must have been in the 19th century. You certainly learn to appreciate something when its gone.

Wednesday April 15, 2020

Coles county is now up to 19 cases. No idea where those cases are located though. There's a rumor 4 of those are medical professionals but I haven't seen any verification for this. It does take me back how fast the case amount is rising. I really want to know where these

cases are being reported but I don't know where to find that info. WCIA news only reports on champaign Urbana in detail.

There's a big debate about when to open the US again. Trump keeps mouthing off that he wants things open by May 1st. I think that decision should lay squarely on the recommendation of doctors and then gov's. Should open their states as it permits. Each state is facing a different situation so each should be different. The idiot in the white house needs to keep his paws off the mess he helped create. He's not the only one, but if people in leadership positions had acted sooner, then the US would not have the highest case count in the world right now. If we want to make it through this and not see another surge of cases, we have to wait until the medical personnel who are seeing and working with the virus everyday say that it's alright.

I presented my honors thesis at the online research fair. I put together my PowerPoint and notes for presenting two days ago. Dr. Patterson said I did a good job so I would take that as a good thing. I also am getting published in Historia with my votive offering paper I wrote for my Egypt class. I think I'm pretty satisfied with how I'm ending my final semester at Eastern, considering the circumstances.

Thursday April 16, 2020

It's snowing. It's the middle of April and it's snowing. I dislike cold weather. So much for the virus dying under hot weather.

I went on the Coles County health departments webpage, and I'm confused again. People on Facebook are saying we have 19 cases, but the last update given by the health department was on April 11 and there were 5 cases confirmed. I understand that was 4 days ago and things change but, wouldn't there be an update? Maybe there waiting for it to reach a certain number before posting another update? I did learn that the Mattoon school district is expecting to have kids back in school in May. That explains why the at home learning they are putting together are mandatory. They need some kind of grades and making sure kids get done what they need to. I watched a video Mattoon middle school principal in which he was talking about the packets of work for kids. They have until the end of the year to complete the packet and when they do, they're done. When they come back to school, the students who haven't completed it will work with teachers to finish it and they will receive a complete or incomplete for all that work. I have mixed opinions about this. On one hand, I understand continuing their education while schools are out. Learning is incredibly important. But teachers are only reachable in official "office hours" for 2 hours a day, 5 days a week. That is pointless. How are students supposed to get help with 2 hours a day? On the other hand, having mandatory work requires parents to help as teachers can't teach and, in some cases, this is not possible. My friend is an example. Both of her parents work so she has to teach lessons to her 6th grade little brother and somewhat to her high school senior younger brother. She feels she can't go home to Tennessee because someone has to help the boys since the packets are mandatory. I think if they're going to make these things mandatory, there needs to be optional skype or Zoom sessions with teachers in which students can do their homework with a teacher or receive help.

But that's assuming the student has access to reliable internet. I don't have an answer to this. The way our current system is set up, it is not friendly to remote learning.

I saw a report this morning that republicans in Michigan are jamming up traffic around the capital to protest the gov. enacting a stay at home order because it: it infringes on their personal rights, there is no consideration that some counties are not being effected so they don't need the order, and by labeling some jobs as essential and others not, people that can work safely are not being allowed to. I'm sitting here like suck it up man. I'm 4 hours from Chicago and yet we are still subject to stay at home orders. And being 6 feet away from each other is not going to stop people from getting the virus. There are tons of photos of the protest and thankfully most of it is negative. These idiots were purposely blocking an ambulance on an emergency call. It's disgraceful. You can be salty about it, but don't purposefully block an ambulance. People in the photographs were wearing masks; if it's really so safe take ff your mask man. Just shut your trap and if you're going to complain, complain about it in private. Or even write a letter to the gov. Don't be stupid.

People trying to claim unemployment nationwide and having issues. I watched a video of Trevor Noah where he talked about people are calling at all times of the day or night, calling constantly and nonstop for the past couple weeks. People can't get through. The online site is crashing because the software is 40 years old and it can't handle all the traffic. People are on the verge of bankruptcy and financial ruin because of this. When I hear stuff like this, I'm reminded how blessed I am that both of my parents work as my dad is considered essential medical personnel and my mom can work from home. Certainly, makes me think about all the people that are struggling.

Saturday April 18, 2020

Yesterday my friend came over and we had a video game day. We played Mario party on the switch and we talked for the majority of the time. It's nice being able to talk to each other. Texting isn't really able to do it. We made a medication run to Walmart; my friend ran out of decongestant. I wore my mask for the first time. A friend of my friend's mom made her family masks for free, and my friend grabbed me one too. We have matching Ravenclaw facemasks that are washable and have a built-in air-filter. That have the soft elastic too to go around the ears. This one stays on my face better than the tie ones my grandma made for us. That one just falls off my face and I'm not sure how to tie it in a way that it will stay on. It is odd for me to think that now a thought that crosses through my mind before I leave the house is if I have my mask or not. I wonder if I'll always carry a mask on me after this.

Yesterday the school system made the call that they will not be coming back for in person classes for the rest of this year. Once they complete the packets, they are done with this school year. I wonder how this is gonna go for the seniors at the high school. They were probably in the middle of projects and papers. I wonder how they are going to complete, if they're going to complete them, and if they will be prepared for what comes next. Goodness college level courses is nothing like high school. They need to know certain skills, how to write research papers, able to do algebra, etc. And since the rest of the school year is cancelled, I've

been thinking about color guard tryouts. The high school can't hold them, Eastern can't hold them, I can't hold them at the middle school. My 8th graders were so excited about starting at the high school and now there's a chance it might not happen for them. They deserve better than this.

The journal Gazette announced that the case count is now up to 14 in Coles county but there still isn't a report from the Coles County health department. It's bugging me that I don't know where these cases are. The people posting on Facebook are acting like the cases are in our back yard, but Mattoon is not the only town in Coles County. It's possible that case count here could only be the 1 that was rumored about last week. Eastern's DEN newspaper is doing its own thing for corona in that you can directly access stories or something like that. I have no intention of using it. Everyone knows the DEN is full of crap reporting. I get the people that write in it are learning, but the editors allow some pretty ignorant crap to get published. People get misquoted all the time and stories are sometimes incorrect. I have a friend that works on it and I do my best to be supportive of her but sometimes things they do makes it very hard. Maybe I just have an issue with authority. I don't know.

Trump is at it again. Yesterday he was telling 3 states that were protesting the stay at home orders to liberate themselves over twitter. He is continually running his mouth that the President has ultimate authority and that he wants to reopen the country. He and some of his advisors even said some states can reopen before May 1st. The more I see, the more I think everything should stay closed until closer to June to make sure we won't have another spike in cases. And encouraging people to gather and to overthrow their democratic governments is an incredibly dangerous political statement. He should be telling people to put up with orders now so that we can come back stronger later. He should be promoting unity rather than riots. My friend also told me yesterday Trump hijacked a shipment of PPE headed to Canada in international waters to bring it here. Canada has an outbreak too! They need stuff too! We are short because of this administration's short comings. If this is true, it wouldn't surprise me if Canada came up to the boarder and glared very angrily at him after this is over. This is going to majorly impact international relations with them. He also pulled funding to WHO a couple days ago because he is blaming them for the massive outbreak and the unpreparedness of the US. This is the worst possible time to pull funding for an organization that is at the top of everything coordinating efforts to combat the virus. And they have done nothing wrong. Medical professionals have been warning leaders something like this would happen for years. Obama had people working to combat this. This man is so obsessed with his image and ego that he has no sense for the human cost of his actions and choices. He is letting his anger towards people criticizing him that he is refusing to give gov. supplies and equipment to help medical professionals. There are over 700,000 cases in the US over 37,000 deaths. Worldwide, there have 2.25 million cases and over 155,000 deaths. We elected a moronic tv show host to office who is so self-absorbed he is afraid of acknowledging he is afraid and unprepared. He has turned other world leaders against him because of his horrific attitude and comments. It honestly surprises me other nations still speak to us. It makes me ashamed to be an American.

Gov. Pritzker has banded with other Midwest states to work out a reopening plan and creating a kickstart for the economy again. It nice to see everyone banding together to create a solution to this massive problem.

Sunday April 19, 2020

Protesters are at it again and its spreading. People in Springfield are now protesting the stay at home order. Honestly, I'm surprised. Outside of Chicagoland, I believe Springfield has the next highest case amount. I would think they would understand how dangerous the virus in and how quickly it spreads. We were doing so well for the first couple of weeks and now people are losing their minds. If people would stay inside and stop spreading it, the faster we can open the country back up. And this is the wake of 30,357 confirmed cases in Illinois, 1,290 deaths and it spans over 93 counties (WCIA News article). I still haven't seen any official announcements about the case count of Coles county. As far as I know, it's still at 14 as reported by the journal gazette.

I have no idea what day it is. I thought today was Saturday for a few hours. Every day feels like a year and a few hours at the same time. Everything is changing so fast and I can't keep up with the changing news. I'm just mentally exhausted despite the fact I haven't really done anything. Staring at the same walls, doing the same thing day after day, don't get to talk to anyone new or feel like I have any purpose. I'm just trying to make it from one day to the next.

My sister and Bro-in-law bought a switch. They order in early April; managed to get one before they sold out. According to the news, switches have been completely sold out and the US won't be getting anymore until summer. It coincided with the release of the new animal crossing game. Everyone who owns a switch has been talking about it. My sister has been playing it a lot and she loves it. I don't quite understand the appeal. I call it a game about indentured servitude for furrries. It feels like busy work; something to do when you can go a few days straight playing nothing but the sims and then be perfectly content to not play it again for 6 months. I suppose whatever floats your boat. And people need things that make them feel good right now.

Monday April 20, 2020

It feels like the tension between protesters and competent people is ramping up. I saw a photo and a video this morning of protesters driving around, I believe this was in Michigan, but I could be wrong. It was a blond lady decked out in USA apparel in a silver truck. She had a homemade sign that read "FREE LAND". I think she was part of a larger "operation gridlock". A group of nurses dressed in their scrubs stood in a cross walk blocking their way; a group of 3 maybe, it was hard to tell how many were there from the photos. There was definitely at least 2. They stood there silently as this lady screamed at them from the window of the truck. She was yelling at them that what they were doing and supporting was communism and to go to China for that. It's disgraceful. A lady whose husband is part of the refrigerated trucks tasked with collecting the bodies of people who died from the virus posted a video on twitter chastising the protesters. In bigger cities this is incredibly serious and those who catch the virus have a chance of dying from it completely alone. I saw another photo of a lady holding a sign at

a protest saying she wanted a haircut. It's pathetic; the sheer entitlement of these protesters. Although I did see a photo from the protests in Springfield of a gentlemen holding a sign saying, "These guys are idiots." He was referring to the protesters around him. He was decked out in a very nice and expensive looking face/breathing mask while everyone around him weren't wearing one. At least there's a glimmer of hope.

Trump and the gov's. Are at it again. Yesterday, Trump announced the US had made it past the peak and he was looking to open the country soon. The gov's., at least the ones who have enacted the stay at home order, are practically screaming at him that the states are not ready. This a theme that has been running through his entire presidency. Everyone is at each other's throats. Republicans are yelling at the democrats, democrats and bashing republicans, and politicians are so wrapped up in their own personal egos that no one is seeing the bigger picture. Why is saving people's lives a political issue? Why do people feel they have the right to belittle others? Why can't everyone just shut up for 2 seconds and realize the stupidity of their own bias?

Tuesday April 21, 2020

Georgia gov. announced yesterday he will be opening back up nail salons, hair salons, massage parlors, etc. come next week or the week after. This is coming from the same man who said a couple weeks ago that he didn't instate a stay at home order because he didn't realize people could be asymptomatic. This was weeks after the CDC has been saying you can show no symptoms from 2-14 days. He's gonna set off another wave of cases because he couldn't stand his ground and make people stay home. Georgia isn't the only state that's talking about doing this. I can't remember which state, but another was gearing up to start the first wave of non-essential business openings. Part of me wonders how many people will actually start going out once the restrictions are lifted. Hopefully the sane people will stay home. The CDC says numbers need to go down over a period of 2 weeks and nowhere has shown this. Nowhere. Trump also issued an immigration ban yesterday. In his press conference today, he kept yammering on and on about how this would protect the ability of Americans to get jobs. I thought as soon as the outbreak happened, immigration would have stopped immediately. Most of the cases in the US have been traced back to people traveling to and from Europe. To me, that would have been a clear sign to stop all travel, including immigration, until the numbers began to go down across the board. Maybe he just stopped international travel but not immigration? I don't know. The whole thing is confusing. Nothing this man or his administration do make any sort of sense.

My parents have been working on converting the shed outside my room into a greenhouse for my mom. Mom had to go the office on Champaign, so I had to help dad with construction. We tore out of the East wall and scooted it back about a foot and then worked to put it back together. I think the goal is to get 2 more windows in tomorrow before the rain. I could never do construction. All that stuff confuses me. It was nice getting spend time outside and spend time with my dad though.

Wednesday April 22, 2020

I think I'm feeling a bit caged in. Last night I had a dream that I was staying in a cozy inn with some friends. I remember I was staying in a room with Kalie and her sister Keila. When it came time to leave, I would forget something in the room, so I had to go up and down 4 sets of stairs 4 different times. Then when I got back down, I couldn't find the suitcase I had already brought down. On the search for that, I ran into Bruce Lee's ghost who was throwing knives at me while going on and on about how he became a Swedish chef. Somewhere along the way Kalie and her sister became bellhops. Then when I was finally ready to go, I couldn't find my car. It was an odd dream. I think the cabin fever is starting to get the better of me.

The urge to reopen the country is starting to gain traction although polls are still saying about 66% of the country are worried about the country opening too fast. Trump and Cuomo are starting to reach an agreement about how to handle testing. Trump has agreed that states are solely responsible for testing and the federal government will help manage getting materials for testing. I'm relieved to see some cooperation is happening. Although I saw a segment from Fox News this morning about this idiot attorney general from Missouri. The moron. He announced a suit against China for the coronavirus outbreak. He claims they were purposefully spreading false information/ withholding information leading to the pandemic. The entire fault lies with the Chinese. That is the stupidest thing I have ever heard. How did this man become attorney general? First off, covid-19 was not created as a biochemical weapon meant to kill off the Western world. It is a virus that developed on its own. Second, the spread is because of tourism and trading. China did not purposefully infect anyone. Third, the strain was first identified in 2019. How could they know upon the very first case that it was something entirely new and not pneumonia? Fourth, they have literally no proof to support a suit. You have to have some sort of proof; documents, witness testimony, video evidence, etc. He has none of that. Just a bunch of rumors pushed by rightwing media that this was a hoax and a political weapon used by the left and by China. This is just irritating. Why can't people just use their brains and not parrot what they're told? Especially people in power.

Current stats: The world is sitting at over 2.5 million cases. The US has 826,248 cases. Champaign has 13 active cases, 6 currently hospitalized, 79 people recovered, and 4 deaths. The state of Illinois has 33,059 cases and 1,468 deaths. Chicago has over 13,000 cases and a little over 500 deaths. According to the county map published by the state of Illinois, Coles is sitting at 17 cases and no deaths. Not sure how up to date the map is; there's no date or time stamp on it. But I assume it's fairly up to date as there is a link to watch Pritzker's daily press conference. I was thinking about this the other day but it's odd to think of an Illinois gov. as reliable. Illinois doesn't have the best track record with gov's.

Thursday April 23, 2020

It feels like Monday was just yesterday. My sense of time is completely out of whack. Time feels fast and slow all at the same time.

Gov. Pritzker announced today that the stay at home order is being extended until May 31st but starting May 1st some restrictions will be lifted. Select state parks will open as well as some nonessential business that can adhere to social distancing. I think the slow and steady

route is the best way to go; make sure we don't have another spike in cases. Hopefully this means that Lincoln Log will open again, and I can go back to work. It'll give me something to do and it can bolster my bank account. But with my luck, since its technically still a museum, it probably won't. I saw some people very upset about this. One guy in particular was ranting about how Chicago should just be removed from the state and the stay at home order lifted immediately and the gov. was an idiot for extending the order. First, if Chicago was removed from the state, over half of the state's income and most of its tourist industry would go poof. I don't think people realize this. Second, Chicago is not the only place with cases. The cases we have now are ones that have appeared while we are under stay-at-home orders. If that was lifted without improvement in case numbers, it's just going to skyrocket. And, this is all when we have barely any testing being done so we have actually no idea how many people have or had it. I really wasn't a fan of this in the beginning but the more I see of it, the more I think these measures are necessary to make sure everyone doesn't get it. It may not be as deadly as the flu but its twice as infectious and can easily turn to pneumonia which has a higher kill rate I believe.

Lately I've been thinking about people who are either single parents or have small children in their house. A friend of mine works as a psychologist at a school and she has 5-year-old, maybe 6, at home with her. Her daughter can't go anywhere, can't see anyone and she rightfully gets bored. She wants to go in and talk to her mom or play with her, but she has to work remotely and has to tell her to go. She is getting frustrated at her daughter, though she recognizes this isn't all her daughter's fault, and her daughter is bored and feeling lonely. She posted on Facebook about how they are both struggling to cope. I am fortunate in that I am my parents' youngest child and it's just me and parents at home. I have my own things to work on and I can entertain myself while my parents are at work. I don't know what it's like trying to keep a younger person occupied and entertained while also finding the time to make sure they do their homework, like my friend has to. I have seen people on various social media platforms bashing people who live alone or with no children for complaining about being home and bored. I couldn't imagine doing what they do, it has to be difficult. But I also think they're not acknowledging the people who live alone go through difficulties too. Being alone for so long can send people into depression and can flare anxiety issues. They might not have a toddler to think about, but everyone has their own issues and difficulties. Its frankly rather rude to dismiss others for explaining how they feel about something and saying that they're having a hard time. Everyone deals with hardship differently and during this time, everyone is having a hard time no matter what their circumstances are.

Friday April 24, 2020

I have no energy. All I want to do is lay in bed all day. I haven't brushed my hair since Monday, I think. It's been long enough that I don't remember when exactly I last did. I have stuff to do to get my paper ready for *Historia*, but I don't want to do it. I need to final edits of my thesis, but I don't want to. I need to pick up my prescription, but I don't want to leave the house. I don't particularly want to eat, just go back to bed. I don't think my parents would understand if I tried to explain what I was feeling to them. I think mom would try and tell me it's a lack of motivation. Maybe it is. Maybe it isn't. All I know is I want to go back to sleep.

The moron in chief is at it again. Within the last 10 hours he suggested the sunlight, ultraviolet light, and injecting disinfectants can cure the virus.... The man that was elected leader of the free world suggested during a press briefing that the entire nation drink or inject themselves with bleach. Lysol had to publicly release a statement telling people to not ingest their products under any circumstances. Yesterday, Stephen Colbert mentioned drinking bleach as a joke because of Trumps outrageous idea to tell people to take hydroxychloroquine without there being any concrete medical evidence that it works. His drugs can cause heart failure which is why no one should be taking it unless it is prescribed by a licensed professional. Somehow, we've gone from eating tide pods to drinking bleach. Mitch McConnell is digging himself further into his grave. A couple days ago he suggested struggling states declare bankruptcy and a lot of people are upset with him. I've never liked him, and I think he's an old man too focused on furthering his career and political party that he has lost touch with the people. Maybe this will be the final nail in the coffin that boots him from office.

As people continue to complain about the extended stay at home order, the first death from covid-19 was announced this morning for Coles County. The case count is now up to 18. I'm honestly not sure how Coles, with Mattoon and Charleston being the biggest towns, has more cases then Effingham which only has 5. People are constantly in and out of Effingham. Maybe it's because people travel through it but don't really stop. Sangamon, which is where Springfield and the protests are is up to 76 cases. St. Clair, which is right by St. Louis is at 330 cases, which isn't entirely surprising. Champaign has 99 cases but surprisingly Peoria only has 54. Chicago is sitting at 15,000 cases are so and the surrounding areas have around 1,000 or higher. Rock Island has a surprising number of cases sitting at 247. I wonder why that is. The county map run by the state hasn't been updated to include the death this morning so who knows, the numbers may be higher than we thought.

Saturday April 25, 2020

I feel better today. I brushed my hair today and everything. I had another panic/cry session yesterday and I think it helped. I used the app my sister recommended, and it felt like it helped. I could talk out what was bothering me without actually having to talk to anyone.

Georgia lifted their stay at home order yesterday. Some businesses are opening up, some are taking extra precautions by limiting the people inside and requiring masks. I think this will go 2 ways, either of which isn't going to fun. Either, the case numbers will not go up because people are making the choice not to go out and conservatives will take this as ammunition to support their case the lockdowns were a breach of civil liberties and attack democrats, or case numbers will spike dramatically because people are interacting in a state that is already having issues coping with the case/death amounts. Either way, it's going to tick me off. Why can't we just follow the guidelines the scientists leading the charge to combat the virus set? The numbers need to show a steady trend of going down for 2 weeks before stay at home orders should be lifted. People are just stupid. At least it was comforting to hear Trevor Noah talk about how the people protesting this stuff is a very small minority.

I'm going to try and finish all my work for the rest of the semester today. I'm done with school.

Sunday April 26 2020

I finished my PowerPoint yesterday. It took some jumping through hoops, but I figured out how to record myself on my laptop then download the file into the PowerPoint. Now I just have a final essay for my class, final edits for my thesis and revisions for Historia to do. I'm tired of school. I just want to be done.

Reports have been circulating the past couple of days North Korean leader Kim Jung Un was in critical condition after a heart surgery. Today, reports have been circulating that he died. Honestly, I'm not sure how I feel about it. If he is dead, this is a chance for North Korea to be freed from the family's dictator grasp. The country is barely functioning and entirely militaristic. Now, maybe they have an opportunity for economic growth and societal rebuilding. On the other hand, his death opens a window for the next psychopath to take his place. Who knows? I suppose we will just have to wait and see.

Monday April 27, 2020

I've unplugged from the media today. Trump did something else in press conference, Pelosi is endorsing Biden, no one knows where Kim Jung-Un is; just things I've picked up in passing. I've not had much interest in actually looking at the stories. Trump's voice makes my skin crawl and all the politics just succeeds in making me angry.

Today I'm working getting all my classwork done. I did the majority of my final essay today and I'm working on revisions for my thesis before sending it in for a final review and signatures. I'm so ready for all this to be done. I got the email about getting my diploma and honors stuff sent to me in the mail in a couple weeks. It's finally setting in that I'm graduating. I just wish I knew what I was doing with my life from here. My sister came by today with Butters. She wanted some of mom's dirt because she is planting some herbs and flowers in some pots. She said Butters was antsy to see people and wanted pets. She wanted me to stay in the car with him, but mom invited him into the yard. He ran all over the place, stayed out of mom's flower beds but ran through the flowers planted over the ground. My sister said he wasn't used to planted flowers. He's such a fat dog. He's an adorable dog, but the fat dude tires himself out after 5 minutes. It was nice to be able to pet him. I've been a little pet starved.

I've seen a post going around and I'm not sure how I feel about it. Basically it was a post that when future generations come and ask us about this time we should conduct ourselves so that we can say while it was hard for some, we didn't have it hard and we spent lots of time outside and with family and essentially some good things happened during this time people say lots of bad happened. I'm not saying people shouldn't have fun or do good things or spend time with family. But to say things like that feels like they're trying to rewrite history. I don't think people should deliberately change their behavior to be positive to future generations. We should let things happen naturally and just record our thoughts and feelings as they happen, not deliberately trying to frame the past with rose-colored glasses. Not everyone has it as bad

as others, but I don't think we should pretend everything is great. We shouldn't give future generations the wrong impression and make people think things weren't as bad as they were. In my opinion, that's irresponsible.

Tuesday April 28, 2020

Today, my friend invited me to run some errands with her. She needed to take her brother to pick up his stuff from the schools and run by the post office to mail her books back. While we were out, we grabbed lunch and went and saw the cute animals at PetSmart. There was this one cat that won us over immediately. He was tabby, energetic, affectionate, playful, and between 1 ½ and 2 ½ years old. He was wormed and neutered, all that taken care of. The reason people didn't want to take him was because he was partially blind in one eye. If I lived on my own, I absolutely would've walked out of the store with him. My friend was considering it too, and she's allergic to cats. I sent a photo to my sister saying how much I loved him to which she sent me a series of condescending texts about how I was contributing to the problem by going out and hanging with my friend. I think she's overreacting and being a jerk about it. We hang out because we have been careful where we go, and we don't go out all the time. When we do, we do our best to avoid people and wear masks when we go to populated places. My friend and I are both very stressed and this is how we decompress. Not everyone has the option of vegging out in our house because your fiancé works at a grocery store and can get you whatever you want. If I were in a bigger city, I would absolutely be more careful about going out or seeing people. If I were in Chicago, absolutely no way would I leave my house unless I absolutely had to. But its Mattoon. Our county case count is at 22 positive cases. Our first case was April 6. That means a new case appears every couple of days, -ish. And that's the county. No reports have been published about the town specifically or what age group the people that tested positive belong in. I am taking this seriously. I just think freaking and panicking will do nothing and likelihood of catching it while being safe going out and about is minimal. I cannot be a hermit even though that lifestyle seems to suit my sister.

After our cat visit, we went out to her uncle's lake house. Currently no one is there so we sat on the dock and chatted for an hour and half or so. It was calming to sit and watch the water. We don't get to chat very often. It sucks being so close, yet we don't get to hang out nearly as often as I would like. She offered to take me out for dinner to celebrate my graduation since neither one of us is really a party person. I was great to sit in the sun, but I think my face got slightly sunburned. I brought sunscreen specially for that purpose but apparently, I didn't put enough on.

Wednesday April 29, 2020

I am rather cranky today. Not only did I get chewed out by my sister, but mom did too for going to see the animals at PetSmart. It frustrates me that they speak to me like I don't think about what I do. I think very clearly about everything I do, and I don't need them telling me that I'm not thinking or taking things seriously. I'm cautious but not anxious. I can't live under a rock.

I saw a report that Pence went to a hospital and refused to wear a mask when he went to talk to covid patients. The moron. Its policy for everyone going inside to wear a mask and he knew this. I hope he gets it and someone gracious soul coughed on him. The British prime minister insisted on shaking hands with positive patients and then he was down for the count for a couple weeks at least. I would think that would be the example world leaders would need; you have to be super careful around positive patients, particularly in a hospital in a city with a large number of cases.

The push to reopen is gaining momentum. The attorney general of a county from Illinois said that he refuses to enforce the stay at home order issued by gov. Pritzker and will leave the decision of whether or not to open stores or go out up to the discretion of individuals. The groups of gov. are working towards opening up their sections of the country as the virus lets up. I saw a headline this morning the Disney is starting to take steps towards reopening Disneyworld. For the sake of everyone's sanity, I hope the virus begins to decline soon. I don't know how much of all this political back and forth I can take. People are grinding away at my nerves.

Thursday April 30, 2020

I had another meltdown today. Although it was a small one in comparison to the others, but it happened in front of mom. Today I've edited my paper for Historia, the thesis, and had to deal with trying to figure out if I should quit my coaching job at the middle school and focus solely on the possibility the internship in Indianapolis will be offered or keep my job and push my whole schedule back 6 months. I have no idea what I'm doing with my life and all of it just boiled over and I started to cry while mom was trying to help me edit my Historia paper. She made daddy go get my ice cream and made me my favorite, tomato soup, for dinner. I think I would prefer if we could go back in time to February when everything was working out according to my plan.

In the mail I got a letter alerting me that the federal government had deposited \$1200 in my account according to the federal relief effort. I'll take the money, no matter who it's from because I need it. I did debate if I wanted to hang onto the paper. I decided that I would because it was a piece of history despite the fact that Trumps signature at the bottom makes me want to burn it and then dance on the ashes. I hate him.

Since I spent all day editing, I wasn't able to do my entry until late tonight. I feel tired but I'm so tense and wired up it will probably be at least an hour before I can fall asleep. I wonder if I will have any weird dreams. I watched Stephen Colbert interview John Mullaney and they talked about weird dreams they were having. According to them, weird dreams seem to be happening across the board. I think my Inn dream with Swedish Bruce Lee counts as odd.

Saturday May 2, 2020

Yesterday I decided that I wasn't going to look at a word document all day. After editing my thesis and my *Historia* paper, I just couldn't take it anymore.

My sister was texting me last night badgering me about letting her do a graduation parade for me. I finally broke down and agreed to having one. She was texting me all about float themes and snacks... this seems like a lot of effort put into a parade when we can't get close to each other. Apparently, I'm not supposed to know anything about this, so she is forcing me to pretend to be surprised that this is happening. She is strange sometimes.

The weather is supposed to hit 80s today, finally. I think I'm comfiest when the temperature is in the 70s but the warmer it gets, it means the virus will be killed off faster. As of this morning when I checked the counter, Coles is still at 22 cases and 1 death. Shelby county had its first death recently though. They only had 10 cases so far. While Springfield is a hot spot, it looks like the two major breakout areas are the St. Louis area and Chicagoland. Not all the surprising when you think about it.

Protests are still going on although they have ramped up in Michigan. I think it was 2 days ago I saw photos and reports of armed gunman entering the Michigan state house and standing outside blocking the way. On twitter, people were saying the fact these people weren't arrested is because they were all white. In the comments, people were posting photos from when the Black Power movement did the same thing during the civil rights movement. Frist off, I want to know the exact reason as to why they weren't being arrested. People were saying it wasn't illegal in Michigan, but I thought guns were not allowed in any public building? And doesn't bringing an armed weapon to a protest make the peaceful protest, a non-peaceful protest which is noticeably the opposite of what is stated in the constitution? And wouldn't the gov. have grounds for to sue or something on the grounds that stood as a threat to her personal safety? We've come a long way in the way of race relations, and I don't want to join the choir screaming racial bias, but there are a lot of questions I need answers to. From the outside looking in, the whole thing looks fishy though. But when it comes to police, people always assume the worst. My friend was telling me about an incident in Champaign when we went out on Wednesday. Officers were called into an area when it was reported shots fired. Upon arriving on the scene, there was a man and a woman, just screaming at each other. The officers had no idea who had the gun but arrived to see 2 agitated individuals going at each other. In response, the officers treated both people as if they had the weapon. The man was stoned out of his mind and after a long period of trying to get the dude on the ground and, when the lady wouldn't get down on the ground, trying to get him to walk slowly towards the officer talking to him. The woman must have been on some crazy stuff because she flipped out. She took down 3 officers and it took a couple to restrain her for one officer to do a takedown move that sort of resembles being punched in the head. What he was doing was hitting a pressure point in her neck to make her stop so they could arrest her but, from an outsider point of view, it looks like while got punched in the head. The situation blew up because someone took a video of just the part with the takedown move, so a 30 second video of a 15-minute situation. The kicker, the officer was white, and the woman was black. The video went viral and locals were protesting and screaming racial prejudice and abuse of power. The hearing that happened last weekend was streamed to the public in which they showed officer footage, as they were all wearing cameras that captured video and audio of the event. Before the footage was shown, the council (I think it was the city council?) was talking all about race and overly

using force and why did they not use tazers, but upon reviewing the video its clear they acted appropriately. This woman cleaned the clocks of 3 officers, putting 2 of them in the hospital. One had a black eye and nail scratches across his face. Another had his thumb broken so badly he had to have surgery done to fix it. In the struggle, she was repeatedly kicking one of the officers in the chest hard enough to bruise, and then could barely recognize him later in an interview room. Once they got her down, she continued to struggle and fight back so they had to hobble her. Then she started spitting so they had to put a spit mask on her. She was so out of it at the station she was struggling to recall the incident to an unaffiliated 3rd party. She must have had some kind of crazy cocktail of drugs. I don't remember who had the weapon, I think it was the man. He did say he fired the shots, but the gun jammed, and he didn't know how to fix it hence why the firing stopped. I think he is facing charges on unlicensed gun possession and negligent something or other? The woman was charged with 3 counts of aggravated assault so she will be spending a while in jail. Just goes to show that you can't believe everything. I'm hoping that the case here.

The idiot in chief is at it again. In a press conference yesterday I think, he suggested that people wash their hands with boiling water. The actual doctor who followed him when asked about this comment said, "he was spit balling"... Here comes the wave of people is burns on their hands. Just like when people were calling health departments to see if they could cure themselves by drinking disinfectant. Just like when people were drinking cleaners because they contained the drug he was spouting as a miracle cure at the time. Although, the end of this week, Fauci is saying trials with the drug Remdesivir (not sure on the spelling) have been successful and is shortening the duration of the illness and lowers the lethality rate. Steps are being taken to introduce this drug as a treatment for all patients. It not a cure or vaccine, but it is a start and that's something to hang onto.

Monday May 4, 2020

Yesterday I was dying from my allergies. I had the worst night. I only got a couple hours of sleep because my face hurt so badly. Everything hurt, my ears, eyes, nose, mouth; I could not get comfortable. So, I spent the day playing the Sims because I couldn't leave my room as mom had all the windows and doors open. Much better now though.

My semester is almost done thankfully. For my thesis, I am just waiting for approval signatures from my department heads. I've almost finished my final essay for my class and once I have the signatures, I can submit the paper to the honors college and into my senior portfolio. After that, I am done, and I have obtained my bachelor's degree in history. I am so ready to be done. My friend has been busy working away at her senior thesis which is due tomorrow. I think she's ready to be done too.

Not sure how often the county map is being updated but currently Coles county is still sitting at 22 positive cases and 1 death. So, either, cases are not being reported or precautions are working. I guess we will have to make it to the end of May to find out.

I've been thinking and I'm wondering if social media is the reason why the constant stream of people mouthing off against social distancing. It provides them a platform in which they can hide safely behind their screens and be obnoxious and then someone picks it up and it blows into a massive thing that is out of control. First, one of my old martial arts instructors is using Facebook to complain about Pritzker and complain about why they can't open their school. Then today, another old instructor who is located here in town actually opened their school for a few hours. Their post said their right to do that was in the first amendment. Personally, I don't understand the point. They can't hold classes, what is the point of opening? And secondly, the first amendment does protect the right to assembly, but some issues with your argument. We are under a state of emergency so shut it. Also, the bill of rights applies to congress, not the actions of the states. So again, shut it. Another point, the right to assembly is used in the context of a protest, that's why it says peaceable assembly. You opening your business does not fall into this category. I even went as far as to look up the Illinois Bill of Rights to see what it says. Section 5 is the right to assemble but this is also used in the context of protests and petitions. Section 1 of both does talk about life, liberty, and happiness. One could make the argument pursuing and support your own business could fall into this, but you can also make the argument it doesn't. Either way, it's all pointless because the state of emergency enacted by the governor enables him to void those kinds of things until the emergency has passed. Complaining is just annoying and pushing back will just end in a fine. If we could all just stop and put up with it for the next month then we would get through this faster.

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

I'm glad I'm not the only one that has no idea what day it is. Someone on my Facebook feed said she thought for most of the day yesterday that it was Wednesday. I turned in my final assignments for my class and I have no job which means, at this point I don't need to keep track of what the day is.

It's been rainy the last couple of days and I am incredibly bored. I've been playing sims for the last 3 days. I'm about to finish the Lego Harry Potter game. I'll probably play RuneScape for a few days and then get bored of that. I just want to go outside. I think I might go out to Fox Ridge when it warms back up. I'll probably take my friend. She hikes there more than me and I have a feeling if I go by myself, I'll get lost.

Wednesday May 6, 2020

The feeling of not knowing what day it is getting worse. I have no idea what the day is and time seems to move weirdly. It's odd for me to think back when I was a kid when I could waste the days away and now, I am wasting away without some kind of purpose or something to do. I've just sat in bed watching Expedition Unknown all day. I need to finish editing my *Historia* paper, but I really just don't want to.

Yesterday, Pritzker released a reopening plan as most of the state is reaching the flattening point of the virus. The state is being split up into 5 chunks, the Chicagoland area, The North West, a chunk under that, the central area (which includes us), and the southern half. Each of the chunk can reopen at their own pace and independent of the other chunks. The

process of reopening has been split into 5 phases and most of the state is currently sitting somewhere between phase 1 and 2, where things are starting to open up and people can go out with masks. There are different phases for different things, a set for retail, a set for entertainment places, a set for restaurants, etc. The plan does keep a caveat that if the virus counts spikes again as things open, the gov. retains the right to move the phases backward until its safe again. We will have to see how things turn out but hopefully his means good things. Maybe this will get people to stop complaining.

Lately in the news I've been hearing about something called Project Lincoln. Apparently, Trump doesn't like it. I don't know what this is but I don't really want to go searching to find out because then I'll get all kinds of political ads and a bunch of ignorant people mouthing off about it. I'm guessing that it is something pulling attention to how Trump has destroyed the republican party, and this is a movement to reclaim it from him. I'll have to wait and see until some late-night show host commentates on it. That's usually how I get my political news, it's really the only outlet I can stomach since Trump took office.

I've been thinking about how it feels to graduate. I don't feel much different. I still feel incredibly underqualified to technically be allowed to teach children. I could work for a state park as a historian. It feels strange to know I won't be going to school in the fall. I've been in school constantly since kindergarten. It really drives home that I'm an adult. Its... odd... and scary to think about. I'm getting old. Older people laugh at me when I say this because I'm only 21 but it's true. I'm realizing that I don't have as much energy as I used to, my hearing and eyesight is starting to go, I'm finding that I break easier and I've re-sprained my ankles multiple times. I suddenly have so much more responsibility and I have to make so many hard decisions.

Thursday May 7, 2020

I've been seeing Jumanji memes all over the place. A couple days ago, it was announced the murder hornets have made it to the states and some freaky, giant, frilly looking moths apparently made it too. At this rate, people are just expecting something bad to happen every month and its Jumanji's way of killing everyone. I even saw a thing the other day that someone wanted everyone to scream "Jumanji!" at 11:59 on December 31st. At this rate, it really does feel like nothing is going to surprise me and I'm just expecting things to go wrong.

My sister had a freak-out a couple days ago. On Tuesday, she texted me freaking out because she and bro-in-law both had dry coughs start that day and she was panicking that they had caught covid. Bro-in-law works at a grocery store in the meat department, so he is forced to interact with people daily. She asked me to calm her down and I reminded her that we are in the middle of allergy season so anything could have set off the cough. I also reminded her that if she did have it, she would also have a fever, be dizzy, and have trouble breathing. I recommended that she take some allergy medicine and see how she felt in a few days. I texted her yesterday to see how she was, and she said she felt fine. Not sure what it was but my guess was that it was allergies.

I saw a post on Facebook that made me very, very, angry. I had to text my sister to get her to calm me down, so I didn't lay into this guy in the comments. To preference the story, this gentleman was an older white guy, maybe in his 60s. He takes photos and most of the time its old barns, and birds, and flowers, but this time it really got me. At some point he must have attended a spelling bee, my guess was it was for high school students based on how old the young man in the photo was. A young man, maybe freshman/sophomore, had stepped up to the mic and was talking. The kid had short brown hair and glasses and was wearing a red dress with black pantihose and low heels. I'm guessing upon the appearance it was a young man, but the student's sex was a bit difficult to determine. A clear slight bulge could be seen where a penis should be, but the student's chest also bulged a bit, mimicking the appearance of small breasts. I base my determination of a male description based on the lack of hips, the face shape, the shape of their legs, and the penis bulge. The gentleman posted this students photo with the caption, "LOL." This made me angry first off. This is a student and you are an adult posting this with the intention to make fun of and bully. It's disturbing. Then the comments of other people poking fun at this student for being "not quite feminine" and the fact they were wearing a dress sent me over the edge. We do not know this student and it is an incredible breach of privacy to be posting a picture of this student. Second, for all we know, this person could have been born with both sex organs and appears more masculine but identifies as female. Third, so what if this is a young man, why shouldn't he wear a dress if he wants to? It probably took lots of bravery for them to do that. Clothes are just clothes. Once upon a time, women couldn't wear pants and now lots of women do and almost no one bats an eye. If women go from dresses to pants, why can't men go from pants to dresses. The comments, this whole situation, is just disgusting and disgraceful. This man works with me at the cabin for 5th grade field trips and now I'm sincerely disturbed about putting him with kids. Mostly its girls, but some don't want to wear the dresses because they prefer more masculine style clothing. This post makes me worried to put them around him because he has demonstrated that he is willing to bully and make fun of children. My sister convinced me not to post anything and just move on, but she walked me through how to block them. It makes me mad just thinking about it. How can people be so closed minded and cruel? And to children too. It's absolutely despicable.

Friday May 8, 2020

My friend texted me this morning inviting me to get out of the house and join her for a grocery shopping trip. We both are a little stir crazy. Neither of us have left our respective houses since the last time we got together. And at least I get peace and quiet, she's got 2 brothers and 2 cats trapped in the same house as her. After we went shopping, I went back to her house to help her teach her brother his music sheets. This poor kid. The class is a general music class meant as an elective class for 6th graders but the teacher wasn't really teaching them any music. For the packet of work, they have to do, my friend and I are convinced that she googled "music work sheets" and printed off a whole bunch of front and back sheets. A lot include terms and music theory concepts that she never taught so this poor kid is trying to complete worksheets over music stuff he doesn't know. It's a good thing that my friend and I both are musical and played some kind of instrument from 5th grade through our respective senior years. But at least he's almost done. He's got 10 worksheets of music left and after that,

he will be done with the 6th grade. I saw the high school is arranging for seniors to have a private graduation. They can walk across the stage and get their diploma, with pictures and whatnot, but only 5 family members can attend their students walk. I guess it's good the seniors get something. I'm sure the parents appreciate it.

I've been thinking a lot about pseudoarcheology shows since I've been watching a lot of Expedition Unknown. I've seen some posts on twitter from archeologists who teach pseudoarcheology classes and teach how shows like Curse of Oak Island and Ancient Aliens are damaging shows. I'm totally down with being against Ancient Aliens. It's completely idiotic and racist. I'm not sure about the Oak Island show as I've never seen it but my parents seem to like it. From the little I've seen; I'm mostly concerned about their destructive treasure hunting methods of going through oak island artifacts. For expedition unknown, while there are some things he talks about and covers that I don't think he should (like ghosts), I do think that he is an entrance into important learning topics. He introduces people to archeology and global historical figures. He helps encourage a love of learning and exploration. He interviews real archeologists and is interesting in active projects. The question is, does the good outweigh the bad? Should shows like this even exist if they're not going to be completely scientific, or possibly factual. Afterall, no one on the show specializes in these topics so it's easy for them to get information wrong. At least he isn't purporting aliens built the ancient world. While it might not be %100 percent accurate or doesn't always talk about topics rooted in firm science, I think any doorway to learning is good. I don't know. It would be nice if there was a show completely rooted in science, but it seems shows that are on Discovery or the History Channel have to be sensationalized to gain viewers.

Saturday May 9, 2020

Today was supposed to be graduation day. It's so odd to think that today would have marked the day that I was done at eastern. I'm so used to thinking of myself as a student. Now I'm not. It's odd. I'm not sure how I feel about not having a commencement ceremony. I didn't walk across the stage when I earned my associates at Lakeland because I wanted to wait until I finished my bachelors. Now I don't get to. Part of it is kind of, whatever, but I'm also a little sad I don't get to walk and spend one last day with the friends I've made. I texted my friends from marching band yesterday to wish them a happy graduation. It's also extremely weird for me to not be gearing up for marching band in the fall. I've been doing some kind of marching band since 6th grade. I've doing color guard since my freshman year of high school. It's just become normal and my fall has always included marching band. Its rather a rude awakening not to be doing it anymore. It's making me feel old. I actually have to be an adult now.

A digital copy of commencement pamphlet was emailed out today. It honestly made me sad to flip through it. I went to both of my sister's college graduations, the one at Eastern and the one at SIUE. A Facebook friend posted a memory of her EIU graduation. I've never much cared for attention but I can't help but feel sad about missing out on something that I should've had. At least under my name is an impressive list of accomplishments.

Several White House aides have tested positive for covid which promptly started mass testing across all the staff because, you know, can't get the president sick. Part of me can't help but snipe, if the president cares this much when people around him are sick, why can't he care when it's the entire country is suffering. He's just some rich white dude drunk with power.

As of today, Illinois has 76,085 cases, and 3,349 deaths. Coles has 23 confirmed reported cases and 1 death. I looked at the stats for cases reported from the beginning. May 1st had the most amount of cases with it being a little over 3,000. The numbers are all over the place, going up and down. I have no idea how anyone interprets this data, it's all over the place. But, granted it's only been 7 days, but the numbers seem to be going down ever so slowly. Although Michigan had 70 some more cases reported and all individuals reported they had been to a large public gathering. It doesn't take a genius to figure out they were at the protest in which people were not distancing or wearing masks. On a bright note, Michigan's gov. is now considering banning weapons in the capital building, which you know, feels like common sense.

Sunday May 10, 2020

Today is Mother's Day. My dad got my mom a decorative plate thingy and Ghirardelli Dark chocolate with raspberry filling. I made some cherry dessert bars for my mom to take with flowers to grandma.

A friend on Facebook shared a Coles County health department memo and as of today that the case count is at 26 with 21 recovered, 3 in the hospital, 1 death, and 1 recovering at home. But I went to the Coles County health department website and there is no record of this memo. The website said they were no longer releasing information to protect the privacy of patients which makes me severely question where she got this info from. The states map of case counts says Coles is sitting at 24 cases. The discrepancies in case counts has my radar going crazy.

The news says Dr. Fauci and 2 other health officials are currently in self-isolation because of the white house staffers that tested positive. Honestly, I'm not sure why none of them were wearing masks at the press conferences. I get it for the speakers, needing to be understood, but the staff literally stand there. Why are they not wearing masks? It's because of stuff like that, idiots feel they don't need to follow guidelines. If the President doesn't do it, I don't need to either. This makes me nervous. With Fauci not there, who is going to correct the nonsense Trump spews? I sincerely hope he doesn't contract the illness. He's at the end of the pool where he will likely die if he catches it. I rather like Fauci. I'd hate for him to go that way.

Monday May 11, 2020

Didn't do much today. Sat in my room, watched Netflix, and took a nice nap.

Wednesday May 13, 2020

I meant to do an entry yesterday, but I completely forgot about it. I finally got up the motivation today to finish editing my Historia paper. I want this out of my life.

The Journal Gazette posted an article yesterday about a rapid rise in cases. 17 new cases have been reported in the Coles county raising the number to 46. A second person has died from complications from the disease. 21 of the county's cases have been linked to a nursing home in Charleston. So, with these new numbers, there are 19 people recovering, 22 people have recovered, three are hospitalized, and 2 have died. As of the publication of the article, Illinois reached 77,741 cases, a total of 3,406 deaths, and cases have been found in 98 out of the 102 counties in the state. The article made it sound like the 17 was also linked to the nursing home but, it doesn't specify this so can't confirm or deny that. This news makes me kinda paranoid. My dad goes in and out of nursing homes since he's considered essential medical personnel. They test him every time he enters the building, but people can get sick and not present any symptoms. The article says that they have been tracing back the sick people's exposure and since no one has contacted us, we should be fine, nor do I think we caused it. But I can't help but wonder.

Thursday May 14, 2020

Its upper 70s today, the warmest it's been in a while and it is certainly refreshing. Probably won't go outside though. I think I might actually start studying for the GRE.

Death projections earlier last month said it would hit 60,000 by August. Projections now, taking into account the reopening of things now say it could hit 147,000 by August. That's significantly higher. And we thought 60,000 was high. What I don't understand is why the new projections aren't discouraging people from reopening? 60,000 was sobering when it was announced, why isn't this significantly higher number having the same effect? Trump keeps mouthing off that the US has the lowest death rate per 100,000 people and that his response is doing wonders. When he was first elected, it was more a joke that he was going to kill us all. Possibly blow everyone up by ticking off North Korea. Instead he's going to kill us all because of his incompetence in responding to the pandemic. What I'm wondering is, everyone is so concerned about the economy and that it needs to reopen. Why don't we just do what China did? Or Italy? They had a complete shut-down of society and from what I can tell, they're doing alright. Maybe it's an unwillingness to admit that they've failed and need a different approach or need help? I don't know. All politicians are morons.

The Coles County district attorney thing person announced yesterday that they will not fine or prosecute business that choose to open. I'm not sure how their allowed to do this. This feels like it's in direct opposition of orders from gov. who has declared a state of emergency. Doesn't this open up grounds for him to be prosecuted and removed from office? And how will they enforce the gradual opening if this person refuses to enforce it? All this is undermining his authority. These offices are supposed to work together, not do whatever they think is right and confuse the system. This whole thing is ridiculous.

Friday May 15, 2020

My sense of time is getting worse. I'm struggling to know what day of the week it is. The rain is continuing today. Normally, I don't mind rain. I like to watch it through the window. But that's when I'm not confined to the house and I have the option of leaving.

The Coles County Health department did official press releases again on the 11th and 12th. As of the 12th, there were 16 new cases bringing the total to 62. Of that 4 are in the hospital, 22 are recovered, 34 are in recovery, and 2 have died. A Facebook friend shared an image that looks to be taken from a power-point slide that was shared from the county health department. It said on the 14th, there were 5 new cases bringing the total to 69. The breakdown of that is there is 43 active cases, 22 have recovered, 41 are in recovery, 2 are in the hospital, and 4 people have died. The numbers seem to be in the correct ballpark. I checked the map maintained by the state and it said there are 62 positive and 4 deaths. From what I can gather, it appears the majority, if not all the new cases and the ones in question are coming from the nursing home in Charleston. But, I can't confirm this hypothesis as the state can't release that information to the public. Something to do with patient confidentiality or privacy, or something like that.

I started working on GRE stuff yesterday. I did really well at the fill in the blank section in the vocab chapter. Sucked at the other vocab stuff. Before this, I thought that I was pretty smart, possessed a decently large vocabulary. This has made me realize I just suck. I'm never going to pass this test. Why is the test even mandatory? What does it prove? That I filled my brain with a bunch of useless knowledge, and I know a bunch of pretentious words? Clearly, I can think critically if I completed my bachelor degree and have several publications and a thesis to prove my skills. If I had tried to take this test without any kind of prep, I would have failed miserably. Why is college so hard?

Saturday May 16, 2020

Today was my graduation parade. I helped mom put together a pyramid this morning and we got the sphinx put together on top of the car. We spent all afternoon yesterday making a sphinx head out of cardboard boxes, complete with cloth headdress, eyes, ears, and a smashed nose. I could tell both my parents were getting more stressed as it got closer to time. They ordered cupcakes from a local bakery with chocolate graduation caps on the top. I did like I figured I would, I cried. Luckily it was before the parade started so I pulled myself together when people went by. Some people got really into things. Bes, parents came by, and Brian had a black belt which he claimed was his whip. Grandma and grandpa attached skeleton decorations to their windows and had a toilet paper mummy attached to the roof. Their gift was a basket filled with hay and buried in it were several eggs with 100s hidden in them. The Conti's, who are friends of my sister and my sister's boyfriend, joined the parade and they put on a scene from one of the movies. They made a cardboard and duct tape boulder that was in the back of their truck. When they pulled up front, they rolled the rock out the back and ran from it, one of them getting squished by it, chucked a couple bags of sweet and sour gummi snakes, then made a run for it back to their truck. On the boulder, they attached a sign saying congratulations and they drew bones into the letters on the word. It was certainly an interesting way to meet them. When my sister's boyfriend drove by, he stopped the car in front of the house and stood up out of the sunroof. Then he started pulling out random cups and then handed me a colored cardboard cutout of the holy grail. It was certainly entertaining. A family that couldn't make it to the parade came by later and left a case with lilies in it on the

porch. My aunt on my dad's side drove by and it was nice to see all of them. I was surprised to see my aunt on my mom's side. They live in Bloomington and I didn't expect them to drive down just for a two-minute drive by. They did bring their new 5-month-old teacup poodle, he was adorable. The rain held off until later this afternoon, so we were able to get through everything. But not many people stopped for cupcakes, so we have *lots* of cupcakes leftover. I do think I am a bit sunburned. I have to say I have some mixed feelings about the whole thing. I mean, I'm glad that I got to see people and it's was something to do, but the whole thing just reminds me how uncertain my future is. And it makes me sad that I have to let go of things that I enjoyed.

The news makes it seem like people are becoming more and more restless of protests become more rampant. But they keep reporting polls that the majority of people worry about opening things too soon. I do agree with something that I saw on social media the other day. When people come to protests with guns and whatnot, that protest is most certainly not about the quarantine. In Michigan I think it was, a reporting was taking video of a protest and people were nearly chasing him down and cursing him out. There was one sign that read "Hang Fauci, Hang Gates, Open Up and Free the States." There were other signs saying things along the same line. Fauci is trying to save people and recommending caution and yet there are people wishing him dead. It's disgraceful. I'm ashamed to say I'm American. I have been ashamed to say that since 2016.

I was thinking about ending my day watching the first Indiana Jones (the best one) while eating my snakes. But Netflix added Avatar: the Last Airbender today and I think I might just binge the entire first book tonight. I really this that show.

Sunday May 17, 2020

I woke up this morning kind of sad. The posters from yesterday are scattered around my room. It really rives home that I'm done. I won't be going back.

The news reported yesterday that Trump is going to open the country with or without a vaccine. I have mixed feelings about this. The country does need to do something. People have no income, and either can't get government assistance or it's not enough for them to survive. But, if we open too early and get people back in confined spaces, the second wave is going to be much, much worse. A prominent archeologist I follow on twitter stated that she will not send her son to school until a vaccine is made. She has also said that she has made the decision not to educate her son at home because both she and her husband work full time as university professors. I have mixed feelings. I support her decision not to homeschool because no one is really learning right now. It can be difficult and not everyone has the time or tools to teach. And it helps that her son is still little. Only in 1st or 2nd grade. But I also think that education is one of the most important things a person can have and going to school is incredibly important as it sets you up to have a successful career. I hope schools are taking into account safety precautions when they reopen and there will be some kind of treatment available. Afterall, the flu doesn't shut down schools. Maybe this will help curb the trend of schools encouraging people to come to school sick and spreading their germs. I'm not sure I could condone

purposefully not sending your child to school. But I suppose if you're willing to hold your child back and they won't go to school with people their age then its fine. I'm not sure if that's legal though. The only way parents don't have to send their kids to school is if they are registered as homeschoolers. She's already stated that she won't homeschool. I'm not sure how the states will deal with problems like this. But she lives in Alabama so it's not like this is anything to do with Illinois.

I just checked the county map for the state and Coles is sitting at 81 cases. How the heck did the case count jump from 62 to 81 in 2 days?! Where are these cases coming from? I don't think the nursing home is that big. This is making me rather paranoid. We go so long with no cases and then we only have a couple. Then it jumps to teens and hangs there for a bit. Then it jumps to 20s, 30s, 60s, and now 80s, within maybe 2 weeks? Just the vagueness of the information is driving me nuts. I'm so used just being able to research whatever I need to find my answers. Being a part of a historic event is certainly something but it's incredibly irritating to not know how things end.

Monday May 18, 2020

A friend on Facebook shared her letter to the Coles County board people. Apparently tomorrow there is a vote happening whether or not Coles County should allow private business and stuff to open regardless of the instructions coming from the gov. There's a section in which letter from the public will be read to the board, letting them know what the community thinks. This friend is avidly against it. She was calling on everyone to write letters to convince them not to open the county. I get the impression from her letter that she believes the people on the board will choose to open because they stand to gain financially from businesses reopening and wants to make it clear that that doesn't work with the health advice coming from medical professionals. I have mixed feelings. I do think that businesses need to reopen soon, or they need some kind of relief because they can't hold on forever. But I also think that putting people in such close quarters without some kind of medical treatment for covid readily available is a recipe for disaster. I mean, selfishly, I want things to reopen because I had a plan. And now my plan for the future is in shambles. Things reopening means my plan can sort of make its way back together. I worked up a pros and cons list of staying here or moving to Indianapolis like I had planned in the fall. I had hoped seeing the list would help me make my decision but it didn't I still have no idea what I'm going to do.

Tuesday May 19, 2020

Trump is at it again. He said in a press conference that he was taking the hydroxychloroquine drug which was shown not to combat the virus in testing. This drug also happens to have rather severe health repercussions to taking it and it just hurts people that take it without having the need for it. Part of me wants to be like, let him take it and off himself. Good riddance. The other half is saying the more he runs his mouth, the more he's going to convince people that it works, and people will be poisoning themselves thinking it will keep them safe. A Facebook friend suggested he said it to deliberately create a stir drawing attention away from the scandal that is surrounding one of his former staff members at the moment. I would like to say that isn't the case, but I wouldn't put it past him. Someone working for him

probably told him to say incredibly outrageous things because that would pull it into the public eye and away from the scandal. He's just scum. I sincerely hope he is voted out in November.

According to the state map, Coles county is now sitting at 85 cases and 7 deaths. No news has been presented as to where the cases are coming from. I'm assuming the majority is from the nursing home in Charleston but no evidence to verify this. Illinois total cases is 90,030 and deaths total 4,379 (this number is included in the total positive case count). This means the death percentage is sitting at around 5%. If you do the math for national totals, Us has 1,525,367 confirmed cases and 91,730 deaths. Assuming the deaths are included in the Case count, that's about 6% national average. That percentage has gone up quite a bit since the beginning when the death percentage was around less than 1%. I saw a person who against the restrictions post the old stats yesterday and I didn't think that was right so now I'm doing the math and checking for myself. If you do the same process for world totals (4,889,287 confirmed and 322,683 dead), you get a percentage of 6.5%. To the future student who is reading this, I highly recommend you research the infection and mortality rates for the flu. Many people are arguing the panic isn't needed (myself included at the beginning of this) because the flu kills more people and has more cases. If possibly, also check your time window. How fast does the flu spread/ kill compared to covid. Unfortunately, these are stats that we can't do now as the we are in the weeds of everything. Hide sight is 20/20.

WCIA News uploaded an article today that Pritzker is moving the state as a whole into phase 3. Under this phase, people can get their hair cut, gyms can reopen for one-on-one sessions or outdoor classes, non-essential retail can open with social distancing, and people can gather in groups less than 10 people. Restaurants are not to do dine-in yet. Pritzker also said that Illinois has surpassed NY in testing per capita over the last 7 days. There is no mention as to when the phase will take effect. I wonder if this means the cabin will be opening up soon. I also partially wonder if he is moving to phase 3 because people downstate were refusing to follow his stay at home order. There are several businesses I know of in Mattoon that downright refused to close, citing the constitution. It may be possible he felt to start the move towards reopening would make people happy enough to be willing to put up with preventative measures. But it's possible he made this decision based on the science and the appearance of a general flattening trend. Personally, I think it has more to do with the former than the latter.

Thursday May 21, 2020

A couple days ago Pelosi expressed concern that Trump said he was taking this unverified drug and people report that she said, "morbidly obese". I didn't watch the interview so I can't say for certain if she did or not, but I do know in the short clip I watched, she did mention that his weight percentage would make it dangerous for him to take it. Because of that, a twitter hashtag popped up making fun of Trump's weight. Personally, I don't think we should be fat shaming people. Everyone is different with different medical histories. But, since its Trump, I can't bring myself to care about his mental or physical wellbeing. Yes, I fully recognize my own bias and no, I do not care. If he's incapacitated, at least he can't run for a second term.

The CDC announced yesterday that they were pulling back on their reopening restrictions. Left wing news and talk show hosts all generally agree that this is happening because of pressure from the White House. Frankly, I wouldn't put it past him. I mean, just yesterday over twitter, he straight up told citizens of 2 states that if they voted by mail then he would not send them financial aid. He is that petty. And people stuck in the bureaucracy have to give in to him or be removed from their jobs. I just wish someone would have a spine and stand up to him. Since, he became President, I've had the thought about what I would do if on the extremely remote chance he ever came through at Lincoln Log. I'm not sure how I would react. But I can say one thing for certain, I would not back down when challenged. The likes of him do not frighten me.

I checked the county map this morning. Coles is sitting at 88 cases and 7 deaths. But a friend posted a press release on Facebook that as of today 4 more cases were confirmed bring the total to 96, with 6 hospitalized, 26 recovered and 57 in recovery. This notice also said that 53 of the total cases is in relation to the rehab center in Charleston and both residents and employees have tested positive. It mentioned that not all employees live within Coles County so I'm not sure if that means they are included in the case count or not. I'm guessing the massive jump in cases a few days ago is due to test actually being done and not healthy people suddenly presenting symptoms all at once. If that is the case, it seems that things are slowing down again. The case count for the state dating from March seem to mirror this. May 12 had the highest positive case count since the beginning of March with 29.266k cases. Since then, there has been a general trend downward with yesterday's count sitting slightly above 21k.

I see people complaining about how slow Illinois is moving compared to the surrounding states. I think people are forgetting the massive case count Illinois has, which is easy to do because as a citizen of downstate IL, it is easy to separate yourself from the Chicago land. There's also quite a bit of animosity between the upper part of the state and the lower. Chicago is the reason why the state is a blue state. When looking at the state voting records by county, Most of the rest of the state is largely red. The clash of cultures upsets people which only pushes the "remove Chicago from IL" sentiment. There is also a popular belief that Chicago receives a large portion of state funds which as far as I know, is untrue. They have more people, so they make a lot of their money from the tourists, toll booths, and property taxes. So, while Chicago is a huge hotspot and needs these measures, the fact that Pritzker (a millionaire [I believe] from Chicago) is imposing similar restrictions on the rest of the state contributes to the animosity. The South feels alienated by the North and it appears that the North doesn't care about the South because there it feels there has never been any effort to reach out to the South. I must admit, as a native and having lived in Mattoon my whole life, I don't remember the last time a gov. went further south than Springfield. Springfield is about 2 hours north-west of us. There's quite a bit of state below us. I understand Chicago requires a lot of attention, but it would be nice for them to reach out to all citizens of the state. Maybe it would help erase some of the animosity between the north and south. Then again, this is the product of hundreds of years of issues between the north and south (check out my paper published in *Historia: Southern Sympathy as Expressed Through Nelson vs. the People.*)

P.S.

I came across this article written by WCIA News that went up yesterday. The Illinois house of Rep met in a special session and they were working to pass a rule that lawmakers have to wear a mask when in the session. 12 of the representatives argued against the rule but it ended up passing. 11 of them put masks on after. 1 refused. His name is Darren Bailey. This dude is in the middle of a lawsuit against gov. Pritzker because he believes the gov. is abusing his power by enact 2 consecutive 30 Day Emergency Orders. The lawsuit goes in front of a judge in Clay county tomorrow. Other people are calling this a stunt and I find that I completely agree with this. After the vote, when he refused to put on a mask, they had a vote to remove him from the floor, passing 81 to 27. I think this guy is just trying to make a political statement about the supposed abuse of power and doesn't care about the people he's with. The vote for the rule and his removal was bipartisan, even republican house leader Jim Durkin was on board. His whole stunt is going to be for nothing, as the gov. is fully within his rights to continue the emergency order as long as is deemed necessary. Why can't these idiot politicians realize they are there to serve the interests of the people and not their own selfish interests? I've been seeing this thing all over social media and I completely agree with it. Before this, there was a "no shoes, no shirt, no service" policy. No one had issues with that. But now, people have to wear a mask and it's an infringement on their rights to shop where they want? It's incredibly hypocritical.

Friday May 22, 2020

I spent the majority of the day with my friend. We went out to Fox Ridge, but the trails were too muddy, so we didn't get too far. While we were out, we had to run by my grandparents and teach my grandma how to text and make calls on her new iPhone. All her irises are in bloom and its very pretty. WE had beautiful weather. My grandpa gave me one of the birdhouses, he's been working on to give to mom. Building birdhouses is how he keeps busy. Right now, he's working on a couple that he is designing to look like log cabins complete with barrels and wood benches on the sides. Grandma wouldn't let me come up to the house without a mask. When we pulled up, she was working with her plants around the house an wearing a mask. My grandpa wasn't. I think she makes him wear one in public, otherwise I'm not sure he would. I wonder if she wears the mask all the time or just when she knows people are coming over? But since everything was muddy, we ended up just driving around for a couple hours and talked. We went to get ice cream, but Big Al's slushy and shake-up truck was in the bank parking lot next burger king ,so we went to get shakeups instead. I got a strawberry, and my friend got a lemon. According to her, you can't get shake ups like Big Al's down south. Because of the lockdown, they hadn't been out, so we got their first shake ups of the season. They were out because this evening was the MHS senior parade where high school senior could decorate their cars and drive down Broadway and people could cheer them on from the sidewalks. After that, there was something where people just drive up and down the road and old fashioned and vintage cars get pulled out and people park and chat. It has a name, but I can't remember what it is and its nothing new. My dad said he remembered people doing this when he was a kid. My guess is people decided to do it because they are sick of staying at home.

My friend is planning to head back to Tennessee on Monday, and she invited me to go back with her to visit for a week. I am conflicted. I want to go, and I've been trying to figure out when I could visit her for a while. Before all this, I was considering taking an internship at a museum in Nashville and wanted to check out the area. Comparatively, TN has some of the laxest restrictions on people because TN also has a rather low number of cases. It has 19,394 confirmed cases with 12,566 recovered, 15,60 hospitalized, and 315 deaths. Those numbers are as of today as stated by the bulletin posted by TN gov. The bulletin also states that as of today, he is opening social gatherings to 50 or more people. I don't know what TN is doing, but they seem to be doing well against the virus. I want to go. I would like to check out the area although I wish more things were open. If anything, I can look at the campus of University of Memphis, it's one of my potentials for grad school. I just don't think my parents would be chill with it. Mom is super paranoid that I'm going to catch the virus while I'm out and give it to my dad who will pass it to his patients. We will still observe social distancing and be careful when we go places. Avoid populated places and all that jazz. Tonight, when we went out to get dinner from Steak and Shake mom made the comment that she didn't like the idea of restaurants opening in other states and people traveling across state borders to go out to eat and whatnot. That's rather foreshadowing the conversation I will have to have with them tomorrow. My dad didn't care.

When we were driving around, we passed a decent number of Pritzker sucks signs and I see petitions circling around social media about removing him from office. I'm not sure those people realize the big picture. The states around us are lightening up faster because their case counts are way low compared to ours. I think that he is doing his best with the numbers he has and the information he is given. I would rather IL opening slowly and safely versus fast and putting lots of people at risk. Sometimes I wonder if people would feel differently if we had a gov that come from southern IL. All the ones that I can remember came from Springfield or Chicago area. Again, it's getting back to the sentiment I talked about yesterday with the regional disconnect.

After we parted ways, I helped mom plant her tomatoes and basil in the backyard. We had to dig holes in the sod and that proved to be a task. We are going to have mountains of vegetables at this rate. The Greenhouse is plugging along. Now, we just have the one side facing the house left. Mom wants to put a window in so she can look through the window from the kitchen through that window to see inside the greenhouse. I think my dad is ready for the project to be done. He keeps complaining that they should've just hired a professional to build it. He gets cranky when we hit snags and mom tries to help but they general end up getting cranky at each other. I think it looks nice so far. He is definitely doing a better job than I could do. I'm not particularly confident with power tools.

Saturday May 23, 2020

I did some research and found out Nashville is entering their phase two on Monday. I decided that I wasn't going to go with my friend to TN. I want to visit her, but I want to go when things are open, and I can see the area. I got a call from Lincoln Log today. The park is opening up on June 1st but none of the buildings can open yet. He asked me to come in sometimes this

next week to fill out paperwork so when the buildings do open, I can go and dive right in. Clearly, this will have to be a different experience than working there in the past. I wonder how it will go?

The state map says that our county has hit 98 cases and still sitting on the 7 deaths. I looked at Champaign and the map says they are sitting at 537 cases and 7 deaths. I checked out the stats for the state out of curiosity. The majority of positive cases fall between the ages of 20 and 69. A little under 17000 falls into the 20-29 age range. A little under 18000 falls under the 30-39 age range. The number of people in the 40-49 age range fall just short of 19,500. And the case number for people between 50-59 is slightly over 19000. The 60-69 age range falls quite a bit to 13000. The other age ranges are quite a bit below the aforementioned numbers. When looking at the death count, the majority happen to people 70 or older. But there are deaths in the other age groups but noticeably lower. Looking at the race demographics, the top three affected in order are the Hispanics (33,386), people who refused to give their race (27,043) and white (21400). For deaths, the top three in order are white (2045), black (1446), and Hispanic (904). When it comes to gender, males and females seem to be affected relatively evenly. However, males seem more prone to be killed by it as 2661 males have died compared to 2122 females. It appears young people are more likely to get the virus but older people are more likely to die from it. Chicago is leading the way in the case count and the city centers are the leading places for case counts. But I don't think any place outside of Chicago land has broken 1000 cases.

Sunday May 24, 2020

Went to grandma and grandpas with my parents today. Mom was taking her some plants that we have leftover. She has a lot of beautiful irises growing. It was nice to be able to visit with them. My grandpa's hair has gotten rather long. He's balding on top and I've only ever seen him with wispy short hair. I didn't even know he was able to grow hair that long. I mentioned to my sister that we had gone out there and she gave this lecture over text over how I wasn't caring about people when I went out did things with my friend and visit grandpa who is extremely susceptible to illness. I blew up at her and told her she's not my mother and to stop lecturing. She hasn't responded, I think she's mad at me.

I've spent this afternoon working on my application to the children's museum of Indianapolis. I want to do an internship in their archeology lab but who knows how covid will affect how the museum operates.

I saw a video circulating of people throwing a fit at stores or restaurants because they were being refused service, kicked out, or barred from entering stores and other like establishments. The people in the videos would cough obnoxiously on workers, one lady full on decked a worker, and a whole bunch yelled and screamed at employees. It's incredibly obnoxious. If an establishment requires you to wear a mask, wear one. It is not that hard and requires no effort.

Monday May 25, 2020

Today is memorial day. My favorite Lincoln impersonator, George Buss, is doing an online presentation today through zoom. I might tune. I'm not sure. Depends if I get the motivation to do it.

I checked the state county map this morning. Case count for Coles is at 115 with 9 deaths. A Facebook friend shared a press release yesterday on Facebook and that said the case count was at 119, with 8 in the hospital, 65 in recovery, 37 recovered, and 9 dead. 73 of the confirmed cases have been linked to the nursing home in Charleston and the 2 additional deaths were also from there. The total count for the state is at 110,304 positive cases, and 4,856 deaths. The recovery rate has moved to 92%. The national total has reached 1,622,114 with 97,049 deaths. That means the national death rate is maintaining at 6%.

Yesterday, Pritzker announced that the entire state will take steps to move into phase 3 in which people can go back to work. Guidelines for that will be released in the coming days. I'm honestly surprised he announced the entire state is being allowed to move forward. Chicago is still a big mess last time I checked. I curious what this will mean in the future and if this will result in an uptick in cases.

Trump announced last week that churches are considered essential businesses and are permitted to reopen. First off, no. Churches are not businesses. They are tax free ergo they do not get the privileges extended to business that do pay taxes. Second, they are social settings. You can argue that spiritual nourishment helps you stay healthy and alive, but you can also argue that you can gain the same nourishment anywhere therefore having the building open is not essential. When reporters asked Trump officials about the safety of reopening churches in a Press conference, the lady basically called them all godless heathens for speaking negatively about the reopening of churches. I know this a ploy to reach out to his evangelical base. He knows he is desperate and losing support fast. By doing this, he can say "hey look at me! I saved all the churches! God loves me!" But the man is not even close to religion. He's been asked what his favorite scripture was before and he either couldn't say one (because he doesn't know any scripture) or he said something that wasn't even in the bible (because he doesn't know any scripture). And over the weekend, after he spent all last week talking about church and going back, he spent the weekend on his private golf course. Now I understand being president is an incredibly stressful job, but now is the worst time to be taking his n-teenth trip to Maralago and his golf course. New York Times I believe it was last week they published a front page with the names, age, and death date of everyone who has died from the virus in the states. As previously mentioned, that number is slightly under 100,00 although I think the headline claimed it was 100,000. Either way, it's a lot of people. The world case count is a little over 5 million. The US case count is light years above the other countries in the world and that's because our president is an incompetent moron.

My friend left for TN today. Part of me wishes I had gone with her. I really just want to get out and do something.

Tuesday May 26, 2020

Some upsetting videos have been circulating the media today. The first I saw this morning was of a black gentleman who is a birder and was in a section of the NYC Central Park. In that section of the park, it is a law for people to have their dogs on leashes and this lady named Amy Cooper had her dog off the leash. The name politely asked her to put her dog on a leash, as this law was passed to protect the wildlife and the birds that are in that area. Instead of putting her dog on a leash she proceeded to start yelling at the man and told him that she was calling the cops because she was attacking him. She made the 911 call saying that he was attacking her and her dog and sounded very frantic. But we know she was lying. We know this because the gentleman was recording the entire incident. From the video we clearly see that she approached him while he asked her not to come near him. She told him to stop recording or she would call the police and it's a good thing he didn't. When she made the call, you can clearly see that he was a good 6-8 feet away from her when she claimed he was attacking her. All the while this conversation is going on, she is dragging her dog around by the collar, nearly choking the poor thing to death. Eventually, she did put her dog on a leash and the man said thank you and left the area. His sister reports that he did not have any interaction with any police and finished out his birding activities for the day. The video went viral and her identity was tracked down. From what the news said, she was placed on leave from her job, a relatively prominent one at that, and her dog was taken back by the shelter it came from. No one was charged for anything. Personally, I think she should be punished for making a false 911 report. Community service or something. I don't think she should just get off. This young man could have been seriously hurt or killed. She reported an attacker and the police are going to go in assuming the black dude she identified is armed and willing to fight. This man could have been shot and killed all because she couldn't stand that he told her to put her dog on a leash.

The other video, the victim was less fortunate. A black male was apprehended by police. I'm not sure if it was because he fit the description of someone they were looking for or if he actually did something. Either way, the man was not alone, there were other civilians around when police arrested him. He was lying on his stomach with a white officer pinning him down by putting his knee on the man's neck. The man tried to tell the officer he couldn't breathe, the people around took videos of them trying to tell the officer the man couldn't breathe with him on his neck. The officer refused to listen, and the man suffocated and died. That is so sad. The man's death was entirely preventable, but the officer refused to listen. From what I hear, the officers involved in the incident were fired.

Now discussion over these two topics has largely been about race. In these situations, the aggressor has been white and the victim a black man. A lot of connections have been drawn to the various killings of innocent black people, particularly that of Emmitt Till, a boy who was brutally beaten and murdered because he whistled at a white woman, who later admitted that he had done nothing to her. I am hesitant to jump on the race bandwagon. It is easy to think that because these incidents fit the classic description of race discrimination and hate crime. But, without speaking to those who committed the offense and understanding what was going on in their minds, how do we know they wouldn't have reacted the same way with a white person? Of course, minorities have a much harder time in society and have a higher chance of being attacked police, or just attacked in general. I had a whole conversation with someone

about this last night over Facebook. We can't fix the system until we recognize the flaws and that minorities have a much harder time surviving in a society that favors whites. But with regard to the incidents, I haven't seen either one of the aggressors say, I did that because he was black, or African American as the lady reported him to be. I haven't heard anything about reports of either person saying hateful comments or doing hateful acts towards blacks previous to the events although the woman sounded very convincing like she's made a call like that before. In no way am I excusing their behavior. I absolutely think that their actions are disgusting, and they deserve to be punished. I think it is incredibly sad that blacks have to worry about if they will be killed by the very people that are there to protect us. But I also think labeling every incident between a person who happens to be white and a person who happens to be black a racial fueled hate crime just adds fuel to the fire. We keep talking about erasing the color lines between blacks and whites but how can we do that if people turn every interaction between blacks and whites into a conflict about race. Now I'm not saying these incidents are definitely not about race. It is entirely possible they could be. But, I think we should have all the facts before coming to conclusions.

Coles County case numbers have gone up again. Another case was confirmed at the nursing home bringing the total up to 120. 3 more have died bring that total to 13. There are 9 in the hospital, 49 recovered and 49 in recovery. 73 of the confirmed cases are linked to the nursing home. I checked the state county map and it says there are 115 cases with 9 deaths. That is quite the difference. I really want to know where the discrepancy is happening.

P.S.

I have to amend my previous statement about the Karen of NYC. It was totally racist. In reports that went up on YouTube in the last couple of hours, it was revealed she released a statement and she said she reacted that way because she was scared. Please. More like she profiled this black guy who was minding his own business, watching birds of all things, would want to unspeakable things to her and took the opportunity to call the cops on him. She claims to have been afraid, I don't buy it. If she was, she was afraid of the stigma attached to black men. Racism is about 2 things: fear and power. People attack what they fear. Karen here was afraid of the incorrect stereotypes that come with black skin. I also found out the story behind the gentleman that died. Police responded to a call of fraudulent checks at a restaurant. In parked car near the scene was the victim. Police asked him to exit the car and when he did there was an altercation. They handcuffed him and pinned him to the ground. The man showed signs of medical distress and he died later at the hospital. The 4 officers have been fired and an investigation has been launched. The videos just catch the bit where the man is pinned so I have no idea if sitting on his neck was warranted or if it's some kind of technique, odd as it may be. I have one big question, why didn't they get off when it was clear the man was having trouble breathing? Their goal is to detain not kill. Why didn't they stop?

Wednesday May 27, 2020

Protests in Minneapolis have been going in in response to the gentleman that was killed on Monday. Cops used tear gas and were dressed in riot gear. People on social media keep vilifying the police but I'm sitting here wondering, why did they feel they needed to use it? I

highly doubt they used tear gas for the fun of it. Also, people have been calling for 4 fired cops to be brought up on charges, arrested, and rot in jail. I'm getting a distinct mob mentality happening here. Someone that was verified on twitter said that the cop that was on his neck needs to be thrown in jail or things will end badly. I think the cops might have to be detained for their own safety. People are on a war path over this. My opinion, let the investigation happen and see what the results are at the end. If the cops are guilty, they will be just as guilty in the time it takes to complete an investigation. But, with the mob mentality and people are convinced that they are guilty of murder, it's going to end badly either way. Either the cops are sent to jail for a murder charge or if it's found they are not directly responsible for his death they go to jail for manslaughter and people riot because they will get less time and less harsh treatment. Or, worst case scenario, the cops are found to have acted accordingly and are found innocent, and people will riot because they have convinced themselves the cops are guilty of a racial motivated hate crime ending with them purposefully murdering him. I worry some people might try to take the law in their own hands and hunt down the 4 officers that were involved. History is filled with vigilante justice.

The state county map has been updated but it says there's 119 cases and 12 deaths. That's updated from yesterday but it's still wrong. At least according to the county updates coming from their Facebook page.

Thursday May 28, 2020

New national news for the day. Trump has been saying that he is going to sign an executive order on social media because twitter put a notice on 2 of his incorrect tweets regarding voting by mail in California might contain false information. He went ballistic because he thinks twitter is trying to censor him and specifically targeting conservatives. Fox is also touting that the dude in charge of censoring offensive tweets at twitter is fervently anti-trump and is using this as an opportunity to promote his own agenda. Mark Zuckerberg weighed in and said twitter should not have put the notices on trumps tweets, but Trump shouldn't be censoring social media. Trump is such a moron. He's angry that he's being censored so he's going to censor them or completely shut them down (which I don't think he can do). But, at the very least, with no twitter I don't have to hear about his idiocy every day.

The manhunt for the University of Connecticut student has ended after 5 days. Police from multiple states cornered him in a truck stop parking lot in Maryland. He murdered 2 people and I believe kidnapped the girlfriend of the 2nd victim. I watched. Short news segment on it this morning and the comments were just full of people saying the dude wasn't shot because he was white or if he was black, he would already be dead. Those comments come across as ignorant to me. Those comments assume that all police officers are aiming to kill every black person they see. I'm assuming these officers were operating by procedure which is not to shoot unless they are left with no choice. They were able to complete their objective without shooting him. It's true that statistically, black men are more likely to be shot by police but, I think that statistic is used too much to give the impressions all police everywhere are racist. That if a white guy is taken in without incident, it only happened that way because he was white. I just wish people would take a moment, step back, and realize there are variables to

these complicated situations that they are choosing to ignore to favor their “every cop is a racist” mentality. I also had a thought this morning when I was thinking about the gentleman that died a couple days ago. Lots of people were taking video of the cops sitting on him. But did anyone call the police? Like, when they saw the man was being hurt, did it occur to no one to call 911 and say these officers have apprehended this man and they are strangling him, please have someone or a superior officer come tell them to do a different restraining technique or see to it the officers are punished for doing that? Everyone had a phone, clearly because they were taking videos. They were so busy documenting what was happening, but no one bothered to call more police? There are more than 4 officers in Minneapolis. Why didn’t anyone do anything? I suppose it’s possible no one thought to do that in the moment, but I think that speaks to mistrust of police. I also think that the people that were there do shoulder some of the blame for this incident if they chose to record this incident versus calling someone to help diffuse the situation.

I checked the county case map this morning. The numbers are the same as yesterday but considering the discrepancies who knows if those numbers are accurate.

Friday May 29, 2020

The world seems to be closing in on itself. The riots in Minneapolis are getting worse. I found out the tear gas was used in response to people looting various stores. Yesterday, people started burning down buildings, including a police precinct. People have been posting on social media that if you were silent when a black man was murdered then you have no right to be angry about the property damage. Basically, if you’re concerned about the property damage that makes you a horrible person. A Facebook friend cited a quote from MLK when he discussed the causes of looting and that it would continue until something was done to fix the imbalance in society. I’m not sure if she was using it to approve of the looting or she was saying to expect more until something is done? Frankly, from the way I understood the quote, MLK was explaining why riots happen and not condoning them. I don’t think people should be quoting MLK to serve their own ends. The downtown of the city is also crawling with police and state troopers. Protesters are being arrested. This morning a story went up that a 4-person journalist team from CNN was in an abandoned part of downtown doing live coverage. As state troopers were moving through the area and approached the team the journalist identified himself and the team as media and repeatedly said they would move to wherever they needed to get out of their way. Instead the officers arrested 3 members of the team, the journalist who was black and the camera guy and one other guy. One of which was a Hispanic and the other white. The 4th member was left alone when he identified himself as media and he was white. People are screaming that this was a racially motivated arrested but then why was the white guy arrested. Honestly, I have no idea why they were arrested or what the officers were thinking. They clearly identified themselves and the whole exchange was caught on camera. None of them resisted and they tried to talk it out, but they were arrested. I don’t understand. Also, the news went out they arrested a 14-year-old girl. I have no idea why she was arrested but people are using that as a weapon. Framing it as the girl was arrested for protesting but the man who was on Floyd’s neck is still free. First, you can’t charge someone with murder without a case, in this case an autopsy report confirming that his death was because to the officer. Second, I’m guessing that 14-year-old was detained not arrested. Third, I would hope the police didn’t

arrest her because they felt like it but because she was endangering people. In my opinion, answering a violent act with another violent act will not solve anything. There are so many other non-violent ways this situation could have been approached that would have been much more effective. The better person will win the fight, not the one that wreaks the most damage. This is mob-mentality working at its finest.

I also think there is a level of hypocrisy present. Where was the outrage when a young black paramedic was shot sleeping by police when they raided her home? I heard about it for 2 days and then people moved. Where was the outrage when a young black man was shot down in some twisted sense of vigilante justice while jogging? I heard about for maybe a week before people moved on. Another black person was killed when police raided the wrong house and I heard about it for a day. In the wake of the riots, people have largely lost interest in the black gentleman that had the police called on him at Central Park the same day of the man died. Chicago Mayor and our gov., also from Chicago, used a press conference to publicly denounce the racism showed in Minneapolis. It's true, what happened was horrible and was entirely preventable, your outraged at something the entire nation is clamoring about but not the daily shootings in Chicago every day? I can't quite remember the exact number but over memorial day weekend, there were either 10 shootings with some fatalities or 10 shooting fatalities in Chicago. I just think, if you're really upset about this display of racial violence, why aren't you upset about those? Why aren't you taking steps to end the violence in your own backyard?

I was at Lincoln log yesterday filling out paperwork and we had a discussion about covid. It seems we didn't agree on much because there's all kinds of information floating around. As of yesterday, there was another death at the nursing home and my boss said that was 79 attributed to the home and the 9 leftover are those we had at the very beginning. But that number would only total 88. But in the update shared on the Coles county health department via Facebook yesterday, total cases reached 124 with 7 hospitalized, 14 dead, 57 recovered, and 45 recovering. Of that, 75 are attributed to the nursing home. But my boss gets his numbers direct from the state. Where is the disconnect happening? My boss also said the death rate was less than 1% but is if you check the rates of total cases and total deaths, it's at 6%. Maybe of active cases its under 1%? I have no idea. I don't think anyone knows what is happening. I wish all these shareable pages with information from when the outbreak first started would stop. That information is no longer relevant but people keep sharing like it's still correct.

Saturday May 30, 2020

Lots of things happening today. Elon Musk is supposed to launch his first manned spacecraft today if the weather is clear although right now it looks like it will be pushed to tomorrow. This will be the first private company to ever send people into space. It's just too bad Elon is a horrific human being. I'm debating if I will watch. I'm curious to see it, the last space launch with NASA happened when I was a kid and I don't remember it. But, I also don't want to contribute to that stain of human's ego.

Riots are continuing in Minneapolis and are happening in major cities all across the states. Videos are going viral all over the place of police officers being rough with protesters. But, as I say, never trust a video. There was one I saw of a young white girl getting shoved, admittedly very hard, backward and knocked to the ground. The video isn't the clearest but, in the beginning, it looks like she was directly approaching the officer and was not shoved without cause. But from the video, it's hard to tell either way. Either she could have been protesting the opposite direction from everyone else or trying to leave and crossed paths with the officer. Or, she deliberately tried to head him off and that was his reaction. I know enough not to draw judgements from the video. Another one was a video of a female white reporter reporting live on what looked like an active standoff between protesters and police. They were standing further back, but still kind of close, and when an officer turned towards them and walked towards them. I figured he was going to tell them they needed to get further back but then he raised his weapon and appeared to fire rubber bullets at the news team. I don't have words for that. I have no idea what was going through the officer's head to do that. They were not hurting him and didn't try to engage. I'm not sure what was happening there. I also don't know where either of these incidents happened but I'm pretty sure the first was down south somewhere. There was another video circulating of protesters talking/yelling with a black cop about the protest and the cop said he agreed with their protest and the ranks should be cleaned out and they are working on, followed by a statement that they can't use the bullhorns and whatnot in this setting. So basically, doing his job while also agreeing something needs to be done. There was 2 other officers with him who were not involved in the conversation. It looked like they were trying to get through to go place and a lady starts screaming at them, "You say some s*** like that! You say some s**** like that!" I agree with everything the black cop said. Something needs to change and a good place to start is clean out the ranks. But demanding officers who aren't involved in the conversation and look too busy with something else stop and pledge their loyalty just seems... I don't know. I'm not sure how to describe it. You demand that justice be done to bring George Floyd's killer to justice and then you turn around and scream in the faces of people trying to help and stop people from getting hurt, practically implying if they don't carry a sign that says I support your cause but I want to keep people safe that they're a racist and will try to attack them. There was another video going around of people in some big city that swarmed and destroyed a police car. Bashed in the windows and everything. The video was too far away to see if anyone was inside the vehicle. MLK III released a statement that he understood the pain of the people protesting but firmly does not condone violence of any kind. I think I fall in line with him. I don't think a violent crime should be answered with another violent crime. The burning of restaurants and such destroys the livelihoods of those people and does nothing to punish the people your mad at. Protest in the streets. Write letters to your representatives demanding change and do it every day. Do sit ins. Put on rallies. There are so many other ways to make yourself seen and heard. I think if people continue on this route, the clashing will just get worse. The idiot in chief isn't helping things. He said in a tweet early this week that when people started rioting then police would start shooting. Things are rapidly going out of control.

The police officer that knelt on George Floyd's neck was arrested for 3rd-degree murder and manslaughter yesterday. In the press conference, the man said they put together a case in

under 4 days, that is the fastest they have ever charged anyone in the history of their department. Justice does take its course, people just needs to be patient. As the case goes on, there is a possibility he will face new charges and charges are pending against the other officers involved. The spokesperson said they wanted to go after the most dangerous person first. And, as I suspected from the beginning, there was more to the story than the video showed. Now, I first must say that I don't not condone what Devin whatever-his-last-name-is did and he should be punished for unnecessary force, not listening to George when he said he was not able to breath, and not abiding by regulations. But, the autopsy showed that George had no sign of strangulation. What he did have was a heart problem. Corner suggests that it was the combination of the strain, plus the heart problem, plus the stuff that was in his system that caused him to die. There wasn't really a straight answer but I'm guessing heart failure. I saw this paper shared on Facebook that talked about Devin's record. Apparently, he has had 6-7 prior occasions when he killed someone belonging to minority group. Now, the footnotes with the source material was too small to read so I couldn't check the facts or the find out the contexts of any of the instances for myself. But, the end results look bad on him. There was one individual he and another officer shot 46 times. Now that is excessive and uncalled for. I can't think of what kind of context would qualify that behavior. It also said that the kneeling on the neck that he did was not regulation for the police. I think, if people would take a breath and calm down, they would realize that we all have the same goal. To stop the violence. We can work together to reach a common goal and the cycle of people dying and getting hurt. That begins with ending the rioting, stopping arson, and stop clashing with police.

The Mayor of St. Paul said in a press conference that the arrests that happened after a curfew was set were all people from out of state. Mayor Carter said the people in the movement have said they don't know who the people are that are doing to the violence and destroying businesses. He suggests people are taking advantage of the situation to wreak havoc. I don't know. I've been thinking a lot about the race riots in the 60s. Is this what it was like when violence happened every night and you never knew when things were going to end. People are arguing over Facebook that you can't say the rioting is wrong because the killing of black men has been going for far too long. You don't get to be upset or angry about the riots because you said nothing when these killings were happening. I just want to say, don't mistake my silence for placidity. I choose to bide my time rather screaming into empty space. I'm upset by these events and if anyone bothered to ask, I would say so. But, I don't hear about every incident. I'm not actively involved in a minority community so many of these things I just don't hear about. And also, I didn't see you screaming about the injustices either. I didn't see you actively campaigning and leading a charge to end racial violence. I think you don't have the right to tell me I shouldn't disapprove of the rioting when you yourself were quite until this point. If you want to win, you have to beat the system at its own game. Doing destruction will only give your enemies ammunition to use against you. People are entitled to feel angry about this. I'm certainly upset about it but I choose to keep a level head because someone has to. When emotions run away with you, you are unable to make rational decisions and that's what people need. Clear headed and clam decisions are the most effective.

I checked the county case map this afternoon and its raised to 125 positive cases and 14 deaths. Illinois has hit 117,455 positive cases and 5,270 deaths.

Sunday May 31, 2020

Today I attended the Black Lives Matter protest in Charleston, and this was my experience as I remember it. I made the decision this morning that I was going to go after I saw a video police officers using tear gas against protesters and videos of protesters protecting officers and cleaning up after the riots. I just felt moved to actively do something. According to the Facebook event, we all gathered in front of the of the gate in front of the castle before stepping off. My friend was going to go but she decided not to this morning because she didn't want to risk being in a large crowd since she is immunocompromised. I invited my sister to come with me, but she felt unwell, so I went alone. I took with me the sign I had used at the women's march in Washington DC 2 years ago. The sign says that I am changing the things I no longer accept, vague but appropriate for all your protest occasions. I parked in the staff lot across from Blair and I saw a lady I know from church pull in. I called to ask them if they were marching and she said that they were trying to socially distance to protect family members, so they were going to drive by and honk with signs taped to the windows. I told them I would keep them posted as to where we were going. I walked to join the group in front of the gates, and I was very surprised. I expected maybe 30 people to show up. When I got there, there was probably between 100-150 people there. While we were waiting, I ran into the History department head. It was lovely to see her there with her husband, daughter, and I assume the daughter's friend. I had another friend there, but I had no idea where she was. It made me feel a lot more comfortable knowing someone there. Before we even started walking a truck drove by and lady leaned out the passenger side window and screamed "White Power!" at us. In response, some of the protesters yelled back "F You!" and flipped them off. Another truck/ jeep thing drove past and on the passenger side the drivers of a window sticker of trump as if he was sitting in the car. That felt like it was on purpose.

Then we actually started walking. We fell in towards the end. We walked down to 4th street and crossed at the light to Morton park. Protesters lined the crosswalk on either side to protect us as we passed through the middle and discourage any drivers from trying to plow through us. As we crossed, there were a couple cars who pulled a U-turn and went the other way because apparently, they couldn't be bothered to wait the couple minutes it took for all of us to pass by. The Journal Gazette took video of us crossing the light to the park and people still chanting, you can see my back as I pass by. We made it to the park, and we faced the road and did some chanting and call and response. There were some chants that they requested whites not say as they were some specially aimed at expressing the feelings of the black community. After we finished our chants, we gathered under the trees and there were some speeches. My friend Chocolate had worked to help organize the protest stepped up to give the first speech. It was passionate and a very good speech in my opinion. After she was done, she opened up the floor to any blacks that were there to speak about what bothered them, their own experiences, if they felt moved to discuss their feelings. A man got up and talked about his first night in Charleston he was stopped by a cop because they were looking for a suspect around 6 foot, the man was maybe 5'5". He also mentioned several other experiences he had and was pleased to

see everyone had turned out to help protest against injustice. Then a girl got up and she said she had come to EIU to get away from racism in the south only to find it on campus in the form of Nazi propaganda, defacing of the cultural steps by someone writing "F Black History Month," etc. But she was very pleased that more people than she expected to show up came and felt the solidarity that not all people behaved that way. Then a young man stepped up. He asked what kind of protest this was, and Chocolate answered that it was a peaceful protest held in solidarity with George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. He proceeded to say that they had tried peaceful for so long and no one was listening. If we want change and actively make things better, it is necessary to not be peaceful. We have to make them see us by any means necessary. As he talked, I could feel the tension rising. Things started to spin a little bit when a white woman finally spoke up. When he asked why they shouldn't be violent she answered because they would kill him and she doesn't want to see any more dead. Now, I know she meant well, and I agree with her sentiment, but she should not have spoken up. She, as a white person, does not personally know the level of pain and anger the black community is feeling. This led to several people to start criticizing her speaking up because she was white and had no right to tell the black community what to do. Callie stood up and explained she was angry too, but violence will get them nowhere. The girl that had spoken before also stood up and said that she was happy to see solidarity, and no one expects change overnight. But then some girls in the audience started to side with the young man. As this escalated, I stood very quietly in my spot and I was getting anxious. I was hoping the young man preaching violence wasn't going to start throwing punches and I was hoping no one that might be observing would call the police as we were a large group (who was predominantly black) and an argument was breaking out. But bless this black mother who stepped forward and told him things have changed from what they used to be. Change is happening but it takes time. She also said that we go to college (she was an EIU alum) to nurture our minds so we need to use our intelligence and our words and make them hear us. Her adult son was there with her and she said she hates that she is afraid for him and something needs to change. The girls that had sided with the young man started arguing with her because she had rather abruptly shut him down. But Through a combined effort of several people, the situation was able to be diffused and the young man left.

After that interesting episode we again got in formation and marched over and turned at the Starbucks to start heading downtown. I had gotten separated from Dr. Elder, but I ran into a co-worker from the Cabin who was with her husband. I almost didn't recognize her but once she laughed at something, I recognized her voice. For the rest of the time, I largely stuck with them. As we were passing by county market, I noticed a family of four, a mom, dad, son, and daughter. The chant "Black Lives Matter!" went up and in response the mom yelled back "All lives Matter!" Then the dad yelled what sounded like "No Lives Matter!" and proceeded to, in essence, wish all the black people around me dead. This was horrible to hear, especially with him yelling all this in front of children. Not to mention people had brought their kids with them to this march. But the girl leading the chants in the middle started back up the "Black Lives Matter!" chant to drown him out. And we proceeded along our way. We stopped in front of the Charleston Police Station and chanted for a little bit. While we were there, a pizza hut delivery guy pulled up and gave some of the protesters pizza. I think he only had a couple of pizzas to give so most didn't get anything. I think I saw him being interviewed by the campus paper

reporter dude later. I also overheard a conversation that someone at Jimmy Johns wanted to bring the protesters Jimmy Johns, but I didn't see this before I left. We continued on to the square and marched around the courthouse. One side there was a cherry picker looking thing parked on the street. One young black man tried to climb it but fell off. He thought it was very funny. I think it was childish and unbecoming. You do not give people any reason to discredit your voice and that includes climbing on construction equipment when you shouldn't be. We stopped in front of the courthouse for another round of speeches. With this one, it did not open up to whoever wanted to speak. People took photos and videos as we did chants in front of the building. Then, we headed back up to the castle. This was the hardest leg for me. It was hot and I was getting very tired and dehydrated. The mask didn't help things as it made breathing a tad difficult, the air staler. I kept telling myself I just needed to put one foot in front of the other and keep going because my car was up there. I had to go anyway. I did less chanting on this leg as it was getting more difficult to catch my breath. This leg went pretty smoothly and for the most part, the people passing by in cars were largely supportive and honked in solidarity or carried signs.

It was when we got to the tail end that things started to spiral again. We had to cross one final light to get back to where we started. Sitting at the light were a group of motorcyclists. We were doing what we had been doing the whole time, people stood along the cross walk as the rest of passed by. I came up at the tail end of the exchange in which several protesters had gathered around and were also yelling at the man sitting at the front of the group. The protesters looked very angry and he sat on his bike and looked rather indifferent. A lady stood at the edge of the sidewalk waving for us to keep going across the road. They were getting kind of close in his personal space, it was making me nervous. I half expected him to get off his bike and start a brawl right there in the road. After we all made it across, I overheard the girl who was blocking the way relay the story of what happened. She said that she had stood in front of the cyclists to stop them from going until we were all through. He told her that she had to move immediately. She refused. This culminated into the yelling that I saw when I passed by. As soon as we were all past, the road was either opened up or the cyclists went around the people in the road. Before they left, they apparently said that they would be back, some kind of veiled threat. I was standing up towards the road and I got into a conversation with 2 people I didn't know. They asked me if I knew what had happened with the motorcyclists. One of the young ladies in charge of the event asked if anyone had video of their license plates because she would be reporting them to the police. Then, off to my right, I heard what I thought was "Someone called the cops!" People started moving around and shuffling so I thought are we scattering? Should I be running? What exactly am I running from? But then I noticed everyone was looking and moving the same way. I moved around some people and I saw that a car accident had happened at the light down on 4th street. Apparently, I just missed the collision because debris was settling when I looked over. I saw a woman get out of a car and run over to one of the cars involved. This is my conclusion based solely on what I could see. This is by no means based on the police report so the likelihood that I'm wrong is relatively high. One car was parked at the light leaving town and the other car was in the left turn lane next to McDonalds trying to turn towards the park. I think the dude in the left turn lane had a green arrow and the person leaving town mistook the green turn arrow for a green light to go forward

and they collided. But, like I said, I missed the actual collision so I'm not sure about the details. I didn't even hear it happen which is surprising. I was only standing about 2, maybe 3 blocks down from the light. Chocolate asked everyone to please stay at the gate because we don't want to give the police any reason to think that we had anything to do with it. I had noticed a lack of a police presence throughout the whole thing which I thought was interesting. But, when the accident happened, it took seconds for cars to show up, most of which were unmarked. They had been around us the whole time; we just didn't know it. Knowing that causes a bit of mixed feelings. I'm glad that they were there in case something happened, like a fight broke out or one of the ignorant people we came across tried to attack the protesters. But, it's also a little weary knowing they could have been on top of us at any point had they not liked what we were doing. I am certainly glad though that we have police that won't attack us for protesting unlike other cities in the US. I ended up leaving pretty soon after the crash happened. I needed to get some water and I could feel my skin frying. My forehead is pretty well burned. I wished the two I was talking to have a good day and be safe before I headed out. Once I got to my car, I called my friend to tell her all about what had happened while it was fresh in my brain. After I finished my call with her, I then called another friend to tell her all about it. She mentioned she was going to go to the protests in Nashville today but decided not to when she heard about the violent protests last night.

Things are spiraling out of control in Champaign. People broke windows of stores at the mall started looting. The police showed up and blocked off the entrance to the building. The people who were looting left, but a small group of protesters remained. After everyone had left, I heard a story about a mom drove up and had her teenage kid run inside to try and loot, but a police officer chided her about contributing to the problem. The Champaign police shut down several roads citing safety concerns. I think there was another incident with people going after Target. My friend told me that people are still trying to get chief of police Seraphin fired over the event I described earlier with the take down technique caught on camera. Seraphin wasn't even there for the incident, yet people want him fired. According to my friend, Seraphin is one of the most capable men and perfect for leadership and he would never go after anyone because of their skin. She also said the people she knew on the police force would never do anything like the stuff being reported in the news of police brutality. I thought this issue was settled when they showed everyone the body camera footage. Yet, the chief might lose his job over something he wasn't involved in. I wish there was something I could do. Pritzker instituted a curfew in Chicago as the protests turned to riots in the evening yesterday. He called in the national guard to help enforce the curfew with the Chicago police. I wish people would be peaceful. I wish people would be kind to each other. I wish protesters would stop beating on police shields and instigating violence. I wish the police would stop using tear gas on protesters and arresting everyone they see with no care as to who they are or what that person was doing.

Monday June 1, 2020

EIU and the journal gazette posted articles about the protest this morning. I learned that the incident with the motorcycles was more extreme than I thought, and it explains the anger I saw in the protesters faces. 2 of the men tried to run over protesters when they were in the way when the light turned green and the man, they were yelling at specifically actually made

contact with someone. I'm glad to hear that they did report this man/men to the police. People like that need to face consequences. The Charleston Police Department also posted to their support for the protest on Facebook. It is good to see that our police department is so supportive of us. I also heard that a state democratic congressional representative Weaver was there. I didn't even realize she was there. I heard there is another protest in Springfield today. I overheard several people from the protest yesterday saying they asked off work to attend the one there today. I firmly support the movement and pushing the message that racism government officials and police needs to end. But, I worry about the safety of that. Protests in larger cities have been turning violent all over the states. Protests need to be non-violent, that is the only way they work. I wish we had a figure like MLK who would step up and lead, unite people and make them feel like they're being heard and making a difference without all the violence. I will say all this was a humbling experience. I've lived in this community all my life and never seen for myself the kind of racism that showed its face at the protest. I never realized how degrading and horrible people can be all because you have dark skin. Reading about it is one thing, but seeing it is another.

When it comes to George Floyd, I'm not sure what exactly is going on. I thought they had already done an autopsy but maybe that was preliminary? Or they got a second opinion? Today, in a press conference style of announcement, the pathologist said he had concluded that he had no underlying health issues and died due to the pressure on his back and neck in the street. If that is the case, then what was the first autopsy report? And why was it being reported that he died in the hospital? Is that just where he was officially pronounced dead? I'm very confused. One minute they killed him, then the next they didn't but contributed to it, and now they killed him again. I wish they would figure out the narrative, so I have some idea how the event happened. I can't be angry if I don't understand what I'm angry about.

I can't believe that its already June. This feels all rather weird. I went to campus to turn in my books. It felt rather strange. It feels strange to know I won't be going back. I rather like it there.

Tuesday June 2, 2020

The protests continue. I believe it was yesterday or maybe the day before, I'm not sure, that Trump authorized the national guard to be deployed to suppress the protests. He constantly makes comments to governors that they need to be harsher and control their people. His constant threats aren't helping the tense social climate. I believe it was yesterday he was giving a speech in the rose garden. As he was talking you can hear flash bangs going off on the other side of the house. He ordered the police/soldiers/ whoever was stationed outside, to clear the protesters by any means so that he could have a photoshoot at the church across the street. They used tear gas and quite a bit of force on what was reported to have been an otherwise peaceful protest. Once he got to the church, he stood outside and held up the bible like a trophy. I can't wait for this stain to go down.

It was reported that around 1000 people attended the protest in Springfield. It was organized by 3 teenage girls who want to make their community better. Protests are continuing

in Minneapolis and all over the world. There are an increasing number of instances of police stepping down to walk with protesters or resigning their positions. There was even a video of police officers singing with protesters "Lean On Me." I saw on Facebook that a Coles County protest is set to happen this Friday. I'm not sure if I'll go. My chest got burned pretty badly on Sunday so I might have to pass on this one in the interest of protecting my skin.

Today has been deemed #blackouttuesday. People are posting plain black squares on social media in solidarity with the black lives matter movement. It's been proving to be a bit of an issue because the #blacklivesmatter is the tag people use to spread information about the protests, local happenings, etc. By using that tag with the black square, it is blocking information, so people have asked people use the tag #blackouttuesday instead. I would share it, but I can't find the black square.

I saw a post from the Champaign Police Department yesterday that they supported peoples' right to peacefully protest but they would stay deployed to ensure the public's safety. I'm not sure if that meant they would still be and out about to make sure it stays peaceful or if things turned violent and they will stay out to repress violent actions. Although, I did see on the Champaign police department's Facebook page that the police chief spoke at a protest last night in solidarity with them and there's photos of police talking with protesters. So, I think it's more the former than the latter.

A friend of mine from EIU Guard is organizing a protest in her home-town of Effingham. I reached and told her that I was willing to help her in any way that I can. I certainly wish her all the best in this and hope her event is successful.

In the midst of all this, the pandemic continues. The county map Coles county case map says we have 127 cases and 15 deaths. No idea if those numbers are accurate. State numbers are at 121,234 positive cases with 5,412 deaths.

Wednesday June 3, 2020

I woke up this morning in disgust after looking at my twitter updates. #WhiteoutWednesday is trending on twitter. This is the hashtag being used to push white supremacist ideology and to belittle the Black Lives Matter Movement. I am beyond words. I have always known racism was in this country, and was prominent down south, but this is a whole new level. I saw it briefly in Charlottesville a couple years ago with the Neo Nazi rally. I've seen it briefly in the responses to the killings of black individuals, such as Treyvon Martin. But I don't think I've ever seen it on this scale before. I've certainly never seen it on a local level like I did at the protest. This is certainly upsetting.

Stories have come out the when trump removed protesters from the church, the church reverend was also there with a medic team, providing food, water, and aid to protesters. They were also forcibly removed from the church grounds because Trump wanted his photo op without the permission of the church. That man is a stain on the human race. There's also paperwork going viral of a law suit an anonymous woman filed against Trump and Epstein that

they raped and beat her as a 13-year-old. This is just one example of what many people are saying that the two were involved in a child sex ring. I wouldn't peg anything below that man.

I saw a video the other day of cops descending on this car with 2 young black people that was out after curfew. I have no idea what city this video takes place in. The video starts with 2 cars and police cars behind the two. The first car looks to have one white person in it. The second two black individuals, one male one female. The cars are slightly moving forward, and a black cop runs up and knock on the passenger side (the female's side). It looks like he's telling them to roll down the window which she does. There's no audio available but it appears he is telling they need to get out of the car because they are breaking curfew. She opens the door, some more talking happens, and then it looks like the officer is trying to remove her from the car, but the male is pulling her back inside. The car starts the roll a bit like he took his foot off the break during the scuffle. The whole time this is happening, no one has approached the first car and it is slowly inching away. At this point, cops start to congregate around the 2nd car and the first one drives off. It looks like the women is trying to tell the man to stop fighting back but more struggling happens. An officer uses a tazer but I couldn't tell if it hit the man or the woman. The woman is pulled out of the car and the officer that knocked on the window climbed into the car trying to pull the man out from the passenger side. He is resisting but, you can also clearly see that his seatbelt is still on as they're trying to pull him out. By this time, you can see around 20 officers have surrounded the vehicle. On the driver's side, an officer starts working on breaking in the window and successfully clears most of the window of glass in about 3 hits. An officer uses his stun gun through the window on the man. They finally open the driver's side door, forcefully haul him out, and at the end we see both are face down on the ground being arrested. Now, I sincerely hope there's more to the story than what I can see such as, they went after the other driver that was also breaking curfew and left the scene or maybe the couple had done something that warranted such behavior. In my mind, the encounter seemed excessive. Should the couple have resisted? No, I don't think they should have. Maybe the encounter would have ended differently. But is that an excuse for such rough treatment? No, it's not. There's also a photo circulating of a New York senator being pepper sprayed by police at a protest and the police didn't know who he was. The senator is black. Now, I find it hard to believe a senator would be doing something violent or dangerous enough to deemed worthy of being pepper sprayed.

My dad is making his feelings known towards the topic. He disapproves and the treatment George Floyd received by police but he shared an article on Facebook that seems to justify the treatment because he had substances in his bloodstream (which we don't even know that because the autopsy I talked about a couple days ago said that he didn't). The article also cited TMZ as its source so, already screams phony reporting. He is also firmly against the looting. I am too. I feel violence will only hinder the cause. But, I think the difference between him and me is that I am able to recognize the root of the violence and acknowledge the pain and anger. I've been thinking a lot about this lately. I haven't been able to think about much else. This is just so upsetting and it's all over the news. I think, change might actually come of this. I think we are living in a time where we might actually see progress towards racial equality. As much as I don't want to be tear gassed or attacked by police, I wish I was in a bigger city

helping the cause. I'm doing what I can here but it all feels rather miniscule. Places like Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, all these places are having massive protests and being noticed. They are contributing to the cause. I know ever little bit helps, but in rural Illinois which is predominantly republican, I don't feel like there's much that I can do.

Thursday June 4, 2020

Some news. The officers who were also with Devin when George Floyd was killed have been charged with aiding and abetting and Devin had his 3rd degree murder charged up to 2nd degree murder. I think the case is still wrapping up so there might be more charges to come.

The viral video I mentioned yesterday with the couple pulled from the car has also been resolved. We find out the couple was out trying to find someplace to eat and got caught in a traffic jam. The guy noticed a friend being arrested by police and he called out. The officer came up to his car to confront him to which the man made it clear he was not interested in an confrontation. The officer told him to leave or be arrested. The couple tried to leave but they were stuck in traffic and couldn't get anywhere which lead to the video which has been going viral. We also learned that after he had been taken into custody, he was punched in the back several times before being taken to the hospital. We know all this from body cams of the officers. It was ruled that the 6 officers that used their tasers and dragged them from the car used excessive force and subject to punishment. I'm not clear if that means prison time or disciplinary action but maintaining their position as a cop.

General Mattis announced that he views Trump as a threat to the constitution to which Trump responded on twitter by announcing he was fired.

Protests continue all over the country and videos are going crazy about police brutality. An officer in Houston ran over a protester with a horse. An officer hit somebody with their bike, as in getting off, picking the bike up and hitting someone with it. Officers are getting into fist fights, shooting people with rubber bullets, using tear gas and other chemical irritants. Officers have cornered protesters on a bridge so they couldn't run from being rounded up. In Chicago they cornered protesters on a bridge and they officers were reportedly ordered to "gas them." I am upset. I've been upset for the last week. I've never seen brutality on this scale before. Worst yet, its senseless brutality. I don't understand. I've seen videos pop up all of officers speaking out against the violence, but it seems for every video, 2 more videos of police brutality pop up. I know there are videos going around of officers kneeling with and having conversations with protesters that aren't getting the same kind of coverage, but I can't help but feel like the world is just caving in on itself.

Friday June 5, 2020

I decided not to go to the protest today, give my sunburn some more time to heal up. I've had a lot on my mind recently. There's been calls for officials to tear down confederate monuments. I think a monument in Charleston was torn down already. Protesters tried to take it down themselves but either the mayor or the gov. convinced them to give him time to get a professional crew to remove it. Personally, I'm of two minds on the topic. I saw a thread on

twitter that I have to agree with that part of the ethics of archeology is respecting the wishes of the locals of whose history you are dealing with. If the locals deem the removal of the statues and monuments is what is best for their communities, then I have no place to stand in their way. But, the statues also stand as a valuable piece of study. I have to admit I am a bit confused on their background. I attended a lecture last year in which a professor from a university in the south discussed how racial tensions from the civil war are still relevant today. He said that the majority of the soldier statues were created during reconstruction to help push the idea of examining the war through the lens of the soldiers experience (people argued if the war was about slavery, preserving the union, or if they should focus on the soldiers experience. The third option was less about politics and allowed both sides to talk about their experience so that is the one that won out for a while until recent interpretation that it was about slavery won out). But I see a lot of people talking about they were erected in the 60s during the civil rights movement and was meant to intimidate blacks living there. I honestly don't know which statement is correct. Regardless of when they were built, the statues still serve an important academic service as they are primary sources. I think If people do advocate for their removal and destruction, they should be thoroughly documented beforehand. This means taking very thorough photos, documenting the writing on it, the plaque, who commissioned it, who the artist was, how the statue was constructed (i.e. solid or hollow). Someone could make a book or make a website specifically for people studying the time period. I don't think erasing the painful stuff in our history fixes anything. Rather, those things need to be placed in their context so that their full purpose can be understood. It's one thing to say it served a racist purpose, it's another to prove it. That's rather difficult to do without the evidence. I also think the public education system is flawed and needs to be improved. Kids aren't learning enough about their local history and what is being taught is too much effected by politics. This is particularly true of the south. Education needs to be reformed as well.

I've also seen some rather hypocritical posts flying around. Posts, particularly aimed at whites, saying that if you call for peaceful protests and violence never works, then you're a racist. This is bothersome. I have never supported violence of any sort under any circumstances. I do not think violence solves anything and it only breeds more violence. Apparently, because I think that people's anger can be better focused in more effective ways, that makes me a racist. Because I think protesters shouldn't scream and get up in the faces of police (I felt this way with the stupid pandemic protests as well), that makes me a racist. I don't understand why people can't realize you fully support the BLM movement, support police reform, be against protester violence, but also be against looting, and attacking police who aren't attacking protesters and just doing their job. Apparently, you can't be for the movement but against hurting people and the businesses that have done nothing because to be both means that deep down, you're a racist. I don't understand how believing in equality and exercising the right to protest but also not seeking out destruction makes me a racist. And I noticed the same people who are sharing the above-mentioned posts, also shared posts that most of the damage from the 60s was white people attacking black communities. If its whites doing the damage, why are they still saying the damage is coming from the protesters? In multiple cities in the US, it's been found out that anarchist groups as well as white supremacist groups doing quite a bit of the damage. Protesters have been running out the people doing the

damage and turning them over to the cops. If the protesters are trying to distance themselves from the looters, why are people still defending the looting as if the protesters are doing it? People can't make up their minds. I think people are afraid of saying the wrong thing and appear racist, so they are choosing to share everything they see that supports the protesters whether it be violent or not. I think people need to be kinder on social media. People are learning and people should be allowed to voice their opinions, as long as their opinions aren't hurting anyone. So, they might not phrase something great, a gentle correction is favorable over screaming at them that they're a racist. Because I don't immediately jump on a bandwagon and I like to have the facts before I form an opinion makes me a racist? People's actions and voices right now are being fueled by rage and fear. If everyone, police, politicians, protesters, everyone, would calm down and think about things logically and choose the best reaction that will be the most effective. You want to take down the system, you have to beat it at its own game. I can't help but wonder, if people had listened when Kaepernick knelt during the anthem of his football game protesting police violence, would we be here today?

Today was Breonna Taylor's birthday. She would have been 27. She was asleep in her house when police raided. They raided the wrong house. They went in guns blazing and killed Breonna. Her boyfriend fired back in self-defense as the police did not identify themselves and he was arrested. He is still facing charges. Breonna was an award winning EMT and a beautiful young lady. The officers involved still have no charges against them. People have been posting all day, calling for the officers to face charges. This makes me incredibly sad. She lost her life because the officers didn't take the time to double check they were in the right place. She died because they chose to kill over detain. I support an officer defending themselves against a suspect trying to kill them. But how were 2 sleeping people posing a threat? I do not understand.

Adding to the list of problems, because why not, hurricane Cristobal is gaining strength and making its way towards Louisiana. Right now, it just looks like heavy rain and the storm won't actually smash into the continent.

Covid update, because we're still in the middle of a pandemic. Another death happened at the nursing home in Charleston bringing the total up to 17. I tried to check the Coles county health departments site, but I couldn't get it to load so I couldn't check the totals.

Saturday June 6, 2020

Racial tensions are in the news again. Within the last couple of days, a video surfaced of a 75-year-old white man approaching police in Buffalo. There's debate on whether he was returning a helmet, as there is a frame where you can see him carrying one, or if he was trying to speak on behalf of the protesters and calling out their methods. Regardless of what he was doing, he approached the police, a short conversation ensued and the officer shoved him. In being pushed backwards he tripped either on his feet or the sidewalk and fell, smashing his head on the sidewalk. Initially, the police reported that he tripped and fell. Then the video dropped proving the officer shoved him. You can see a pool of blood forming under his head. You can see blood dripping out of his ears. It looks like an officer tries to kneel down when he

first hits, but another officer pulls him away. One started talking in a radio, I would hope he was calling an ambulance. The rest of the maybe 30/35 officers minimum that were there did nothing. Barely even acknowledged that he was laying there. The two officers that were directly involved were put on suspension but were not removed from the force. 57 officers resigned from a specific section of the police force to stand in solidarity with the 2 officers who they say were just doing their job. Police officials released a statement that they do not support the actions of the officers and before being deployed their orders were very clear that they were to protect and ensure safety of people. Shoving the man did not fit those orders. Regardless, this is disturbing. It has been reported the man is in serious but stable condition at the hospital. Police are meant to protect and serve. How is attacking unarmed people protecting and serving. Why is alright for officers do that, seemingly get a slap on the wrist, and then so many people be supportive of their actions?

Trump said in a press conference a couple days ago the US is not experiencing any racial tensions. The man is a moron.

A video from earlier this week went viral of a man going at a group of young people, including what looked like a preteen girl. They were putting up flyers to raise awareness about racial inequality and George Floyd. The man was angry about it and actually grabbed the girls arm trying to take her flyers as the other 2 with her yelled at him not to touch her. As he got back on his bike, he rammed the guy recording the video before taking off. The 3 in the video asked to not be identified but they didn't blur the guys face. The video went up on twitter and people started calling for this guy to face charges. Twitter mistakenly identified a person as being the man in the video and he had to put up tweets saying he was not involved. He even posted a picture of the police report proving he was innocent in the matter. I read through some comments of the video and people were saying it was a police officer. I'm not sure if that person was one that was absolved from involvement or the guy that they did catch and is facing charges of second-degree assault. Twitter is an important platform because it helps people spread the news and share videos like these. But twitter has the tendency to identify people because they have a resemblance to the person in the video and as we can clearly see, twitter is easily wrong. People not involved in these incidents have to combat angry tweets and potentially death threats because they were falsely identified in a video. I'm certainly glad this person is facing charges, as he certainly should do. I'm glad twitter was able to assist in raising awareness for this issue. But sometimes I worry about the freedom people think they have on social media to say whatever they want. Prime example: Donald Trump.

Last night I watched a moving video put up by James Corden. Like other late-night hosts since the stay at home order was enacted, he's been doing his show from his home. He spent the opening segment discussing how disturbing recent events. It was open discussion on what he felt like he could do because he was a white man and would never go through what the black community does. He talked with his shows DJ over skype who is black. James asked him how he was doing, and he responded that he goes in and out and he isn't quite sure how to feel or how to process the pain. He broke down while they were talking, and you could see the pain his face and on James face as both men were crying. I knew that the protests were in response to the pain, anger, and suffering of the black community, but I don't think I fully appreciated

the amount of pain that they're going through until I saw the video. I still believe that peaceful protesting is a more effective way to channel people's anger, but I think I understand why protesters the first night or two in Michigan were destroying things. It's a manifestation of a pain that you have run out of ways to express and cannot describe. Then, people unrelated to it saw an opportunity and ran with it to cause chaos. I realize in the beginning I may have been a bit harsh in my criticism because I did not fully understand simply because I will never understand. But I think this video helped me to be better able to empathize with black community than I was before.

The protest in Effingham is today. I again decided that I probably shouldn't to protect my sunburn. The skin has started to peel, and I don't want the new skin underneath to be damaged. I don't really want any scarring or blisters or have it develop into something worse.

Coles county covid #s: the county map says there are 138 confirmed cases, although the exact number of people attributed to the nursing home I don't know. The death count, according to the map, is still sitting at 17. The states positive case count is sitting at 125,915 with 5,795 dead. A little over a million people in the state have been tested. The recovery rate for total cases is sitting at 92%. Based on the numbers, it does appear as if case counts are on the decline. But doctors are warning that cases might spike again because of all the protesting that is happening. People have also been pointing out that a lot of people are being arrested at the protests. Jails are very unsanitary, and it puts people in a confined space which can also contribute to the spike in cases. That's why a lot of people have been pushing for people to donate to bail bonds so people can get out of those conditions and limit possible exposure. There's been a bit of controversy over this across the nation when the virus first picked up steam because prisons were releasing people early to clean them out. Illinois did too. I don't think we've gotten a straight answer as to how they picked who to release. And there's been stories of people getting released and reoffending the same day. Apparently, some murderers were released, and some murdered another person the same day they got out. Although, I don't think that story happened in Illinois. I understand and support the sentiment of clearing out the prisons, but I think they should have been a bit more open about how they made these decisions and what offenses merited a release.

Sunday June 7, 2020

Protests in solidarity with the two officers put on suspension have popped up in Buffalo. People are arguing that they were doing their job and shouldn't face charges. Regardless, the two involved have been charged and I think they have been arrested, but I'm not sure. Lots of petitions are flying around to create a police accountability law and for officers involved in shootings to face justice for unjustified killings. I signed the one for a police accountability law. Looking at the numbers, it's clear that police have a habit of covering up officer's mistakes. Change needs to happen. I saw the comparison on Facebook that I agree with: we expect professions like pilots and doctors to not make mistakes and hold them accountable when they do. We should expect the same from police officers. Being afraid is no longer an excuse.

Confederate statues are slated to come down. The statue of General Lee is going to be taken down in the next couple of weeks, I think. Honestly, I'm a bit disappointed I didn't get to see them in person before they get taken down. I've only been to the south three times I believe, and all those trips were to Disney world. I've never been to see the plantations or the confederate monuments. My interest is similar to those who go to see the internment camps. They represent horrible deeds and actions, but it is important to know your history and know where you come from. Nothing quite drives that home than seeing it in person. I should know, having worked at a Lincoln heritage site for years.

Protests are still ongoing throughout the world. Apparently, the movement has really picked up steam among the aboriginal people of Australia. In 2015 (I think), an aboriginal man was killed in police custody screaming that he couldn't breathe. Protests in London have joined the ranks of taking down statues. Protesters pulled down the statue of Edward Colston, dropping it into a river, pond, reservoir thing. No idea who Edward Colston is but I am assuming it has something to do with black oppression. In the videos, the crowd surrounding it are all cheering and clapping. Again, I think I have no place telling a local community what they feel is best for their communities. But I can't help but worry. It's easy to feel nothing of a photo in a book but you can't deny the raw emotions you feel when you can see and touch something. Learning becomes so much more personal and deeper. I understand that removing the item removes the feelings, which can provide relief and healing to the community it's in. Still, I worry that without some kind of reminder with a deep meaning then we are at risk of attitudes repeating themselves. You can make the argument that those attitudes are already here and are encouraged by the statues standing. I don't know. I'm not in those communities and I haven't spent much in southern culture so I honestly couldn't make a knowledgeable statement as to the social climate of the south. The people living there have a better idea of what is best for them. But, I can't get rid of this nagging feeling.

Monday June 8, 2020

More protests updates. I found out Edward Coulton was a slave trader and proposals about removing the statue have been around for a couple years. Protesters just took the initiative and took it down because the people that had the legal power were refusing to do it.

The NFL issued an official apology to how they handled players kneeling during the national anthem. No mention of Colin Kaepernick. A quarterback of some team whose jerseys are black with yellow lettering put up a video that he didn't condone anyone disrespecting the flag. Within the last couple of days, he issued an apology for that video to which Trump said he didn't think the player should apologize for saying something that's true. The player fired back that he realized this issue was never about the flag but the discrimination against the black community and that deserved attention. I'm not sure if this is a political apology but I hope it's a sincere one.

The Minneapolis police department announced that they are dissolving the police department and instituting a community policing program. People are pointing to Camden New Jersey who instituted a community policing program in 2013 and seems to show progress in

lowering crime rates. Minneapolis hasn't realized specifics, but the basics is the police will be demilitarized and new methods will be instituted to encourage police involvement in the community. This is to rebuild community trust and to lower the number of incidents involving police use of excessive force. In Camden, all officers had to reapply for their jobs, so the department was starting from scratch. I think this is a good idea, the community needs to have a close relationship with and trust in the police. But I wonder, how will function in a large city like Minneapolis? Camden is rather small, so I think that is part of the reason why the revamp was successful. Will a large city be able to accommodate the changes?

Senator Tom Cotton wrote an op-ed a while ago arguing for more police and national guard presence was needed to control the riots and protesters. He was met with a huge backlash and he said in an interview that he never expected his article to blow up like it did. The editor in charge of the NYT op-ed released his resignation very suddenly, presumably under pressure because of the article. According to the short news clip I watched this person was super important. He was one of the prime candidates for the executive editor position in a couple years. He did reveal to coworkers that he did not read the op-ed before it was published so I assume part of termination was connected to his lack of, for lack of a better term, quality control or not helping the senator express his opinion in a more moderate way.

Louisiana is in a state of emergency due to hurricane Crystobal. From the pictures I've seen, flooding is on the more extreme end on the coast side of the state. The name they picked is super hard to take seriously. Every time I look at it, I read it in my head as Crystal Ball. But it's not. Its pronounced chris-to-bull. I wonder where they find these names. Up here, we are expected to get hit by the storm in the coming days. Tomorrow were supposed to get heavy rainfall and strong winds, putting us in tornado like conditions. Great time to go back to work. After the storm, we're supposed to get a massive heat wave that will hang around for about a week. Its gonna get real hot and humid real fast. Great time to be working outside.

On the Covid front, New Zealand announced that they are virus free. Good for them! I wish I was there. Their prime minister seems cool. County map of Illinois says Coles is sitting at 139 cases and 17 deaths. Illinois is sitting at 127,757 positive cases with 5,904 deaths. National case count is closing in on 110,000.

Tuesday June 9, 2020

My first day back at work. My body hurts. I suppose this is what happens when I do nothing but sit at home since March. We had lots of rainfall today, heavy winds, and lots of humidity. Not looking forward to the heatwave to follow. Jackspeticeye had his charity stream today. I tried to donate before I had to leave for work but I had to leave. Too bad I missed it. I'll have to find a different way to donate.

Police accountability policies are gaining traction. One was introduced in Congress and various states have been working. I signed a petition to push an accountability act in Colorado and I got an email today that it was acknowledged and passed by the state's legislature.

Jean Baptist, the piano player for Stephen Colbert's show lead a protest today in New York. Based on the pictures I saw; he had a large turn-out.

I saw today that trump tweeted out the conspiracy theory that the older man that was shoved by police was ANTIFA and that he was trying to scan their radios to blackout their system and purposefully threw himself backwards. What he was quoting was a report from OANN which got it from a Russian source. People were replying in the comments that the man was a Catholic peace worker and has been involved in promoting peaceful change for years. Either way, this is disgusting because by targeting this man, Trump is putting him in danger. His base is volatile at best. His hateful comments lead to a spike in hate crimes and made minorities feel unsafe in the months following his election. Lately, it feels like everything he tweets has something to do with ANTIFA. He's desperate to find a scape goat because he knows if he doesn't, he's the only one left to blame. It would shatter his fragile ego and would reveal that he is opposite of everything he claims to be. He is a pathetic old man.

Several states had their primaries today. Multiple states are reporting polling stations are unprepared, have broken machines, have massive lines, open late, etc. For some reason, Trump has been promoting that voting by mail will vastly increase voting fraud. So, there has been lots of controversy and debate about whether or not we should be able to vote by mail in the 2020 election. Personally, I don't see the issue. We've voting by mail for decades and no one has complained before. I think Trump is afraid that if more people vote, it will result in him being booted from office. I say, I hope the door hits him on the way out.

I checked the county map. It says we are at 140 cases with 17 deaths. I haven't heard any updates from the Coles county health department's Facebook page. Personally, I don't understand why those updates are being posted to Facebook and not their website. State cases are sitting at 129,212 cases and 6,018 deaths. According to the CDC website, the case count nationally is 1,956,421 with 110,925 deaths. Today there were 17,598 new cases from yesterday and 550 new deaths. Based on the numbers, the national trend is also going down. I think, if we continue on the same path, it feels like there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Wednesday June 10, 2020

My hands hurt. I spent the entire day sewing curtains to replace the current ones up in the cabin and Sargent house. I only got through 1 and a half. We also filmed a short video announcement that the cabin is open. A friend came through today; I brought her brownies for her birthday. She asked if she could be in the video too and I was chill with it. I didn't really want to do it by myself anyway. While we were doing the video, we decided it would be cute if we fed the bottle-fed lamb in the video. There is a debate if her name is Ellie or Margaret. I prefer Ellie. She super friendly with people. I hope shoe doesn't turn out like Lilly did. Lilly was another bottle-fed sheep and she was very friendly. But towards the end she started to headbutt people, so we had to kill her. We ate her for a couple of seasons. We didn't tell the kids that.

Protests continue on all over the country. I expect there will be more in the upcoming weekend. The movement to defund the police seems to be picking up traction and there are more and more states and communities taking the steps to introduce legislature and programs to put more stock in community programs and less in the police departments. I think this is a good step forward. Things like education and housing reforms do need more funding and attention than they were getting.

On the covid front, the case count for Coles county is sitting at 142 with 17 deaths according to the county case map. The case count for the state is 129,837 with 6,095 deaths.

Thursday June 11, 2020

Another long day at work sewing curtains. I've got 2 done so far. A couple of former coworkers came in today. They made cheesy potatoes and ham strawberry and peach and apple dumplings. It was very good. It was nice to have cabin recipes that I didn't have to make myself.

I've seen some troubling posts on twitter. People have been jumping on the band wagon of tearing down the confederate or racist statues and have expanded it. There are those arguing ever single building constructed by slaves should be torn down across the world. The pyramids in Egypt and Stonehenge in Britain have been named as examples. Big blaring problem is, neither of those were built by slaves. No slaves involved. The pyramid workers were paid, and Stonehenge was created by the religious practitioners of the area. People who know nothing about history are promoting the idea of destroying historical sites of vast importance. This makes me very upset. First off, the only people that get to decide what happens to the heritage sites in Egypt, are the Egyptians. Same for Stonehenge, only those living in Britain should have a say in what happens to it. But these types of buildings are extremely important in helping us understand human history and the interactions of ancient cultures. They help us to understand how we got here. In their effort to erase all the bad parts of history, they are permanently severing our links to understanding the past. The buildings and artifacts are literally priceless. And then people had the nerve to argue with Egyptologists that the pyramids were built by slaves. We have no record of any slaves. We do have records of a paid work force. We have the remains of worker villages. We know they were paid for their work. And beyond those specific examples, practically every culture that has ever existed has had slaves. Native Americans, African tribes, Roman and Greek cultures, in Indian culture for a very long time, and those are just the ones I can think of off the top of my head. If people intend to follow this rabbit hole, hundreds of historic sites and artifacts would be destroyed in people's crusade to rid the world of evidence of slavery. You can't just destroy the bad things that bother you. How can you ever expect to learn if you don't have the evidence? I saw that Trevor Noah mentioned, with regard to the statues being removed, that you can teach it from a history book you don't need the actual statue. Technically, yes, but that's assuming the person the statue was for was in the history books, is correctly portrayed and the teachers actually teach it. The purpose of a lot these monuments and places is to acknowledge a person, place, action, etc. not always included in normal lessons or education. This is due to history books being written the favor the wealthy white man's version of history and public education has to hit certain points to meet

national standards. The public education system needs a big old overhaul and people need to keep their paws off history they don't understand.

Case counts for Coles county is at 142 cases and 17 deaths. State counts sit at 130, 603 cases and 6,185 deaths.

Friday June 12, 2020

A friend and former coworker spent the day with me finishing up the curtains and we handwashed the rag rugs for the cabin by hand. While we were waiting for the rugs to dry, we went down to the mulberry tree and picked some. We mashed them up into a topping and ate it over vanilla ice cream that was in the freezer. It was a nice way to end the day. We've had some strong humidity as a result of the tropical storms. While we were sitting, we had lots of time chat. We talked about religion and the controversy of the confederate statues, and the futures we saw for ourselves. She is a pagan and she finds learning about different religions very interesting, so she asked me about why I believe in God and what the principals of the Mormon faith were. It was an interesting conversation. It's not often you meet someone who doesn't practice the core world faiths.

Ellie hit me in the face today. She was following my boss around everywhere. She is very attached to him as she is a bottle-fed lamb. He was trying to get into the mule to take care of some stuff on site, but she was making all kinds of noise and wanted to get in the vehicle with him. I walked over and grabbed her, picking her up. She was super chill at first, I assume because she could still see him. But then he started to drive away and tried to squirm away to go after him. Her head came around her horn got me on my left cheekbone. The black eye is starting to form, I just hope the bruise fades in time for the wedding next week. She's lucky she's cute.

Some good news, the confederate flag has been banned from all NASCAR events. Good riddance. The only place a confederate flag has is in a museum. It should not be used in a causal manner. I heard a driver quit because of this. Funny thing is he's never won a race in his career and always finishes towards the bottom, so no one is missing him. People are just ripping him to shreds on social media, mainly twitter.

On the case front, Coles county is sitting at the same numbers as yesterday. State numbers have moved to 131,198 cases and 6,260 deaths.

Saturday June 13, 2020

Some good news, I do not have a black eye. I just have a slight bruise next to my eye and some tenderness. Ellie came up to me when I was spraying the cabin with some bug stuff and nuzzled my hand. She's lucky she's cute.

Yesterday, Trump pulled back on LGBT health protections. Now, doctors and health centers can refuse people based solely on if they are LGBTQ+. Its resulted in a big backlash. Today, Nickelodeon released a statement naming off characters on their channel that belong to

this community to stand in solidarity with them. Apparently, SpongeBob is gay. I didn't realize this questionable before. It's rather obvious. I don't understand why people that offer essential public services have the right to refuse people. Everyone has the right to have access to healthcare. This is only contributing to Trumps sliding poll numbers. He is sinking so fast. I believe I heard the other day that he has the lowest approval rating of any president ever. Serves him right. If things continue as they do, we are well prepared to boot him out after only 1 term.

Case count: we have 131,871 confirmed cases with 6,289 deaths in the state. Local numbers according to the county map still have not changed. I saw a post on Facebook that was a map of the US and color coated states to show case counts that were strongly increasing, increasing, flat, decreasing, strongly decreasing. Arizona has the largest increase of cases; I assume because they lifted too many restrictions too fast. According to post, Illinois has the highest decreasing case count of the states. It was shared by the states Facebook covid info page, so I assume the post is factual. I couldn't find any reference as to where the info came from so, no way to confirm.

Sunday June 14, 2020

Today is father's day. I forgot what day it was, so I didn't get my dad anything. But I also forgot mother's day so neither got special treatment. My sister and I decided that we are going to do a special occasion for both of them to make up for the holidays we missed.

My parents went over to my grandparents to give my grandpa cookies and to help them put up metal sheeting on the cabin. The squirrels keep eating it so they have to put up something to stop them. I didn't go with them because they didn't tell me they were going until right before they walked out the door. On the bright side, they left all the leftover cookies here with me.

Today also happens to be Trumps birthday. A number of hashtags have been circulating because instead of wishing Trump a happy birthday, they are flooding his timeline with pictures of Obama and some have the hashtag, #allbirthdaysmatter. #ObamaAppreciationDay is trending at number 1. #ObamaWasBetterAtEverythign is at number 15. #TrumpIsUnwell is at number 14. People are poking fun of his slurred speech, his weird hair, and the fact that at the WestPoint graduation at which he spoke, he picked up a glass of water with two hands and blew on it for some reason? Like it was hot? Honestly, I think it's hilarious. I couldn't give a flying fish about that imbecile's feelings. I can't wait until that pompous dunce is finally put in his place and kicked out of the white house.

On a more serious note, there have been a couple deaths the past few days that have been troubling. First, a black man was shot and killed outside a Wendy's by police. By all accounts, the killing unjustified. The police chief of where this occurred resigned over the incident. Within the last couple of days, someone, I'm not sure of it was protesters or not, burned down the Wendy's involved. Now, I'm not sure if the store had any involvement in the incident. I've only been able to get snippets of the full story. But I don't feel burning the store

down accomplished anything. If this was just an altercation between police and the man, why take it out on a store that happened to be there? All they're doing is hurting innocent people. In California, a black man was found hanging from a tree a few days ago. When news broke, the police announced it was a suicide, but people were calling for an autopsy because they were convinced it was a lynching. When I first heard this story, I fully supported getting an autopsy result to find out what happened because I want the facts before I start crying lynching. People are approaching it almost implying police were behind it. To me, that felt rather far-fetched. But then yesterday, news broke of another young black man found hanging from a tree in a town around 10 miles away. I reluctant to buy in with the first case but this seems to be too much to be a coincidence. While I don't think this is a police conspiracy, I'm wondering if there is a group like the KKK wondering around. I'm interested in hearing what the autopsy reports are, see if it is possible to get a handle on what happened.

Case count: According to the county map, case numbers for Coles county remain unchanged. The states numbers are 132, 543 cases with 6,308 deaths. The recovery rate for the state has moved up to 93%. According to the CDC website, the US has a total of 2,063,812 cases with 115,271 deaths. It's amazing to me back when this started, the original death estimation of 60,000. Then later it moved to 100,000 by the fall. Now we are here, surpassing both estimates. It is certainly something to think about.

Monday June 15, 2020

Things keep changing every day. I learned more about the second hanging case in California and I'm more confused about the handling of this case. Before an investigation had been concluded or an autopsy performed, the police department declared it was a suicide. Then a bit later, they claimed it was due to depression caused by the covid crisis. But there was no note found so how could they say it was due to covid? His family say that he was not depressed and did not have any mental illnesses, although family members are often the last people to notice when someone is in pain. That's why suicides and self-harm happen, people are good at hiding their pain because they don't want to hurt or inconvenience the people around them. Regardless of that point, it is very odd they keep pushing the suicide aspect without any evidence. I think it's because they want to avoid the term "lynching" but the more they tried to avoid it, the more they seem to bring this on themselves. Why not rule it a possible homicide? Wait for a ruling until after all the evidence is in. All the police department is doing is driving a wedge in between themselves and their community.

On the brighter side, the US Supreme Court ruled the civil rights act of 1964 applied to not only sex but sexual orientation with a vote of 6-3. This means no one can be denied a job, an education, medical care, etc. based on their sexual orientation. This is certainly a landmark decision. We will have to wait and see how enforcement of this decision goes. Based on what I've heard, Cavanaugh was one of the ones that dissented. I cannot express how much I despise that man. If RBG was a bit younger, I think she would put him in the ground.

Beijing has experienced another outbreak in their market district. They've entered effectively another shut down. Several states in the US have reinstated covid restrictions as they have experienced spikes in case counts. According to the case count county map for Illinois, Coles county is still sitting at 142 cases with 17 deaths. State numbers have reached 132,543 cases with 6,308 deaths.

Tuesday June 16, 2020

The Illinois state fair that happens in August has been cancelled. I can understand why, It's a huge gathering of people and it's hard to socially distance. People probably wouldn't come if they got rid of the rides and the indoor exhibitions. But I saw this morning that a new gas tax is being introduced on July 1st to help compensate for all the money the state has lost over all the shutdowns. Not looking forward to this.

Trump made a statement about the Supreme Court ruling that they have made their decisions and now we have to "live with it." To me, he sounds like a husband who disagrees with a choice their wife made but can't get mad because his significant other made the decision. I think if he felt he could disobey the supreme court he would. Thank goodness he actually acknowledges their decision. A rogue president is a dangerous president.

Conversations are continuing about the man killed in front of a Wendy's and the more I think about it, the more I question the officer's choices. Like, he shouldn't have tried to resist arrest but why was he being arrested? Why couldn't they just help him move the car out of the drive-through? He wasn't driving at the time, so he wasn't drunk driving. Why did they choose to engage aggressively versus be kinder and help him get home? Why did they shoot instead of using a tazer? And if they felt it was necessary to shoot, why did they shoot to kill? I agree with the argument that officers need a lot more training than they receive now. The argument, "I was afraid," should no longer fly. As an officer they should be trained to function through fear and make logical assessments of tense situations. Hopefully, be able to diffuse events so they do not reach the level of a tense situation. I don't know. Something needs to change.

In Seattle, there a section that protesters have driven out police and claimed the area as their own. They have daily speeches and poetry readings and free snacks. I saw a photo where they painted over the word "police" of the station and wrote "people" on top of it. Reports coming out are saying that they protesters are not directly affiliated with Black Lives Matter and the leaders of the group change daily as the social power shifts. My main thought on the topic is, what does this accomplish? What does making a police free zone do? Give you a safe place to give speeches? Alright then, what then? They have no clear leader, no agenda. I'm just confused as to what this accomplishes for them. In my mind, especially when it comes to movements like this, you need to have a designated purpose driving the actions to get a desired result. If you have no purpose, how do you know when you've reached your result?

Covid count: Coles has gone up one case with the number now 143 cases and 17 deaths. State numbers have reached 133,639 cases with 6,398 deaths. Looking at the numbers, we are certainly fortunate that our numbers are not higher than they are. While I do find some of the

state's precautionary measures to be unneeded in places like Coles where the outbreak is largely limited to the nursing home or in counties like Edgar which only has 2 cases. But I think these precautions are the reason why case counts like places like Chicago and the St. Louis area have been relatively low when compared to that of New York. We started quarantine early and the steps of reopening has been gradual. We've seen that some states tried to do a one and done opening only to have that backfire.

Wednesday June 17, 2020

Today I spent outside. I got all the bedding situated at the Lincoln's and I got all the wasp nests sprayed, knocked down, and swept up from the sleeping loft. That was a fun chore that lasted 2 hours. Now tomorrow I've just got to get all the surfaces scrubbed down, windows clean, floors swept, and dishes washed, and I will be done with the Lincoln's. A friend and former coworker came out and spent the afternoon helping me out with sewing the mattresses up and making up the beds.

Protests continue. Charges have been filed against the two officer that shot Rayshard Brooks in front of the Wendy's. Garrett Rolf, the one who shot him was charged with felony murder and I assume the other officer was charged with accessory to murder? I also found out that they shot Rayshard in the back when he was far away from them after he had already been patted down and it was clear he was not armed or a threat. I can't think of any way in which the shooting is justified. I just can't figure out why the officer thought shooting to kill was the only option in that moment.

Yesterday, I went to Walmart to get some make up to replace my current stuff. It's a few years old and needed replacing. I wore my mask of course but I was honestly surprised at the number of people not wearing one. Entire families were going in, maybe a ¼ of the shoppers were wearing masks. All the employees were still wearing masks, self-checkouts are wiped down after every use, and they have a counter at the door. But besides that, other covid regulations aren't really being enforced. Honestly, I'm a little surprised. I know that it's not as prevalent here but still, seems kind of negligent to not do anything to try and protect yourself and others.

Speaking of covid, the count for Coles County according to the county map is 145 cases with 17 deaths. I'm assuming the new cases are also linked to the nursing home. The State count is 134,185 cases with 6,485 deaths.

Thursday June 18, 2020

Covid cases are spiking across the Sun Belt. 3 states have experienced a new highest case counts for a single day. Pence wrote an op-ed saying that the new wave of covid cases isn't a real thing and that the media is inflating everything. Another newspaper ran an article in which they interviewed Fauci and in which he said a lockdown isn't needed for a second wave of cases. Thing is, as you actually read it, you found out the reason is because he says that we aren't out of the first wave yet. I thought we were making progress. I suppose not. Coles county

case count is 146 confirmed with 17 deaths. The state count has reached 134,778 confirmed and 6,537 dead.

Aunt Jemima is being removed from the shelves and there is a big controversy about that. People are glad to remove her as she stands as an icon of the southern plantation mammy, the lady who cooked for the head honcho owners. She is often portrayed an uneducated but good at cooking and happy to be doing it, very submissive. Others are arguing that Aunt Jemima has little to do with the southern presentation and is actual about a lady named Nancy Green. Nancy was very charismatic, a great storyteller, and she was a perfect mascot for the ready make pancake mix. In my research, I found the name aunt Jemima comes from a side show performance in which a person was in blackface. But the original owners needed money, so they sold it and it was the new owners who sought out a living representation and found it in Nancy Green. There have been 6 Aunt Jemima mascots and the appearance has been updated in the past to be less connected to the blackface representation of the original. Some people are framing this as a personal attack on Nancy Green but, according to my research, this brand existed before her. And it does have a racist root to the blackface sideshow character. Personally, it's just syrup. Quaker Oats is working on a new name and rebranding it. If people are that mad, just rename the thing after Nancy Green. I don't understand why people are up in arms about preserving a character on a syrup bottle. The historical significance of Aunt Jemima Syrup is a blip in the grand scheme of things. They are correct it is an example of a depiction to people's opinions of blacks and the accepted caricature of them but retiring the brand doesn't mean we will never know about this and all representations will be wiped from the earth. I have noticed that most of the people up in arms, in my Facebook feed anyway, are white.

The Supreme Court ruled that DACA can't be turned over. I'm glad they made this decision. Dreamers deserve to obtain an education and be able to make a life for themselves without fear of being deported.

On more personal news, I had a scary near car crash this morning going to work. I was driving past an elementary school and I had the ride away. Right next to the school is an apartment complex and this dude was coming up to the road kinda fast. He slowed down to a stop at the road, so I thought I was good, but I decided to keep an eye on him anyway. I don't know if he just didn't see me or thought I had a stop/yield sign, but this moron pulls out in front of me quite literally right in front of me turning left. I smash the brakes as hard as I can and I swerve to the left to avoid hitting him head-on. He managed to finally see me when I was right on top of him and he braked. Luckily, we didn't make contact. He reversed quickly and I kept going on my way. I called my friend and asked her to stay on the phone with me until I got to work. It was pretty scary. I tried to find him in my review mirror, but I lost him. Not sure if he went back to the apartment parking lot or took off. My friend suggested he might have been drunk which would explain the sort of erratic driving. I'm just glad he didn't hit me.

At work, I spent all day cleaning the cabin. I got it all swept, surfaces cleaned, and windows washed. All I have left is to wash dishes and load them all back up to the cabin. Then the Lincoln house is done! Then, on to the Sargent's.

Friday June 19, 2020

Long day at work. I got all the Lincoln dishes washed and I talked with the people running the youth programs about their plans and all that. My boss took the pie safe for repairs so hopefully that will be back in the cabin and ready to be loaded next week. I'm not looking forward to tackling the sergeants. Paper Wasps have set up shop and hollowed out one of the logs completely. You can hear them buzzing around inside. I don't want to try and clean it and compete with them.

A petition is circling on twitter about a Mayan archeological site. I will do my best to explain the situation but there's lots of complicated words and places and people with really funky names. Richard Hansen is an American Archeologist who has worked on Mayan sites for 20 years. He is working with a US senator who has a weird name to create a program that on the surface appears to be a grant for funding researching, protecting the environment and creating a way for the temples he found to be open to tourists in a nondestructive way. But according to an interview he did the VICE, this plan would include hotels, restaurants, and turning the site into a theme park of sorts. I searched and I couldn't find anywhere else to say this besides the gossip columns commenting on the VICE article. But, even though I couldn't find that, I did see a section of the interview he did with VICE in which he said the locals were incapable of protecting and caring for the site because he implied they were all high (he did the hand gesture used to signify smoking weed). I signed the petition based solely on this. From the research I did, the locals have been praised for their steadfastness and effectiveness in protecting the site. They have even won a special reognition award for their work. They are the locals and decedents of the people you are studying. You are there through their tolerance. They deserve your respect. That is entirely uncalled for, disrespectful, and unprofessional. He shouldn't have any of his ideas go forward until he realizes, apologizes for what he's said, and takes steps to repair the relationship with the locals. He should also be removed from his position as over-seerer of the project. He clearly either has lost sight of, or never realized what his purpose there was.

Illinois is gearing up to move to phase 4 on the 26th. Gov. said that the state is finally ready to move but, the numbers for central and southern Illinois have been at phase 4 readiness for a few weeks. I thought we were supposed to be able to open as is appropriate for each section of the state. You know, this is the problem with gov/law makers that all come from the Chicago area. They seem forgot the southern half of the state exists. I'd like to give them a piece of my mind, get them to finally start paying attention to the lower half. All their doing is alienating over half of their state. It's no wonder why people want Chicago to become its own state. No one feels valued or listened to. Like the gas tax, it doesn't hurt people who live in places like Chicago and have public transit and walk everywhere or ride bikes. It does hurt people who live in rural areas, like here, that have travel farther distances to get to work, go to the store, etc. No wonder people are fleeing the state in droves.

Coles county Covid case count: 146 positive cases with 17 deaths. The state has 135,470 confirmed cases with 6,580 deaths. The recovery rate has moved up to 94%.

Saturday June 20, 2020

Today was my sister's wedding day. I was fine until about 30 minutes before the ceremony. Conti officiated the ceremony and my sister and bro-in-law wrote their own vows. In whole, the full thing lasted about 30 minutes. I was tearing up when it first got started but I really broke down when mom started crying when they opened up the floor for viewers to speak. Daddy spoke and I've never seen him cry before. He said that he met my sister when she was a toddler and she loved to have him read to her. My sister's bio dad also spoke, and he cried. He apologized for not being there because he was in the military and said he loved her and was very proud. His wife also spoke about how they needed to continue to date each other and even if sometimes they want to throw in the towel they need to keep trying. I couldn't help but think this is some sketch advice coming from the wife of a man that has been married at least 4 times and has 7+ kids. The groom's dad also spoke, and his best man also gave a short speech. It was a fun quirky wedding and it was short. I don't much care for long drawn out affairs. After the ceremony they also had their first dance to "When I'm 64" by the Beatles and cut their cake so everyone could watch. It was a bit hard to tell but it looked like they hung up a sheet in their apartment and held it in their house. I set up my laptop in my room and I sat in front of my window. I turned my main light off so the room would be darker. Then people wouldn't be able to see me cry ugly tears. Mom and dad sat in the dining room and grandma and grandpa sat in the living room. After, we had meatloaf, green beans, and mashed potatoes for lunch. Grandma and Grandpa left, and we went to the train station for pictures. Since I have been a hobo for forever, I felt incredibly out of shape going up and down the stairs and standing in heels for an hour and half. I teared up at various points during the shoot. I hope it's not totally obvious in the pictures. I specifically grabbed a corset from work to help my figure and iron out all the extra fluff. After that we ran home to get the flower arrangements and I packed up my swimsuit and stuff and we went over to my bro-in-law's parent's house to greet the couple. Mom and bro-in-law's mom set up pictures of the two throughout their life around the house and bro-in-law's sister Betsey blew up balloons filled with confetti everywhere. When they got there, mom and daddy went home to get the potatoes going for dinner and I stayed to hang out in the pool with everyone. It went through a series of showers and sunshine through the afternoon. Luckily, it was nice and sunny this morning when the ceremony and photos happened. For dinner we had pulled pork, pasta salad, cole slaw, baked beans with onion, cheesy potatoes, and baked potatoes. We split their wedding cake which was a gluten free chocolate peanut butter cake topped with chocolate Legos and jolly rancher Lego people. It was a 3-layer cake with the top layer being in the shape of a heart. It was very pretty and surprisingly very good. Bro-in-law made it yesterday with Conti. From what Conti said, it was mostly butter and sour cream. It was rather rich and heavy, but very good. We also played the wedding shoe game in which people guess which person most likely does what, like take out the trash, plays loud music, likes to dance, etc. Then the couple gets read the statement and they hold up the shoe of the person they think does that thing. It was fun. But then a large system started to move in and so we decided that the evening had come to a close and we left.

Before we left, Betsey demanded we take one of her teacakes in a jar she made for all the guests. They were chamomile and lavender tea cakes with some kind of syrup and fake buttercream topping. It was nice to see Butters. Been a while since I got some puppy love.

My diploma from Eastern arrived today. I opened the package and I got my medal, my diploma, 2 commencement booklets, and an EIU alumni bumper sticker. I cried when I opened it up. I'm already fragile and exhausted and it just poured out. I was happy to have it, I'm a little sad to be leaving the university, but I'm also sad I didn't get my commencement. There's just something so final about getting it.

This morning my petition went live. I created a petition on change.org for Ancient Aliens to be permanently cancelled and a public apology issued. I went through the whole process, and I got my friend to help me edit my paragraph and find a photo to go with it. I think maybe 2 people signed it today. It's a little disheartening, I'll admit. But we all got to start somewhere I suppose. Hopefully I can actually get somewhere with it. Make me feel like I contributed to something. I was working on it this morning and I was almost late to the wedding. I was looking for an email for A&E CEO and I lost track of time. I was doing color guard speed makeup application and finished just in time to make it on time.

Covid case count: 146 positive cases in Coles and 17 deaths. At the state level, 136,104 confirmed cases with 6,625 deaths.

Sunday June 21, 2020

Today is Father's Day, for real this time. Last week my mom got the date wrong and convinced me that I had forgotten Father's Day. We were going to go to grandmas to have lunch with them and my aunt and uncle, but mom decided since we couldn't socially distance yesterday that we weren't going today. My sister is coming over at some point today to drop off Father's Day cards and stuff from the wedding.

My allergies are not happy. I think all that time around the flowers yesterday wreaked havoc on my sinuses.

Covid case count for the day: Coles has the same number of positive cases and deaths as yesterday.

Monday June 22, 2020

Allergies are better today. Probably because mom closed up the house since it's so humid outside.

More people have been found hanged in the southwestern part of the US. The media makes it sound like their all being ruled suicides in connection with covid but the multiple incidents in a short frame of a time, this doesn't seem right. Last I heard, the FBI has taken over the investigation so we will find out what their conclusions are.

Speaking of hangings, NASCAR's only black driver, Bubba something, reported either yesterday or this morning that someone left a noose in his garage. This is after he pushed for NASCAR to remove the confederate flag and they banned it from all events. This is clearly an intimidation tactic. The news reported that outside events, vendors set up shop across the road offering all kinds of merchandise with the confederate flag on it. Someone attached one to the back of a plane and flew it over the stadium. I believe it was CNN interviewed some people at the event to get their opinions on the removal of the confederate flag. They interviewed maybe 4 or 5 white people and 1 black person. The black guy said he was glad to see it go. All the white people said they shouldn't have done that because it was a symbol of white heritage (until someone brings up the race issues – quite literally one guy said this), and it was a violation of people's rights. I assume they are referring to the right of free speech. I'm not from the south so I don't understand but what southern heritage and pride does the flag represent? Farming? Losing the civil war? Starting a rebellion that they lost? Being historically economically weaker than the north as the world turned industrial? Just some suggestions.

I also saw a headline that the teddy Roosevelt statue in front of the natural history museum in New York I think is being taken down. I'll admit, that's late 1800s, early 1900s history and I'm not all that strong on that time period. I'm honestly not sure what he did to result in his statue being taken down. But, they got the family's permission and the museum and city all passed off on the decision so, I'm not one to stop them. From the brief headlines I read, people are arguing he symbolizes colonial expansion within turn hurt all kinds of people. Honestly, I'm not sure how I feel about this. You can't just erase the history that upsets you. I think the statue should be placed in its context and placed in some kind of museum. Erasing history just leaves you open to make the same mistakes. It leaves the door open for misinterpretation of history and allow people the open window to justify the wrong opinions.

On a happier note, Trump's rally in Tulsa was a complete flop. They have been posting for days how around 1 million tickets had been requested. Trump was so happy about it. He gets there and only about 6,000 people are present. Turns out, most people weren't willing to risk being in the close quarters during a pandemic no matter what Trump said. And the 1 million tickets, turns out kids on Tik Tok, K-pop fans, and other social media platforms reserved tickets but then didn't show up. Trump was noticeably disappointed when returning to the white house. It was glorious. I hope his reelection campaign is driven into the ground.

Covid Case count: Coles has 151 cases with 17 deaths. No indication as to where the additional cases are from. State cases are sitting at 137,224 positive cases with 6,671 deaths. The global count currently sits at 8,860,331 total confirmed cases with 465,740 deaths. These numbers are according to WHO's official dashboard counter. The Americas are currently in the lead with 4,370,519 cases with Europe falling into number 2 with 2,543,778. Of the America's number, 2,241,178 cases belong just to the US. The numbers in the US are on the rise again as I believe it was 14 states are showing spikes in cases as they reopen. Most of those states are ones who did not do gradual reopening. People weren't careful and now they are paying the price.

Tuesday June 23, 2020

Trump issued an order sentencing people caught tearing down confederate statues to a fine and up to 10 years in prison. This feels extreme to me. I can see doing something to discourage people from tearing them down with ropes in the middle of the night by providing a safer way of pushing a petition through the city for its removal; getting a construction crew to head safe removal of said statues. But 10 years in prison feels extreme. Especially since Trump was all for blowing up and tearing through sacred Native American land just a little bit ago.

NASCAR did a thing the other day in which Bubba Wallace drove in his car along a stretch of track and the other drivers and crew members walked alongside and behind him as a show of solidarity against whomever left the noose in his garage. The FBI released a statement after an investigation that the noose was left there as early as last October, well before the garage was assigned to Bubba last week. Conclusion, thankfully it was not a hate crime. So, it leaves a question as to what's up with the rope, is a noose, and if it is why was a noose there?

In the south, voting places are being closed early, the number of polling places drastically downsized and we see this taking place in largely black communities. This really looks like a deliberate attempt to stop black communities from voting. I saw on twitter somewhere in Louisiana I think of people standing outside and banging on the door of polling places that closed before 6 o'clock. I think the state representative, maybe a state senator, was working to get everyone a mail in ballot who was in line and was prompting people to stay where they were. I heard that Mitch McConnell was deliberately doing this in his home state to make sure he was reelected. But I don't know enough about voting there or the whole situation to know if this true or not.

People at work on being a tad flippant about covid in my opinion. Today we were all working downstairs and my boss loves talking about how WHO and the CDC don't know what they're talking about because they said masks are good, then don't wear masks, then they were back at wear a mask. They did this because we had an extreme shortage of masks. Fauci said this directly. Multiple medical professionals who have been keeping up with the research have said this directly. If you read this early on, you will see these decisions as they happen. It's not worth it to argue with him so I keep my thoughts to myself. He also doesn't believe in global warming. One time I made a joke, something like its humid outside – its global warmings fault, and it was clearly a joke, but he gave me a whole speech on why global warming isn't real. So, I learned not to bring it up after that.

Coles county covid count is at 151 positive cases with 17 deaths. The state has 137,825 positive cases and 6,707 deaths.

Wednesday June 24, 2020

Mother nature is adding to the Jumanji list as a huge dust storm is making its way towards the US. Sand from the Sahara desert got picked up by winds on the sea and is making its way on the trade winds. It hit the islands around the equator yesterday and hung in the air for about 24 hours. It's supposed to hit the US in the next couple of days and reach the

Midwest by the end of the week. It's supposed to make some really pretty sunsets, but I think there's the possibility it's just going to be really dusty.

I called it on the mob mentality. Yesterday in WI I think some protesters pulled down a union statue and quite literally beat a democratic congressman that came there to take pictures and support them. There are pictures of him lying in the grass unconscious afterwards. I think people didn't bother to do the research to find out what the statues mean or what they stood for and just tore it down because it looked civil war related. Assumed everything civil war had to do with the confederacy. I mean, union soldiers were often just as racist as the confederacy, it's just they fought on the blue side instead of the gray side. Now, not all soldiers held this opinion, but I would say the majority did not care for the slaves they were fighting to free. Letters written home shows contempt for them as the soldiers felt the freed slaves were being treated better than them, people putting their lives on the line. Maybe this event will prompt more caution when it comes to the removal of these statues. I was able to get a good look at Teddy Roosevelt statue in New York and I can see why people had an issue with it as it presented native Americans and blacks as subservient and reliant on whites. Lots of debate is going up about a famous Lincoln statue, The Emancipator. It depicts Lincoln reaching out to a kneeling freed slave, signaling the end of their subservience and their rise to equal standing. The statue was paid for by free blacks and Frederick Douglas was directly involved with its creation. It is documented that Douglas had wished the slave was standing but, the overall intention was clear. They had to be helped to their feet before they could stand too. I'm not positive what the arguments are as I haven't done a whole lot of research into it but I would assume it has something to do with the slave kneeling and people are projecting a racist, subservient intention to it.

At work today, myself and co-workers had a 45-minute discussion with my boss on current events (the statues, pride in country, the role of education, etc.). He is adamantly conservative and the rest of us are more liberal, so it was a very back and forth conversation. We were all on the same general page that the statues shouldn't be taken down and recognize their educational value, but it really feels like he nitpicks the details so as to tell you you're wrong. But it was neat to get paid to stand around for an hour and discuss politics. Love it when that happens.

About half of the US is seeing a rise on cases as they opened too quickly. As far as I know, Illinois is still holding. Coles has reached 154 positive cases and 17 deaths. The state case count has reached 138,540 positive cases and 6,770 deaths. As of current news, Lincoln Log will not be doing a full open on the 26th with the initiation of phase 4. DNR says they are waiting for the state to issue guidelines but as far as any of us know at work, that state already did that when they outlined the phases. So, it sounds like we will be doing summer camps in July without things being officially open. We will just have to wait and see.

Thursday June 25, 2020

I learned another meteorological event happened earlier this week in which temps reached 100 degrees F in Siberia. Fires broke out and ice is at an all-time low. Since they have

been keeping temp records since the 50s, temps have only reached that hot a couple of times. Science guys say that this will keep happening in the years to come and is worsened because of global warming. Basically, mother earth is sick of us trying to kill her so she's trying to take us out first. No dust here yet. It's supposed to hit the Midwest tomorrow.

The news is saying that states are experiencing a new high in single day case counts as states reopen. I saw a graph earlier but I'm not sure where it came from, but it showed that all the progress that's been made nationally has been completely reversed and we are back to where we started. But while all this is going on, Illinois is still planning on going to phase 4 the end of this week. It's amazing how you can be simultaneously very concerned about things but also be sort of calloused towards it.

Coles has reached 155 positive cases with 17 deaths according to the county map. The state has 139,434 positive cases and 6,810 deaths. I think it was in Mahomet, someone had a unofficial prom in their house and that event resulted in the highest case count for that day. It was either 13 positive cases or 15 positive cases.

Friday June 26, 2020

No sign of any dust yet. It has hit the US but still seems to be mainly in the southern half.

A massive debate has been sparked over the Bubba Wallace incident. People are going at each other because people are calling a knot for the garage hanger a noose and not knowing the difference. Others are going at people saying it's not a technical noose because the number of times it wraps around isn't enough to be classified as a noose. I looked up pictures of both and to me, it looks like a noose. Now, maybe the person who did it didn't know how to do the other knot, maybe they were practicing a bunch of different knots and that one stuck, or maybe that person decided it would be a funny prank. I don't know. But frankly, it's a knot. Just untie it. Seriously people. We should all be relieved no actual threat was made to him and be moved by everyone showing solidarity towards him. Don't throw it all away over a piece of rope that can be untied. I can't believe a piece of rope has been politicized, although at this point, I really shouldn't be that surprised.

Wearing masks has also been politicized. If you wear one it means that your buying into the propaganda and are a pathetic weakling, and so on and so on. There is a reason why so many states are struggling, it's because people aren't being careful and have stopped caring. Texas and Florida reversed their opening order and placed their states back under more restricted quarantine.

Lincoln log unofficially officially unofficially opened. The visitors center was unlocked, and people could come in and look at things, but we weren't allowed to officially tell people they were allowed inside. The state can't make up its mind if its ok for the buildings to be open and somewhere in the middle ground. I sat at the front desk for the second half of the day after I spent the morning with a couple co-workers, and some other co-workers and volunteers were

cleaning the Sargent house. We had a decent number of families/ couples come through on our first day open, maybe 8 in the time I was up there. The desk is incredibly boring without anything to do. I found a National Geographic magazine to help pass the time. I was struck by the mix of people that came through. Some didn't bother to wear masks, others kept them on. I saw a few who wore masks over their mouths but not their nose, which is just stupid. The point is to cover both morons. I kept my mask with me, and I would put it on if I saw a group coming up the walk with masks or if someone got up close to me to talk. My boss might think it's unnecessary but, I have more than just me to think about and I have no idea where these people have been.

Coles County case count according to the county map is at 155 positive cases with 17 deaths. The state has 140,291 positive cases with 6,847 deaths.

Saturday June 27, 2020

There was a protest yesterday at the sight of the Lincoln statue the Emancipator. I saw from a post that multiple groups spoke. Some argued that the kneeling slave should be removed because it was beyond saving. Others argued Lincoln should be taken down because he was not an ally and was beyond saving. A group of older people spoke and argued in favor of keeping the statue. A group of what I understand to be well respected female historical interpreters (I'm assuming they interpret historic black women, but it was not specified) as also spoke to give historical context. Then a gentleman who is a respected Frederick Douglass interpreter got up and gave the same commencement speech he gave when the statue was first dedicated. He spoke about his relationship with Lincoln and dealt with the angry outburst from the crowd in character. Based on the reaction from the crowd, by the time he finished speaking, the crowd had settled down. As far as I am aware, the statue still stands but the debate continues. Personally, I feel the statue should stay as it is important piece of history and to tear it down would be disrespectful in my mind to the people that sought to have it made. I'm tired of hearing people who have not taken any steps to educate themselves running their mouths about things they do not understand nor bothering to attempt to understand. Lincoln history is extremely important to me. It almost hurts to see people talk about him like this. Of course, I am well aware of his faults and how he played the field to be elected rather than being firmly against slavery. But at least he tried. He tried to make the United States better and he learned. He cared about things beyond his personal scope of experience. And he was killed because he tried.

In a spot of related news, it was voted today to remove the confederate flag imagery from the Mississippi flag. I honestly didn't know that was still a thing. Although at this point, I really shouldn't be surprised. But at least it is gone and that is what matters.

Texas and Florida are struggling to handle the new outbreak as hospitals are filling up. Illinois is still holding steady so far. Coles has 158 positive cases and 17 deaths according to the

county map. The state has 141,077 positive cases and 6,873 deaths. At this point in time, just over 1.5 million people in the state have been tested.

Sunday June 28, 2020

I have enjoyed my day off. Prepping myself mentally for the long boring day in store for me tomorrow.

The journal gazette released an article from the Coles County Health Department that today the case count has gone up by 4. By their count, we are now at 163 positive cases with 12 of that number active, 3 hospitalized, 131 recovered, and 17 dead. I checked the county map put out by the state and it said we have 161 cases. There was no mention as to where the cases are coming from so no idea if they are connected to the nursing home. The department was asking people to put on masks and limit their outside activities so as to put a stop to the growing case count. The state has the state confirmed cases at 141,723 with 6,888 deaths.

Monday June 29, 2020

Chicks hatched at work last night. When I left work, we had around 13/14 hatched. They're very cute. Turns out we are still closed so I didn't have to sit at the desk all day. So, I worked on making curtains for the Sargent's and I brought the dishes up to the Lincoln's since the pie safe got fixed. Emma scared me several times. I had my headphones on as I was working in the sewing room and a couple times I looked up and she had brought visitors down to look at the chicks. I was expecting to be the only one in the building so it's a little shocking to look up and have random people staring at you.

I saw a post today that Illinois had the lowest death count in a while today. Coles county positive case counts is 161 with 17 deaths. The state has 142,461 positive cases with 6,902 deaths.

Tuesday June 30, 2020

The visitors center is still closed. Based on the guidelines we were given it sounds like we can't open until we get a temp gun. So, tomorrow, I am being put at a table out front and offering tours to people who want them. So, boring day in essence. Today, I finished ironing and pinning the Sargent curtains and some co-workers, and I worked to clean all the Dutch ovens. They were so gross. It took around 3.5 hours to clean them all. Even then, there were some we just had to call good enough.

The US Supreme Court struck down an abortion law in Louisiana I think it was. I'm not sure about the details but I believe it was rather restrictive. If I had to hazard a guess, I would suggest it was in conflict with the ruling of Roe vs. Wade.

Coles County Covid count: 164 positive cases and 17 deaths according to the state county map. State numbers are 143,185 positive cases with 6,923 dead.

Wednesday July 1, 2020

I sat at a table all day giving people tours who wanted one. It was extremely boring. I think 3 groups wanted tours the entire time I was up there. A friend and former coworker came and sat up at the table with me and kept me company. I started feeling gross in the afternoon from the sinus headache and the intense humidity. I'm hoping tomorrow is better. Our temperature scanner came in the mail today. It was an ongoing discussion for about 30 minutes as to how the thing worked because we got an email that the instructions enclosed in the box were incorrect. Unfortunately for this kind, I have to get close to people to get their temp. I'm not thrilled about having to get close to people to take temps. But, at least this means, the buildings can open again.

The hot tub arrived today. It looks all fancy and new outside my window. I think I would be more thrilled to use it if it wasn't so hot.

I saw in the news that Russia has been putting bounties on US soldiers, encouraging groups in the Middle East to kill US soldiers. Trump when asked about it, said he didn't know anything about it. Nothing about being deeply disturbed by it, nothing about telling them to stop, just that he didn't know. Maybe if he bothered to attend his briefings he would know. This news is very disturbing, and I hope someone takes the steps necessary to protect US soldiers and put Russia back in its place.

Coles county health department released a memo on Facebook yesterday that 6 more cases have been found bringing the total to 172. Of that number, 3 are in the hospital, 20 are in recovery, 132 have fully recovered, and 17 have died. According to the county map, Coles has 170 cases with 17 deaths. The state total has 144, 013 confirmed cases with 6,951 deaths.

Wednesday July 2, 2020

Sat at the table out front again. This time only one group wanted a tour. But, apparently, I'm really good at. Some tried to tip me yesterday and the group I had today tried to tip again. I made sure both ended up in the donation box. In the afternoon I helped a couple of co-workers clean and wash down the Sargent kitchen. It looks much better than it did before. Bill placed a board in the hole in the bottom of the door frame. Now, no more falling through. And it looks nice. We are all so thankful to have him, Bill is amazing.

This morning was a rough time. Last night I had stomach troubles I assume was connected to something I ate for lunch. Woke up several times last night and had a rough night's sleep. Woke up very hot and felt weird. I also woke to cramps this morning to add to my problems. My hands were cold and I couldn't tell if I had a fever or not so I went to ask mom. She couldn't tell either and we made a hunt for thermometers in the house. Couldn't find a working one. I called my sister and she said that I could use their thermometer, so I went over there. Mom was panicking people she thought I had covid as fever is an early sign of it. She made me put on my mask and she put on hers. I went to my sister's, and it turns out, no fever. Nothing close to a fever. My guess is my cold hands made my body temp feel off. But at least

today my sinus pain isn't as bad. Everything else is crap though. I ran out of time to brush my teeth this morning, didn't have time to put my hair up, forgot my tennis shoes so I've had to wear my flip flops all day, and a bee stung me on the top of my foot while I was cleaning at the Sargent's. I just need a day off. Why can't today be Friday.

Over the course of the last few days, I've had a couple visitors make comments about the statues coming down and how they are destroying history. As I am a state employee and a docent at a site that does not deal directly with any confederate statues, I can't respond back as I normally would, politics and all that. So often, I just have to keep my responses very brief and short, usually accompanied by nodding. I can't help but think that they are seeing the issue from a very one-sided position. And I've noticed all the comments of, "people are destroying our history," come from older white people. Granted I have not had any black families or individuals come through yesterday or today, but they seem to mirror a larger societal opinion. The people I see most up in arms about the destruction of history is the older white generations. I can't help but think that if they really were so concerned about history, social studies and social sciences would be taken more seriously in public school systems and taught correctly for that matter. If they were so concerned, they make sure all college students take some kind of history course. If they were so concerned, they would be supporting history, archeology, anthropology, etc. departments. If they were so concerned, they would make their historic sites and not just statues got the proper care and maintenance. I wish people would take a moment to view the argument from the other side and use logic to reach a conclusion. All this emotional ranting and raving isn't helping anything. Passion is good. Hysterics is not.

On the covid front, Coles county is sitting at 170 cases with 17 deaths according to the county map.

Saturday July 4, 2020

Today is the 4th. Yesterday Trump gave a speech at Mount Rushmore but used the platform to attack Black Lives Matter and called it, in essence, a terrorist group. Meanwhile, Native American protesters gathered outside to protest the monument and I also think him as well. I've never researched much into Mount Rushmore, but I learned its sacred native land. I didn't know that. Native Americans really have been screwed over. I think Trump was to give another speech today but I'm not sure. I only listen to the bare minimum of what he says. It only makes me angry to hear his voice.

Yesterday, my friend and I did a zoom call and watched Hamilton on Disney+. I've listened to the entire soundtrack multiple times but seeing the actual thing was amazing. I was on the verge of crying while watching even though I knew everything that happens. I haven't been proud to be an American for a very long time but watching that made me feel almost patriotic. As bigoted and hateful as I know these men are from my classes, I couldn't help but feel sympathy for them. Just speaks to the mastery of the writing and the acting of the show. No wonder it was sold out practically from the beginning. It certainly deserves all the awards it got. Something about the bare bones set and the way the set and objects are worked into the choreography is brilliant. It was wonderful.

Today, mom discovered we have a stray cat and her kittens living in her hastas out front. We have a calico mom and an orange, gray, and black with white paws kittens. Mom had me go out and buy cat food at my store this morning to help out the mom. She also put out a tray of water for them. I've gotten pictures and videos of them staring out at me from the bushes. I stepped outside this evening to bring the food inside and a saw this orange head pop up over the stairs, see me, then shrink back down. It was so cute. I think mom has decided to "adopt" them. They are very skittish around people so we can't get close to them, but I think mom wants them to warm up enough so that she can get them and take them to the vet. Make our little buddies.

My sister came over for dinner this evening. We had cheesy potatoes, deviled eggs, baked beans, brie cheese and crackers, and beef franks from the butcher. After dinner, we went out to enjoy the new hot tub. Then we moved outside and played some Uno flip then made smores later once the sun had gone down. It was hot enough outside that the chocolate melted and it was making a big old mess. I got chocolate on my shorts, the tablecloth, the towel I pulled on my lap to prevent the mess, and on the chair when I stood up. It was nice getting to see her and spend some one on one time with her. It's been a while since we've hung out like that. Although, once the sun went down, chaos broke out. Everyone and their dog in our neighborhood started setting off fireworks, and I mean the big illegal ones. If I had to imagine what a war zone sounds like, I think this comes pretty close. Explosions were going off left and right mixed in with the screeches of bottle rockets. They were being set off so close to us that the loud booms would make us jump and we couldn't hear each other talking. When we came inside, I can still clearly hear the booms through my noise canceling headphones. My sister said that when she was leaving, there was an ambulance parked up the street. I also noticed some larger vans and trucks driving around slowly. My guess, undercover cops. Since the city fireworks were cancelled, they probably weren't going to stop people from doing what they were doing but it's nice to know that they're there in case something does happen. Although I wish people wouldn't set them off in the first place. But our next-door neighbors' youngest kid was super into it. He's 3, I think. But as people started setting them off, he would scream at the top of his lungs that he loves the 4th of July. I know I must be getting old because this holiday only serves to irritate me. But he really lost his mind when they started setting off fireworks too. When I was younger, we set off fireworks out my grandparents, but at least there it was in the country and they had an open area in which no trees could catch on fire. Not to mention, no one to keep up all night as the neighbors were spread out and the one across the road would also be setting stuff off. I'm just glad I don't have to go to work tomorrow. I don't think I'll be getting much sleep tonight. My friend said the same thing is going on at her place. Her apartment was shaking from the explosions. My sister is lucky. She said her side of town is very quiet and no one is setting anything off. I told her I might just have to go to her place and sleep tonight.

Covid case counts according to the county map Coles has 170 positive cases and 17 deaths. The state has 144,013 positive cases and 6,951 deaths.

Sunday July 5, 2020

Today is a lazy day. I didn't really have anything to write today but I saw that Kanye West has announced that he is running for president. The world really is ending.

I saw that Florida had its highest daily case count yet, hitting over 10,000 cases in one day. I have to say this makes me nervous as I did come in contact with some people from Florida a couple days ago and they got really close to me. I guess we'll see if they were carriers or not in a couple weeks. I did see that one of Trump's son's girlfriend tested positive for COVID and has been going to rallies and been in close contact with a whole bunch of people without wearing a mask. So far Trump's son doesn't have any symptoms but he's in self-isolation.

Coles County case count currently sits at 170 positive cases and 17 deaths according to the county map.

Monday July 6, 2020

I am enjoying my day off from work today. It's been a nice lazy day, but I know that I have to work 5 days, get one day off, then work another 5 days. That's going to be a bit rough.

The Supreme Court ruled that the electoral representatives have to vote according to the popular candidate of their state. While this was expected before, it really became an issue in 2016 where electoral college members legitimately considered not voting with the Trump popular vote because he's an awful person. But, now with the ruling, members will be forced to vote accordingly.

The Dakota pipeline has also been stopped in its tracks I believe because an environmental study has been called for. I'm glad this has been stopped as that is sacred Native American land. The pipeline had no business being there in the first place. Hopefully this means it will permanently be stopped.

Progress has been made in the Vanessa Guillen case. Vanessa was a soldier at Fort Hood that accused a fellow soldier, I think an officer, of sexual misconduct and then went missing. The military was refusing to look into it and tried to push her disappearance under the rug. Then last week, remains were found near the base with acid poured on the genital. It's thought the remains are Vanessa. So far, an investigation has connected a former soldier's spouse to her, but the case is still on going. It's good to see some justice being done for her. I hope the officials that tried to hide her disappearance and death are punished.

Gov. Cuomo announced that they will be entering phase 3 in New York. A bit surprising honestly considering the surges of cases around the states. Maybe he feels since NY isn't the one surging then it's all good to move to phase 3. All is not well in NYC though. Over the weekend, I saw there were around 40 different shootings leaving 11 people dead. There are

rumors going around that terrorist groups like ISIS were claiming responsibility for the shootings, but I don't think anything has been confirmed.

The Coles county health department released another memo on Facebook yesterday saying the total has been raised to 180 cases after 6 new cases had been reported. Of this number, 23 are in recovery, 4 are in the hospital, 17 have died, and 136 have recovered. The county map updated by the state still says the case count is at 170 positive cases and 17 deaths. Although, judging from the date in the small print, I don't think the total have been updated until July 1st.

Tuesday July 7, 2020

Today was blackout Tuesday. People were encouraged to not spend any money unless it was at a black owned business. I guess I kind of contributed in that I didn't spend any money. But I can't say that I actively participated because I didn't know this was a thing until later in the day.

Another day at work sitting at the table giving tours. My last tour of the day was for a sweet young lady who was very into Lincoln. She kept saying how she was so excited to be there and wanted to get all the pictures for her dad who was battling cancer and couldn't travel. She bought several books in the gift shop. But, I feel she had built up this saintly image of Lincoln in her mind that I feel not much of what I said to her went through. I kept trying to tell her the cabin belonged to his parents, but she kept referring to things as Abraham's. She did the same thing at the Sargent's. But she was very sweet and eager to learn. Her tour lasted about an hour. Before she left, I recommended that she visit the Moore House and Shiloh cemetery as those are more directly Abraham Lincoln related. She left me with a \$20 donation, and she got in her jeep to call her dad about her visit. When I left for the day, she was still sitting in the parking lot.

I had a conversation with my boss today about racism. He does not believe in institutional racism and the numerous accounts of people being harassed is being inflated as most of the cases are hoaxes (i.e. Jesse Smollet). I didn't say this to him, but its rather easy for him to say this because he's a white male, and a tall white male at that. Just because you don't personally experience something doesn't mean it's not real. I tried to meet him on some common ground in saying that there are racist individuals who have been placed in positions of power and wield that power to meet their own agenda. I couldn't even get him to meet me there. I think he's convinced himself that because we have more rights and freedoms in America than other places, then the bad opinions of others don't truly stop you from attaining your goals. I tried to meet him on some level but, just couldn't do it.

My legs are covered in bites of some kind. They just keep appearing. I got home from work to change because I was dripping with sweat (heat index probably broke 100 today, even my shins were dripping from sweat and all I was doing was standing in place) and I found a nice sized welt on my right thigh, close to the size of a quarter. Itches like crazy. Mom suggested it

might be a deer tick, I think its possibly a spider bite. Either way, I am keeping an eye on it in case it gets any bigger.

The county map maintained by the state has not been updated so all numbers are as previously reported.

Wednesday July 8, 2020

I had a sweet group this morning. They were here before I arrived and walked up the walk right when they opened. From talking to them I learned that they were distant relatives of Lincoln, traveling around the states from Texas to see the sites. The lady said several times she worked on a reservation in Arizona and I could see by her hat that she was a veteran. She was visiting with whom I assume is her husband and mother. But, it could be her dad and mother. That point wasn't all that clear. But they were very interested in the site and were thankful that I showed them around. They spent around 80 bucks in the gift shop, a decent haul for a Wednesday. They left to go to Shiloh and visit Thomas and Sarah's graves. I hope they have a good day. I like leading tours like them.

I met with the first crazy mom of our pioneer camp. I was at the table and a mom walked up with a water bottle. She said she spoke to one of the youth coordinators this morning and she knew all about how she wanted her daughter to drink this water and not the farm water because her daughter had a bad headache last night. I thought she was crazy but was very polite and said I would get it passed off to her. First off, all the water on site is regularly tested by the state and is fine. Second, room temperature water doesn't hurt anyone. Third, everyone has been drinking this water for years and no one has died. My guess her headache was caused by either allergies/ sinus pressure headaches, dehydration, or she's not used to being in the heat. None of those things have to do with the quality of the water. And 4th, that water bottle will last her maybe an hour if she's drinking it slow, what's she supposed to drink after that? Parents these days baby their kids too much. If it wasn't safe, we wouldn't do it.

The heat isn't letting up. It's still very hot and sticky. But at least there is a breeze today. There wasn't yesterday. Around 3 we had a storm moved through with some strong cool winds. It was a welcome relief to the heat. We didn't get any rain, but it did rain in town. That's usually the way. We like to say Lincoln Log is in a bubble where it will either never rain or if it does rain it pours.

The county health department published a memo on Facebook yesterday that the case count for Coles county was now at 184 with 5 in the hospital, 11 in recovery, 17 dead, and 151 recovered. Information on the county map maintained by the state remains unchanged. So much for updated daily.

Thursday July 9, 2020

Boring day at work today. I only had one couple want a tour all day and a coworker took them. So, I sat at a table and did nothing. A friend and former coworker came out in the afternoon, and I helped her with the essay portion of her promotion application.

The Supreme court has been busy lately. They ruled that some jobs that provide health care for their workers have the option to deny coverage of birth control. I was honestly so pissed off by this that I didn't do much more research into the reasoning. It drives me nuts that people think the only reason people use birth control is to prevent pregnancies but in reality it does so much more. My birth control is literally the only reason I can function during my cycle as it helps to make the pain bearable. If any old white guy wants to try and take my birth control, he'll have to fight me for it.

On a brighter note, they have also ruled that Trump can't stop his tax returns from being presented in front of a grand jury. That sounds like Trump is desperate. I can't wait until he rots in jail. It will be so satisfying.

I also saw a report today that Robert Fuller's death, the young black man that was found hung in a tree, was ruled a suicide. The FBI oversaw the investigation and an independent autopsy was done all confirming the suicide ruling. They found video from a nearby security camera confirming no foul play and showed it to the family who had participated in a protest that their son had not killed himself. The video apparently convinced them as well that it was a suicide. The FBI did say that the police department was too quick to dismiss any other possibilities of crimes, but as stated before agreed with their conclusion. There has been no word on the first black man found hung as the investigation is still on-going. This is certainly sad.

More sad news, the actress who played Santanna on Glee was reported missing and is presumed dead. She was out on a boating trip with her son. He was found on the boat by himself which led to the presumption of her death. But as this just happened, everything is still rumors.

The county map was updated today. Coles has 188 positive cases with 17 deaths. The state has 150,450 confirmed cases and 7,119 deaths.

Saturday July 11, 2020

I forgot to do an entry yesterday, so I'll make note of it today. I had the weirdest nightmare the night before last. I dreamed that I was in a video game and a member of this society that fights monsters. In my first dream, I was in HQ and we were having a meeting about these monsters getting out of control. Then this giant plant monster that could stretch all its limbs, had a good sense of smell but was blind, smashed through the wall, found me in the sea of people, and ate me. I woke up with a start. Went back to sleep and was in the same world. This time I was in an abandoned town and a purple fuzzy bear with claws was chasing us around. You had to stay out of sight and as long as the giant bear didn't directly see you, you could misdirect him by softly singing. But if you spoke regularly or shouted, the bear would hear

you in an instant and would tear you to bits with its claws. Woke up from that one suddenly. Fell asleep a 3rd time and this time I was in a ruined cliff city in which an ogre with a club was roaming around bashing people's heads in. You had to hide really well because he had perfect vision. I texted my friend about it and she said my nightmare would be a cool video game and I should think about going into video game production. I don't have the smarts for that. Technology and I don't mesh well. It would be neat if people could take my idea and turn it into a game. More thriller than horror.

I also had an insane experience yesterday sitting at the table. A family came up and they wanted to show themselves around. They went out and a little while later they started trickling back up front. First was an older gentleman, maybe in his 50s, wearing an EIU sweatshirt. He sat on one of the benches and he asked what I was studying because I had my GRE book out. I told him what it was and explained I was trying to get into an archeology program, specifically focusing on Egypt. The floodgates of crazy opened. He said he came across some writings by a man named Thoth from Egypt who said he was from Mars and built the pyramids using anti-gravity and the pyramids were transporters. He said he had a spaceship under the pyramids and there's an empty room under the sphinx so must have an alien connection. He also said he mentioned Atlantis and how there's a suspicious pyramid shape on the moon. He said he's published 2 books about this and been studying it for 20 years. She said that he was blacklisted from the scientific community and has contacted various different organizations in search of a contract to further his research into transportation. Dead serious the whole time. Even recommended a book for me to read, the author's name was Vincetti, Vicetti, Vicietti, something like that. Title was something like how to build a transporter. He said he didn't care if he got the credit for his work because he just wants to bring enlightenment to young people like me. The whole encounter lasted maybe 15 minutes. The man was all kinds of crazy. Half of the stuff, I had no idea what he was even talking about. The stuff that I did know, I tried to correct him but often he would cut me off by going into his next idea in which I had no idea what he was trying to say. I couldn't believe the insanity of what had just happened, I had to call my friend to fully explain the craziness of what happened. I did some minimal research because reading all this melts my brain with the sheer level of stupidity. Thoth is apparently an Atlantean who resettled in Egypt after Atlantis fell and brought civilization. Curious that Atlantis isn't mentioned until Plato thousands of years later but yeah, course Egypt was built by the descendants of Martians that got stranded on Earth. That makes sense. I can't handle the stupidity and the racism encompassed in this thought process. This is exactly why shows like Ancient Aliens need to be cancelled.

Other than that, I had a rather boring day. I lead a sweet family on a tour. The kids were getting on my nerves a bit when they kept getting into things and trying to open everything that was closed. I caught the dad and the boys inside the chicken coup a the Sargents chasing that chickens around. I learned they have chickens and bees at home, I would think that would mean they knew enough not to go in a closed pen and terrorize our animals.

Today is the last day of camp and I think my co-workers are ready for it to be done. A week of obnoxious children that don't follow directions can grind down on you. I'm just glad I get a day off tomorrow and take a break.

I saw this morning that Trump commuted the sentence of Rodger Stone. Stone was charged with meddling in the Russia investigation/2016 election and is a long-time friend and advisor to Trump. This happened days before he was to start serving his slightly over 3-year sentence. Stone talked to the press after the commute was passed down wearing a "Free Roger Stone!" mask and a shirt that said something along the lines that he did nothing wrong. I know the president has the power to commute the sentence of someone convicted by the courts, but he blatantly abuses this power. His friends break the law for him and then he thanks them by getting them out of jail. He even posted on twitter back when Tiger King was trending on Netflix, that he would commute the sentence of the dude accused of killing Carol Baskins husband. I think this was a joke, but the fact that he just nonchalantly refers to this power makes me angry and very nervous.

The East Coast has been slammed the last couple of days by hurricane Fay. As it is still in ongoing, I haven't heard any real updates other than the expected high-water levels.

The Coles county health department shared another memo on Facebook dated yesterday. We have. A total of 192 positive cases with 12 in recovery, 5 in the hospital, 158 recovered, and 17 dead.

Sunday July 11, 2020

I am enjoying my time off. I finished watching The Great on Hulu and I think I'll finally finish Lego Harry Potter today.

Disney in Florida announced they opened this weekend to the public. I also saw an ad today that Universal Studios also opened. I'm honestly rather surprised that they opened with cases spiking in Florida. I believe Alabama has the highest amount of new cases in the world this past week. I think the mayor of Atlanta is at odds with the state gov. The state is among the states experiencing the one of the highest case counts and yet the gov refuses to reinstate the stay at home order. The city mayor said, in essence, screw that and we are going back to stage one. The gov. said in response that she couldn't do that because his executive order he was going to sign wouldn't allow her to do that. So far, the conflict has yet to be resolved.

Based on the maps I've seen; Illinois is seeing a slight uptick in cases. I think somewhere around an increase of 10-20%. Only 4 states are still on the downward trend, and those are all in the North East. NY is included in the 4. According to the county map run by the state, Coles has 190 cases and 17 deaths. The state has a total of 152,962 cases and 7,168 deaths. Looking at the charts for the state, I do see an upward trend in cases. And we were doing so well.

Monday July 13, 2020

Boring day at work. But at least I got to sit inside the visitors center today. Definitely could have been worse.

LA schools announced today that students will not be going back to school campuses come fall but remote/online learning will still be happening. This decision was announced after Trump declared that schools will be required to open in the fall, or they will receive no federal funding. Kind of ridiculous considering the federal government only provides about 5% of schools funding. The rest schools have to receive from the state, fundraise for, or request for students to donate items. As far as I know, Illinois is trying to figure out a hybrid style where it will be partially in person and partially remote. Either way, I think this is going to be a disaster and kids aren't actually going to learn anything this fall, possibly even this year. Education is extremely important, and kids need to have continual learning opportunities. I just think that remote learning allows kids to not do their work, they won't understand it, and they can't get help. That also assumes kids have access to the internet. But I recognize that the health and safety of the kids is important too. And this brings into question how are parents going to be able to go to work if their child doesn't go to school? Who will home school them? Provide help with homework? The child loses social opportunities and loses those skills. At this point, I have seen no good answers. We don't want people to be exposed unnecessarily but the kids are the ones who will suffer in the long run by not getting the preparation and education they need. For younger kids, it's not such a big deal but it is for older kids. How are seniors supposed to prep for college? Take tests like the SAT and ACT? Bolster up their resumes so they look good? Get the help they need on hard courses, so their grades don't tank? I don't have any ideas how to fix this.

News broke today that glee actress Naya Rivera was pronounced dead. Reports say that diving team found a body the day after the accident and say that it was a "tragic accident" with no evidence of foul play. I found it curious that the article said, "a body" not "her body." But I have no reason not to trust the report. I feel so bad for her 4-year-old. It's so sad. This must be so confusing for him.

I found a memo from the Coles county health department dated to yesterday shared on Facebook. It said there are 9 new cases bringing the total up to 22 active cases, three hospitalized, 17 dead, and 159 recovered, for a total of 201 cases. The county map says we have 199 cases with 17 deaths. Annoying how the county posts their updates on Facebook but not their website. The state's case count is currently at 154,799 with 7,193 deaths. But of course, these numbers are according to the state whose numbers seem to be inaccurate?

Tuesday July 14, 2020

Sad day today. Grant Imahara from MythBusters died last night from a brain aneurism at age 49. I grew up watching and loving that show. It's certainly a blow. I can't imagine how the other members of the MythBusters family are feeling, Especially Tory and Kari. They all were pretty close. This comes on the heels of Naya's death and John Travolta's wife and actress, Kelly Preston, who died last week after battling cancer for 2 years.

There's a post circulating my pages that the Mattoon police department beat up a black teen, maybe 14 or 15 definitely not 16, they apprehended breaking curfew. The child's mom posted that while she does not condone her son breaking the rules, him returning home bloodied and bruised is unacceptable. She is calling for bodycam footage to be released so people can see for sure if the beating was warranted. This must have been recent because I didn't see any news reports and nothing on the WCIA news page or the police website. If his story is true and the police did attack him for breaking curfew that is unacceptable and uncalled for. As for me, I'll reserve my emotions until after I know what happened.

An article went up yesterday that the first case of covid was found on EIU's campus yesterday. The person was tested on Saturday and came up positive and was quarantined on Sunday. The Coles county health department is in the process of trying to track down who this person may have come in contact with. It's a little off-putting to think there's a case on campus, considering the tight quarters and how quick the virus spreads. As much as I love Eastern, I'm a little glad that I'm not going back, so I don't have to be put in such tight spaces or try to learn through online classes. Learning online is difficult for me.

I learned that Dr. Fauci has not done any television interviews since April from Stephen Colbert's interview of CBS news anchor Norah O'Donnell. She said that they have reached out multiple times and she has had direct contact with Dr. Fauci and she says, "he is not hiding." She says that he deliberately being blocked from giving interviews because the majority of Americans say the trust Fauci over Trump and the white house doesn't want Fauci contradicting Trump. Speaks volumes to me that the person spearheading the charge against corona is being stifled. The White House is cowering scared. It will be so satisfying to see his regime topple.

According to the county map run by the state, Coles county has 202 positive cases and 17 deaths. The state totals are 155,506 total positive cases and 7,218 deaths.

Wednesday July 15, 2020

I learned today that the covid case at EIU was linked back to an EIU football player. I think they came back to campus for optional training to prep for the fall. I'll be interested to see if he got anyone else sick.

Mattoon school system released their plan for the fall last night. They are doing a 3-option plan. Students can come for a full in person day, choose to have a partially in class partially at home schedule, or do a fully remote learning schedule. Those who choose to do learning at home will be assigned a school Chromebook and hotspot should they need it to complete school-work. Meals will be provided but in a drive through style format. Students will also have the option of using some kind of software to virtually attend the in-person class and participate in real time. But, for the remote learning options, parents must tell the school system, or it will be assumed that the child will be attending in person full time. No word yet on what this means for extracurriculars. Personally, considering everything that the school system had to consider, I think this was the best compromise they could reach. But, buying that many Chromebooks and hotspots is going to be expensive, not to mention it's going to be a

nightmare for teachers trying to teach in person and remotely at the same time. They're going to have to move towards a more lecture style or figure out a new way of approaching their teaching. In class activities and group projects will be difficult if not near impossible now. But kids need to go to school. They need to keep learning. I don't see any other options at this point.

Some good news for the day. Kanye has dropped the idea of running for president, thank goodness. Also, Trump was forced to drop the stipulation that foreign students could only have a student visa if they are taking full time, in person classes. Now they can do full time class loads online to match with the current climate of schooling. They were talking about shipping international students out who couldn't meet the requirement because their university wasn't offering in person classes or just for their own personal safety wanted to take online courses.

Friday July 17, 2020

Yesterday was just a long and exhausting day. My parents were supposed to go on a weekend trip, and I would have the house to myself for the weekend. But they couldn't find anywhere to stay and they want to avoid hotels, so they settled on taking day trips today and tomorrow. I'm glad they're still taking their trips but I'm kinda disappointed. I was looking forward to having the house to myself. I've had no house alone time since lockdown started. My friend was also in town this weekend and we were supposed to hang out, but she has family stuff going on and her brother's cat was diagnosed with cancer and had to be put down yesterday so of course she needs to spend time with them. It's probably selfish of me, but I was hoping just for some me time with junk food, my friend, and the hot tub. I think mom feels bad for me and invited me to go with them on Saturday. She said she wants us to spend quality time together before I move out and we can't do stuff like that anymore. I feel guilty if I don't go and I feel guilty if I do go because this was supposed to be their weekend. I might make up an excuse that my friend and I planned something, so I don't feel so bad.

Then all kinds of chaos happened yesterday. I saw a couple days ago that someone hacked celebrity twitter accounts pushing a bitcoin scam. Twitter saw the issue and disabled all tweeting ability for every verified account. This included accounts not necessarily belonging to celebrities. That evening, severe storms rolled through southern Illinois whipping up a tornado warning and because the national weather service accounts are verified, it couldn't send out a tweet warning people.

Then it was announced that the White House has demanded that all hospital data go to them instead of the CDC. In essence, this means that we will not know daily numbers. They won't be updated. Trump is scrambling and is hiding the numbers to hide his utter failure. He knows that he's losing. I saw this morning that Trump is trailing behind Biden by 15% points nationally. Also, around 72% of participants in a poll said the US is on the wrong track. I'm not sure what who did the poll or how many participated though as it was quoted in Stephen Colbert's video. Either way, he's a lunatic that needs to be removed from his throne. There are a full 8 seasons of Game of Thrones explaining why putting crazy people in power is a bad thing.

We also found out the Russia tried to hack in to get our covid data wanting to now case counts and what we had in the way of vaccines. This is just crazy. And the group accused of doing this was also one of the groups involved in the hacking of the Hilary's emails during the 2016 presidential election. The news reports that Russia tried hacking centers in 3 different countries trying to find information. This almost feels almost like science fiction it's so outrageous.

On the more random side, I saw a clip from Trevor Noah that an amusement park in Japan implemented a no screaming rule to stop the spread of corona virus. To prove that it could be done, the two head honchos rode the parks biggest coaster and didn't scream, didn't even change their expression. At the end of the video it said, "scream inside your heart." Odd. In Barbados, they created a program to encourage people to come there to stimulate the economy by creating an environment fitting for people doing virtual work.

So, in essence, I may not be able to give updates from now on because the info is being hidden. But this is what I have.

Monday July 20, 2020

I took a few days off writing. Not much happened. I finally submitted my application to the Indianapolis Children's Museum for an internship so we will see if I get offered one. I decided to go with my parents on their day trip on Saturday, but we couldn't really do anything because everything was closed, so we just drove around for about 8 hours. When we got home, my friend and I got together for dinner and enjoyed the hot tub for a little bit. Watched Netflix pretty much all day on Sunday.

Today is going to be a boring day at work since it's just me. I think I'll do some grad school research done while I'm here. Although I got to work today and there was a mob of people with lawn chairs and stuff. Looked like they were prepping a BBQ or something. We watched them head off towards the Sargent's with all their stuff. Bill went to make sure they weren't setting up camp on the site grounds. He hasn't been back, so I don't know where they went.

In other news, the vaccine in the works by Oxford University is showing promising signs in the first stages of human trials. The drug induces an increased antibody count, but it still needs to go through stage 3 testing before it can be verified if it is effective. In local case counts, I was able to find Coles County Health department memos on Facebook dating from the 17th and the 18th. The 17th says there were 19 new cases with a total of 228 positive cases, 168 recovered, 3 in the hospital, and 40 in recovery. Deaths still sat at 17. That was released at 9:30 am on the 17th. The update on the 18th dating to the regular update time at noon records 8 new cases bringing totals up to 236 total positive cases, 3 hospitalized, 42 active recoveries, 174 recovered and 17 deceased. The memo has a notice at the bottom that the state is actively doing contact

tracing and just because you have an initial negative result does not free you from self-isolation or quarantine. WCIA news put out an article yesterday that Coles county announced 18 additional cases. The article says that 56 are in recovery and 3 cases hospitalized, although the article isn't clear if it is referring to the 3 already hospitalized or if this is 3 additional hospitalizations. This changes the numbers to 254 total cases with 178 recovered and 17 deaths. The article says they are actively working on contact tracing. I took the liberty of checking the county map totals run by the state. That map says Coles has 235 cases with 17 deaths. The state totals 161,575 total confirmed cases with 7,295 deaths. However, these totals were updated on the 19th. Regardless, the county numbers as told by the state do not match the numbers put out by the county.

The cops who murdered Breonna Taylor still have not been arrested.

Tuesday July 21, 2020

Boring day at work. I found out the people who were working on the water line yesterday tore up the landline cables knocking out our phones and out WIFI. They knocked out the landline phones for the houses behind the site too. It was a very long day without WIFI. At least we had a relatively constant flow of families through the day so I had something to do unlike yesterday. So, I didn't get any of the grad school research done that I wanted to. But I got my sisters birthday present at work. I got her and I a matching set of cute bee boot socks.

The Coles County Health Department uploaded a post with the county stats through July 20. The post looks like 2 PowerPoint slides, one with the number breakdown of cases and the other a bar graph with the breakdown cases through sex and age. As of 5 pm on July 20, there 6 new cases since their last update the day before at 1:30 pm. This brings the total number of positive cases to 260 with 57 in recovery, 5 in the hospital, 179 recovered, and 17 dead. The bar graph break-down is as follows: 17 cases fall between the ages of 0-9, 7 are male and 8 are female. 16 cases fall between the ages of 10-19, 6 are male and 10 are female. 43 cases fall between the ages of 20-29, 17 are male and 26 are female. 33 cases fall between the ages of 30-39, 15 are male and 18 are female. 28 cases fall between the ages of 40-49, 16 are male and 12 are female. 35 cases fall between the ages 50-59, 15 are male and 20 are female. 38 cases fall between the ages 60-69, 17 are male and 21 are female. 52 cases fall in the 70+ age, 19 male and 33 females. This is a total breakdown of all cases reported in Coles county. The governor says the positivity rate per test still is around 1% state-wide. I checked the county map run by the state and their numbers say Coles has 255 cases with 17 deaths. The state numbers updated as of today has a total of 163,703 positive cases and 2,324 deaths. Recovery Rate is sitting at 95%.

Wednesday July 22, 2020

WIFI is back at work, thank goodness. A coworker is having issues with his pneumonia again so he will be off until Saturday. My friend is still in town trying to get tested for Bronchitis. She's been coughing and having trouble breathing but positive she doesn't have covid. She went and got the covid testing this morning because the doctor's office won't see her or let her speak to a doctor until she gets a negative test result. They told her of it gets to the point she

can't breathe before the test results come back to go to the ER. I understand not wanting her in the building without a negative result, but I don't understand why they couldn't get her a few days' worth of antibiotics until she can get the results back. She's not happy about this.

I saw some upsetting news going on in Portland. BLM protests are still happening and in Portland, unidentified military groups appear to be grabbing protesters off the streets and shoving them in unmarked vans and taking off. There are multiple videos of this although if there's a reason why those particular protesters were grabbed, it is not showed in the videos. A little later it was figured out the troops are a branch of ICE operating under what they claim are direct executive orders, meaning trump. After this news broke, also in Portland, a group of moms stood between protesters and troops/ FBI(?) to which the troops then pushed and got rough with the moms. I also saw a picture of a lady doing nude yoga to distract police from the protesters. It's pretty sad people are deliberately doing public indecency to prevent people from getting hurt.

The Coles county map has total case counts sitting at 261 with 17 deaths. State confirmed cases sit at 165,301 and 7,347 deaths. We as a state have seen an uptick in daily cases counts. At one point we had a daily case count around 600. Now, we were marked between 1000-1200 cases in one day. This has been attributed to the openings. Last night 1,456 people were reported to be admitted to the hospital, with 337 people in ICU, and 132 were on ventilators. WAND17 issued an article earlier this afternoon and said that 1,598 new confirmed cases were announced today with 23 new deaths.

Thursday July 23, 2020

Lightning struck the statue of Liberty the other night. Feels fitting. People come into the visitors' center at work with their masks covering their mouths and not their noses. It's incredibly annoying and you just look stupid. Cover both you idiots. Your nose is part of your raspatory system too. People are likening the unmarked police snatching people to the gestapo and people are not happy about it. Ted Yoho made a bad comment about AOC and issued his apology and announced he will not be running for Congress in the next race. Good. Can't wait for Mitch McConnell to go.

Stephen Miller's grandmother passed away from Covid and his uncle is blaming Trump for not containing things. The WH claims that she did not die from covid. A reporter confronted them with a copy of the actual death certificate where it says passed from covid and they still refused to say it was covid. New data for Illinois shows 8 central counties have double digit case counts today. Danville has 75, Arcola 42, Tuscola 21, Sangamon 21, Hoopeston 18, Monticello 17, Danville 11, and Paxton with 11. The case count trend for the state seems to keep trending up but the death rate is consistently going down which is good. The county state map has Coles sitting at 273 cases and 17 deaths. State case count is sitting at 166,925 case and 7, 367 deaths. About 2.4 million tests have been done. We, as a country, have hit 4 million cases nationwide today. So much for under control.

Friday July 24, 2020

I saw a post on Facebook that was both honestly kind of funny but also kind of frightening. Trump has been going on for days about sending his secret police force into Chicago to put down the protests going on there. The people of Chicago want nothing to do with this. The Wieners Circle, a hotdog joint in Chicago, put on their sign out front, "FEDERAL AGENTS UNLESS UR HERE FOR KANYE PLEASE LEAVE." The crack about Kanye is rather funny and I fully support getting rid of him from any aspect of political life. But honestly, the fact we even have to discuss the military occupation of a major US city is disturbing. I could understand it when lockdown was enforced there with national guard blocking off roads and enforcing curfews and whatnot. But using federal troops to stop peaceful protests is unacceptable. Using any kind of troops or law enforcement officials to put down peaceful protest is disturbing. A couple days ago I saw a video that went viral of soldiers beat a white US marine vet at a protest. As they hit him, he wouldn't move. Finally, one sprayed him with pepper spray inches from his face which finally prompted him to move back a couple feet. Based on what I see in the video, they approached him, he did not approach them. He did not move at all while they hit him. I didn't see this video myself and I don't fully understand the context, but from what I gathered an older white gentleman who was a vet attended a protest. At the protest he was badly beaten, by I assume federal troops but I'm honestly not sure. I watched the interview he did afterwards with a news station and one of his arms was fully wrapped in bandages. He said he was being made the posterchild because he's an old white man. He asked the reporter if she thought as much interest would be shown in his situation if he was black. She said yes, she would hope so. He said no, he didn't think so. He also said he didn't like the attention he was getting. Honestly, I used to be the person that believed the majority of cops were good and the few bad apples needed to be rooted out. But the more and more I see, the more I see that cops are being trained to be brutal. The force is unnecessary. Why is force the first option so many cops choose? Beatings won't stop homelessness. Beatings won't stop poor education in poor communities. Beatings won't stop minority communities from withering away. Violence breeds violence, fear breeds fear which turns to hate. It is a vicious cycle that will not end until the system is created anew. Police are meant to serve their communities, not destroy it.

I also found out more the situation between representative Yoho and AOC. On the congressional floor, in a hearing/debate that was being aired on tv, he called AOC a "f***** b*****" and then qualified the comment because he is married with 2 daughters. This. This is misogyny at its finest. Its people in power like Trump and Yoho who think it is ok to speak about women in this way that allow others to think they can do it too with no consequences. This is why women go in packs everywhere, because they're afraid of men who have no concept for respecting women. A couple years ago when there were idiots running around in clown masks chasing people, and even attacking people, at night, I was terrified to be on campus after dark. I would walk around with my color guard rifle and carry it in a way where it might look like a real gun. And even if they figured out it wasn't real; I could still use it like a club. After a football game, a group of us asked the only male member to walk us to our cars outside the building because we didn't feel safe. It is unacceptable that we live in a society in which women are taught to think someone is always trying to get them and yet men are not told to not attack women. This must change.

Someone also on Facebook shared a study that was done saying wearing a mask but not covering your nose defeats the purpose of a mask. Well, duh. They have been saying that from the beginning. Coles county case count today is sitting at a total 286 positive cases and 17 deaths. The state totals sit at 168,457 total positive cases and 7,385 deaths.

Sunday July 26, 2020

Today is my sister's birthday. She came over and brought her new dog Rigby with her. Bro-in-law came and joined us when he got off work. We had dinner and played a few rounds of Uno Flipped before they left. I got her some bee socks and a couple of Lincoln log shirts.

My sister and Bro-in-law got Rigby Friday afternoon and he is the cutest thing. He is a 8 week old chiweenie that loves to snuggle. I went to my sister's house for a few hours on Saturday to hang out and play with Rigby. We would play, crawl around, and took several naps. He burrows into the covers and he took a nap on my lap. He would stretch out in his sleep and almost rolled off my lap a couple times. He loves sitting on my sister's shoulders. The only way he won't freak out in the car is if he sits on my sister's shoulder while she drives. I got pictures of him today sitting on the back of her neck and getting comfy. He's a very chill puppy. He hardly barks and listens to directions and corrections. He's cool with people once he warms up to them and is just the cutest. His legs aren't the longest so instead of walking, he more or less moves around by hopping around; kind of like a piglet. At least, that's what mom says he looks like.

I found a press release from the Coles county health department from the 24th that says 19 new cases were confirmed as of the 23rd. That brings the total to 287 with 6 hospitalized, 73 in recovery, 191 recovered, and 17 dead. The memo has the break-down of new cases as follows: 10 new cases on the 22. 5 new cases on the 23rd. The totals between July 19- July 23rd is 51 positive cases. They have really been pushing social distancing and wearing a mask. At this rate, I bet we are going to see openings reversed. The county map maintained by the state has Coles county total sitting at 297 positive cases and 17 deaths. The state case count sits at 171,424 confirmed cases with 7,398 deaths. 2.5 million tests have been done.

Monday July 27, 2020

Today is my birthday. I have had a very boring day at work sitting at the desk. I had a couple visitors this morning but then we had a torrential rain come down around 1 so I don't expect we will get many more people today. My friend came by before she left to go back to Cookeville. She dropped off my birthday gift and we chatted for a bit. She got me a squirrel birthday card because I have a weird obsession with squirrels. She got me some plastic sandbox toys because "every archeologist needs their tools." She also got me some notebooks for the field and peanut M&Ms and a vanilla cupcake. I know I'm getting old when I get excited about practical gifts. Plus, the gift bag was super cute. Mom is letting me pick what restaurant I want to eat at tonight since it's my birthday.

A memo released on Facebook by the Coles County Health department dated yesterday has another spike in cases. There were 20 new cases by the press release yesterday at 5:30 pm.

This means from July 19- July 26, there have been 66 new total cases. This brings the case count up to 329 with 9 hospitalized, 75 in recovery, 219 recovered and 17 deceased. I don't know how we turned into such a hotspot. If we move back 2-ish weeks that brings us back to the 4th of July weekend. Maybe the surge in cases is because people weren't being careful, left to go places, brought the virus back, and then infected the people they came in contact with? The county map managed by the state says Coles has 315 cases with 17 deaths. The state totals are 172,655 confirmed cases with 7,416 deaths.

Wednesday July 29, 2020

I forgot to do an entry yesterday. So, yesterday I did my Westward Ho module with the camp kids and I found a site that had the original 90s Oregon Trail video game. We did the paper portion for an hour and then we did a group trip for about an hour. The kids were invested. These kids are going to kill themselves though. Their rations are set at meager and their pace strenuous. Multiple members of the family have gotten sick or injured, only one has died so far. They're running out of food and they're only halfway through. It was fun though. I did a trial run earlier in the morning to get a feel for the controls. I was invested. That's all I focused on for a good hour and a half. When I played it, I was a bit smarter than the kids with my purchases at the beginning. I only lost 2 family members and made it all the way to the end. I was exhausted afterwards from the standing and loudly talking. The kids were into to it though. My coworker said they want to try and end the last half hour of everyday with the game which I'm fine with. Gives me something to do. But this is a lot more talking than I'm used to. I couldn't believe how tired I felt from just standing and talking loudly. But I have realized that when I was reading out everything I sounded exactly like my mom. Guess it's a teacher thing?

The Coles county health department released a statement at 2pm on the 26th (more like a PowerPoint slide than a statement) with the breakdown of cases on the 24,25, and 26. There were 6 new cases on the 24th, 7 on the 25th, and 20 on the 26th. That's 33 new cases over 3 days. As of when that was uploaded, there was a total of 320 new cases, 76 in recovery, 9 in the hospital, 218 recovered, and 17 dead. Although I vaguely remember hearing within the last couple of days that another person died. The full break-down is as follows: ages 0-9 has 19 cases, 8 male and 11 female. Ages 10-19 has 28 cases, 13 male and 15 female. Ages 20-29 has 64 cases, 36 male and 28 female. Ages 30-39 has 39 cases, 18 male and 21 female. Ages 40-49 has 33 cases, 17 male and 16 female. Ages 50-59 has 36 cases, 15 male and 21 female. Ages 60-69 has 44 cases, 21 male and 23 female. Ages 70+ has 50 cases with 19 male and 31 female. The Illinois county map handled by the state says that we have hit 361 positive cases and 20 deaths. The state numbers have hit 175,124 positive cases and 7,462 deaths.

Thursday July 30, 2020

It's been raining morning. It's supposed to rain for the rest of the day and then again, all day Saturday. I've been helping the kids put together their projects for the weekend. There's no ego boost quite like being able to type quickly compared to a 5th grader. That sets the bar kind of low but still, a boost is a boost. I can't believe July is already almost done. The months so far

just seemed to drag on but this month is speeding by. I guess that's because I've actually had something to do this month.

I saw a post from the Coles County health department last night with an update for the 29th. Between 4:30 on the 28th and 1 pm on the 29th, there were 17 new cases. This brings the total up to 361 positive cases with 99 in recovery, 5 in the hospital, 239 fully recovered, and 18 deaths. The Deaths number doesn't quite match because I heard there were 3 new deaths over the weekend meaning the total was 20, not 18. The county map managed by the state says that we have 366 positive cases and 19 deaths. The state totals at 176,896 positive cases and 7,478 deaths.

Friday July 31, 2020

Internet is still on the fritz because there's a short somewhere in the line. I'm so bored. I have internet for a few minutes before it goes back out. Makes using it difficult.

I heard a very scary thing yesterday. Trump has been talking about pushing the elections back. Uh, no. He's afraid of mail in ballots because then people will actually vote. He knows he is going to lose and is trying to make a last-ditch effort to save his skin and his power. This is what dictators do. He needs to be voted out and he needs to be voted out now. I don't know if I can handle four more years of this imbecile.

Hurricane Isaias is set to make landfall today off the coast of Florida. Its currently a category 1 hurricane and they don't think that it will reach category 2. But the coast is still looking at strong winds and lots of rain.

Sunday August 2, 2020

I meant to do an entry yesterday, but I didn't feel well at the end of the day so I'm recording today instead. Yesterday I went out to the cabin for the kids' presentations and got some free food out of the deal. After that I went and picked up Rigby from my sister's he stayed with me until around 8:30. Out of the 5 hours he was at the house, he slept through about 3 hours of it. He kept trying to climb all over me while I was driving. He kept whining when I wouldn't hold him. I put my hand on him and he was chill with it for the first couple of minutes then he wanted more. I had to keep putting him back over in his seat. At a couple points he kept trying to stand on my arms which was a bit of a problem when I needed to turn. Then he climbed up my torso and onto my shoulder. I could feel him trying to jump for it so I held him in place until I could stop the car to use both hands to grab him and put him back in the seat. He is a rambunctious little devil. But, I love him. Dog sitting helps to curb my dog fever.

Today has been a nice lazy day. One of those is needed every now and again. The journal gazette published an article taking an increase in the case count on Saturday. The article says that 25 new cases were identified yesterday. I take this to mean the 25 positives were on that day and not carry over from after the case announcement on Friday. The article says that with the new numbers, the case count has reached 402 with 2 hospitalized, 109 in recovery, 273 recovered, and 18 deceased. As of now, public health officials are saying if the numbers

don't get under control, Coles will be reverted back to phase 3. I checked the state case map and it says we have 399 cases with 19 deaths. Seems the journal gazette, the county health department, and the state can't seem to be on the same wave lengths. The state totals, as currently reported, have confirmed cases at 181,943 and 7,517 deaths.

Monday August 3, 2020

A lady really ticked me off at work today. They were an older couple and she was the epitome of a Karen. They walked in and I started doing my normal spiel about what's in the visitor's center and getting around the site. I started talking about the Freedom Project exhibit we have in the art gallery that talks about slavery and black history in Illinois. It provides a brief overview of history from mid 1700s – mid 1900s. As someone who has spent quite a bit of time studying this chunk of history, I can tell that the exhibit was clearly written to evoke certain emotions and makes people like Abraham Lincoln almost come off as an abolitionist. While the exhibit has its flaws, I think it is a good introduction and encourages people to do more research into the events, people, and places that are discussed. So, I was halfway through my statement about what the exhibit is about, and the lady cuts me off loudly announcing, "I don't listen to that s*** anymore." Like, excuse me? Tell me you did not just walk into a museum, at a Lincoln site no less, and just trivialize the trauma and injustices that the black community has gone through in Illinois since the 1700s. I had to take a moment to compose myself so I didn't go off on this lady. It's the willful ignorance demonstrated by people like her that infect our society. She's so lucky I was on the job and I'm not allowed to say what I truly think. I pulled myself together and kept going through my list of talking points and she again cuts me off demanding I explain who the Sargents were because she didn't understand it. She couldn't be bothered to wait for me to finish my sentence. Such a Karen. Good riddance.

The case of the murder of the young man from Colorado, Elijah, who was killed by cops has been reopened. I was glad to see this. Hopefully he can get some justice. Hopefully this means we might see something happen with Breonna Taylor's case as well. I think it was in Philadelphia, a major portion of the police budget was taken and instead put towards other services like housing and medical services. I was also glad to see this. Hopefully, other cities will follow this lead.

The journal gazette posted an article this morning that Macon and Coles counties combined had 72 new cases over this past weekend. Macon had 15 on Saturday and 24 on Sunday. Coles had 33 for the whole weekend. This must mean there was 25 on Saturday and 8 on Sunday. Honestly, I thought we had this under control here. But this resurgence just makes me nervous. I've noticed I'm much more paranoid about the people I come in contact with. This morning, I had to fight the urge to follow a small child around the visitor's center with a spray bottle filled with bleach that was coughing on everything with an uncovered mouth. Of course, I know small kids can't wear masks. Still, bothers me. The state county map says Coles has 401 positive cases and 19 deaths. The state totals are at 183,241 positive cases and 7,526 deaths.

Tuesday August 4, 2020

So many things happened today.

First international news. There was a massive explosion in Beirut. I saw the video and the only thing I could think was my god. There were a series of smaller explosions and then boom, the building was gone with a giant mushroom cloud rising. ABC says that, as of an hour ago, at least 60 are dead and more than 3,000 injured and those numbers are expected to keep going up. Not surprising. Buildings destroyed, cars flattened or flipped. As of now there's conflicting reports as to what happened. It appears there was a fire and some people have suggested the small explosion were fireworks. Trump said that this was a terrible attack but now one has said anything about terrorist. Lebanese officials say that this was an accident. The building was possible storing highly combustible materials which could have produced the type of explosion seen. Absolutely devastating. My heart goes out to them.

On the home front, I saw a coyote on the way to work this morning. He was standing half out of a corn field watching the traffic. Brave dude. Unusual though. I don't think I've ever seen a wild coyote in person before. I thought it was a big fox before I got up close to it. We had a relatively busy day at work. Today was in the 70s and it was lovely. Groups of visitors always show up at once and with the worst timing. The young adults came in to play Oregon Trail I had to keep an eye on the camp kids too while my coworker ran downstairs, I had a couple groups of visitors come in and while all this was happening, a visitor came in with a very distinct purpose. I got a call from the maintenance guy that he sent a gentleman to me because he needed to get in contact with a lady that works with us. A guy walked in came to the side of the desk while digging out his wallet. Showed me his badge and asked about a lady associated with us. I told him she wasn't here, but I could call her phone if he would like to speak with her. I called her and I only heard his side of the conversation so I'm not positive about what's going on. But I do know that she has received a summons to court as she is in charge of the Foundation. Not sure if this means the foundation is being sued or if she's been called to testify in a case but either way, it was a stressful moment trying to help the cops while also watching kids and helping visitors as they came through.

The county map maintained by the state says that Coles has 411 positive cases and 19 deaths. The state numbers currently sit at 184,712 positive cases and 7,545 deaths.

The cops who murdered Breonna Taylor have not been arrested.

Wednesday August 5, 2020

I've learned some new disturbing details in the Breonna Taylor case. I've learned there were more than the 3 officers fired for her death present that night. There were at least 7 and cell phone video show even more appeared after the shooting. No body cameras were used. The officers were screaming at Breonna Taylor's boyfriend when it appeared, he was trying to comply. VICE news released a video that hints that the city, the police department, and AG office are all taking steps to hide the incident from public view. Worse yet, there's evidence pointing to that they have done this before. All the 3 officers involved in this incident have been reprimanded before for excessive force and violence. If the police department was doing its job and rooting out the people unable to competently do the job, and being violent/ racist/

bigoted/ etc., then this could have been avoided. There has also been some news coming out that the city has been involved with the police department in removing some of the city's poorer inhabitants. Also, according to VICE news, the night she died, 5 properties were targeted. The official police statement was that they did this to target properties they had reason to believe was connected to a drug running. Three of those properties were on the same street, Elliot Street. This street in particular is home to low income poor black community. As with any community with low resources and access to social services (education, health care, good jobs, etc.) they have a higher crime rate. But this street also is where the city is trying to reinvent the neighborhood through a series of projects to help bring in more income. However, making nicer houses means the current population can't afford to stay there, also known as gentrification. The police force created a unit called something like In Place Investigation unit. Their sole job is to sit in the community and catch criminals, but they take it too far. They harass the inhabitants because they want to reclaim the land. If the people living there are in jail, the city can repossess the land and follow through with their project. The city has already taken 40% of the street. Another 7 properties are in foreclosure and prepped to be taken. The mayor refused to give a straight answer about anything. The lack of responsibility and caring for the poor and minority communities in this city is breathtaking. Its infuriating. Through all this time, protests have continued trying to get movement in her case. Somewhat recently, protesters gathered, a little over 80 in total, went to the attorney general's house, and sat on his lawn. People gave speeches and they linked arms and sat there. The police came and arrested them one by one. More showed up with clubs. No one resisted. The protesters were charged with felonies although they did not specify in the video what that felony was. They are running scared. The protesters are not backing down and I fully support them. Breonna Taylor deserves justice. Police need to be held accountable. Poorer communities deserve to be helped and not seen as blemishes.

The state map maintained by the state says that Coles has now hit 422 positive cases and 20 deaths. The state totals are 186,471 positive cases with 7,573 deaths.

Friday August 7, 2020

Coles was placed on the warning list yesterday because our case counts are rising at a rapid pace. This morning, Charleston announced their schools were going to a strict remote learning. Mattoon schools as of now are sticking to their hybrid plan but who knows if it stays that way going into next week. Chicago teachers had a protest earlier this week. They walked the streets and stood on sidewalks with tombstones. They demanded that schools be remote. It seems the school districts in the Chicago area listened as soon after that it was announced they would be starting the semester remotely. I wish people would just decide. Remote or not remote or definite hybrid. Pick one. People need to figure out what they're doing with their lives.

The last 3 days we have had beautiful weather. It's been in the 70s with a nice breeze. It feels almost like fall. The last trailblazer camp was this week. One of my coworkers was gone today so I spent the day with the kids. We got herbs and I made sure they got their presentations done. I taught the boys how to play faro in the afternoon and they did quilling. It

was really nice being able to work with them and feel like I was actually doing my job. I realized today the season is pretty much over and I have yet to dress for work or cook anything over the fire. I haven't got any cabin food. It makes me a little sad.

According to the county map maintained by the state, Coles has 448 positive cases and 20 deaths. The state case count sits at 190,508 positive cases and 7,613 deaths. As of today, the us has surpassed 160,000 deaths. Its predicted that we will hit around 300,000 deaths by the end of the year.

Monday August 10, 2020

Relaxing weekend. Spent a few hours Saturday afternoon with my sister We watched the Willoughby movie on Netflix and then played some Lego pirates of the Caribbean. I think we will make this a weekly thing so that we can spend more time with each other. The movie was just plain weird. Some of the animations were quite pretty and interesting textures although I was not a fan of the harry clouds. It was nice to spend time with her and I got to hang out with the dogs which was nice too. Rigby is becoming more comfortable in the house. He's being more of a butt to Butters and Butters keeps stealing Rigby's toys. Rigby also like to bite everything. Your toes, feet, fingers, hands, face, if it's in biting distance he will go after it. It's a good thing he's cute. Don't want to be at work today. It's an easy job just sitting at a desk, but I get so bored and I have to talk to people.

Some updates in the corona virus front. I found a press release for yesterday that there were 4 more cases yesterday bringing the total to 486 positive cases with 114 in recovery, 6 hospitalized, 347 recovered, and 19 deceased. The county health department said the on the 6th, we had 21 new cases that day. Yesterday Pritzker did a press conference introducing new emergency rules. There are now introducing fines to businesses and public spaces that do not conform. This is an effort to get rid of the "middle ground." All this is to hopefully get things under control so schools will be safer and get the numbers going back down at a steady pace. Pritzker said businesses will have an opportunity to correct the infractions and the fines will only go through if they choose not to follow the guidelines. He said fines can range from \$75-\$2,500. Personally, I think this is good. I've seen too many businesses not take this seriously, especially after the upsurge in cases. I get they need to keep operating to make a living, but it is selfish to blatantly ignore medical advice because its inconvenient for you or you don't agree with it (because you know so much with your non-medical degree). That goes for my boss too with his refusal to wear a mask. He argues that they told people not to wear masks in the beginning because they didn't do much good. Now they're telling everyone that its super important to wear masks or there will be serious health consequences. That is complete bull as one will see if they read my earlier entries. And even if this was the case, science is evolving, and they didn't know everything about it at the beginning. Science changes its understanding. I changed my understanding. I understand things are more serious now than they were back in March, at least to my direct person. Seriously, it isn't difficult to wear a mask. I saw a news report this morning that 10,000 school children nationwide have tested positive. No idea if this is true. I couldn't find the article again when I tried looking for it. Not sure if there's been a breakdown of where these cases occurred or what age groups are the most effective.

The county case map run by the state says Coles county has 472 positive cases and 20 deaths. The state has 194,080 confirmed cases and 7,636 deaths. These numbers were updated as of yesterday. A little over 3 million total tests have been done in the state. According to the New York Times, the US has over 5,054,200 million confirmed cases with at least 162,400 deaths. There have been 19.9 million cases worldwide with 732,000 deaths. Based on maps, it looks like the south and California has been hit harder than the rest of the states. Although a chunk of the Midwest is catching up with Illinois leading the pack. Since Florida did all the closing since their outbreak, they've seen a decline in cases, as have California. But, despite their lowering case count, Florida and California have increasing deaths counts. As a whole, the US, again according to the New York Times, seems to be declining. Then again, we said that in May and the case count skyrocketed as people stopped being careful. Although, the death counts, while on the rise, are still lower than the numbers we were seeing in April and May. It's not hard to stay away from each other. If people had just listened in April and May, we wouldn't be in this mess now. It would be an interesting research project to look at the local reactions to state sanctioned guidelines, see if that had an effect on the upsurge in cases this summer. But, I don't want to. As I saw on a post on Facebook, I don't like living in a period that will one day be someone's career.

Tuesday August 11, 2020

News on the covid front. There are 3 vaccines currently in phase 3 trials and if one of them does what we hope it will, we could have a vaccine sometime in the first half of next year. Russia is claiming that they have a covid vaccine but according to CBS news, they have skipped the phase 3 trials and went straight to mass production. The vaccine has only received about 2 months' worth of human testing. The Reuters news agency quoted in the article says that Russia is choosing to put aside public health because they want to come out on top as the first with a vaccine and promote national prestige. They have named it Sputnik V after the satellite. WHO is speaking up, warning them that all trials need to happen before they go vaccinating the public. New Zealand announced its first covid case in 102 days today. That's unfortunate. They were doing so well. Trump is back at it signing some executive orders. One was to defer federal taxes for people who earned less than 100,000 a year. He also changed the \$600 unemployment benefit to \$400 unemployment benefit to continue through the end of the year. But Trump also claims that states will be responsible for covering 25% of the costs which is rich because states are already struggling with finances as it is. He said that if he is re-elected, he will then see about extending the deferral or to "terminate" the taxes that are owed. This has raised concerns if this means the death of social security. Without taxes, programs like SS and Medicare will no longer receive funding and possibly be shut down.

Joe Biden has announced that he will declare his VP pick sometime this week. It has been confirmed that his pick will be a woman. His campaign has decided that they will text out the VP decision to his supporters first before doing a public announcement. I have to admit, I

hope he picks Kamala Harris or Elizabeth Warren. I think they're both incredibly intelligent but they both do have some skeletons in their closet. I wonder if they'll be able to get past that.

I found out this morning that there was mass looting in Chicago Sunday night into early Monday morning. According to the article from the Washington Post, the looting along the magnificent mile was triggered after Sunday afternoon accounts on social media were accusing police of killing a black man on the South side. USA Today claims the video circulating claimed the video showed police killed a 15-year-old boy. Two teenage boys who were questioned said this was the reason for them being there and there were posts on social media encouraging people to head downtown and "create violence." Later in the article, it does mention that a woman carrying Target goods went downtown with her friends because they "felt like starting a riot." But the Chicago Police Superintendent David Brown said on Monday that officers responded to a call about a man with a gun in the Englewood area on Sunday. They found him, pursued him on foot, the man shot at police and they returned fire. The 20-year-old man was shot and was taken to University of Chicago hospital where he is expected to make a full recovery. Prior to the night's looting, there were a series of violent standoffs between police and black citizens of the South side, often resulting in the exchange of gunfire. There were also alleged reports that officers took a cellphone from someone recording the shooting, not sure if this is in reference to the 20-year-old or the standoff. All this heated tempers and police were met with a rapidly growing group of protesters who assumed the man that was shot died. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has denounced the looting. Reports say that at least one person was shot by police, and people were chased (and tackled) for running with goods being looted. Police closed off highway ramps, buses, trains, and other means of transportation. It is reported that 13 of the 400 officers involved in the looting were injured by physical attacks or bottles being thrown. Shots were fired, the article doesn't say who was firing, and a security guard and a bystander were injured and in critical condition. It is noted however that over the night, police recovered 5 guns. Lightfoot has said there is no need for federal troops, but state troops have been dispatched to help maintain control. As of now, the Chicago downtown is indefinitely closed from 8pm -6am and police will be patrolling the outlying neighborhoods to prevent looting. All courts with the exception of bond courts have been closed. Lightfoot is calling for criminal prosecution against those involved but who knows if anything will happen from that. At this point, it's reported that 100 have been arrested. All of this is a consequence of the economic failures, the social upheaval because of quarantine, the killings of blacks and the disturbing behavior of police circulating, poor education, etc. The very structure, or in this case a faulty structure, of American life has been rattled and is crumbling apart in front of our eyes. Leaders and people in power are too caught up to open their ears and hear the screams of people trying to be heard and understood. Native Americans are suffering having been denied resources and having their sacred lands destroyed by American interests. Child abductions and human trafficking are rampant and being ignored. 3 black teens who called the police because they felt they were being attacked by a homeless person had the police arrive and point guns at them. There are towns in the US that don't have clean water. This is ridiculous and unacceptable. I can't help but feel if people would take a moment, take a breath, get over their prejudices, then we could have an honest and helpful conversation.

The Coles County Health Department said that there were 10 new cases yesterday on Facebook for a total of 27 cases between Saturday- Monday. The county map maintained by the state says the county has 492 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state has 196,948 confirmed cases and 7,657 deaths.

Wednesday August 12, 2020

I called it. Joe Biden has picked Kamala Harris for Vice President. I'm listening to a CBS interview with some political analysts and they can't agree if this was an excitement in his pick or if he picked the safest and most boring candidate because he needs to play it safe. One said his twitter feed was blowing up and Biden raised a lot of money and people are excited about the pick. The other said Biden was hiding in his basement and playing it safe out of the public eye because he can't afford to lose any support by being bold. Uh, first question. Since when is an old man staying away from others during a pandemic hiding? Second, twitter, Facebook, the news, none of it will shut up about this pick. Does that not translate to excitement? People are coming at her left and right for being too much of a "cop" because she was a prosecutor and accusing her of being on the radical left. If he was truly "playing it safe," why would he pick someone Republicans won't think of supporting and driving away people that distrust the justice system? She has the benefits of being a female minority and younger (certainly younger than Joe Biden), it's true. But where in her description does it sound like he is playing it safe by picking her? To me, she's intelligent and compassionate. I was supporting her bid for President before she was forced to back out due to lack of funding. All this two-party system bull is nonsense. It's ridiculous that people are so brainwashed to tow the party line that they ignore the issues and all they see is red or blue. Myself, I find myself aligning more as a moderate liberal, but I refuse to join any party of any kind. When I vote, I look at the issues and the person and make a decision on each person. I vote for Republicans, Democrats, and third-party candidates. That's the way I have always voted and that is the way I will continue to vote. I am fully aware that it will be and between when a candidate is up that matches my opinions. But I vote to find the person that most matches what I think is best for that position at the moment. At this time, Trump needs to go. No exception. As we are too wrapped in the 2-party system, I recognize that for my vote to matter in outing Trump my vote has to go to Biden. A vote for a third-party is one less vote to destroy Trump. I voted for Clinton in the 2016 election. I originally wasn't going to vote but once his campaign picked up steam, I immediately picked up the danger he posed and knew I had to contribute to the effort against him. I thought for sure she would win, and I got burned. I cried when she lost. Not that I felt particularly bad for her, but more I knew then the havoc he could/would wreak. I can't in good conscious do nothing to stop his reelection. Once was bad enough. I will not allow a second. Just sucks the bottom half of Illinois is largely republican. There aren't enough of us that actually care about other people's wellbeing to for counties in Southern Illinois to be blue. The Only reason we are a blue state is because of Chicagoland. Chicago is also the one that picks the governor. By the numbers, a gov candidate only has to win Chicago (cook county) and one other county to take the majority vote. The rest of the state can vote against him but as long as he has Chicago, the win is pretty much guaranteed. People around here always complained about how Chicago decides everything. But I can't help but wonder, have people around here ever wondered why big cities are democratic? The majority of southern Illinois is made up of WASP communities. They

harbor more racist, sexist, homophobic tendencies. There may be party politics involved but I would feel confident in saying they vote democratic because they are forced interact with different kinds of people. At the moment, Republican policies tend to favorite white middle and upper classes while democrats focus on the minority and working-class communities. Who do you find in cities? Largely minority and working classes. If people took a moment to look outside of themselves and see that others are suffering, maybe more would realize the democratic party is doing more to help minorities and the suffering than the Republican party is.

Pritzker announced a couple days ago that he signed a bill that attacking retail or restaurant workers trying to enforce mask rules is now a felony (aggravated battery). As far as I know, we are the only state to make this a felony. Personally, I'm glad he did this. People should feel safe doing their jobs and be able to take action against people hurting them. Also today, Mattoon announced this afternoon that Mattoon schools will be going remote for the first quarter to see how things go with the virus. I talked to my friend and she's a bit worried. Her younger brother is in 7th grade, her parents both work full time and her brother can't teach him. She mentioned skyping him when she doesn't have class because someone has to teach him. The teachers at the school are hard to reach and a child does not have the level of accountability to do online classes like a college student does. Personally, I think going remote was the right thing to do right now. What was not right was waiting until the absolute last minute to decide this. School starts next week. Now you have to scramble to get all the kids the supplies they need, and teachers have redo their teaching plans again. They should have made this decision long before now.

Today, a Facebook friend shared a memo from the Coles county health department that as of 4:30 this afternoon, we have 32 new cases since yesterday. This brings the total to 548 cases with 6 in the hospital, 163 in recovery, 359 recovered, and 20 dead. I checked the county map maintained by the state that was updated today and it says Coles has 520 cases with 21 deaths. The state numbers are 198,593 positive cases and 7,672 deaths. A little over 3 million tests have been done. The recovery rate is sitting at 95%.

Thursday August 13, 2020

The excitement over Kamala Harris' appointment as VP has carried over into today. Conversation has more or less shifted into how she is going to destroy Pence in the debates. I've never been one to watch political debates because I think they're all stupid. But honestly, I can't wait to see it. He deserves to have dirt rubbed in his face for being a homophobic jerk.

Some news on the covid front but it's from yahoo finance so, take it or leave it. There's an update that a nasal spray from USFS (?). It is made up of antibodies and using it helped stop the virus from entering cells. But all these numbers are from a lab setting and has not been tested in the real world. It's been made very clear that this is not a vaccine, just something that may be an aid to not contracting the virus. I know that they are trying to get ahead of the virus and cut it off but, it makes me nervous that they are mass producing these medications without having them go through extensive testing. For all we know, while this looks good in the lab it

could have adverse consequences in real life. According to the county case map maintained by the state, Coles has 546 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state totals at 200,427 positive cases and 7,696 deaths.

Friday August 14, 2020

Trump has officially declared war on the US postal system. For the last couple weeks, I've been hearing stories about how ballot sorting machines were being removed from offices and voting stations closed. Mail is backing up and they don't have the manpower to deal with it in a timely manner hence mail has been slowed way down. He practically straight up admitted in a press conference yesterday that he was denying them the funding for wide-spread voting by mail because he knows that will stop him from getting elected. It's outrageous. He's mentioned delaying the election for people's "safety." You know what else is safe, submitting votes through the mail. These are the steps of a potential dictator. He feels his power slipping and is trying to clamp down on it. I can't wait to kick his butt out of office.

I saw a report this morning that yesterday was the highest death count day since mid-May. Case counts for the rest of the world are somewhere in the hundreds or under, the US has a consistent count between 45,000-55,000 cases a day. Real under control there Trump. Yesterday, the Coles County health department put out an ad on their Facebook page asking for people interested in contact tracing. It sounds like they've become overwhelmed with the increasing case counts and need to recruit people to help. It is a paying job. Might be a neat research exercise.

According the county map maintained by the state, Chicago sits at 64,994 positive cases and 2,817 deaths. The county with the next highest count is Cook county with 48,794 positive cases and 2,126 deaths. As of 5:30 this afternoon, the Coles County Health Department posted a memo on Facebook that 32 new cases had been confirmed. This brings our total to 591 positive cases with 177 in recovery, 5 in the hospital, 389 recovered and 20 dead. The county has been moved to a blue metric for the week of 8/2/20- 8/8/20 (meaning that we are overall stable in case counts as our positivity rate is 6.3% which is under the 8% cutoff) from the orange metric (meaning there are warning signs of increased covid activity).

Saturday August 15, 2020

Had a relatively easy day. I've been binging Legend of Korra most of the day and helped mom can carrots.

The Coles county health department released a memo that we have 18 new cases as of 3 pm this afternoon. This moves the case count up to 609 with 185 in recovery, 4 in the hospital, 400 recovered, and 20 dead. We are still sitting at a blue metric. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 602 positive cases with 21 deaths. The state numbers are at 204,519 confirmed cases with 7,726 deaths.

Sunday August 16, 2020

Met with my sister this morning at Douglas Hart to take the dogs for a walk this morning at 7 am. Saw a gigantic spider I'm not used to waking up that early anymore. It was nice though and the weather was beautiful. Butters tuckered himself out after walking a quarter of the trail. Rigby had never been out there before and needed to stop for every stick. He lost his mind on the mulch portion of the trail. However, his walk consisted of more walking for 5 minutes to find a stick, bound about 10 feet forward then demand to be picked up. Then when he saw another stick he liked, he would wriggle until he was put down and then the cycle would repeat. At one point, he found my tan hiking shoes very interesting and tried attacking my heels while I was walking. He's lucky he's cute. Spent the rest of the day being lazy and doing my daily detox from people.

According to a memo from the Coles county health department, we have 17 new cases as of 1pm this afternoon. This brings the total to 627 total cases with 5 in the hospital, 198 in recovery, 404 recovered, and 20 dead. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 612 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state also reports the state numbers at 206,081 positive cases and 7,744 deaths. 3,366,851 total tests have been performed to date.

Monday August 17, 2020

Relatively busy day at work. There were a few hours in the afternoon that we had a pretty steady stream of people. I heard the weekend was pretty busy as well. The gift shop sold around on \$400 of stuff Saturday and \$300 of stuff on Sunday. Not sure what the sale total for today was.

School starts sometime this week. Students are doing online lessons with school provided chrome books if needed. Band camp started at Eastern this week. It's starting to sink in I won't be going back to school. Feels weird.

The Coles county health department uploaded a memo on Facebook that there are 16 new cases as of 5:30 this afternoon. This brings totals to 642 total cases with 5 in the hospital, 205 in recovery, 412 recovered, and 20 deceased. The total population of Coles county is estimated to be around 50,621. The county map maintained by the state says that Coles has 630 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state totals sit at 207,854 confirmed cases with 7,756 deaths.

Tuesday August 18, 2020

Relatively quiet day at work. It was baking day at home because it was time to split my Amish friendship bread starter. I made some pumpkin spice cookies, brownies, and cinnamon pancakes. I like baking day but it's exhausting having to squish all my baking to the 3 hours of free time I have when I get home from work.

My sister told me that mom told her that grandma and grandpa think they have been possibly exposed to covid. I have no other information at this time as mom either wouldn't discuss it with her or mom doesn't know much either. I guess we will know in a couple weeks if we have something to worry about.

The Coles county health department released a memo at 5pm this afternoon that Coles has 27 new cases. This brings the total to 669 confirmed cases with 3 hospitalized, 228 in recovery, 418 recovered, and 20 dead. The county map maintained by the state says we have 648 confirmed cases and 21 deaths. The state is recorded as having 209,594 confirmed cases and 7,782 deaths. The trend in case numbers appear to be heading down again but it's too early to tell anything.

Wednesday August 19, 2020

Not feeling work today. I woke up with a headache this morning and I just want to back to sleep. Might take a nap at lunch, haven't decided yet. Leland told me this morning that St. John's Lutheran school reported a kid with covid in either the kindergarten class of the preschool class. Now the room is under quarantine until everyone can be tested. Considering school just started, it is likely this kid had covid before he went to school. I hope he didn't end up infecting all his classmates. Leland told me Oakland started school last week and so far, everything seems kosher. I've seen reports across the country of idiot college students going to parties and bars before classes start either this week or next week. They're all gonna get covid and the colleges are going to have to shut down because of their poor decisions. This is why I've always hated being lumped in with "college kids," because despite being obtaining a higher education they can be incredibly stupid.

The Coles county health department uploaded a memo this afternoon to Facebook that we have 32 new cases as of 5 pm this afternoon. This brings the total to 701 total cases with in the hospital, 258 in recovery, 420 recovered, and 20 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 676 positive cases and 21 deaths. I took a friend some of the brownies I made on Tuesday, and she let me know that she was possibly exposed to covid from her coworker who tested positive and was in isolation, so I had to leave the plate on the porch. It's a bit mind blowing to think we went from nothing for so long to be a major hotspot in a matter of months. To put it in a ratio using the case numbers provided by the Coles county health department, right now we have around 1 confirmed case for every 72 people in the county. Compare us to our closet hotspot neighbor, Champaign who has a population of around 209,678 (as of 2019) and 1827 cases (according to the county map), that's around 1 case for every 115 people. The state reports that we have 211,889 confirmed cases and 7,806 deaths.

Thursday August 20, 2020

The Democratic Convention has been going on the last couple of days and I didn't realize how much I missed the Obamas until now. It was a privilege to hear someone use coherent sentences. It was lovely to hear someone correctly pronounce words. They make me happy. This also make me hopeful for the future, hopeful that we can remove this idiotic tyrant from office. But then again, I felt confident that Clinton would win in 2016. So I am remaining hopeful but I am braced for the worst.

I found an article about the vandalism that happened at the police station in Champaign last week. After a protest, a group of protesters went to the station and covered the building in signs with graffiti, including using a racial slur towards police chief Anthony Cobb, "Black Lives

Matter,” “Defund the Police,” “blood on their hands,” and hands prints all done in bloody red paint. Cobb said to reporters that the city did not tell the force to not respond to protesters doing this and he is personally looking into why no officers stepped in as he was on vacation at the time of the event. Apparently, an officer in the department contacted protest leader Rita Conerly to tell them to stop but no officers were actually involved in the incident. As of the publication of the article 2 days ago, organizers of the protest have apologized for some things that happened. Rita said that she was writing with chalk on the sidewalk and didn’t realize this was happening until she got the phone call from the officer. By the time she walked around to where this was happening, it was too late. Rita said using the racial slur took things too far and was shocked that someone would have written that. But the article also says that other members of this group have defended vandalism before. Cobb says that by doing this, protesters crossed the line by damaging property and there will be consequences. In this case, I agree with Cobb. You have to play within the rules to get change. To take from John Lewis, you need to cause “good trouble.” This is not that. Writing things like BLM in chalk on a sidewalk is one thing but writing slurs and defacing buildings with paint is another. How can you expect racial equality if you put others down in the process?

In some great news, Steve Bannon was arrested this morning on charges of fraud. He and 3 others were arrested in connection to taking donations to the “We Build The Wall” group and using it for personal reasons. This group is supposed to be not for profit to raise funds for a 3-mile section of the wall. I say good riddance to bad rubbish. I hope he rots in jail.

The young lady that works in the giftshop, became ill in the gift shop yesterday and left early. After she left, I went in and sanitized everything I could think of she may have touched; the chair, the computer, the pens, the doors, even the floor mat. She is going to get tested today so we will see what happens. I think it’s just a stomach bug because covid doesn’t cause vomiting, at least as far as I know.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that as of 5 pm this afternoon, we had 22 new cases. This changes totals to 723 total cases with 4 in the hospital, 248 in recovery, 451 recovered, and 20 deceased. The County map maintained by the state says Coles has 697 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state also says the state totals are 213,721 confirmed cases and 7,833 deaths. A little over 3.5 million tests have been done to date.

Friday August 21, 2020

So ready for the weekend. I need a break from people. A Facebook friend posted an article from NBC that Notre dame has stopped in person classes after 146 students test positive for covid after 8 days. Honestly not surprised if Notre Dame was one of the places that was partying it up. Some more news was posted about the positive case at St. John’s yesterday. Another positive case from the same class popped up and both cases have been confirmed to be staff members. No kids have tested positive yet. The in-person classes are set to resume August 31st for 4-year-olds and September 1st for 3-year-olds.

I found out from someone at the site that the lawsuit is in fact about the accident from 2 years ago. She said I might be called to give a deposition or testify in court if it goes to trial. We will have to see what happens.

Some bad news, the gift shop young lady, tested positive for covid. I did not have direct contact with her recently, so I think I'm good there. But I learned she is dating one of our volunteer's sons and I did have direct contact with this volunteer. So, tiny bit worried. Not sure what this means for the site, if we will all have to close for a time so we can quarantine or what. The Journal Gazette published an article that 40 new cases were announced today.

Monday August 24, 2020

Today is the first day of classes for Eastern. I have to admit I do feel weird not going back to class. This is also my first season since 7th grade that I haven't done guard. It feels very weird to not be performing or involved in some way.

Today also is the beginning of the Republican National Convention, which I am avoiding like the plague. I'll see what the late-night talk show hosts have to say about it later this week. The hearing for the USPS post-master general is also today. I caught just a snippet of it, a lady who was a republican going off about how this hearing was a sham and there was no big conspiracy, blaming democrats for mishandling their states, and Russia didn't hack the elections. I listened to maybe 5 minutes of her talking before I made the decision I won't be watching anymore. It is painfully clear he is slowing the postal service down and trump has blatantly said that he wants this to happen. This us versus them mentality that is so prevalent in national government is ridiculous and the only people to get hurt is the general public. It's pathetic and disgusting.

A coworker gave me more news last night. The gift shop girl's boyfriend tested positive as well, but his mom and the lady come in contact with tested negative. That is a relief. Hopefully she was actually negative and not still in the incubation period where you test negative, but you can still pass it. My boss told Bill that he needs to keep Joe away from everyone. That will be a miracle if he can do that. He barely wears a mask and gets right up in people's personal business. At least now I have a reason to tell him to back up. The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that there were 19 new cases as of 2:45 yesterday afternoon. As of yesterday, the totals were 807 total cases with 6 in the hospital, 291 in recovery, 490 recovered, and 20 deceased. I couldn't locate a memo for today. The county map maintained by the state was updated today and it says that Coles has 786 confirmed cases and 21 deaths which we already know if false based on the numbers reported yesterday by the county. The state also reports state-wide numbers at 221,790 confirmed cases and 7,888 deaths.

Tuesday August 25, 2020

All sorts of irritating things are in the news today. University of Alabama reported over 560 cases since they opened last week after the university did nothing to regulate bars or parties and college kids being idiot college kids. Cases range from faculty, staff, and students.

I've seen some people try and excuse the behavior saying, "They're college kids, of course they're going to do that." To me, that's the equivalent of saying "boys will be boys." No, college kids aren't programmed to do this. They are not being taught to not do stupid, life-threatening stuff if it comes at the expense of a good time. Yes, universities need to be doing more to get a handle on the out of control bars and parties, but the kids need to assume responsibility for their actions. No one is forcing them to go out and party in packed bars or frat houses.

Night one of the RNC is in the books. It was filled with speakers talking about how the liberal democrats want to steal people's freedom, release all prisoners, and take their ability to live, and other fear mongering statements. At least, this is what I gathered from the clips because I refused to watch it. I refuse to feed the ego of racist bigots. It was also announced last night that the GOP won't write a new platform and will run again on the 2016 platform, which makes tons of sense because everything is exactly the same as it was in 2016. I also found out Trump will be featured each night of the convention which gives me even more of a reason to avoid it. Positive message my foot. It's a clear indication to me that they know they are in deep water. They have to scare their supporters into being loyal because they know they have no traction on actual issues. It's pathetic and it's even worse that people buy into this. Kimberly Guilfoyle spent the last chunk of her speech yelling some nationalistic nonsense. All I could think when I watching this clip was how much she reminded me of Hitler. Hitler was an extremely charismatic person and a very talented orator. He would whip people up into a frenzy in his speeches and used specifically crafted nationalistic rhetoric. In his speeches, he used a tactic of starting softer and as he worked through his speech, he gradually would get louder and more animated until by the end he would be practically screaming, and the crowd would be amped up ready to do anything he asked them. It feels as if she was trying to pull on this strategy, starting normal before moving to a bellow and using nationalistic rhetoric to whip up hate, fear, and demand loyalty. They want their followers to think that the republican party, and only the republican party, can save them from the evil liberal socialists.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 25 new cases as of 4:45 this afternoon. This changes the total to 843 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 231 in recovery, 586 recovered, and 20 deceased. The New York Times published an article sometime within the last couple of days that included an average case map of Illinois per 100,000 people during the last week. Surprisingly, Chicago is on the light end of the spectrum, probably somewhere between 8 and 15 cases average per 100,000 people. Although, Chicago has really cracked down on regulations and what people can do, what businesses can open, etc. All the hotspots are in the south, in areas where people are refusing to follow regulations. Coles is included falling somewhere between 42-56 cases per 100,000 people. Granted our population is much smaller so bigger case counts will appear on the darker end of the spectrum. Despite that, I can't help but feel if people had just got over themselves and dealt with it when we only had a few cases, then we wouldn't be in this mess now.

Wednesday August 26, 2020

Calf was born yesterday morning. She has a white tip on her tail and white splotches on her two back hooves. I've named her Philadelphia. I saw the NYT print an apology because they

had a misleading story about the number of cases at a Alabama University. They don't have 900+ cases since classes have started. The area has 700+ cases since March.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that as of 4:30 this afternoon, we have 12 new cases. This brings totals to 855 total cases with 9 in the hospital, 240 in recovery, 586 recovered, and 20 dead. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 827 cases and 21 deaths. The state reports its total at 225,627 cases and 7,954 deaths.

Thursday August 27, 2020

Today is overcast and we have a chance of rain. I did not want to get up today. It feels like a stay in bed and play video games kind of day.

Hurricane Laura is hitting parts of Louisiana. She made landfall yesterday and has been labeled a category 4 storm but as of now, no deaths have been reported in Texas. Officials told people who didn't evacuate to put their name in a plastic bag in their pocket so they could be identified if they died in the storm. CNN says that as of this morning, she was downgraded to category 2. She hit bits of Texas, now in Louisiana, she is projected to travel through Arkansas, the tip of Missouri, the bottom chunk of Illinois, all of Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland. Massive power-outages and building damage have been reported. Laura comes on the heels of tropical storm Marco that made landfall Monday evening near the mouth of the Mississippi River. They just can't catch a break. CNN reported live this morning at 9:30 that Laura has weakened to a category 1 as it moves towards Arkansas.

Some disturbing news has come out involving police and a teenage shooter. The first incident was in Kenosha Wisconsin on Sunday. Police say that they responded to a call from a woman that her boyfriend was at her home where he shouldn't be, said that he took her keys and refused to leave. The dispatcher said that Jacob Blake was the man named as the trespasser. The police tried to arrest him and used a taser. He walked around his car and leaned in. An officer, Rusten Sheskey, proceeded to grab Blake's shirt and shoot him 7 times in the back. Police report that they received a call of shots fired 5 minutes after the initial report. The department does not wear body cameras because the department can't afford to buy them. No reports yet on if any footage was caught by the dashboard camera. A bystander caught the end of the encounter on video from across the lawn. Blake survived the shooting but has been left at least partially paralyzed as one bullet hit his spine. Blake's attorney says that Blake had been there trying to break up the fight between 2 women. Police arrived and went after him. His 3 young sons were in the SUV he was trying to get into and had a front row seat to their father being shot. The video by the bystander shows that Blake is not resisting or fighting back but the video only captures the end of the encounter. Now I think we should wait until all the evidence has been laid out but there was absolutely no reason to shoot this man in the back 7 times. None. If he isn't resisting, there is no reason to shoot.

Then a 17-year-old shooter killed 2 BLM protesters also in Kenosha Wisconsin. His name is Kyle Rittenhouse. He is a former member of the youth police cadet program, supporter of

Trump, and has an affinity with guns according to CNN. He is reported to be from Grayslake Illinois which is right on the border. He crossed state lines and walked around with a long nose rifle for what some people reported as 4 hours at the BLM protest over the shooting of Blake Tuesday night. After shooting, he walked towards police with his hands up towards police and they walked right past them. Police yelled for him to get out of there even though protesters were yelling that he was the shooter. Police did nothing as I expect it's not illegal to carry a firearm. It is noted that he did not have a permit to carry the weapon. Interesting that white people can walk around without a problem but if a black person is even thought to be armed, he could be potentially shot on an idea. He was arrested on Wednesday on the charge of first-degree intentional homicide. He is in custody in Illinois until he can be extradited to Wisconsin. He shot and killed 2 people and wounded the 3rd. Videos from the event show a person with a long gun running followed by a crowd of people. The individual falls and then appears to start firing. The kid shows on his social media that he is a supporter of Blue Lives Matter and thought of himself as a member of the militia. The CNN article appears to be hinting that he fired on the crowd as a form of vigilante justice because they were there protesting the police. The police department argued the individuals wouldn't have gotten shot by this teenager if they weren't out after curfew. Sure do got their priorities straight. NBA games were postponed yesterday in protest of this. A black anchor on ESPN left on air to stand in solidarity with the players. I agree with Stephen Colbert, it's pathetic to see more leadership from the NBA than from the RNC.

I met a crazy person this morning. He said the big dipper was too big in the sky and then broke up it flew in different directions. He asked if I had seen news about lights in the sky. He asked if there was government testing going on and if they were listening to conversations. He talked about scientists being able to talk to elements and get them to do what they want. He talked about getting rid of plans and flying with umbrellas. He wanted to use nuclear bombs on the poppy fields ISIS uses to make drugs to alter their make up, so they no longer make drugs but do it in secret so when they try and make the drugs it doesn't work. He suggested putting a giant lens in front of the sun so that you can vaporize the bad people like ants. He said he sees technology like a song and if you can take the elements and find harmony with them, you can make cool stuff. He wanted to do something with the atmosphere that I didn't quite follow. He thought God was going to vaporize us all and used a metaphor with buckets to explain it, didn't follow at all. And as he was leaving, he explained he loved his girlfriend but wasn't sure about his love. All the while I could only think what kind of a person could date crazy. I was covertly reaching for my phone to text my coworker to come and save me, but I didn't need to as he finally left after a half hour. That's the one thing about this job. I have to be nice to crazy. If the above description is chaotic and hard to follow, the actual conversation was just as scattered.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 35 new cases as of 5 pm. This makes the total 890 with 9 in the hospital, 220 in recovery, 641 recovered, and 20 deceased. We currently have 275 cases per 100,000 people which is way over the target of 50 cases per 100,000 people. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 860 cases and 21 deaths. They also report that the state has 227,234 total cases with 7,977 deaths.

Friday August 28, 2020

Did an early morning photoshoot of the animals on the farm. Got some cute candid photos of one of the rams and the cows. One of them mommas stuck her head through the fence and started to fall asleep when I scratched her behind the ears.

Yesterday was the last night of the RNC, thank goodness. I heard it reported that 1,000 people attended the gathering in front of the white house where trump accepted the nomination. No masks, no testing. Same thing happened with Melania's address in the rose garden two days ago. It was reported she renovated it so they had the conference there to show it off. She took all the color out, now it looks like a bunch of green bushes. She also took out the crab apple trees planted by Jackie Kennedy. I'm not a huge fan of crab apple trees but those are trees planted by the wife of an assassinated president. Have some respect. Then again, her jacket makes it clear she doesn't care so of course she has respect for some trees.

Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 45 new cases as of 5:45 this afternoon. This changes totals to 935 total cases, 10 in the hospital, 262 in recovery, 643 recovered, and 20 deceased. Coles county's positivity rate is at 7.8% which makes it just shy of the target of 8%. This means we have 340 cases per 100,000 people.

Saturday August 29, 2020

Had a nice relaxed day today. I had Rigby this afternoon for a few hours, so it was nice to play with him for a bit.

I heard some tragic news last night. Chadwick Boseman, probably best known for his role of T'Challa in Black Panther, passed away yesterday from colon cancer. Apparently, he's been fighting it for the last 4 years and his friends and family kept it very close to the chest. No one knew. Social media has been flooded with posts about him starting a half hour after news of his death broke. Its continued through the day today. I am myself and sad about it. I really loved that movie and I admired his talent. His death has been a blow to so many different communities.

I couldn't find a memo posted by the Coles county health department with an update in cases today. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 937 cases and 21 deaths. They also say that the state totals are 231,363 confirmed cases and 8,008 deaths.

Sunday August 30, 2020

I spent the afternoon with my sister at Douglas Hart. Lauren asked me to take photos in period dress that a lady can then take and turn into silhouettes and potentially sell the ones she likes. I did ones of my work dress, a nice satin dress and a hoop skirt with all kinds of hats, shawls, and I even had a small parasol. I got excited so I decided to do men's clothes too. I had a normal men's outfit, couple different hats, found a coat and tails, and a military jacket complete with fake musket. We took quite a few photos. She's processing them onto a flash-drive for me so that I can send them off to Lauren.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we had 31 new cases yesterday and 19 new cases as of 4:30pm today. There were 179 new cases between August 16th and August 22nd. This brings totals to 985 with 6 in the hospital, 294 in recovery, 665 recovered, and 20 dead. Currently, the stats sit at 340 cases per 100,000 people in Coles county. Our positivity rate is still at 7.8%. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 952 positive cases and 21 deaths. The state reports that we have 233,355 total cases and 8,019 deaths in Illinois. A little over 4 million tests have been done.

Monday August 31, 2020

Several protests and gatherings have been on my radar today. Three days ago, on the 28th, people gathered at the Washington monument to celebrate the 57th anniversary of MLK's "I have a dream" speech. From what I can tell, it was a large gathering, and everything went smoothly.

Some people have been trying to paint Kyle Rittenhouse in a good light, frame him as a sort of misguided good Samaritan. Pictures of him cleaning graffiti and other public works have been circulating. News anchors, mainly Fox news, have been trying to justify the killings because one of the people killed was a pedophile and the other had been to prison before. In my mind that should not matter. No one deserves to be killed. I firmly support giving people the resources and support to rehabilitate themselves. Murder is never the answer and it is never justified. If you view the two that were killed as horrible people, then Kyle is just as guilty and just as horrible. He deserves to go to prison to be punished for what he's done. There is never an excuse.

On Saturday afternoon on Charleston square, two rallies happened. One for the Black Lives Matter movement. The other was called "Back The Blue," to show support for local law enforcement. The organizer James Dinaso says that he's been planning this for months and wanted to show appreciation for law enforcement and who protects their local communities, but he emphasized that he wanted peace. The article done by WCIA news says that both rallies happened a block away from each other. The BLM counter protest says that there are there to promote understanding, raise awareness for the suffering, and stressing that they want police reform which removes the bad cops and not fully shutting down the police. The article makes it sound like both happened peacefully. I got to work, and my coworker said something different, although I've learned to take what he says with a grain of salt. He said that the protests happened one after the other and the BLM protesters were yelling "F*** the police!" among other expletives. Now, I have no idea if this happened. I was not there and the WCIA local news article that was a whipping 5 very short paragraphs was all the news coverage I could find up to this point. If they were doing this, I do not support this behavior. The police and first responders serve a very important purpose in our community. But things cannot continue on this path and change has to happen. I fully support defunding police so that other social services can be funded. I fully acknowledge the privilege that I have, and I have a responsibility to use that privilege to help those that do not. I wish both sides would take a breath, calm down, and realize they both want practically the same thing. Blue lives matter want peace and support the people in their communities. BLM want peace and the people who hide behind

their power and damage their communities. I don't think it should be controversial that people shouldn't be gunned down in the street. It's ridiculous.

I saw a report the other day that ISU has reported over 1,000 covid cases on campus. So far, I have yet to hear any such news about Eastern, but we are moving into the 2-week period. We will have to wait and see if Eastern has become a hotspot like so many other colleges. Sometime today, I believe it was the NYT posted a list of metro areas with the greatest number of cases relative to their population in the last 2 weeks. Ames, Iowa made number 1 with 956 cases in a population of 97,117. Charleston-Mattoon Ill made the list at number 19 with 406 cases in a population of 61,387. Our small town has made it to the national news, only because people refuse to do what they're supposed to. I couldn't find a memo from the Coles county health department with today's numbers. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 974 cases and 21 deaths. The state reports its numbers as being 235,023 confirmed cases and 8,026 deaths.

Tuesday September 1, 2020

First day of September and that much closer to spooky season but I'm much too shell-shocked this morning to feel good about that. I was told when I got into work this morning that a Lincoln interpreter that I had worked with on numerous occasions, George Buss, was arrested over the weekend for producing child pornography and patronizing prostitution. It made national news in the NYT Daily News. He was arrested along with a 22-year-old accused of distribution of pornographic video and prostitution. As of now, that's all the information we have, and we don't know how the 2 arrests are related. My head is reeling. He was a teacher before being a Lincoln impersonator. He was an officer in his teacher's union and performed for kids. I trusted him. I allowed my summer kids to be around him. I've been in rooms alone with him. I've changed in front of him (not fully, I was wearing period under-clothes, and everything was covered. My coworker and I swapped dresses and he was standing behind me). I've allowed him to shake my hand and touch my shoulder and back in photos. I feel betrayed. No one saw this coming. He's done local and national events and he was a good impersonator. I consider myself a good judge of character, but this guy fooled me. I'm disturbed that I let my kids near him and that I trusted him. I've met his wife, such a nice lady. My heart hurts for her. I can't imagine what she's going through. His actions have hurt so many and those poor kids. As the details haven't come out yet, I can only imagine what they had to go through. What could he possibly have been thinking? So, we have been working on removing everything with his image from the visitor's center. The tourist books with his face on them have been removed. We are working on taking down any advertising that he might have been on. As of now, the Facebook photos on the sites Facebook page are still up because he's been coming out down events with us since at least 2017. There's a lot of photos. I talked to Lauren and she said that as of now, we will leave the photos up until more information is released and see if IDNR has some information on how they want us to proceed. I'll be spending my afternoon going through Facebook to make sure that he isn't tagged in any of the photos.

EIU apparently has a dashboard that lets students see what the situation is with covid on campus. A Facebook friend shared a post from WEIU TV Public Broadcasting Station that had

a screenshot of the dashboard dating to 8/29. As of that day, 98 students that are located in Coles County and 17 employees had tested positive. Specifically, between 8/23-8/29 were when 43 EIU students and 2 employees tested positive. As of this date as well, just under 1200 tests total had been done. It says that the positive reports come from the Coles county health department as well as student reporting themselves as positive. So far, the university still has 85.5% of their quarantine space still available. As for today, the Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 30 new cases as of 4:30pm. This brings the total to 1,035 with 11 in the hospital, 319 in recovery, 684 recovered, and 21 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says we have 986 positive cases and 22 deaths. It's amazing to me that we went so long with nothing, minimal cases, and now we are one of the hotspots in the state. I've also noticed how numb I'm getting to things. I'm still taking precautions and doing my best to stay away from people, but I no longer feel so panicked. Now it's more like, everything is screwed so what's one more thing. The state reports its numbers at 236,515 total positive cases with 8,064 deaths. The total recovery rate still sits at 95%.

Wednesday September 2, 2020

The gift shop girl came back today, walked into the gift shop while I was ringing some customers up. It was rather unexpected, and we will have to see how things go from here.

Rumors have been going around about Trump. People are claiming that he's had a series of mini strokes which accounts for his slurred speech, difficulty with basic motor functions, and why it was deemed necessary for him to take the cognitive function test. Trump denied everything in a tweet and tried to twist it as fake news and that it was really Biden who had the strokes. Personally, if he had a stroke, that would explain a lot. And if it really was true, there is no way the white house would own up to it so I trust nothing they put out. On twitter, #strokeahontas was trending for a while to which the disabled community called people out for their ableist behavior and opinions. Mocking trump for his inability to do stuff because of an alleged stroke doesn't hurt trump, it hurts the disabled community. I think what happened is that someone posted a tweet, did an article, or a reporter made a general comment about how a stroke could possibly explain his behavior which then took on a life of its own as trump felt the need to respond and then major news networks picked it up. While I don't believe anything the white house says, I am reserving my judgement as all the information we have are based in rumors and speculation and not fact. The stroke theory would explain his odd behaviors and speech, but it is just a theory and should be treated as such.

I could not find a memo update from the Coles county health department for today's case count. The state reports that we have 1027 positive cases and 22 deaths in Coles. The state also reports its numbers at 238,643 cases and 8,091 deaths.

Thursday September 3, 2020

I've had some issues with the maintenance guy at work. He is older and I acknowledge he grew up in a different time where interaction with women was different. But now I've reached the point where I'm constantly irritated so I'm working on the concept of "no" with him. At lunch, he came up and more or less told me to go downstairs for lunch to which I

responded I would not move until my coworker came in around 1 after his break. He continued to tell me to go downstairs and responses got meaner and meaner to drive home the point I said no which means no. Eventually he left but not before he ticked me off. He came back later in the afternoon looking for popcorn in the snack draw at the desk. I told him I didn't want any repeatedly to which he continued to say "yes, I did want some," and he would bring me some. Eventually I told him that if he brought some to me it would go in the trash. He went downstairs and made it. He brought me some all while saying I know you want some. I told him to watch me, turned around and threw the cup in the trash. The popcorn was burnt so I wasn't going to eat it anyway but it's the principal of it. I'm going to train him that no means no. Hopefully this means that he will stop scaring me by hiding behind doors and around corners.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 30 new cases as of 4:30 this afternoon. This changes the numbers to 1096 positive cases with 7 hospitalized, 373 in recovery, 694 recovered, and 22 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says we have 1060 positive cases and 23 deaths. Total state numbers are reported at 240,003 positive cases and 8,115 deaths.

Friday September 4, 2020

A Facebook friend posted a link on Facebook in which the NYT put together an interactive article that shows the numbers and trends for Illinois broken down into counties. The case count went up in August and there appears to be a slight decrease in cases, but we will have to wait until later into September to get a better idea. Luckily the average now is still lower than the average back in May. Thankfully the death count average has been much lower than it was back in May. NYT says that as of this morning, Illinois has 242,715 cases and 8,347 deaths. Yesterday, the state reported 25 new deaths and 1,433 new cases. Over the last week there's been an average of 1,874 cases per day and that is a 1% decrease from the average 2 weeks ago. Chicago is actually on the lower end of the scale. There's an average of 617 cases which amounts to 12 people per 100,000 people. The cases in the red are McLean (120 average; 70 cases per 100,000), Coles (29 average; 56 cases per 100,000), Jasper (5.3 average; 55 cases per 100,000), Effingham (17 case average; 51 cases per 100,000), and Lawrence (8.3 average; 53 cases per 100,000). The Coles county health department reports that we 49 new cases as of 5 pm. This changes the totals to 1,145 total positives, with 8 in the hospital, 352 in recovery, 763 recovered, and 22 deceased.

Monday September 7, 2020

This weekend I took a much need hiatus from the news, but I came back to a fire storm. Trump made a comment on a trip to France in November 2018 about not wanting to go to an American WWI cemetery in France because they were losers and suckers for dying in the war. 3 separate news agencies, including Fox News, all independently verified that he said this although he continues to backpedal and say he didn't. The house claimed weather stopped them from getting a chopper to the event and it was too last minute to secure the roads to get to Aisne- Marne for the anniversary event. The Atlantic was the first to publish that he chose not to go because the soldiers were all suckers and losers on Thursday. All this was brought back again on Thursday and a rally by, from what I can tell, Trump himself. He denied he ever

said that and that he really wanted to go. He said that he even called his wife back home saying how awful he felt. Kicker is, Melania was on the trip with him, she wasn't in the US. All this has been confirmed by multiple sources. From what I can tell, Trump has faced major backlash from vets because of his comments. But I mean, what could they expect from a guy that claims bone spurs to get out of military service.

A member of Trump's campaign team tried to, I'm not sure, criticize Biden? He posted a video of Biden walking out of a church on Sunday through a cemetery and not stopping to talk to the press that gathered outside. Like, it was his church. His son is buried in that cemetery. How pathetic is it that the only cheap shot you got is that he didn't stop to talk to press on a Sunday after church? From what I can tell, Trump has faced major backlash from vets because of his comments. But I mean, what could they expect from a guy that claims bone spurs to get out of military service.

I also saw the Wisconsin Democratic party is doing a fundraiser in which they got cast members from Princess Bride to do a script reading and apparently, it's been a huge success. Can't say I'm not surprised. I'm considering donating myself. I love the Princess Bride. The description of the event actually plainly says anything donated will be put towards making sure trump loses Wisconsin and the White House come November. In order to attend the stream, you have to donate and then you will get the link to attend. Ted Cruz took to twitter to let off some steam because he loves The Princess Bride and wants them to stay out of politics. Cary Elwes, who is my absolute hero, tweeted back at him "@tedcruz if you only left the fire swamp you could join us. #dumptrumperdink." Several actors from the movie have spoken up against Cruz in previous years saying its fans like him they don't need according to CNN. Either way, Elwes is so precious. I loved this movie to death and I still do. Maybe I can convince my sister to go halvesies on the donation and we can watch it together.

Around 4:30 this afternoon a couple riding a motorcycle came in. the gentleman asked me if masks were required, I said they are encouraged but not required, to which he replied, "ok, good," and they both kept about their business not wearing masks. That always gets on my nerves a bit when people walk around so cavalier. But I went out on a tour, so I didn't find out much more about him. When I got back, Bill told me that the guy was Darren Bailey, the republican senator that was removed from the state congress because he refused to wear a mask back in May. Makes me wish I could go back in time and force him to wear a mask or get out.

On September 5, the Coles county health department announced there were 13 more cases as of 12:15 pm. This changes totals to 1,158 total cases with 11 in the hospital, 341 in recovery, 784 recovered, and 22 deceased. On September 6th, the county health department announced 8 new cases as of 1pm. This changes totals to 1166 total positives with 10 in the hospital, 309 in recovery, 824 recovered, and 23 dead. They also posted a line graph the demonstrated the county has experienced a steady increase in cases since August 1st. Thankfully the death count has stayed largely flat. The current breakdown as presented by the county health department through September 6th at 1 pm is as follows: ages 0-9: 24 male and

29 female for a total of 53 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 67 male and 76 female for a total of 143 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 144 male and 172 female for a total of 316 (27.1%), ages 30-39: 64 male and 70 female for a total of 134 (11.5%), ages 40-49: 75 male and 70 female for a total of 145 (12.4%), ages 50-59: 54 male and 76 female for a total of 130 (11.1%), ages 60-69: 57 male and 59 female for a total of 116 (9.9%), and ages 70+: 59 male and 70 female for a total of 129 (11.1%). I couldn't find an update with today's numbers.

Tuesday September 8, 2020

Day off today. We are switching to a Wednesday through Sunday schedule. Since I worked Monday, I'll be working Wednesday through Saturday and then get a 3-day weekend before starting on the new schedule. I think I'll miss the Monday/Tuesdays by myself at the desk and the weekends off. Used my day to do a Walmart run and baking day for my Amish friendship bread starter.

Some morons in California used some pyrotechnics in a gender reveal party. Brilliant idea use fire in California where droughts are common, and wildfires happen easily. They caught stuff on fire and thousands have had to be evacuated. A couple from church are on vacation in the countryside in Utah and the smoke from the fire alters the sunrise/ sunset in Utah.

The Coles county health department posted a couple things on Facebook that we have 19 new cases since the 6th as of 3pm. This changes the totals to 1185 total positives, with 7 in the hospital, 296 in recovery, 858 recovered, and 24 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 25 male and 29 female for a total of 54 (4.6%), ages 10-19: 67 male and 78 female for a total of 145 (12.2%), ages 20-29: 144 male and 173 female for a total of 317 (26.8%), ages 30-39: 64 male and 72 female for a total of 136 (11.5%), ages 40-49: 77 male and 70 female for a total of 147 (12.4%), ages 50-59: 55 male and 79 female for a total of 134 (11.3%), ages 60-69: 58 male and 62 female for a total of 120 (10.1%), and ages 70+: 61 male and 71 female for a total of 132 (11.1%). Also, fun fact, over 250,000 covid cases can be linked back to the motorcycle rally in South Dakota back in August. Serves them right. It's their own fault for not taking any precautions.

Wednesday September 9, 2020

Pretty boring day at work. Had 2 big groups come in at the same time as we opened but other than that not bad. My boss brought the chick bob who hatched last week up to visit. He is very cute but not too fond of people yet. There was a heavy fog this morning when I was driving in; only about a 3-block visibility range. Cleared out by around 10 but now it's pretty humid from all the moisture in the air.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 13 new cases as of 4:15 this afternoon. This brings the totals to 1198 total positives with 6 hospitalized, 296 in recovery, 872 recovered, and 24 deceased. We have roughly 328 cases per 100,000 people and our positive rate is 8.5% which is over the target rate of 8%. The state county map

says Coles has 1151 positive cases and 25 deaths. The state reports 253,690 positive cases and 8,214 deaths. Just over 4.5 million tests have been done and the recovery rate is sitting at 96%.

Thursday September 10, 2020

Another foggy morning. It looks like rain today. Hopefully we don't get too many people. I don't really feel like dealing with people today. I woke up this morning and just wanted to stay in bed, maybe watch the original Jurassic park series, play some Epic Mickey. Anything but sit at a desk and be nice to people. The fires in California are still going strong. People are still being evacuated or being put on alert to be ready to leave. Fire fighters are having some luck in putting it out in some areas and saving homes. I saw this one photo where the fire made it practically to the back fences of a housing community but luckily, they were able to stop it before any damage was done to the homes. I can't imagine what it must feel like to know that you are responsible so much property damage because you were stupid enough to use a pyrotechnic during the dry season in California, where fires happen easily. Of course, I know they never intended for this to happen, but I think something should happen to them, so they get the message to never do this again. Maybe a fine or something, community service, banned from buying fireworks ever again, some sort of punishment that is also a deterrent.

The Coles county health department posted an update that we have 40 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes the totals to 1238 positive cases, 11 in the hospital, 191 in recovery, 1011 recovered, and 25 deaths. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 27 male and 30 female for a total of 57 (4.6%), ages 10-19: 72 male and 80 female for a total of 152 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 159 male and 175 female for a total of 334 (27.0%), ages 30-39: 64 male and 73 female for a total of 137 (11.1%), ages 40-49: 77 male and 71 female for a total of 148 (12.0%), ages 50-59: 56 male and 82 female for a total of 138 (11.1%), ages 60-69: 62 male and 64 female for a total of 126 (10.2%), and ages 70+: 66 male and 80 female for a total of 146 (11.8%).

Friday September 11, 2020

Today is 9/11. My social media feeds are covered with people posting memorial tweets and pictures. Revival city doughnuts in Charleston is doing a special today of free doughnuts for first responders.

I had some Trump-ers come in this morning. One of them was wearing a Trump 2020 shirt that said something along the lines of "enough of the bull****" and a Trump 2020 hat. When I see merchandise like that it makes me want to burn it. They came in asking about covid cases in the county to which I explained as a county we are climbing. One of the groups, then proceeded to try and argue that the case counts were being inflated and cases/deaths that were being reported as covid aren't really covid. I told him covid can cause illnesses like pneumonia causing people to die. His logic was that pneumonia existed before covid, so it's not a covid case. Because that makes sense. Covid causes pneumonia so it a covid related death. Moron. At least the tour went well enough.

This afternoon I brought the new chick Bob up to hang out in the sun under the portico. This was his first time outside. He absolutely lost his mind when he saw all the flies. He is acclimating to us very quickly. He was getting used to being held. When I picked him to walk around the farm to meet the other animals, he didn't struggle or try to fly away. Although the little sticker did try to escape a few times when I was holding him. He would nestle into your hands and close his eyes like he was sleeping. Then when you would relax, he'd open his eyes and try to make a break for it. He's lucky he's cute. Matilda came up and asked for some snuggles while I was on my walk. I would scratch her head and take a few steps back and she would follow me. She must have been very tired because she didn't have her usual energy. But tired sheepy makes a cuddly sheepy.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that as of 5:15 we have 24 new cases. This changes the totals to 1262 total positives with 11 hospitalized, 215 in recovery, 1,011 recovered, and 25 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says Coles has 1204 positive cases and 26 deaths. They also report the state totals as 257,788 confirmed cases with 8,273 deaths. A little over 4.5 million tests have been done. I heard it reported the US national death count is closing in on 200,000. The US has around 6.47 million positive cases and there have been around 28.5 million cases world-wide.

Monday September 14, 2020

Last night I attend the Princess Bride script read through and it was amazing. It was great seeing these amazing actors live read through one of my favorite movies as a kid and one I still enjoy as an adult. It was amazing to hear my favorite lines said by the same actors I had grown up. Mandy is adorable as always and he still has his sword from the film. He was getting so into it, you could clearly tell he was enjoying being in that character again. Miracle Max set up a little set behind him and wore his hat from the movie. I almost cried at the end as the last line in the movie, "As you wish," was read. Robyn and Cary still have amazing chemistry. It was so exciting to see and hear the original Prince Humperdinck. It makes me want to re-watch the film. It's a fantastic film. And I had forgotten how awesome the fight scenes were. I also learned that Miracle Max and his wife improvised some of their lines in the movie which is an interesting tidbit to know. The famous line, "Have fun storming the castle!" was improvised.

On Saturday I spent the whole day at work doing research for my boss. We are trying to figure out the race of a lady charged with murder who Abraham Lincoln represented in Metamora. Story goes the judge had no interest in listening to her argument of self-defense and Lincoln may have helped her leave the court room to make her escape. Either way, she left the trial and it was never finished. She left the state and we have records of her being in California with her kids, but we can't find anything talking about her race. The scant census records I could find listed them as white, however they could be passing and mark themselves as white. I tried to find birth records for both her and her murdered husband, came up with nothing. I would have to go to Maryland to find those records in person unfortunately. Quite annoying. I tried to find the warrant for her arrest but that was not public information online either. Quite annoying.

Coles County health department says we have 31 new cases since the 12th as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 1297 total positives with 3 hospitalized (technically 9 but the others are non-residents), 196 in recovery, 1073 recovered, and 25 dead.

Tuesday September 15, 2020

I spent my day watching Rigby. He's getting big so fast. Watching him helps to cure some of my dog fever but it's exhausting having to keep constant eyes on him. We have a peace lily in the house which is poisonous to animals. I have to watch him closely to make sure he doesn't slip back there and try to eat it. It also kind of sucks that I can't turn on the tv or something because that would disturb mom that works with her door open. But I took him out to the park and played fetch to wear him out fast. He has a lot more energy than he did when they first got him. Before he would be worn out in an hour now, he can go several hours.

I saw an interview with Bob Woodward about his new book *Rage* that covers the last 2 years of the Trump white house. In the book we learn that Trump knew about the dangers of covid early on and chose to downplay it. Bob has the recordings to prove it. Now trump is attacking Woodward saying his book is lies even though Trump called Woodward and gave recorded interviews. Trump is insane. I fully do not understand how people can support him. No one is asking him to tell everyone that they're all going to die. But if he had said this is dangerous and we need to take appropriate steps, we wouldn't be in this mess now. As we get closer and closer to the election, every day I pray I don't have 4 more years of this moron.

As of 4:15 pm this afternoon, the Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 25 new cases. This changes totals to 1322 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 187 in recovery, 1104 recovered, and 25 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 1268 positive cases and 26 deaths. That reports the statewide numbers sitting at 264,210 confirmed cases and 8,332 deaths.

Wednesday September 16, 2020

Met with the lawyer today and walked him through what happened a couple of years ago. Based on when we were going through it and the questions he was asking, think the other side is going to have hard proving their case. He asked me for my info and how long I would be in the area so we will see what happens.

Some big news broke in the last couple of days. Scientists have discovered signs on life in the clouds of Venus in the form of the chemical Phosphine. This opens the possibility of something life producing on the planet, meaning bacteria which is considered alive. Also, somewhere, I can't remember where, traffic stopped, and everyone got out and filmed this flying object in the sky. They were all like, "It's a UFO, its aliens!" Later it was clarified what they were actually filming was the good year blimp. In defense of their stupidity, the blimp was very far away, and it did have flashing lights on it. But people are just morons for thinking it was a UFO. Aliens in the form of little green/gray men aren't real.

Hurricane Sally is due to hit today and is rated as a category 1. Several different states went into states of emergencies yesterday. Its reported that 5 different tropical cyclones are currently forming at the same time which is the 2nd time to be recorded to date. Apparently, we are running out of letters to name them so at this rate we will have to move to Greek letters. On the topic of climate issues, fires continue to devastate the Western half of the US. Fires are raging in multiple states and it sounds like they are struggling to get a handle on it. I hope they can get control of it soon. I've seen jokes circling social media to name the kid whose gender reveal party started this Dante, as in Dante's Inferno. Trump weighted in on the fires saying he didn't understand why the fires were so bad in California. Then went on a jumbled explanation how people in in forest villages in Europe and they have more explode-y trees. I have no idea how Fox and Friends hosts were able to keep themselves composed when talking to this moron. He also is a fervent climate change denier. He did a round table of sorts with climate scientists and argued with them that it's "going to get colder." We are all going to burn, and he will be left as the king of ashes.

The Coles county health department posted on Facebook that we have 30 more cases as of 4:15 pm. That changes the totals to 1352 total cases with 3 in the hospital, 195 active cases, 1127 recovered, and 27 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says we have 1293 positive cases and 27 deaths. The state totals reported at 266,151 total positives and 8,367 deaths.

Thursday September 17, 2020

I started browsing through the late-night talk show hosts again and this morning I learned about the townhall he did with undecided voters 2 days ago. He lied constantly throughout, which isn't surprising at this point. He said that he up-played the virus when he's said multiple times on record that he downplayed it. He claimed waiters were against the masks because he has seen them fiddling with their masks. It was a wonderful moment when he interrupted a lady mid question about protecting pre-existing conditions she replied back, "Please stop and let me finish my question sir." Praise be that lady. She is my hero. But of course, he said he was going to but there's actually a lawsuit in progress now because he is trying to get rid of it. He also tried to blame Biden for not putting for not putting a national mask mandate in place and he did so he's better than Biden.... Does he not hear himself? Biden is not president. You are. How is he going to do a national mask mandate is he's not in charge of the nation? The man is insane. Please let him be voted out. Please.

News broke today Louisville has reached a settlement with the family of Breonna Taylor. The family will receive 12 million dollars in settlement and there will be police reform done. That will include a housing credit to get officers to live in the communities that they are responsible for, creating a program to include social workers in police work, commanding officers must review search warrants before they can be submitted for a judicial warrant and now paramedics must attend all raids. I am glad that these steps are being taken and it is sad to me that it has taken this long for these reforms to happen. Better late than never I suppose.

It was also confirmed today by the FBI Director Christopher Wray that Russia has made active efforts to influence the 2020 election. As of this point, Russia has been identified as using

social media to target Joe Biden and sow divisiveness. There has been no evidence as of now that they have tried targeting the “election infrastructure” yet.

I also learned why it's been a bit overcast the last couple of days. The smoke from the fires out West has gotten into the air causing the dimness. Vibrant sunsets have been reported as far east as New Hampshire. I didn't realize it was going to travel all the way out here. This problem is much bigger than I thought.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 17 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 1369 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 191 in recovered, 1147 recovered, and 27 deceased. Our current positivity rate is at 8.7% with 336 cases per 100,000 people. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 1315 total positives with 28 deaths. They also report that state totals have reached 268,207 positive cases and 8,392 deaths.

Friday September 18, 2020

Fun fact of the day: This day in history the 4th Lincoln-Douglas debate in Charleston took place. Just up the road from us. This debate was important because Lincoln was viewed as the winner and it showed that Lincoln was able to hold his own when paired up against Douglas who was famed for his speaking skills.

A couple of important things have come to light. The director of the CDC Dr. Redfield in a press conference recently said that they were on track for a vaccine, but it wouldn't be readily available until 2nd or 3rd quarter next year, meaning late summer. Redfield said that masks would be way more effective against covid than a vaccine and if everyone wear them, we could be rid of the virus in 2 months. Trump said CDC director was basically full of it and the vaccine would be ready by November, December at the latest so states need to open. His logic is that the vaccine is coming soon so it's unfair to stop people from doing what they want. Trump also denies masks work and a vaccine will be much more effective which doesn't matter because our numbers are going down in the states. Trump also said that if you don't count any blue states then our death counts would be way down. This statement is bull because the states with the highest number of deaths are the states with the biggest cities. And as it currently stands, red states are the ones with the highest infection rates. Whether they annoy me or not, Americans are still Americans, and no one should be needlessly exposed. He is promoting bad behavior and resistance against regulations that protect people. His incompetence has resulted in 200,000 deaths many of which could have been avoided if he had acted sooner. This man wanted to reopen fully in May, the moron. This is what we get for electing a climate change denier.

Yesterday, the federal prosecutor overseeing the criminal corruption investigation into House Speaker Mike Madigan gave the ok to allow witnesses to testify in front of an investigative committee. He is being implicated in a bribery case in which ComEd, the state's largest utility company, attempted to bribe members of his inner circle. It appears before-hand some members were trying to block witnesses from testifying. Other democrats are calling for Madigan to step down or resign because the scandal is eroding his support and power among

legislators. As of a couple weeks ago, Madigan has not been charged with a crime and as far as I can tell, he still hasn't. Pritzker has been. Major financial backer for Madigan in the past but now is calling on him to answer questions. The aim currently is to find if Madigan has done something improper and if he has then it is a question of what kind of punishment will be appropriate. If it is deemed bad enough, it could result in Madigan being expelled from the General Assembly. Madigan continues to say that this is a political stunt by Republicans in an election year to distract voters from Trump's behavior and rhetoric. Not entirely sure how his conduct is related to Trump but ok, whatever dude.

The Coles county health department posted on Facebook that we have 18 new cases as of 3:30 pm. This changes numbers to 1387 total positives with 4 hospitalized, 180 in recovery, 1176 recovered, and 27 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says we have 1324 total positives and 28 deaths. They also report the state totals at 270,327 total positives and 8,411 deaths.

Saturday September 19, 2020

RBG passed away last night. This is devastating. She was such an amazing woman, so strong and smart. I've seen the posts on social media that we are not just voting for president but for someone to replace her. I didn't think it would be this soon. Mitch McConnell is already trying to move in and start a vote to replace her. This is unacceptable. In 2016, McConnell wanted to wait a year until after the election because it was only right to allow the people to decide who they wanted appointing judges. Now we are 45 days out and he wants to go back on that because it's convenient? We waited the last time and that's how we ended up with Brett Kavanaugh, the rapist and conservative homophobe. This is unacceptable. I am perfectly aware that Trump might win again but I will not allow them to make a decision as massive as this one must wait until after the election. If he wins again, then it's untimely won't matter if we wait 45 days. But this means the Supreme Court will be unbalanced and we could see the reversal in rulings on abortion and gay marriage. RBG was a huge proponent for equality. The radical conservative scumbag that will be put there by Trump and the republicans most certainly will not. Mourners have gathered outside the Supreme Court building laying flowers and lighting candles. My twitter feed was blowing up with mentions of RBG and the appointment debacle of 2016. Trump was at a campaign rally last night when he was made aware of her death. The statement he released makes it very clear that he did not write it. Probably didn't even read it after a staff member wrote it. Him making any commentary on her life makes me angry. Biden is calling for the decision to wait until after the election. I didn't already have enough to be anxious about.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 11 new cases as of 11:45 pm. This changes numbers to 1398 total positive cases with 6 hospitalized, 164 in recovery, 1201 recovered, and 27 deceased. We are still in the orange warning level with 224 cases per 100,000 people and a positivity rate at 8.7%. The county map maintained by the state says we have 1342 positive cases and 28 deaths. They report Chicago's numbers at 76,966 positive cases and 2,930 deaths. They report the state numbers as 272,856 positive cases and 8,436 deaths. A little over 5 million tests have been performed.

Wednesday September 23, 2020

I took a little break over the weekend. I needed it. My mind needed a break from everything. So here it the catch up from what happened this weekend.

Republicans in congress are trying to push supreme court nominees forward. Less than 2 hours after her death was reported, Mitch the (insert your favorite word) was already talking about bringing a vote to the floor. Somehow, there is an actual debate on this, and people are arguing that it is the presidents right to appoint a supreme court justice so you should let him. Technically yes, he can. But they stopped Obama from appointing months before the election and yet they want to say Trump can with a little over 40 days left, its hypocrisy. Bunch of self-serving idiots. Sources say that Trump has been milking the controversy of filling the seat for all its worth and I sincerely hope it blows up in his face.

It was announced this morning that Pritzker activated the states national guard yesterday in anticipation of Kentucky's attorney general's announcement if charges will be filed against the police involved in the shooting. It's said that we should hear the decision sometime this week. In their segment on it, CBS talked about Louisville is preparing for riots/protests now in case it is decided that charges can't be filed. The attorney general hasn't let anything slip so it's really anyone's guess right now. One of the officers involved sent an email in which he said he felt they did the moral and legally right thing that night and essential called Breonna and her boyfriend criminals. Nothing in his statement gives the slightest hint of remorse. Personally, I think they should face charges and a trial. The more I hear about what happened, looking at the crime scene photos, and reading that man's email, everything about this is sketchy to the extreme.

Yesterday was the official first day of fall. I've been seeing posts all over social media referencing "September" by Earth, Wind, & Fire. It's a very snazzy song. Personally, I like the cooler weather but its rather irksome that it was almost dark before 7 pm. Why can't we have the nice cool weather with the longer days. I don't feel like that's asking too much.

This morning, I mailed in my application for a mail-in ballot. It felt very nice finally getting it off my desk. My morning was a bit soiled when I walked out the front door and the neighbors put up a Trump/Pence sign in their front yard. Maybe this is stereo-typical of me, but it makes sense since these are the same people that let their children scream and their dogs bark incessantly from 6pm-10pm, sometimes later on warm summer nights. It really does take all my self-control not to tear it out of the ground and burn it. There's one house I pass on the way to work that gets more and more signs all the time. I think they're up to 5 or 6 now. I think the more signs they put up, the more they're trying to compensate for something. It's quite pathetic.

The Coles county health department posted on Facebook that there were 9 new cases on September 20th by 11:30 am. This changes totals to 1407 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 159 in recovery, 1213 recovered, and 27 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as

follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 32 female for a total of 60 (4.3%), ages 10-19: 82 male and 95 female for a total of 177 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 194 male and 202 female for a total of 396 (28.1%), ages 30-39: 73 male and 80 female for a total of 153 (10.9%), ages 40-49: 80 male and 79 female for a total of 159 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 62 male and 92 female for a total of 154 (10.9%), ages 60-69: 63 male and 70 female for a total of 133 (9.5%), and ages 70+: 78 male and 97 female for a total of 175 (12.4%). On the 21st, 4 more cases were reported changing the numbers to 1411 positive cases with 7 hospitalized, 145 in recovery, 1232 recovered, and 27 deceased. In a press release posted yesterday, the health department announced we had 23 new cases as of 4:15 pm and 2 additional deaths. This changes totals to 1434 positive cases with 8 hospitalized, 146 in recovery, 1251 recovered, and 29 deceased. Under this info there was a new bullet-pointed list about wearing masks (i.e. who should wear, who should not, not wearing N95 masks, gaiters, or face shields). I think my favorite part of the list is that listed second and in bold print it says masks should cover your nose and mouth and be secure under the chin. It makes me so irritated seeing people walk around with their mask covering their mouth but not their nose. The county map maintained by the state says we have 1366 positive cases and 30 deaths. The also repost the state numbers at 277,266 confirmed cases and 8,486 deaths. It was announced the other day that more people have died in the US from covid than the total US death count of the last 5 wars. Yet, Trump said 2 days ago that the number was so low, barely there. His lack of caring is disturbing.

The Coles county health department said that we have 34 new cases as of 4:15 pm this afternoon. This changes numbers to 1468 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 174 in recovery, 1260 recovered, and 29 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 1396 positive and 30 deaths.

Thursday September 24, 2020

My social media has been blowing up since last night. A grand jury made a ruling on the 3 officers involved in the shooting of Breonna Taylor. The attorney general announced that the shooting was justified because Breonna's boyfriend shot first. The lawyer for the family is arguing that the attorney general shouldn't be able to make this decision and instead it should be decided by a trial. From what I can gather, the decision was made based on the testimony of one witness that said he may have heard them announce themselves despite the fact that at least a dozen other neighbors said they heard nothing of the sort. In the end, none of the detectives are being faced with any charges in regard to the killing of Breonna Taylor. The one charge the grand jury did announce was against detective Hankinson on wanton endangerment for firing 10 shots that put their neighbors in danger. I agree with the lawyers that this decision makes it clear that they have decided that the murder of Breonna Taylor was not a crime. This is disturbing. Protests have popped up all over the states, including in Louisville. During the protests in Louisville last night, 2 officers were shot nonfatally. I do not support shooting officers. I do not support shooting anyone. Protests are a right and must be done the correct way. Make them see you, make them hear you, but do not give them a reason to silence your voice. This decision is a miscarriage of justice and needs to be rectified. I don't foresee this ending any time soon until those officers are finally put on trial.

In response to this, Breonna's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, is suing the Louisville Metro Police Department claiming police misconduct. His lawyer said in an interview that the claim of self-defense on behalf of the police does not apply when it comes to 3rd parties. They could claim self-defense because Walker fired at them. They cannot claim it for Breonna because she did not threaten them in any way. I don't know what will happen, but I sincerely wish Walker and his team all the best and I hope they get the justice they deserve.

Hurricane Sally hit late last week, and Hurricane Beta made landfall in Texas 2 days ago. That makes 9 storms making landfall in a single year which ties with 1916 as the record for the most landfalling systems in a single year. And we still have 2 months left of hurricane season. So the list of systems that we've had this year are: Bertha, Cristobal, Fay, Hanna, Isais, Laura, Marco, Sally, and Beta. 2020 has it out for us.

I had a group come through around lunchtime. It looked like two sisters that had at least 9 kids between them all under the age of 10 and they brought mom along for support. None of them were wearing masks. The kids weren't making any efforts to stay away from the other visitors that were inside. They touched everything they possibly could and slammed on the buttons. I could hear them slamming drawers in the museum shut and running around. They went into the auditorium to watch the video and one child was running circles around the outside of the room. They went outside to walk around and when they came back, the little basket they brought with them was full of herbs and produce from our gardens and they had cut some of our sunflowers. I also learned from our maintenance guy when I went out to check the Sargent farm for damage that he came back from lunch and caught them running around and playing in the Sargent kitchen. The kitchen is currently under construction, a rotting log in one of the walls was replaced so there was equipment everywhere and holes, some of the floorboards had been removed because they wall was slightly sitting out and need to be adjusted. Clearly, either these adults don't care or don't see anything wrong with this behavior. I've worked with kids before and I know they can get rambunctious, but a semi awake parent wouldn't let their kids run around in a building that is under construction. And the fact grandma was carrying the basket of goodies they took clearly tells me that they approved of raiding our stuff. I can't stand people like this.

On a semi-brighter note, the weather has been very nice up here. The air is crisp and clear. Temps range in the 60s-70s, and sometimes the occasional 80. Usually this time of year is roasting and humid. Of course, the fall is nice when everything else is falling apart. I did see a video that warmed my heart. RBG's casket was set outside the Supreme Court building so mourners could gather (at a distance) to mourn her passing. Trump walked out to pay his respects and the crowd behind the barricades at the bottom of the steps screamed "Boo!" and something that was hard to make out. It was either, "Throw him out!" or "Vote him out!" Either way, the message was clear, and he slunk off after being yelled at for a couple of minutes. It was so satisfying. He doesn't deserve the right to say her name let alone pay his respects.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 18 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 1486 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 159 in recovery,

1293 recovered, and 29 deceased. The county map maintained by the state says that 1417 total positives and 30 deaths. They also report the state numbers as 281,371 total confirmed cases and 8,538 deaths. I saw a post from EIU saying their numbers have been climbing rapidly on campus and unless the trend turns around, campus will be closing, and they will have to go back to remote. I took a look at their dashboard that has information current as of last week. As of today, these are the numbers: Prior to 9/12, 2330 tests had been done. Out of that number, 28 EIU employees have tested positive and 154 students in Coles county have tested positive. Between 9/13- 9/19, 107 tests were conducted and of that 41 students and 0 EIU employees tested positive. As of 9/19, a total of 2437 tests had been conducted and of that, 28 employees and 195 students tested positive. 25.5% of their Isolation/quarantine spaces are currently in use. As far as I can tell, these numbers are not included in the reports put out by the Coles county health department and these are only the tests conducted by EIU. If someone on campus tests positive somewhere else, EIU does not report that number in their dashboard. This dashboard gets updated weekly so we will have to see what happens with the trends.

Friday September 25, 2020

Protests continued last night over the death of Breonna Taylor. People are not happy about the decision nor should they be. She deserves better than this.

Trump keeps talking about not accepting the peaceful transition of power. There's been some rumblings that they want to bypass the popular vote and appoint electors in battleground states that are loyal to him. In a press conference, he refused to commit to a peaceful transfer of power if he loses. He also hinted in another conference that this would go all the way to the supreme court, which is why there should be 9 justices. I agree with Stephen Colbert, it's almost as if he thinks that if he can appoint as many as possible, they will side with him and not make him give up power. He's trying to delegitimize mail-in ballots and early voting so that only votes for him will be valid. He disgusts me. I also found out that Trump has said he will announce his supreme court pick either today or tomorrow so we will have to see what happens.

On a note similar to the above section, I took a couple on a tour and they were lovely until the end. They were very polite, curious about the house and the history. Then at the end, the gentleman asked why there weren't very many Biden/Harris signs to which I told him Coles county is traditionally a red county. He responded that this was his kind of place. I have to resist the urge to grimace when I hear that. Hearing anyone support Trump cause a physical negative reaction and negative feelings sent in their direction. Trump stands for everything I'm against. Supporting him is a commentary on your morality, or lack thereof. I have ended friendships because they were supporters of Trump. I have cut family members out of my life because they support Trump. Every day, I pray that he is removed from office in November.

Also, I learned from the James Corden clip that Democrats are talking something called the Armageddon Option, which is under the assumption Biden wins and democrats of the majority in Congress. They want to add 2 new states and increase the size of the supreme court in retaliation if Trump appoints someone to the Supreme Court. I sincerely hope Biden wins,

but I highly doubt they will be able to pull off the Armageddon option. That seems so extreme, I feel like they would have a hard time trying to push that through.

Also, fun fact, I learned from watching a clip from James Corden's show that a 4.5 earthquake hit Los Angeles last Friday. Add earthquakes to the Jumanji list.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 10 new cases as of 5 pm. This changes totals to 1496 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 154 in recovery, 1310 recovered, 29 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 33 female for a total of 61 (4.1%), ages 10-19: 93 male and 109 female for a total of 202 (13.5%), ages 20-29: 203 male and 218 female for a total of 421 (28.1%), ages 30-39: 77 male and 83 female for a total of 160 (10.7%), ages 40-49: 81 male and 81 female for a total of 162 (10.8%), ages 50-59: 65 male and 99 female for a total of 164 (11.0%), ages 60-69: 70 male and 74 female for a total of 144 (9.6%), and ages 70+: 80 male and 102 female for a total of 182 (12.2%). The trajectory of the statistics is still climbing. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 1437 positive cases with 30 deaths. They also report that we have 283,885 total cases as a state and 8,563 deaths.

Saturday September 25, 2020

A couple things I have learned since yesterday. First, Charleston schools are still planning on opening Nov. 2nd after a special school board meeting on Thursday. There are mixed reviews about this. Some parents are relieved. The school board has been getting complaints from parents since the beginning of the year because online learning is impractical/ impossible for the child or inconvenient for the parent. Others are firmly against this action because they oppose putting kids together in a building while a pandemic is going on. I don't have the answer. Some parents need their parents to attend school in person. But putting kids together like that during a pandemic is potentially very dangerous. If they have to go back to in person schooling, I think a modified version would best allowing families to choose whether or not they want their kids to be going in person or not. As far as I know, Mattoon is still planning to go back to in person classes in late October. Don't know if that will change now that Charleston has changed their plans.

Also, this morning I watched a news clip from earlier this week that the FBI put out a statement that the public should be aware that foreign agents might try to undermine the time it takes to process all the mail in ballots. They say unverified sources will try and convince people that the election is faulty if they don't have the election results on election night. Trump himself has been spouting this same nonsense. The man is a moron. We have had this 7-week counting buffer for forever, this isn't new. It's ridiculous. I watched a clip from Trevor Noah and I now understand the tactic the Trump's team is trying to do. Trump wants to force the counting in swing states to extend to 35 days. At that point, the states can put aside the popular vote and their legislators (mostly republican dominated) can appoint their own electors and vote for who they want. And he wants to take this all the way to the supreme court to

ensure that he will not be removed from power. That is why he wants to appoint someone to the Supreme Court; he wants to stack it in his favor so he can stay President. I fully don't understand how people can support this man when he pulls crap like this.

A Facebook friend shared an article from npr dated from the 17th talking about how Trump announced last Thursday he wants to create a commission to promote "patriotic education," a "pro-American curriculum." He did this in response to the 1619 Project which teaches about slavery and the extent of which it infected the colonies/ states. Trump said that that US public schools were teaching lies by talking about systematic racism and, as he said in his press conference, "teaching this horrible doctrine to our children is a form of child abuse, the truest sense." Words cannot express how his idiocy grinds away at my soul. This is idiotic and dangerous. History is history, it is made up of many different events that can be viewed as good or bad depending on your point of view. To understand the full picture, you must acknowledge all aspects. Ignoring it only hurts minority communities and fosters nationalism which can be extremely volatile. Just ask the Germans in Nazi Germany.

Trump announced his Supreme Court pick today. Her name is Amy Coney Barrett and she is the worst possible pick. I'll grant her, she is qualified in the legal side, but she is far right-wing, a staunch conservative, and is firmly against abortion rights and the affordable care act. Multiple times, she has dissented on rulings that more or less strengthened abortion or the affordable care act, making them easier for people to access or procure. I keep hearing from people of the left that if she is put in power, she will be the weapon they need to overturn Roe vs. Wade, or at the very least, begin to tear it down. Chuck Schumer said that this pick probably has RBG turning in her grave. I've heard some conservatives and republicans refer to her as "the notorious ACB," which is downright disrespectful. How dare they even think of putting Barret on the same level of RBG, let alone giving her the nickname. And to top it off, Barrett has said on record that a supreme court nomination and vote should wait until after the election if an opening happens during an election year. Yet, here she is, accepting a nomination, less than a month and half away from election day. I'm so angry in this moment that I can't find the words to express my anger towards the hypocrisy of Trump, of Corbett, and of the republican party.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 12 new cases as of 1 pm. This changes numbers to 1508 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 155 in recovery, 1320 recovered, and 29 deceased. The memo also says our numbers have stabled out so we are now at level blue. The case metrics for the week between 9/13-9/19 is 220 cases per 100,000 people with a positivity rate of 7.3%. The county map maintained by the state says that we have 1450 positive cases and 30 deaths in the county. The state also reports state totals at 286,326 cases and 8,588 deaths.

Wednesday September 30, 2020

Quite a bit happened over the weekend.

The grand jury that ruled not to charge the officers involved in the killing of Breonna Taylor petitioned a judge for the transcripts of the proceedings to be release to the public. They said that what the attorney general said during the hearings and what he said publicly in press conferences after were two different things. I assume the hope is to show the public that it was not the grand jury that was incorrect but that the attorney general was lying.

The first presidential debate was last night. I didn't watch and for 2 main reasons. 1 – I forgot it was last night until an hour into the debate when my sister started texting me. 2 – I can't stand to listen to Trump speak for longer than 2 minutes before I start feeling the urge to drink myself into a stupor. From what I heard (and saw all over social media) Trump refused to denounce white supremacist groups when directly asked to. He said in response that they should, "Stand back and stand by." Social media exploded when he said this, and I can't say that I blame them. He is a racist and it blows my mind that people can't see that. People are more than welcome to agree or disagree about policy but when you support someone as morally corrupt as Trump then that says something about your morality as well. If you can support a racist and push aside his comments, then you are enabling. You are a racist. I just pray that the debates will make at least some in his base realize what a corrupt and incompetent person he is. During the debate, he also tried to bash Biden's son that had a drug addiction who also got help and overcame his addiction. He also tried to set Biden up to trigger his stuttering to make him look incompetent. From what I hear on social media, it turned into somewhat of a yelling match as interruptions were rampant. Apparently from what I hear, at one point, Biden told Trump to shut up because he wouldn't stop interrupting. People have been saying that mics should be muted in the next debate when it's not the others turn to speak.

Also speaking of Trump, the New York Times reportedly got a hold of Trump's tax returns spanning 2 decades. I haven't had a chance to read the article yet, but social media is blowing up that they demonstrate clear tax evasion as he only paid \$750 in federal income tax in 2017. For a guy that claims to be a billionaire, owns multiple hotels and businesses (at least the ones he hasn't run into the ground), why is his income tax thousands less than the average amount a public school teacher pays?

This morning at work had more excitement than I normally like. One of the cows broke the middle beam in one of the sections of the fencing and the older calf escaped. A coworker called me and asked me to let a family in the gift shop while he tried the wrangle the calf. I finished and he still didn't have the calf, so I went out to help. She kept trying to go into the trees to investigate. That's not a particularly good thing as either way leads to the highway on the other side of the trees. I tried to lure him with food, wasn't interested. I had to keep circling around trying to get him to go places while trying to not get charged or squished. We tried to get him to go back through the hole, but he wasn't having it. Finally, we figured that getting him to tr and go through the gates of the sidewalk side was the best option. So, we maneuvered him around after 20 minutes of this chaos, we finally got him to go back into the pen. We jerry rigged the broken beam with wires so it looked intact and the cows wouldn't get so curious about it until Joe got there to replace it with a new beam. Always a fun time when you're trying to stop a cow from getting spooked and running into the road or running over a visitor.

On Sunday the 26th, the Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that said we had 12 new cases as of 1 pm changing the totals to 1508 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 153 in recovery, 1321 recovered, and 29 deceased. On the 27th we had 16 new cases as of 1 pm. This changes totals to 1524 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 160 in recovery, 1332 recovered, and 30 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 33 female for a total of 61 (4.0%), ages 10-19: 95 male and 112 female for a total of 207 (13.6%), ages 20-29: 205 male and 224 female for a total of 429 (28.1%), ages 30-39: 81 male and 86 female for a total of 167 (11.0%), ages 40-49: 81 male and 83 female for a total of 164 (10.8%), ages 50-59: 66 male and 101 female for a total of 167 (11.0%), ages 60-69: 71 male and 75 female for a total of 146 (9.6%), and ages 70+: 81 male and 102 female for a total of 183 (12.0%). On the 28th as of 5:30 pm, we have 11 new cases. This changes totals to 1535 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 141 in recovery, 1361 recovered, and 30 deceased. Then for yesterday, the 29th, there were 11 new cases as of 3:45 pm. This changes totals to 1546 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 134 in recovery, 1376 recovered, and 31 deceased.

As of today, we have 24 new cases reported at 5:15 pm. This changes totals to 1570 total cases, with 8 hospitalized, 131 in recovery, 1400 recovered, and 31 deceased.

Thursday October 1, 2020

Today is the first day of spooky season. I brought my spooky spider web mask to work to mark the occasion. I'm just sad they took *Charmed* off Netflix. It was a great spooky time show and the reboot is garbage.

I saw an article that there is some controversy about the student body president elections. I'm not fully up to speed on what is going on and I can't look it up as the WIFI is down at work, but I believe something was sketchy with the voting and the other candidate contested the outcome and thus far, the Elections Commission either has made a decision which they're not allowed to base on the student body government constitution or they haven't made any decisions at all what needs to be done. The Daily Eastern News posted an editorial attacking the student body government for operating and not knowing its own bylaws and guidelines. I never really got into the whole student body government thing; I thought it was all rather stupid in the long run. But if something funky did happen in the elections then the people involved should operate according to the rules that have been set. It's all rather pointless to me but I'm sure this is important to the people involved.

The Coles county health department uploaded a memo to Facebook yesterday that we have 22 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 1592 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 148 in recovery, 1404 recovered, and 31 deceased.

Friday October 2, 2020

Breaking covid news this morning. One of Trump's senior advisors tested positive for covid yesterday afternoon. Then breaking this morning, both Trump and Melania tested

positive for covid. This is particularly bad for Trump as he is in the age group that is most likely to die if they get it. Personally, I can't bring myself to care about them all that much. I don't think I wish them dead, but I certainly hope they suffer. Serves them right for all the pain and misery they caused. Hopefully, his tune will change after this about using masks and whatnot, but with our luck hell start spouting some nonsense like, "I had it and it wasn't that bad! I'm not dead, all this hype is part of the fake news. Who needs masks? Herd immunity is the way to go." Just thinking about it ticks me off.

I had an embarrassing moment later into the afternoon. A family came in, very polite and curious. They went on a long tour with a coworker and seemed to enjoy it. They left but then the dad came back and was like, "I just learned something, did you know that Abraham Lincoln had eye problems?" Me, being the historian dork that I am, launched into the story of how Abraham was kicked in the head by a large animal, either a horse or a donkey, and had eye issues throughout his life. My coworker added on bits, agreeing with the narrative I was telling. The visitor was like, "oh yeah but he had eye problems, because he was always a-blinkin.".... The man was trying to tell us a joke and my brain automatically went, oh he's talking about Lincoln's childhood injury with permanent injuries in his left eye. At least, to my credit, I picked up on what was going on right after he said it. We had to explain it to my coworker. I told my friend about it when I got off work. According to her I am "such a historian."

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 16 new cases as of 3:45 pm. This has changed totals to 1608 positive cases with 10 hospitalized, 146 in recovery, 1420 recovered, and 32 deceased. Coles has been moved back up to Orange level warning. For the week of September 20-26, we had 226 cases per 100,000 people (way over the target of 50 per 100,000) which gives us a positivity rate of 8.6% (over the target 8%).

Saturday October 3, 2020

We have more news into the condition of Trump. Yesterday he was taken to the nearby hospital to get treatment. Reports say that walked onto Air Force 1 and got off on his own. Aids now say that they noticed Trump was tired and seemed off in the couple of days before he tested positive. We have also learned the daily testing the white house claimed to be doing, was in fact a lie. There is also news circulating that the white house tried to contain the news about possible patient 0 Hope ? by not telling anyone, including Trump until right before he was to leave for a fundraiser. I didn't fully understand the timeline after that, but I think he went to the fundraiser anyway? We also discovered that he did not get tested for covid the night of the debate because he arrived at the event too late to be tested. They went ahead with the event because the white house said he was clean. In all likelihood, it was probable Trump was contagious by then and wasn't tested at all. Its estimated that at least 50 people that work in the white house were potentially exposed this week as no one there wears a mask. We have also come to understand that Trump has presented with symptoms like fever, shortness of breath, and coughing. Worry has grown today as he is an older man, with pre-existing conditions, and who is overweight. Questions are starting to float around like a possible transfer of power and what this means for the election. He will be out for at least 2 weeks so that means no campaigning for 2 out of the 3 weeks left. If he dies from the virus, I'm left

wondering what this will mean for the election. Will Pence step into the presidency slot? Will republicans try to push the election back a year? With the opponent dead, does this mean that Biden will run unopposed? Or will it just be between him and the 3rd party candidate? And people have already started voting, if Trump dies, what will this mean for the people who have already voted? Biden and his team have all sent best wishes to Trump and the white house and even went as far to remove all ads attacking Trump out of respect for his illness. Trump on the other hand did not reciprocate as he claims Biden attacked him and so he deserves it.

I saw on Facebook some conversation about his inability to condemn white supremacy and it boggles my mind that some people still refuse to call Trump a racist. I saw the argument that Biden interrupted and if he hadn't brought up Proud Boys then Trump would have. That person also argued Proud Boys wasn't racist because its leader is Cuban so... take from that what you will. People also argue that when asked if he will condemn, he says things like sure, that shouldn't be supported, I haven't supported it, etc. But people are missing the big glaring flashing red lights hanging over all this commentary. He may be one of the most moronic and egotistical people I've ever seen, he is a decent communicator. Which means, he is choosing his words extremely carefully. He is using past tense, he never uses the direct phrase "I condemn," or will agree to do it but then quickly change the subject matter so that he never actually does it. And people buy into this tactic. Personally, I think anyone that can defend this madness has some passive racism of their own that they need to address.

The Coles county health department says that we have 7 new cases as of 10:30 am. This changes totals to 1615 total positive cases with 10 hospitalized, 145 in recovery, 1428 recovered, and 32 deceased. We have officially been moved back to the Orange warning level. All this back and forth is ridiculous. Its people not being careful, not taking this seriously, and infecting each other. Because people refuse to wear masks, or wear their dang mask over their nose and mouth, or stay away from each other in general, we can't get back to a semi functional state.

Sunday October 4, 2020

Today is my friend's birthday. Because of all the breathing and allergy tests she's having to do, she is spending her birthday in isolation. Not exactly the most fun way to spend your birthday but, do what you have to right? Her mom is going down to see her in a couple weeks so I'm working on getting her gift ready. Since it has to travel, I'm doing a cake mix, and cookie mix, and a hot chocolate mix in a jar. Those travel well and the last a while so there's no pressure to make them right away.

Today marks day 5 that the Wi-Fi has been out. The downstairs one and the gift shop one both work. It's just the upstairs that's out. It is making my mornings incredibly boring. I've told my boss about this multiple times. I'm hoping it get fixed by next week. Both yesterday and today are overcast with rain yesterday and more predicted today. I have a feeling it will be a very slow day again. At least with it slow, I can hover by the doors where I can get data and not weird anyone out.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that says we have 2 new cases as of 10 am. This changes numbers to 1617 total positives with 9 hospitalized, 139 in recovery, 1437 recovered, and 32 deceased. We are still in the orange level warning zone. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 35 female for a total of 63 (3.9%), ages 10-19: 102 male and 125 female for a total of 227 (14.0%), ages 20-29: 219 male and 236 female for a total of 455 (28.1%), ages 30-39: 85 male and 87 female for a total of 172 (10.6%), ages 40-49: 84 male and 87 female for a total of 171 (10.6%), ages 50-59: 74 male and 103 female for a total of 177 (10.9%), ages 60-69: 73 male and 79 female for a total of 152 (9.4%), and ages 70+: 90 male and 110 female for a total of 200 (12.4%). The trend for current cases has been on slowly downward trend since mid-September which is good. For the last couple weeks, we are currently sitting at a pretty stable base line so hopefully this means good things.

Wednesday October 7, 2020

Quite a bit happened over the last 2 days. Trump was released from the hospital Monday night, although whether he was released or left is more nuanced. In press conferences, his doctor said that he was in stable condition but would not give any real details claiming doctor patient confidentiality. Whether that's true or he's been ordered not to tell the truth is also a point up for debate. I can't remember if it was late Sunday or on Monday, I think it was Monday, Trump left the hospital and got in the presidential limo to do a drive by of trump supporters. There are pictures of secret service who are in the car with him decked out in hazmat suits, masks, and face shields. He deliberately put those people's lives in danger, all for the sake of a publicity stunt. Now, all the people that were in that car have to quarantine for 14 days. When he got back to the white house Monday night, he went out onto the white house balcony for a photo-op and took his mask off, huffing and puffing the whole time. I guess it's good that he finally bothered to wear a mask and I guess I can kind of see the logic in taking it off as he was outside although I'm not positive how far away he was from the photographers. With all that aside, if I had an infectious disease, I would be wearing my mask practically always, I would stay away from people like my job depended on it. To top it off, after the photoshoot, he went back outside to reshoot his return to the white house, just blatant use of propaganda. And we know that because his campaign released it as propaganda. And this jack-hole then has the gall to release a video statement of himself telling people that he learned a lot and not to be afraid or to let it dominate you. Spouting off about how we have the best medicine and equipment. Tell that to the 200,000 people that are dead. It must be nice to have access to an experimental treatment practically no one else can get, top of the line medical equipment and treatment, and not have to pay for any of it. Through all this he keeps trying to tell people that they need to get back out into the public sphere and more or less hinted at herd immunity. This man is insane. We also found out Kaylee MacEnany, the press lady, tested positive. This marks 19 people in the white house that has tested positive.

Yesterday, Trump announced that he is stopping all congressional talks about covid relief until after the election. He is, essentially, holding all relief hostage to get people to vote for him. This means no relief checks for anyone until he gets reelected again. But, thank goodness, at this point Trump is losing by 16 points according to a CNN poll. Please, let this man

lose. Or drop from a heart attack. I'd be alright with either one. This tweet also caused the stock market to panic and it dropped 600 points. Everything will be in shambles by the time he is booted.

On Monday, the US Supreme Court went back into session with two of the conservative justices on the court raising criticism against on their previous cases from 2015 involving same-sex marriages. They did this because they turned down to hear a same-sex marriage case. Justice Thomas says the court allows religious people who believe in marriage is limited to just between men and women then gives permission to governments and courts to label these people as bigots. Thomas says the court must rectify what it has done. With the nomination, and at this rate probably acceptance of Amy Barret, it looks like he will get what he wants as only 3 from the 2015 5-4 decision are still left on the court. Barrett will take us back 50 years. This is not the US I want to live in. As for commentary on the same sex case, you are a bigot if you are hurting minorities or denying them their guaranteed rights as US citizens. Actions create bigotry. Believe what you want, but you have no right to impose your will on others. Your personal opinions can shove it.

I'm currently watching the vice-presidential debate, so this section is going to be free form in nature. Only about 20 minutes in and I already want to punch Pence in the face. He's being evasive and not answering questions. He was asked about if he and Trump had a discussion about what would happen if Trump died and he completely did not answer the question and instead talked about a vaccine. He also refused to answer the question if presidents should release health reports. I will say Kamala isn't exactly hitting the questions straight on. She's taking round about ways to answer questions to humanize herself and relate to the viewer. While I don't much care for the long-winded answers, at least she somewhat answers the question which is more than Pence is doing. I have to admit, I am enjoying Kamala just laughing at Pence as he spouts straight lies. I'm a bit speechless. I just heard Pence say ending fracking and ending fossil fuels as a bad thing. Oh, Kamala just chastised him for not letting her talk. Did he just say, "You're entitled to your own opinion but you're not entitled to your own facts?" That incredibly rich coming from him. Apparently, hurricane Delta is currently forming in the gulf, add one more to the list. Ha, Pence just said that they have a good record with land conservation and clean air and water. He just said they are going to listen to the science... this after Trump has repeatedly said scientists have no idea what they are talking about. I think Pence just said wild fliers. Kamala was asked about the Green New Deal and somehow, she worked the economy and taxes into a conversation about climate change. I think Pence just talked his way around without actually admitting that climate change is a problem. Man, I can't stand climate change deniers. You know, Pence uses Communist china like it's a slur but then he also says China is our biggest trade partner. Like, make up your mind dude. Why do they keep saying China is to blame for covid? Like they purposefully did this. Course they didn't let you in until February, it didn't reach the US until January and they let you come in February. China wasn't the one who refused to wear a mask in public and told people basically to not listen to the CDC, or to inject themselves with bleach. Something I've noticed about their responses; Kamala finds some way in most of her answer to aggressively attack the failures of the Trump administration. Pence on the other hand, while he does attack

occasionally, spends most of the time talking up Trump and defending their actions. Did I hear Pence right, did he say Jihaadi John? Pence really doesn't understand "Thank you Vice President Pence" means to shut up. Wow, Pence just argued with the moderator that he was going to respond to kamala talking about Trumps horrid comments on the troops and he got smacked down. Can't believe Pence just said that Trump revers the troops. So much not entitled to your own facts. Did Pence just say Judge Barrett is bringing a sizeable American family with her? Like... what? Is that supposed to be a slam on abortion or saying she's an all American because she has a lot of kids? What? Kamala sometimes goes a little longer but at least the moderator only has to say thank you maybe 3 or 4 times, not 5 or 6 like she has to do with Pence. I think Pence more or less, I think, just confirmed that Judge Barrett if confirmed will bat down Roe vs Wade. Oh, Kamala just threw Abe Lincoln's choice to not fill the USSC in an election year in Pence's face. I think Kamala just talked about Trump packing the court of appeals with white judges and then Pence said Kamala did not answer his question about packing the court. Like, uh, you want "the record to show" that she didn't answer the question about packing the Supreme court because she talked about how he packed the lower courts? Pence is talking about the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. He started by saying he felt sympathy and that they should still be alive followed by "but." What's the old saying, everything before the word "but" means nothing. They care nothing for these people or the plight of minority groups in this county. Someone is coughing in the background; bet they're getting all the death stares. Oh, coughing is picking up. Get that guy some water. I don't think Kamala really answered the question in what they would do if Trump refuses to leave the White house. I think Pence just said it was decided there was no collusion in the 2016 election... Like, dude... did you miss the Mueller report? Wow, this 8th grader just smashed them for being partisan a-holes. "We always come together during times of need," Man Pence, lying through your teeth much? This coming from the vice president to the man that's all about division and hatred, mocking people with disabilities, mocking minority people.

The Coles county health department uploaded on Facebook that we had 9 new cases on October 5 as of 6 pm. This changes totals to 1626 total positive cases, 4 hospitalized, 126 in recovery, 1462 recovered, and 34 deaths. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 35 female for a total of 63 (3.9%), ages 10-19: 103 male and 126 female for a total of 229 (14.1%), ages 20-29: 220 male and 239 female for a total of 459 (28.2%), ages 30-39: 85 male and 88 female for a total of 173 (10.6%), ages 40-49: 84 male and 87 female for a total of 171 (10.5%), ages 50-59: 74 male and 103 female for a total of 177 (10.9%), ages 60-69: 73 male and 79 female for a total of 152 (9.3%), and ages 70+: 91 male and 111 female for a total of 202 (12.4%). The trend for current cases has been on slowly downward trend since mid-September which is good. For the last couple weeks, we are currently sitting at a pretty stable base line so hopefully this means good things. Then for the 6th, we had 17 new cases. The memo says 3:45 am so I'm not positive is that's supposed to be 3:45 pm or it was actually typed up and released at 3:45 am. This changes totals to 1643 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 135 in recovery, 1470 recovered, and 34 deceased.

Today's totals, according to the Coles County health department says we have 21 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 1664 total positive cases with 3 hospitalized, 141 in

recovery, 1485 recovered, and 35 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 35 female for a total of 63 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 109 male and 133 female for a total of 242 (14.5%), ages 20-29: 223 male and 242 female for a total of 465 (27.9%), ages 30-39: 88 male and 92 female for a total of 180 (10.8%), ages 40-49: 85 male and 87 female for a total of 172 (10.3%), ages 50-59: 74 male and 104 female for a total of 178 (10.7%), ages 60-69: 77 male and 81 female for a total of 158 (9.5%), and ages 70+: 92 male and 114 female for a total of 206 (12.4%).

Thursday October 8, 2020

I found this morning that I missed the most interesting part of the debate last night. I was watching the debate on YouTube, but my app crashed when they started discussing racial justice and it took me about 2, 2 ½ minutes to get it back open and working again. By the time I got it back up they had moved onto the next topic. Apparently, during that section, a fly landed on Pence's head and didn't move from this one spot for around 2 minutes. It's all over social media this morning and I missed it. Such a shame.

Coles county health department says that we have 9 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 1673 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 131 in recovery, 1501 recovered, and 36 deceased.

Friday October 9, 2020

It was announced today that the 2nd presidential debate has been cancelled. Trump refused to do a virtual debate because they could mute him and Biden refused to do anything in person with a contagious Trump, even though Trump claims he's not contagious because he feels ok (thanks to the steroid cocktail). So, Biden is doing his own little town hall and Trump is having an indoor rally. Classic Trump.

I took this weekend off. My parents invited me on the trip with them. We first went to Springfield and took a tour of the Dana-Thomas house. This was my second time at the house. I love visiting there. The house is beautiful and so inviting. Frank Lloyd Wright is a brilliant architect. After that we drove down the Grafton. It's a small tourist town right on the river, it's very pretty. Sunset on the river is breathtaking. We had dinner at a restaurant right on the riverside and the building sits up on metal stilts. They have outdoor seating on the balcony on top of the slits and outdoor seating on the ground level under the building. Also, under they have swings bolted on so you could swing while you looked out on the river. Depending on what time I wake up tomorrow, I think I'll take an early morning walk along the road our guest house is on. We are back in the woods and the trees are changing colors, it's very pretty. Then tomorrow we are going to Pere Marquette National Park and to check out Alton.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 22 new cases. This changes totals to 1695 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 133 in recovery, 1522 recovered, and 36 deceased. Coles county still falls under the Orange level warning for another week. The memo says, basically, that we need to get it under control, or we could face "further

mitigations.” They might have to if people don’t start wearing a mask. The county map maintained by the state says Coles county has 1619 total cases and 37 deaths. We are a major hotspot compared to our surrounding counties. The state totals are 313,518 confirmed cases and 8,945 deaths. Just over 6 million tests have been done in the state. US totals sits at around 7.68 million cases and 213,000 deaths. Worldwide, the totals are 36.7 million confirmed cases with 25.5 million recovered and 1.06 million deaths.

Saturday October 10, 2020

Didn’t take a walk this morning. And it’s a good thing I didn’t. We went to Pere Marquette state park and it’s a lovely place. Lots of trails, we went on a scenic drive, a decent visitors center; they had an educational snake inside that I got to hold. She was an endangered type of rat snake that was seized by the authorities who had her as a pet. Lovely little lady. But no one got a picture of me holding her which is incredibly disappointing. We decided to take one of the short easy trails but the map we got wasn’t exactly clearly marked and it was a bit confusing finding our way around. So, we started on one of the trails only to realize about 25/30 minutes in that we were not on the trail we thought we were. We were on the mountain goat trail, which is the trail you take if you want to see the cool rock formations caused by the fault line. That trail was difficult. Lots of stairs, lots of hills, there was one point you had to climb through and around the rocks to get by. And to get off the trail, we had to completely finish that one and get on two other different trails to finally make it back to the visitors’ center. By the time we made it back, we had hiked between 2-2 ½ miles. It was also exhausting to have to put on a mask every time we passed someone. It was every tiring and having it over your face gets hot. On the bright side, I got to see the fault line and got some neat pictures. No eagles though. After that we went out to Alton and saw the Piazza bird, so that was nice. We grabbed lunch there at this restaurant that’s specialty is desserts. It was alright. Clearly all homemade and the lunch wasn’t half bad. Maybe we just didn’t pick the best desserts, but it was more or less alright. Don’t think my slice was worth the 5 bucks. The pies at the airport in town are so much better. After that we went to the Great Rivers museum there and got a tour of the Locke system. We didn’t get to really see much as they were doing repairs on one of the gates, but it was still interesting to go on the landing and check out. The old man doing the tour was very nice. It was particularly interesting because my dad used to work on the river boats as a young man. He had been through here before and he talked a little bit about his trips. He doesn’t talk about his early life all that much. After that we headed back to the rental house because mom and dad signed up for a conference talk thingy a while back, so I mostly hung out in my room watching YouTube.

Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 12 new cases as of 1:30 am. This changes totals to 1707 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 146 in recovery, 1523 recovered, and 36 deceased.

Wednesday October 14, 2020

Officially back at work. Can’t say my long weekend was long enough. I guess I don’t mind being back at work, but I don’t like having to get up early and actually be productive.

The hearings for judge Barrett are happening this week. I haven't been watching because just looking at her face makes me angry. But from what I've been able to glean, she admits covid is highly infectious, but I don't think anyone has questioned her judgement about no one wearing a mask at the event announcing her nomination. She refuses to acknowledge global warming and completely avoided the abortion question. I've seen people on social media saying she's being so cool and composed under pressure. I find it interesting that these are the same people who sided with the comparatively emotional Kavanaugh and not Dr. ?. I've been promptly unfriending and blocking these people. I've decided I'm done forcing myself to look at ignorance for the sake of civility.

It was also announced today that Baron Trump tested positive for covid. It's unfortunate he's been saddled with such incompetent parents. I can't help but feel a little bad for him. I just hope he learns to be nothing like his parents.

We also learned that the one lady who called the cops on the black bird watcher, the one that news broke about on the same day as George Floyd, did more than was previously reported. She actually made 2 911 calls in that encounter. One is the call the man got the recording of. In the other, she directly said that he assaulted her. Not threatened or intimidated, but full on physical violence. The more I learn about this lady, the less I like her. I tried to go back and find the article that went up, but I couldn't find it. I'll try again in a couple days, see if I can find it.

Coles county health department posted a memo for October 11 that we had 5 new cases as of 12:30 pm. This changes totals to 1712 positive cases with 3 hospitalized, 150 in recovery, 1523 recovered, and 36 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 35 female for a total of 63 (3.7%), ages 10-19: 114 male and 141 female for a total of 255 (14.9%), ages 20-29: 229 male and 246 female for a total of 475 (27.7%), ages 30-39: 91 male and 96 female for a total of 187 (10.9%), ages 40-49: 87 male and 87 female for a total of 174 (10.2%), ages 50-59: 74 male and 105 female for a total of 179 (10.5%), ages 60-69: 81 male and 83 female for a total of 164 (9.6%), and ages 70+: 94 male and 121 female for a total of 215 (12.6%). On October 12th, they posted a memo that said we have 9 new cases as of 1:30 pm. This changes totals to 1721 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 159 in recovery, 1523 recovered, and 36 deceased. On October 13th, they posted a memo that said we have 8 new cases as of 1729 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 125 in recovery, 1566 recovered, and 37 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 28 male and 36 female for a total of 64 (3.7%), ages 10-19: 115 male and 142 female for a total of 257 (14.9%), ages 20-29: 229 male and 247 female for a total of 476 (27.5%), ages 30-39: 93 male and 96 female for a total of 189 (10.9%), ages 40-49: 87 male and 89 female for a total of 176 (10.2%), ages 50-59: 75 male and 106 female for a total of 181 (10.5%), ages 60-69: 83 male and 84 female for a total of 167 (9.7%), and ages 70+: 98 male and 121 female for a total of 219 (12.7%).

Today, the Coles county health department posted a memo that we have 16 new cases as of 7:30 pm. This changes totals to 1745 total cases, with 1 hospitalized, 132 in recovery, 1575 recovered, and 37 deceased.

Thursday October 15, 2020

Tonight, is Joe Biden's town hall. I've been seeing things all over social media to tune in and watch. I get why, they want to make sure his ratings are high and encourage undecided people to vote. I don't know if I'll watch. I've already made up my mind, so a town hall isn't going to do anything.

Update, I totally forgot about the town hall until it was mostly over. So, in short, I didn't watch Biden. I don't think there's even a need to acknowledge Trump's rally.

In other news, I got hit on by what I would imagine was a man in his 40s at work. That's a real esteem booster. I have to wonder, do men often worry about getting hit on at work?

The Coles County health department uploaded a post that said we have 30 new cases as of 5:30 pm. This changes totals to 1775 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 160 in recovery, 1575 recovered, and 38 deceased.

Friday October 16, 2020

I saw an article today; something about Joe Biden's son's emails? I didn't care enough to look but it was something about his son is in charge of a charity organization and was in contact with some Chinese company and the emails said something about 10 going to the "big guy." Fox news is going nuts, something about Biden using his status VP to connect his son with this company even though I'm pretty sure Biden's name comes up nowhere in the emails. What is it with these people and emails? This is just ridiculous. I watched a news clip of Anderson Cooper saying that the sources of this information can't be verified and is possibly connected to an ongoing investigation into Russian misinformation to influence the election. There's a whole lot of speculation and apparently the documents came from Rudy Giuliani's lawyer. Kayleigh McEnaney had her twitter account temporarily suspended because she tried to share the story. You know it has to be sketch when even twitter is like, dude this is all the sketch.

Rudy Giuliani's daughter split with her dad, asking people to vote for Biden and Harris. She said she spoke up because she wants to encourage people to vote and to not give into the hopelessness. She says this administration is "toxic" and has an "environment of bullying," and that needs to change.

The Coles county health department posted on Facebook that we had 39 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 1814 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 198 in recovery, 1575 recovered, and 38 deceased. As of today, we have moved back down to the Blue level warning

metrics, meaning our case amounts are stable overall. General case counts sit at 177 cases per 100,000 people and our test positivity rate is at 5.4%.

Saturday October 17, 2020

My friend texted me yesterday letting me know that she was in the hospital. For the past few months, she's been having trouble breathing and the doctors haven't figured out what was up. Back I think in August, the doctors said it was asthma and then a little while later they said it was asthma triggered as an allergic reaction. Then a couple weeks ago, they said it was an infection in her lungs and put her on antibiotics. Then a couple days ago she went in for a cat scan I think, and it appeared the infection had spread, and she only had 30% of her lungs operational. She went to the ER yesterday and finally they figured out it was pneumonia after putting her in isolation because they weren't convinced it wasn't covid after having texted negative for covid continually over the last 4 weeks or so. So, as of now, she is on oxygen and antibiotics for pneumonia and thankfully doesn't need any of the fun stuff because she's not in any pain. The doctors think that she had covid earlier this year which lowered her immune system which let pneumonia form in her lungs and got so bad because it went undiagnosed for so long. My friend and I think she probably had covid earlier this year which lowered her immune system with opened her up to catching bronchitis and because she couldn't get in and get it treated, it then developed to pneumonia. She told me she mentioned it to several doctors that it might be pneumonia, but no one tested her, so it went on for so long that now she ended up in the hospital needing oxygen.

After I heard this news from her, I saw on Facebook this morning people again talking about herd immunity. Herd immunity works with illnesses that are not likely to kill you or leave you with life-long organ damage. When I hear idiocy like this, it becomes clear to me that these people haven't taken the time to actually do research and find out what covid does. Too much Fox news.

My friend also told me she heard on the news that a town near her that all Biden signs were stolen and replaced with KKK signs. You know, for being in the Bible Belt and supposedly full of Christians, there are some very horrible people that live there. It's no wonder people don't like the south. There are people living there that think it's still in the 1960s.

I was also reminded this morning and I can't remember if I put an entry in already so I'm going to discuss it here (maybe again). Early last week, the FBI arrested at least 6 men who claimed to be part of a militia. Their goal was to kidnap MI governor but their exact reasoning behind it I don't understand. Something about covid regulations closing things and something else. Militias are pointless now not to mention unofficial militias are rather illegal. It's terrifying that these groups are doing military training, training to infiltrate buildings and kill people. Honestly, what I want to know is, when do they think they're going to be infiltrating buildings and shooting people? Like, have they seen the Purge one too many times? It's just ridiculous. I with law enforcement would crack down on these groups and make it clear their actions are not acceptable. Otherwise, these nutjobs get it in their heads that its ok to go to a protest and be armed and ready to shoot people or to kidnap government officials. I should just be president;

then I can walk around and smack people with rulers like the nuns do. Knock the self-serving idiocy out of them.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 7 new cases as of 2:15 pm. This changes totals to 1821 total positives with 7 hospitalized, 179 recovered, 1597 recovered, and 38 deceased.

Sunday October 18, 2020

I am not feeling work today. It's in the 60s, windy and overcast. Today feels like a day to stay in bed and watch Halloween movies. Or play video games. I'm not picky.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have new cases as of . This changes totals to

Wednesday October 21, 2020

I am not in the mood for work today. I am tired, grouchy, and I started taking anxiety medication this week and I think I'm having side effects to it. Its rainy and cooler today so I'm hoping we don't get many visitors today. Then, I only have to get through the day without murdering my coworkers that keep talking to me.

I've been checking in with my friend periodically and it sounds like things are going ok. She is still on oxygen and says she doesn't have really any issues if she's still and not moving around. She struggles more if she has to get up. But, good news, she said that if things look good in her x-rays today then she could possibly be looking at a release date of Friday.

The last presidential debate is scheduled for tomorrow. It was announced that the mics of the opponent will be muted while the other is speaking. So, Trump will be muted when Biden gets his 2 minutes and Biden will be muted when Trump gets his 2 minutes. Trumps team said to the public that this is a deliberate attempt of the debate committee to support their favorite candidate Biden and debilitate Trump. Yes, because enforcing the 2-minute rule which has been in place for who know how long is playing favorites. But we also found out his prep team has been encouraging him behind closed doors to interrupt less, tell more jokes, be generally more likeable, and continue to go after Hunter Biden. In this situation, I can't help but feel bad for Hunter. He's been dealt a rough hand and found himself in a very dark place. I think the fact that he was able to recognize the problem and get help demonstrates an incredible amount of strength. Hunter doesn't deserve to be continually smeared in something he isn't involved in.

I watched the last half of Obama's stump speech for Biden yesterday. Apparently, CNN says that he gave a scathing review of Trump. I missed that part, but I believe it because, let's face it, Trump is incompetent. The part that I tuned in for was the part he was discussing how important voting is and that this election will determine the outcome of next just the next 4 years but our democracy in general. I believe it. Our planet is dying from climate change, news broke the US gov. can't find the parents of 545 children that they separated at the US/Mexico border, minorities are in constant fear in public because at any time they can meet an

unfortunate end at the hand of systematic racism/sexism/and homophobic motivated actions. Our world is falling apart at the seams and the apparent apathy coming from Trump supporters is quite frankly astounding.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 16 new cases as of 4:15 pm on Monday the 19th. This changes totals to 1861 total positive cases with 10 hospitalized, 216 in recovery, 1597 recovered, and 38 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 30 male and 40 female for a total of 70 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 131 male and 151 female for a total of 282 (15.2%), ages 20-29: 238 male and 262 female for a total of 500 (26.9%), ages 30-39: 100 male and 105 female for a total of 205 (11.0%), ages 40-49: 96 male and 94 female for a total of 190 (10.2%), ages 50-59: 82 male and 112 female for a total of 194 (10.4%), ages 60-69: 91 male and 89 female for a total of 180 (9.7%), and ages 70+: 113 male and 127 female for a total of 240 (12.9%). On Tuesday the 20th, they posted a memo saying that we have 10 new cases as of 4:00 pm. This changes totals to 1871 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 178 recovering, 1646 recovered, and 38 deceased.

As of today, the Coles county health department posted a memo saying we have 25 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 1896 total positives with 5 hospitalized, 207 in recovery, 1646 recovered, and 38 deceased.

Thursday October 22, 2020

Unusually warm today, it hit low 80s I think. Beautiful weather though. It was sunny with a light breeze. It's just too bad that I had to sit inside all day.

I have decided to watch the debate tonight just so I can take notes for this. I have no guarantee that I will make it through the debate, but I will try. As during the VP debates, this section will be more free form in style:

Over 47 million votes have been cast so far in this race, this seems to be the largest early voting turn out ever recorded. I hope this means good things. Trump was asked how he's going to fight covid and he responds that spikes are gone spikes will "soon be gone." Dude, over 30 states are spiking right now. It's not just going to go away. I'm no world leader, but I would think when asked how you are going to lower and stop the deaths, I wouldn't talk about how good of a job I did. Yes Joe, way to set out a plan. Trump completely dodged that question. Did Trump just say we will have a vaccine by the end of the year but then immediately say it's not guaranteed? Trump just said we understand the disease, literally 5 minutes ago he said we don't fully understand it. I think Trump just said screw the one % that dies. Trump does have a point that we can't live in a basement forever, but scientists have said repeatedly we could've had this fixed in 6 weeks if everyone wears a mask. If they had done this way before hand, we would not be where we are today. I'm honestly surprised Trump didn't bring up Pritzker in his complaining about democratic governors. Yes, Trump is right substance abuse is rising, depression and suicide rates spiking, I think he's missing that he's the reason. You know, Personally I don't understand the plastic dividers in restaurants. It's not going to do anything;

you're all breathing the same air. Trump is saying to protect the seniors but, he literally said young people are less likely to die so we need to open maybe 10 minutes ago. I fully don't understand this man. Straight lie, Fauci never said this was going to go away soon. How did we get side-tracked to Trump bragging about raising money? He's claiming he doesn't need to raise money because that would make him look bad. Last night, American intelligence confirmed that Iran and Russia have been involved in influencing elections. Biden is coming out swinging that he will go after these countries and Trump's inability to tell off Putin. Trump said he doesn't get money from Russia... doesn't he have a hotel there? Ope, here's the emails. I thought that was still unverified. Ope, Biden smacked back about the emails with Trump's tax returns. Trump is again spouting the he's under audit excuse. I don't think Trump actually knows what's in his tax returns, he doesn't know what the \$750 that was all over the news was. Also, I don't think prepaying your taxes is a thing. I think I need to do more research on Hunter Biden's involvement in Ukraine. They keep talking about money, I'm not positive about what's actually going on. Trump claims he closed his account in China before he became President. Uh, I thought he bragged about having a secret account and having oodles of money. OOOOHHHHH, Biden interrupted to say where money came from (taxpayers) and Trump got this look and said "...excuse me?" and Biden repeated "taxpayers." That was fantastic. No dude, you got elected because of the electoral college not because people like you. Um, I don't think it's a good thing to say you have a good relationship with a dictator. Isn't Seoul in South Korea? Why is that being brought up on a topic about North Korea? Um, in his explanation of what he will do after they overturn the affordable care act, Trump said that they will "come up" with a "beautiful health care plan." What do you mean "come up"? You have been working for years to get rid of this and you have yet to come up with a plan? At least Biden is actually presenting a plan. FRACKING IS BAD MAN THAT IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TALKING POSITIVELY ON. I don't think Trump understands what socialism is. Trump is being incredibly disrespectful to the moderator, like he's surprised she's able to do a good job. How did we get from Medicare to the stock market? I will say, at least in this one they're not talking over each and I can actually hear what they have to say. I think trump just called blue states trash states. How did Trump go from relief packages for covid to illegal immigration? Did Trump just say these kids come with gangs and cartels? Didn't realize these groups ran with kids 12 and younger. Did Trump just say they are well taken care of? They are laying the floor, in cages, with thin plastic blankets; how is that fall under the umbrella of "well taken care of?" Trump keeps saying "Who built the cages, they were built in 2014." WELL WHO SAID YOU HAVE TO USE THEM IF THEY WERE?! Yes Joe, yes there is institutional racism. Excellent answer. Trump just said no one has done what he's done for the black community, maybe only other person is Abraham Lincoln.... Sir... people are rioting in the streets... you are supported by white supremacists.... How dare you. How. Dare. You. Trump says he ran because of Biden, dang Obama had to make a crack at him at that one Press dinner a few years ago. Least person in the room but is hesitant to renounce white supremacy. Sure. Right. It looks like Biden's temper is starting to crack, making the Abraham Lincoln comment. Trump keeps saying "why didn't you do that in 8 years," but Biden just spent the previous 2 minutes saying he recognized his mistake and the steps he had taken in the 8 years to fix it. Seriously dude. Cleanest air, cleanest water, PARTS OF THE COUNTRY STILL DON'T HAVE CLEAN WATER MORON. Biden is presenting plans towards making the country more energy efficient. Trump just said "AOC + 3" created Biden's climate change plane and they want

to get rid of people's windows? They have an evil plan to tear down buildings and rebuild them with "teeny tiny windows." What is your obsession with windows man? I think Trump just claimed windmills produce more CO2 than burning natural gas. Good, Biden came out and plainly said he is moving towards 0 carbon emissions. Responding to what he would say in his inaugural address, Trump used his time to say how bad things are going to get under Biden. Biden's turn, he talked about having hope and unity. I find it interesting that. Out of Trump, Melania, Biden, and Dr. Biden, Trump is the only one on stage not wearing a mask. I find that rather interesting, certainly reflects his personality. I have to say I'm impressed with myself that I sat through and listened to the whole thing. In the last 5 years, when he was running and while he's been president, I have never listened all the way through anything he has ever spoken at. His voice, his mannerisms, everything about him, irritates me.

The Coles County health department says that we have 29 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 1925 total positive cases with 7 hospitalized, 234 in recovery, 1646 recovered, and 38 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 30 male and 40 female for a total of 70 (3.6%), ages 10-19: 132 male and 156 female for a total of 288 (15.0%), ages 20-29: 242 male and 268 female for a total of 510 (26.5%), ages 30-39: 106 male and 109 female for a total of 215 (11.2%), ages 40-49: 102 male and 97 female for a total of 199 (10.3%), ages 50-59: 84 male and 119 female for a total of 203 (10.5%), ages 60-69: 97 male and 91 female for a total of 188 (9.8%), and ages 70+: 118 male and 134 female for a total of 252 (13.1%). Based on the trends, it seems that we are sloping upwards in case counts again. I'm curious if that is connected with schools restarting in person teaching.

Friday October 23, 2020

The weather is beautiful this morning, but the weather says it's supposed to start raining around noon. I have to say not that I've had a taste of warm weather, I want it back. Today also concludes the first week that Mattoon schools have been back in person. They have been doing a modified version where some students come one day, and the rest come the next day. So far, I think it's been going alright, at least from what I see on social media. Not sure if that's actually the cases. I did see a picture someone took at the high school and 2 kids, a boy and a girl, who were dating based off their sweatshirts. The guy's said "Keep your hands off my girl" with mickey mouse hands raised in fists and the girl's sweatshirt was the same except hers said "keep your hands off my boy." Both were wearing cowboy boots, farmer jeans, and gators. If this doesn't describe the hick town that I live in I don't know what does. The CDC has said you shouldn't wear gators because of something to do with the bacteria that lives on your neck. But I will give them, at least they're wearing something to cover their face. I also saw a picture of a male teacher wearing shorts... It is below 60 degrees outside. Why are you wearing shorts? I suppose I'll never understand the idiocy of the male species. Personally, I don't understand teenage romance. I never found it cute. Teenagers are idiots and hormonal. They have absolutely no idea what it actually means to be in a relationship, hence why almost all high school relationships fail.

I couldn't find an update from the Coles county health department for today.

Saturday October 24, 2020

My friend is still in the hospital. She said that her tests have come back normal, but her heart rate is still unstable, and she still needs oxygen assistance when moving around. She's ready to go home, keeps telling me she's been there for 9 days. Hopefully, a couple more days will be what she needs for her heart to calm down and make breathing a little easier. She also told me that cases in TN are spiking right now. 2 floors in the wing opposite of hers has been sectioned off just for covid patients. She also said there are rumors that her university will go completely virtual before the end of the semester. There possibly might not even be finals, or at least finals in the normal test format. I'm rooting for her. It would royally suck to have to drop out over half-way through your final undergrad semester. Eastern also announced last night that Fall 2020 commencement has been cancelled. Having my own commencement cancelled, I do feel for them. You work for years to achieve your degree, have mental breakdowns, panic attacks, sleepless nights, and it all comes down to a piece of paper in a small cardboard box in the mail.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 13 new cases as of 6:45 pm. This changes totals to 1971 total positive cases with 9 hospitalized, 228 in recovery, 1696 recovered, and 38 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 30 male and 43 female for a total of 73 (3.7%), ages 10-19: 134 male and 157 female for a total of 291 (14.8%), ages 20-29: 243 male and 272 female for a total of 515 (26.1%), ages 30-39: 107 male and 113 female for a total of 220 (11.2%), ages 40-49: 106 male and 103 female for a total of 209 (10.6%), ages 50-59: 87 male and 124 female for a total of 211 (10.7%), ages 60-69: 98 male and 92 female for a total of 190 (9.6%), and ages 70+: 122 male and 140 female for a total of 262 (13.3%).

Sunday October 25, 2020

So good news and bad news this morning. My friend was released from the hospital last night. She's still having some heart issues, but all her tests are coming back normal so there's nothing for them to hold her on. Good news is her mother has been there with her through all of this so there is someone to keep an eye on her. The bad news is my friend's dad has tested positive to covid. As she tells me, a coworker came into work on Tuesday positive. His work was originally going to close 1 day for cleaning, and everyone come in for a half workday the following day but then decided to have everyone isolate for a few days and get tested before coming back to work. He got tested and his test came back positive yesterday. So, he is in isolation, her little brother is going to be staying home from school until everyone comes back negative. Since her mother is more or less trapped in TN with her, that leaves everything falling on her brother. I let her know we would be more than happy to whatever we can to help (while obviously keeping our distance). I must admit this makes me a little paranoid. In about a month, I'll be looking for work and I don't want to put myself in a situation where I have a higher chance of being exposed. I don't want covid. I might survive it but who knows who I might accidentally pass it to. And that doesn't even touch the life-long health consequences caused by the virus. Yes, I interact with people from all over at my work, but I feel protected because there are minimal people and if I have to stand next to people, it's outside where there is more airflow.

In further Jumanji news, on the news I read some Russian scientists thawed out worms that are thousands upon thousands of years old. 2 of them woke up; I think one was 36,000 years old and the other 42,000 years old. I read in the news scientists have been watching a crack in the moon and according to them it's getting wider and bigger. I also saw on news report from Washington state that they found a murder hornet nest... So now we got zombie worms, the moon is hatching, and a reprise of the murder hornets.

I couldn't find an update with today's numbers.

Wednesday October 28, 2020

My heart is heavy today over the events of my weekend. We are nearing the close of this election and my nerves are shot. Last Friday, it was announced the US had broken its record for the most cases in one day. The charts show cases climbing again and the news keep saying that this is the 3rd wave but we never left the first wave. The dip before the most recent climb is almost that of the peak of the first wave. I discovered my great aunt and uncle that live in the Springfield area have tested positive for covid having caught it while visiting my uncle's family. I worry for them as they are older. Mom said they aren't in a bad position yet but they are sick, so we will just have to wait and see what happens.

Perhaps what has me most upset is the news surrounding the supreme court. Barrett was sworn in as a member of the supreme court 2 days ago with a vote of 52 to 48. Because I have zero respect for her and anything she does, I am refusing to call her Justice. She is a horrific human being whose presence on the court is a threat to women and minority communities. Her arrogance of showing up to her hearings with no notes or books and then refusing to answer questions is disgusting. I'm upset with anyone who calls themselves a republican and approves of this behavior of swearing in a judge during an election year. They stopped Obama from doing it months before the election then they turn around and have the nerve to agree to a candidate a mere 2 weeks before the election. I'm not necessarily angry that Trump nominated someone but I'm angry at Congress for not being consistent and letting him get this nomination through. Democrats are swearing revenge although what that means has yet to be seen. All I can say is that people are going to remember this. I'm very much so hoping this is reflected in the wave of democrats that are going to be elected this year. Honestly, I can't wait until I can get out of this Republican hell hole. Maybe it's the pandemic, or it could be I'm at my wits end, but my patience for republicans (and idiots in general) is shrinking ever so quickly. And with her appointment, the Supreme Court also denied Wisconsin a mail-in ballot extension saying all votes must reach their final destination by 8 pm on Nov. 3rd. This could potentially disenfranchise tens of thousands of voters.

Wildfires are again raging on the West coast. Hurricane Zeta is in the gulf and is expected to hit Louisiana sometime today. This is the 27th named storm this season so far. They're expecting some 100-mph wind. ABC news says they hope the levees in New Orleans hold but if there are weaknesses, they could be looking at flooding. They also said that systems are predicting a new system forming in the Caribbean in a little over a week. If we have 1 more

system, we will tie 2005 for the most amount of storms. They also are discussing that there are extreme ice storms in Texas and Oklahoma. They say the moisture from the hurricanes is colliding with the cold fronts which results in ice storms. To have hurricanes and ice storms at the same time is very unusual for October.

Last night was night 2 of protests and looting in Philadelphia. These were in response to the fatal shooting of Walter Wallace Jr. on Monday afternoon. Reports say that he approached officers with a gun but as no real information has been issued, we don't actually know what happened. By all accounts, protests were violent with looting, burning of cars, physically assaulting police officers, throwing rocks, and one incident where an officer was hit with a car breaking his leg. On Tuesday, officers were more violent using tear gas, taunting, and assaulting people with batons. Today, the national guard was requested to come and help keep order with the protests, but none have actually entered the city. According to the Washington post, Wallace had mental health issues for which he was seeing a doctor and receiving medication. That afternoon his family called requesting an ambulance to take him to the hospital, but the police showed up instead and ended with Wallace being shot multiple times. The chief of police responded that they use guns as they are a tool on their belt when asked why the officers didn't carry tasers. According to the article, someone took a home video of the encounter which is what sparked the massive outrage. The article makes it clear that not all the protests were violent. Some very peaceful marches. It was only the small groups that stayed out late into the night that are responsible for the destruction. The parents of Wallace are calling in people to stop the violence as the looting is disrespecting the name of his son. They also mentioned there was a group of people whose job was to find the agitators in the peaceful protests and stop them before it reaches that point. In my opinion, this situation was entirely avoidable. Why did the police show up to something where an ambulance was called? Why did they carry guns but not tasers? If they knew what the situation was beforehand, why did they approach with deadly force? Why shoot him at all let alone multiple times? Maybe the video has more information than we are being told right now but it appears the police abused their power and it ended in the death of a mentally ill person. I think they are within their rights and correct to protest. However, in no circumstances do I ever support the looting of the local community. It is only the community that gets hurt, not those they're angry at.

On the election front, Biden is ahead in polls and in the early voting. People are saying for the first time ever, the majority of votes will be cast before the actual election day. It sounds like the GOP is putting all their faith that their supporters will turn out in massive numbers on election day. Goodness I hope so. I mailed in my ballot on Monday so I think mine will be alright. I'm seeing all over social media that people need to start turning their votes in in-person as votes post marked on November 3rd don't count. They have to actually be ready to count by November 3rd.

On October 26th, the Coles county health department said that we had 42 new cases as of 5:30 pm. This changes totals to 2039 total cases with 12 hospitalized, 291 in recovery, 1696 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 33 male and 44 female for a total of 77 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 135 male and 159 female for a total of

294 (14.4%), ages 20-29: 247 male and 283 female for a total of 530 (26.0%), ages 30-39: 110 male and 117 female for a total of 227 (11.1%), ages 40-49: 108 male and 106 female for a total of 214 (10.5%), ages 50-59: 92 male and 132 female for a total of 224 (11.0%), ages 60-69: 103 male and 98 female for a total of 201 (9.9%), and ages 70+: 127 male and 145 female for a total of 272 (13.3%). Then on October 27th, The Coles county health department said we had 23 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 2062 total positives with 13 hospitalized, 313 in recovery, 1696 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 33 male and 46 female for a total of 79 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 137 male and 161 female for a total of 298 (14.5%), ages 20-29: 248 male and 284 female for a total of 532 (25.8%), ages 30-39: 110 male and 120 female for a total of 230 (11.2%), ages 40-49: 109 male and 108 female for a total of 217 (10.5%), ages 50-59: 92 male and 136 female for a total of 228 (11.1%), ages 60-69: 104 male and 99 female for a total of 203 (9.8%), and ages 70+: 128 male and 147 female for a total of 275 (13.3%).

For today, the Journal Gazette did an article that the health department reported 64 new cases for today. This changes totals to 2126 total cases with 17 hospitalized, 373 recovering, 1696 recovered, and 40 deceased. For the state, we are looking at a total of 389,095 cases and 9,619 deaths. This is a “critical increase” as we had a 23.3% positivity rate on October 25th and a rolling 9.9% positivity rate for that week. Diana Stenger from the county health department says that people need to take more precautions, or we will be seeing them stepping in and closing things down again. The article also discusses enforcing state-wide laws about wearing masks in public places and the like. Pritzker and the director of the Illinois State Police, Brendan Kelly, both made it clear that the state police will be enforcing these laws and issuing citations to businesses that do not comply. Kelly says at the moment they have worked with 37 different counties and issued misdemeanor citations in 5 of them (meaning the business did not fix the problem when first approached and ask to comply). Thus far, in Pritzker’s “Restore Illinois Plan,” 8 out of the 11 regions in the state have had to backtrack on reopening due to the increase in cases.

Thursday October 29, 2020

Pritzker announced a couple days ago they are deciding to cancel the winter season of basketball for public schools as cases are rising (not only in Illinois but around the country) and the indoor sport leaves people open to getting sick more easily. The IHSA decided that they were not going to listen to Pritzker and are still going to have their season. People on my Facebook page are singing the praises of the IHSA in defying the governor. One Facebook friend that lives in Bloomington said that she and her husband will go to any and all games that happen in their area to support the basketball teams. Fittingly enough, this is also the same lady that refused to close her business while we were in lockdown citing her right to “life, liberty, and happiness,” and no one in their classes wear a mask. I’m not thrilled at their immaturity at this moment. I’m sitting here and I have a few thoughts. First, do these people not care that covid is airborne and highly contagious? Basketball is a high contact sport. It is possible for players to wear masks but it’s impossible for them to socially distance, or at the very least not be breathing up in each other’s faces. Personally, I think it’s a bad idea. It’s true they can take precautions and limit the number of people that attend (at least I sincerely hope

they do), but I think it's the players themselves that will be put in harm's way. For people claiming to be looking out for their kids, they're not doing a fantastic job of it. Second, I'm thinking people are behaving this way just get back at Pritzker. Chicago is the reason why he was elected, and central Illinois hates him (as is only fitting of the Republican half of the state). Just because he says something, people are deliberately doing the opposite with no thought as to the consequences. All they care about is making it clear to Pritzker how much they hate him and how powerless he is to control the things that they want to do. Its childish and pathetic behavior.

The Coles County health department says that we have 40 new cases as of 3:30 pm. This changes totals to 2166 total positive cases with 16 hospitalized, 414 in recovery, 1696 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 35 male and 49 female for a total of 84 (3.9%), ages 10-19: 142 male and 166 female for a total of 308 (14.2%), ages 20-29: 253 male and 297 female for a total of 550 (25.4%), ages 30-39: 117 male and 127 female for a total of 244 (11.3%), ages 40-49: 113 male and 116 female for a total of 229 (10.6%), ages 50-59: 98 male and 141 female for a total of 239 (11.0%), ages 60-69: 109 male and 104 female for a total of 213 (9.8%), and ages 70+: 139 male and 160 female for a total of 299 (13.8%). Looking at a line chart, it appears cases in the county have started rapidly increasing since October 16th compared to the case counts from October 1st-15th.

Friday October 30, 2020

I bought my tickets to the virtual Halloween event tonight. Bette Midler is reuniting the original Hocus Pocus cast with some special guests (including Todrick Hall, Alex Brightman, and Meryl Streep) to help raise money for an organization that works to clean and support the ecosystem of New York. I think it will be fun and proceeds are going to a good cause so I can get behind that. My sister and her husband are going camping this weekend, so we are getting Rigby and Butters for the weekend. I'll admit I'm excited for animal snuggles. I miss snuggles. It reminds me of an article I read recently that hugging cows relieves stress. It's too bad that the farmer has taken his cows back, I could use some stress relieving cow hugs.

The Coles County health department says that we have 60 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 2226 total positives with 10 hospitalized, 353 in recovery, 1823 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 35 male and 50 female for a total of 85 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 144 male and 169 female for a total of 313 (14.1%), ages 20-29: 258 male and 304 female for a total of 562 (25.2%), ages 30-39: 119 male and 128 female for a total of 247 (11.1%), ages 40-49: 118 male and 120 female for a total of 238 (10.7%), ages 50-59: 102 male and 144 female for a total of 246 (11.1%), ages 60-69: 111 male and 110 female for a total of 221 (9.9%), and ages 70+: 143 male and 171 female for a total of 314 (14.1%). When at I look at these numbers, I can't help but notice the more distant gap between male and female in the 20-29 age range compared to the other age groups. I wonder why that is? My immediate thought is most of these kids are probably college students and women are a bit more social and touchier than men are so I'm wondering if that's why? Of

course, that's pure speculation. But, taking into the account the number of women I've seen post pictures on social media of them going out to eat with large groups of friends, it's not particularly surprising.

Saturday October 31, 2020

Happy Halloween! It is officially the last day of spooky season and we finish the month off with a blue moon. The crazies will be out in force. At least it's the weekend so kids don't have to be in school and it's not raining which feels like a rarity. Growing up, it didn't feel like Halloween if it wasn't raining and/or freezing.

I am very tired. I didn't get to bed until around midnight last night and then the dogs woke me up this morning around 5 am. Butters' is loud walking on the wood floors and he and Rigby get into fights over the bones. While I stayed in my room and tried to sleep until I finally gave up at 6:30, mom got up and was out with them at 5. Dad slept through the entire thing, didn't wake up until 7. As much as I love them, I don't think I can handle long term lodging. I'm not into being woken up and kept up early in the morning and them getting into everything. And I do not miss the dog hair on everything. I'll just need to get something to doesn't shed or has no hair. A sphinx cat might be fun, could put festive sweaters on it.

The Hocus Pocus event last night was very fun. I thought it was well put together considering the circumstances and it was fun to see all the different people involved. I think the highlight for me was watching Todrick's parts. I adore him, he's so charismatic, fun to watch, and so talented. It was awesome getting to see the original trio perform the iconic "I put a spell on you" number. It does make me a tad sad though to see how they've aged. Granted the original came out over 20 years ago but it's different to see these characters again but older. Although Kathy looks just the same as she did in the movie. Overall, I would say it was worth m 10 bucks and it is going to a worthy cause so I can support that.

I found out this morning watching an interview Neil DeGrasse Tyson did with Stephen Colbert that an asteroid the size of a refrigerator is going to brush past earth on Monday. He said there is something like a 0.5% chance it will make contact with earth and if it does, it will be smashed up in the atmosphere before it can do any damage. Still, an asteroid to come close to earth the day before election day... what else ya got 2020?

I've been seeing in the news that the region that includes Champaign county and Springfield has been moved back in the reopening plan because of the rapid increases in cases. Now indoor seating for bars and restaurants have been closed and everything is back to remote. As of now, that is the only region I've heard of being forced to go back to remote operations. We will see if any other regions join them. I also heard to the US breached the 9 million case mark a couple days ago. It honestly blows my mind that Trump keeps running his mouth that this will just go away and people believe him.... Gone by Easter...Open by summer... the man will get us all killed.

I couldn't find an update with today's numbers. I saw an article that on Friday, the US has its biggest case count in a single day yet, a little over 99,000 cases. Doctors say that it's only

going to get worse as we get into the cold season. I was really hoping we would've been able to get a handle on this while it was warm to keep case counts down in the winter, but it is abundantly clear that is not going to happen. At this point, my only goal is to make it through this without catching it.

Sunday November 1, 2020

Today is the first of November. We are 2 days away from the election. My nerves are completely fried. I'm just ready to have the answer; all this not knowing is killing me. At least the weather is nice. The high is somewhere in the low 60s but it's very windy today. The wind will probably take the rest of the leaves off the trees. At least I was able to finish spooky season off on a high note; I watched my favorite Halloween movie *Hocus Pocus*. It's such a good movie. On some sadder news, we learned yesterday that Sean Connery passed away. Connery is probably best known for his role for James Bond. This is a bit of surprise; Connery wasn't terribly old. My heart goes out to his family.

I also found out this morning the Boris Johnson put the UK back in lockdown as cases are spiking. Boris is, essentially, Britain's version of Trump, so it's not terribly surprising cases are spiking. But at least he's recognizing the problem and is putting things back in lockdown. That's quite a bit more than Trump who even now continues to say we need to open the country up completely and everything is fine.

The Coles county health department says we have 29 new cases as of 3:45 pm. This changes totals to 2262 total cases with 14 hospitalized, 385 active cases, 1823 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 35 male and 52 female for a total of 87 (3.8%), ages 10-19: 144 male and 171 female for a total of 315 (13.9%), ages 20-29: 259 male and 307 female for a total of 566 (25.0%), ages 30-39: 120 male and 132 female for a total of 252 (11.1%), ages 40-49: 122 male and 120 female for a total of 242 (10.7%), ages 50-59: 107 male and 148 female for a total of 255 (11.3%), ages 60-69: 111 male and 113 female for a total of 224 (9.9%), and ages 70+: 146 male and 177 female for a total of 321 (14.2%).

Tuesday November 3, 2020

Today is election day. Its only 8 o'clock and I'm already a nervous wreck and it appears that I'm not the only one. Cities around the country have been boarding up buildings and businesses expecting riots and protests to break out in the event of a certain outcome. The Champaign police department posted a memo on Facebook saying that they expected everything to be peaceful and they will not actively seek out people to hurt but will stop any and all violence that might break out. Granted this is only my second presidential election I have been able to vote in, but I don't remember anything like this ever happening growing up. There were protests in 2016, yes, but businesses didn't feel the need to board up to protect themselves and the police didn't need to send out notices about peaceful voting. I'll be up as late as I can tonight making notes on the election results as they come in. I don't know if my sanity can take 4 more years of this bigoted imbecile.

The US has hit a new record in case counts. We recently passed 230,000 deaths and sometime within the last couple of days, a new single day record was hit with a little over 100,000 cases. Part of this is due Trumps rallies in which people are crammed in tight spaces and no one is wearing a mask. Everywhere he's been there has been a massive spike in cases and not to mention the frostbite episode in Texas and the heat stroke episode in Florida. Stephen Colbert cited in his monologue a study from Stanford economist students who estimate that 18 Trump rallies have caused as least 30,000 cases and 700 deaths. This also comes on the heel of an episode in Texas over the weekend. A Biden-Harris bus was driving on the interstate when a group of Trump supports surrounded the bus and tried to run it off the road. Trump turned around and said in a rally that people got upset when his supporters were "escorting" the bus and people got mad. Yes, because running them off the road is being friendly. I also heard a couple days ago, Trump supporters shut down a bridge in New York by blocking all the traffic with their cars and standing in the road with flags and signs and all that. Law and order party huh? I'm not sure how it ended but I assume they were ordered to disband as I didn't hear about the bridge for longer than a few hours.

At this time I'm watching CBS news live coverage and Trump has taken Indiana. Biden is projected to win Ohio. In the battleground states like Pennsylvania and Florida are still neck in neck. Reports are some of these states aren't counting mail in ballots until today, so we won't know the true outcomes until later this week. Frankly this is frying my system. Trump has said over and over again that if he's ahead by the end of election night without all the votes being counted then he will declare victory and wants them to stop counting. That is extremely troublesome. It is now being called Trump has taken Kentucky. I'll be honest, I don't understand how anyone can vote for this man. It makes me angry on a deep level that he is able to carry any state. It is disgusting the level of which racism and bigotry is imbedded in our country. I have a feeling tomorrow I'm probably going to have to go on an unfriending spree on Facebook tomorrow. I refuse to be friendly with people that choose to discriminate against others. Crowds have gathered in front of the White House; I'm not sure if this is in protest or to celebrate? There's music and no one is chanting. I do see some people walking around with some signs, but I can't read them. Unfortunately, Mitch McConnell has won his race, the rat. I hope he drops dead from a heart attack. West Virginia is projected to go to Trump. It is projected that Trump will take Arkansas. It is projected Trump wins Tennessee. It is projected Trump is taking Oklahoma. It is projected white college women in Ohio are projected towards Biden, this is a 30-point difference from last year. There's been a problem in counting votes in Georgia. In Fulton county, they are working on the absentee ballots, but a water pipe burst in State Farm Arena so it's possible we won't know for a couple of days. This is Georgia's most populous county and very democratic in nature, so we won't know what's actually going on. Biden wins Delaware. Biden wins DC. As of 7:45 pm, Trump leads with 50% of the popular vote and Biden has 48% of the popular vote. Trump, however, carries the electoral college. As of 7:50, Biden carries Pennsylvania with 10% of the vote in. Biden wins Massachusetts. It is projected Biden wins Vermont. Biden is projected to win New Mexico. As of 8 pm, Michigan is projected to be leaning towards Biden. Also projected Biden wins New York state. This changes electoral seats to Biden leading by 5. As of now, Texas is tied with Biden having 49.6% and Trump 48.9%.

Alabama is sitting at 49% for Biden and 50% for Trump. Trump got another state now the electoral count is 49 Biden and 48 Trump. It is projected Biden wins New Jersey. As of 8:15, Biden is leading electoral votes with 80 and Trumps has 48. It is projected Trump wins South Dakota changing his electoral vote number to 51. Florida is leaning Trump by 3% with around 90% of the vote in. Biden is projected to win Maryland bringing his electoral votes to 89. Biden is projected winning Colorado. The news is saying that Trump might address the public tonight at 9 pm. As of 8:30, Trump is leading Michigan by a decent margin with about 18% of the vote in. I have to wonder at this moment if other people around the world are watching the election right now. I wonder what they think of us for every red state that pops up. It's no wonder they hate Americans. Trump is now sitting at 63 electoral college votes as he is projected to win North Dakota. As of 8:45 pm, the US senate is even for democratic seats and republican seats. Trump is projected to take Alabama. I saw the local news is projecting Biden wins Illinois. Biden is currently projected to take Connecticut. It is projected Trump wins South Carolina. As of 9:15, Texas is leaning towards Trump. Honestly, I shouldn't be surprised as its republican governor did everything, he could make voting harder and some republicans are trying to get mail-in votes thrown out for not being thrown out correctly. This year is going to break voting records as 101 Million+ have voted before election day and that's 70% of the total vote of 2016. It is 9:37 and Biden is projected winning New Hampshire. It is projected Arizona is leaning towards Biden. It has been projected Trump wins Utah. They keep showing Trump's picture with his stupid smiling face and all I can think about is how much I would love to punch his smug face.

It's now a little after 10 and I couldn't do it anymore with CBS. My nerves are shot and watching the numbers change in real time for the last few hours was getting to me. So, I have switched over to watch Trevor Noah's live feed on YouTube. I'll watch for a bit then probably go to bed. Unfortunately, I have to work tomorrow. I find his set very funny. There's toilet paper and hand sanitizer everywhere and there's decanters of some kind of liquor scattered about. If I drank, I would be drinking myself into a stupor right now. I think I'm honestly a little afraid to find out the results at least a probable result tomorrow. Like, before the results were in, there was this unknown variable in which a tiny sliver of hope for change could shine through. Knowing the results is a definite and I honestly don't know how I can handle a Trump win.

On November 2nd, the Coles County health department announced we had 23 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 2285 total cases with 15 hospitalized, 324 in recovery, 1906 recovered, and 40 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 36 male and 52 female for a total of 88 (3.9%), ages 10-19: 144 male and 171 female for a total of 315 (13.8%), ages 20-29: 261 male and 309 female for a total of 570 (24.9%), ages 30-39: 122 male and 135 female for a total of 257 (11.2%), ages 40-49: 125 male and 120 female for a total of 245 (10.7%), ages 50-59: 109 male and 149 female for a total of 258 (11.3%), ages 60-69: 114 male and 114 female for a total of 228 (10.0%), and ages 70+: 147 male and 177 female for a total of 324 (14.2%).

I couldn't find an update for today's case numbers from the Coles county health department.

Wednesday November 4, 2020

I made it about 11 pm last night before I couldn't do it anymore. I had an awful night of sleep. Tossed and turned, barely got any sleep because I was so anxious. All I could think about was the election. It is now 6:16 am and I am checking the results that we have so far. As of this moment votes are still being counted for 7 states. As of right now, Biden is leading with 238 electoral votes to Trump's 213 electoral votes. With 95% of the vote counted in Wisconsin, Biden is leading with 49.6% to Trump's 48.9%. Pennsylvania is leaning towards Trump with 64% of the vote counted; Trump has 55.7% of the vote and Biden has 43.1%. PA is also one of the states that did not start counting their mail in ballots until the day of and those votes are projected to be largely democratic in nature so it is entirely possible PA could shift the other way.... I hope. The senate is also tied at 47 seats a piece for the democrats and the Republicans. It's anyone's guess at this point who takes the majority of 51. The House is also leading Democratic with 188 to the Republicans 181. It's a tight race to see who reaches the majority. I'm going through and doing the math. If Trump takes all the states that he's currently leading in (PA, GA, MI, & NC), no matter the % of the votes counted, that would put him at 280 making him the winner. Biden is currently leading in WI and NV which would bring his total to 254. If Biden has a prayer of winning this, he needs to flip 2 or 3 states his direction. So, he either needs to flip PA and also take either MI, GA, or NC or he can lose PA but also has to win MI, GA, and NC. As of 6:30, NC has 94% of the vote counted with Trump at 50.1% and Biden at 48.7%. GA has 94% of the vote in with Trump leading with 50.5% and Biden at 48.3%. MI has 90% of the vote in and Trump is leading with 49.4% of the vote and Biden has 49.1%. At this moment, Biden leads the popular vote with 69,029,659 votes while Trump has 66,745,026. I fully don't understand why the electoral college is a thing. If they're supposed to serve the people, why can't the majority of people pick who it is? I think the republicans are afraid to get rid of it because they know if they do, the likelihood we will ever have a republican president goes down to almost nothing. Personally, I think they say more about the republicans. They're willing to go against what the people want just to retain power. I think they're fully aware that their way of thinking is backwards and out of date and are afraid of the new. It threatens their comfy lifestyles that serves them and people that look/think like them. It's pathetic and disgusting. Frankly it's very disheartening to know nearly 67 million people in the US think Trump's behavior is acceptable. The farther we get into this, the more I have the feeling Trump is going to win. The last time I felt this powerless was after the results were announced for the 2016 election.

Last night at 2 am, Trump declared victory in a speech from the white house in which he said the election is a fraud because counting didn't stop at midnight. He has declared he is taking it to the results to the Supreme Court so they will rule the election as a fraud. I don't know why people are surprised as we knew this was his plan. He's been saying this the last couple of months. He keeps saying that it's the law says that counting stops at midnight. That is completely false. No more votes can be cast past November 3rd but there is absolutely nothing that says counting stops at midnight on November 3rd. Pence was rambling about protecting people's right to vote is important; YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE PEOPLE'S VOTES AWAY!!!!!!!!!!!! I just, I can't take this.

It is now 9 o'clock at night, and I am allowing myself to feel a smidgen of hope. The Senate is tied 48 to 48. I think Republicans are currently claiming majority in the House. Biden only needs 17 more electoral votes. All he needs is Arizona and Nevada, both of which he is currently leading in. But it sounds like we won't have totals for either of those states until tomorrow. GA is power housing its way through the votes and Biden and Trump are less than 1% apart from each other and the suburbs (i.e. democratic strongholds) are still being counted. It is within reason that Biden could flip GA. GA says that they hope all vote numbers will be in by the end of the night. Of course, it's still possible for Trump to win if he takes GA, NC, AZ, NV, and PA. The margins in all these states are razor thin so it's possible for him to come from behind. He's already filed lawsuits in swing states to stop the counting of votes and is demanding recounts in Michigan. Sweet Lorde, I'm on my knees praying. We are this close, and I can't take 4 more years of Trump. I just can't.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 72 new cases as of 4pm. The new totals are 2387 total cases with 14 hospitalized, 421 active cases, 1906 recovered, and 46 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 39 male and 54 female for a total of 93 (3.9%), ages 10-19: 145 male and 176 female for a total of 321 (13.4%), ages 20-29: 268 male and 315 female for a total of 583 (24.4%), ages 30-39: 128 male and 144 female for a total of 272 (11.4%), ages 40-49: 126 male and 132 female for a total of 258 (10.8%), ages 50-59: 120 male and 156 female for a total of 276 (11.6%), ages 60-69: 122 male and 123 female for a total of 245 (10.3%), and ages 70+: 154 male and 185 female for a total of 339 (14.2%).

Thursday November 5, 2020

I'm feeling a bit more hopeful this morning. When I checked this morning at 6, a couple different new stations were calling Arizona for Biden putting him 6 away from the presidency. And at the moment things look hopeful in Nevada. Currently, we're scheduled to get the results from Nevada at noon today. As much as I want to believe things are going well, 2016 is lurking in the corner ready to pounce. I believed Clinton would win and now I'm hesitant to be bitten again. But just the fact Biden is able to come this close to Trump says something. It is nearly impossible to oust a sitting president running for reelection.

I had a conversation with a friend last night from high school. I found out she is a Trump supporter and truly believes that he can right the country. She is very nice and accepting of people that are different from her which is why her support for Trump was so unexpected. I think she supports him based on her religious beliefs. Trump has been able to corner the Evangelical support, I assume because of his stance on abortion, even though I highly suspect the man has never even read a portion of the bible. The man is incredibly amoral. I told her that while I would never agree to support Trump in any way, I respect her right to make her own decisions. She told me that a long-time friend of hers who belongs to the LGBTQ+ community cut off contact with her because she found my friend voted for Trump. Honestly, I can't say I blame that girl. I too believe that to support that man is to also to pass approval on his appalling behavior. Before I found this out, I told myself that I would cut contact with anyone who could support that germ. Now that I am confronted with it, I'm not sure what to do. I know

this friend and she is not outwardly hateful or abusive but to vote for him is an unsettling act. As of now, I don't know what I'm going to do.

The Coles County health department says that we have 52 new cases as of 6pm. This changes totals to 2439 total cases with 20 hospitalized, 395 in recovery, 1977 recovered, and 47 deceased.

Friday November 6, 2020

I am a mix of emotions this morning. When I checked the numbers this morning at 6:30, Biden had flipped GA and was leading by a little under 2,000 votes. Nearly all the votes have been counted, I believe I saw there are about 5,000 left, all from a largely democratic area and he's been getting on average 85% of the mail in votes. I fully thought 2 days ago that there was no way Biden could close the gap but here we are, with GA flipped and a great possibility he can claim it. Biden is still leading in AZ and NV as well as closing the gap in PA. I've never been so hopeful. Freedom is nearly an inch away. Trump supporters have been out protesting. In PA, their demanding for them to keep counting hoping Trump will pull ahead. In AZ, they're demanding they stop counting because Biden is ahead. They were even chanting "Fox News Sucks!" because the news station called AZ for Biden Tuesday night. It did warm my heart to see in Philly, a Trump protest had dwindled, and Biden supporters took over having a "Count Every Vote" dance party. But I am worried. Last night, Trump gave a speech (if you can call it that) from the white house briefing room in which he called the election a fraud, that the democrats were rigging it, and claiming there were oodles of illegal votes. There came a point where 4 different news stations cut his speech and refused to air it because it was lie after lie after lie about how the election is faulty. After all is said and done, CNN was the only one to air it in its entirety. I am very worried about how things will go if Biden wins. I wouldn't put it past Trump to refuse to leave the white house. I heard that secret service has upped security for Trump, preparing for any kind of outcome. No matter what happens, I foresee this ending in some kind of violence (probably incited by Trump voters as they are the ones with the secret militias, neo-Nazis, and KKK members).

It is now 10 am and I just saw a report that PA has announced Biden has pulled ahead in the votes flipping PA. They have said that they should have their final count done today so if Biden can keep his lead and win PA, this election is over.

I couldn't find an update from the Coles County health department with new case totals.

Saturday November 7, 2020

More good news this morning. Biden has maintained his lead in PA, NV, AZ, and GA into today. I heard that 1 news station has already called the election for Biden, but counting is still going on. I saw a report late yesterday that they discovered ballots sitting in the mail that were post marked by the 3rd so those still have to be counted. Thus far, all law-suits Trump's campaign has filed to get more people in the ballot counting places and stop counting have been dismissed by judges. This is multiple cases in multiple states, all dismissed. The race for Senate and House dominance is still up in the air. In Georgia, I think the senate seats tied so

they have to go into another race off. If democrats can win that seat, that makes it more likely the senate will be democrat dominated. I heard that the Biden campaign is prepping for a party but haven't declared formal victory yet. Several states had some form of drug legalization on their ballots and in every state, it was passed. Oregon decriminalized small amounts of all drugs and now people caught will have to pay fines or go to a free rehab center. This election we've also has a few members of openly LGBTQ+ community in government as well as the highest number of Native Americans have been elected to national government positions. I also heard that a dude that died from covid-19 in October during the race, won his election in one of the Carolinas, I think.

Tropical storm Eta has been decimating South America and is gradually working its way towards us. 100s of people are dead or missing. People have to be evacuated by air as towns experience massive flooding. Massive mudslides have buried homes. Forecasters say that the storm is weakening as it goes and is scheduled to hit Florida at some point. By the time it gets the states, I'll be surprised if Eta has much left in her after the trail of havoc behind her.

I heard the news about 15/20 minutes ago around 10:50, Biden has won! He has claimed PA which puts his total at 273. The Cheeto is gone! We have the first black woman vice president! I am overjoyed at this moment! The other swing states have not been called yet Biden is still carrying the other swing states. Canada's prime minister has already reached out to congratulate Biden. We are going back to the Paris Accords, we will be taking steps towards a greener planet, our allies won't hate us! This is a huge weight off my shoulders to know I don't have to listen to the obnoxious bigot. Trump's campaign has stated that Trump won't concede with their legal battle about "fraudulent votes" still ongoing, at least according to Rudy Giuliani. The news stations have made it very clear the next couple of months as Trump is going to keep pushing conspiracy theories and who knows what he might try to do to screw us all over in the last 2 months. I am fully prepared to spam my representatives and drive to Washington to camp out and demand congress does not let Trump run us into the ground while throwing a fit. I think what would make this better is if McConnell and Graham had also been kicked to the curb. I fully don't understand how these morons keep getting elected. With any luck, Democrats can also take the senate to take McConnell's power away. I think today I feel the best I have over the last 4 years. I hope Trump is dragged out of the white house; I hope they throw every case they possibly can at him and get him thrown in jail for years to come. This is a step in the right direction and I sincerely hope we won't end up taking steps backward. Also, a little icing on the cake, trumps chief of staff Meadows has tested positive for covid.

In this entirely singular and momentous occasion in history I am incredibly humbled. I saw a post that said Rosa sat so Ruby could walk and Ruby walked so Kamala could run. The Civil Rights movement wasn't even 100 years ago. Now we have a vice president of color. Not only that but we have a female vice president and this on the 100th anniversary of women winning the right to vote. I am incredibly emotional. I was 10 years old when Obama was elected in 2008 and at that point, I didn't understand the immensity of his election. I think back to march earlier this year when I was doing presentations for women's history month and there came a day when the last female democratic candidate was forced to drop out of the primaries.

I was sincerely disappointed and thought that once again we were stuck with the same old people in power. I was so happy when Biden announced Harris as his running mate and now what I feel is a bit indescribable to know that she's not just running anymore. She is the Vice-president elect. I was talking with one of my coworkers at work today about Sarah Bush Lincoln. She is seen as incredibly influential on Abraham and is one of the main reasons why he turned out the way he did. Yet, she couldn't vote. She had minimal rights as a woman. And yet she had so much influence. I have to wonder did she ever think this was possible to have a woman as vice president. I'm moved as a woman for the momentous achievement of this election, I can't imagine what women and young girls of color are feeling in this moment to see someone who looks like them as vice president. My heart is overflowing tonight. I saw videos of people cheering in the streets of Chicago, New York, and DC. You can hear the celebrations all the way from the tops of high rises. In Paris France, they rang church bells in celebration. When people heard the news, they ran out into the streets, yelled out their windows, and joined big parties in big cities to celebrate. It's like the nation has released a sigh of relief, an emotional release from an oppressive presence. A news caster brought up the famous picture of a sailor kissing a young lady in New York City Times Square on V day. I don't think I truly understood the sheer joy and release those people must have felt until this moment.

It is 7:30 pm my time, and Biden is giving a speech to officially announce their victory in the election. Harris began the introduction and I have to say I'm getting emotional listening to her speak. I know I'm not the only one as the camera guy likes to zoom in on the women crying in the audience. I haven't felt this hopeful, joyous, or patriotic for a very long time. I haven't been this hopeful for the future for a long time. Look at Joe jogging up that walkway. Much better than that loaf that needs help lifting a glass of water and walking down a ramp. I started crying just when Joe started talking. We have a competent president that speaks of hope and unity and working to perfect the imperfections. This is something I haven't had for the last 4 years. The feeling I have is indescribable right now. It almost feels unreal. We have a competent and caring president. The Nazi in chief is gone. In 2016, I was thinking to myself we just have to make it 4 years and work to ensure he doesn't get 4 more. Here we are and he doesn't get his 4 more. I'm filled with gratitude and I feel so blessed that we have been freed.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 34 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 2533 total cases with 17 hospitalized, 446 in recovery, 2023 recovered, and 47 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 45 male and 61 female for a total of 106 (4.2%), ages 10-19: 150 male and 183 female for a total of 333 (13.1%), ages 20-29: 282 male and 329 female for a total of 611 (24.1%), ages 30-39: 138 male and 159 female for a total of 297 (11.7%), ages 40-49: 138 male and 141 female for a total of 279 (11.0%), ages 50-59: 133 male and 165 female for a total of 298 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 131 male and 130 female for a total of 261 (10.3%), and ages 70+: 158 male and 190 female for a total of 348 (13.7%).

Sunday November 8, 2020

It was announced Alex Trebeck died today. I believe he was 80 years old and lost his battle with cancer.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 24 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 2557 total cases with 20 hospitalized, 466 in recovery, 2023 recovered, and 48 deceased. Case numbers in the county have been steadily rising since mid-October and don't show any indication of slowing down.

Tuesday November 10, 2020

Over the weekend, the US passed 10 million covid cases and the US also has the most cases out of any other country in the world. Thankfully, yesterday Biden announced his pandemic panel who would work to create plan to take effect on January 20th. We also heard that Pfizer announced they claim a vaccine in their trials proved 90% effective after 2 doses. Trials are still early and none of Pfizer's results have been peer tested or reviewed. There is still a lot about this vaccine that we don't know, but if it truly 90% effective against covid this could be a very good thing. As I heard one doctor explain, the flu vaccine is only about 60% effective so to have something be 90% effective is amazing. In the wake of Biden's win and the announcement of a possible vaccine, the stock market has shot up. Trump of course is claiming on twitter this is all because of the amazing things he's doing. The man is hiding in the white house and hasn't made any public appearances since he lost. His law cases are being dismissed because they have no evidence of any kind of fraud. Why can't he understand that the stock market is going up because people are hopeful now that he and his incompetence is leaving. To demonstrate that, 2 more people in the white house tested positive for covid, one of which was Ben Carson.

The Coles county health department posted a memo yesterday that on November 9th, we had 46 new cases as of 6pm. This changes totals to 2603 total cases with 23 hospitalized, 506 in recovery, 2023 recovered, and 51 deceased. For today (the 10th) the Coles County health department posted a memo that we have 60 new cases as of 10pm. This changes totals to 2663 total cases with 22 hospitalized, 563 in recovery, 2025 recovered, and 53 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 48 male and 64 female for a total of 112 (4.2%), ages 10-19: 156 male and 192 female for a total of 348 (13.1%), ages 20-29: 293 male and 342 female for a total of 635 (23.8%), ages 30-39: 150 male and 171 female for a total of 321 (12.1%), ages 40-49: 147 male and 144 female for a total of 291 (10.9%), ages 50-59: 143 male and 171 female for a total of 314 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 140 male and 139 female for a total of 279 (10.5%), and ages 70+: 167 male and 196 female for a total of 363 (13.6%).

Wednesday November 11, 2020

Some local election news. Pritzker's fair tax amendment failed miserably. The only county that passed it was Cook county and that was by about 65%. Every other county voted against. Statewide, it was about 55% against and 45% for. Pritzker has been complaining that it's the republican's and the negative ads' fault it didn't pass. I consider myself an independent with liberal leanings and I voted against it. I did research and read into the amendment and it was suspiciously vague. It also took out the bit of the previous amendment that prohibited them from passing more than 1 income tax. I agree with the sentiment that those who can

afford it should pay more to help pay for social services, but the legislation should reflect that. Nothing in the writing even remotely reflected that sentiment. If they want to pass legislation for this, they need to write a more specific and clear legislation.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 85 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 2748 total cases with 23 hospitalized, 615 in recovery, 2057 recovered, and 53 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 52 male and 68 female for a total of 120 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 162 male and 195 female for a total of 357 (13.0%), ages 20-29: 301 male and 353 female for a total of 654 (23.8%), ages 30-39: 151 male and 178 female for a total of 329 (12.0%), ages 40-49: 150 male and 149 female for a total of 299 (10.9%), ages 50-59: 147 male and 184 female for a total of 331 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 140 male and 142 female for a total of 282 (10.3%), and ages 70+: 176 male and 200 female for a total of 376 (13.7%).

Thursday November 12, 2020

This morning I almost hit a deer on my way to work. This buck, black sheen coat with 4 points, was running on the side of the road and darted out in front of me. Got about 3 feet away from the front of my car. Luckily, we both missed each other. I was able to slow in time and he jumped out the neighbor's wire fence.

I saw a clip from a news conference from Pritzker that Illinois is seeing its highest surges in cases from the start. Chicago has issued a stay-at-home advisory. Here, I've been seeing posts from the county health department urging people to not congregate for Thanksgiving. Currently the hospital has used up half of its covid supplies/ space.

Tropical Storm Eta made landfall yesterday and has caused some rather severe flooding. As of now, CBS says Eta is still moving north and still has some gusto.

On the Trump front, Mark Pompeo (I think he's the Sec. of State) made a comment yesterday when asked about a peaceful transfer of power at a press conference and if it would be an issue for national security. He said there would be a peaceful transfer to a second Trump term. His office later said that he was making a joke, but I don't buy it for a second. I watched the clip and nothing about his tone, body language, and words says joke. Not to mention it would be in incredibly poor taste not to mention unprofessional. I cannot express enough my irritation with Pompeo right now. Or basically any Trumpites right now. On a bit more of a positive note a department from the Trump administration that handled looking into voter fraud put out a statement that there is no voter fraud and that this was one of the most secure elections in US history. But going back to scary, news broke on Monday when Trump tweeted that he had fired Secretary of defense Mark Esper. The scum tweeted he fired a government official. To make things worse, he has removed more senior defense officials and replaced them with Trumpites which is trigger alarm at the Pentagon. Not just the Pentagon, but anyone with sense can see how alarming this is. Putting aside one of the new people is a guy who promotes conspiracy theories and thinks Obama is a terrorist, these are the moves of a dictator. It almost feels like he's prepping to have the people that will back him if he wants to use the military to

force his stay in the presidency. Currently there are rumors that he might fire CIA director Gina Haspel but there's been no word about any kind of concrete decisions.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 40 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 2788 total cases with 24 hospitalized, 584 active cases, 2128 recovered, and 53 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 52 male and 68 female for a total of 120 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 164 male and 197 female for a total of 361 (13.0%), ages 20-29: 304 male and 360 female for a total of 664 (23.8%), ages 30-39: 153 male and 184 female for a total of 337(12.0%), ages 40-49: 151 male and 150 female for a total of 301 (10.9%), ages 50-59: 149 male and 187 female for a total of 336 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 143 male and 145 female for a total of 288 (10.3%), and ages 70+: 178 male and 203 female for a total of 381 (13.7%).

Friday November 13, 2020

It is Friday the 13th. This is the last Friday the 13th of the year which is nice. Yesterday and today, I am binging Unus Annus episodes to make sure I catch all the fun ones. Unus Annus is a YouTube channel created by Ethan and Mark (Markiplier) in which they do a new video every day, and the channel is removed after 1 year. Today happens to be the last day of uploads and the channel gets removed tomorrow. It has basically been a bucket list and about living in the moment because nothing is infinite. Seems kind of fitting for this year. I will see it has been great to see these morons do stupid stuff and have genuine fun. I'll be a bit sad to see all the videos go tomorrow.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 61 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 2849 total cases with 19 hospitalized, 635 in recovery, 2141 recovered, and 54 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 55 male and 68 female for a total of 123, ages 10-19: 169 male and 200 female for a total of 369, ages 20-29: 309 male and 365 female for a total of 674, ages 30-39: 156 male and 193 female for a total of 349, ages 40-49: 152 male and 154 female for a total of 306, ages 50-59: 152 male and 191 female for a total of 343, ages 60-69: 147 male and 150 female for a total of 297, and ages 70+: 181 male and 206 female for a total of 387.

Saturday November 14, 2020

Unus Annus is officially gone. I have to admit that I'm a little sad to see it go. But I'm glad that I was here while it was around. It was unexpectedly deep, making me ponder the concept of time and the finality of things in this life. It's definitely made me think about trying new things and gaining new experiences because there will be an end. Leave it to a couple of Let's Players to make me emotional and have an existential crisis.

Today, Trump supporters have gathered in DC for the Million MAGA March. Something about protesting him losing the election. I fully don't understand these people. He lost; protesting won't change the results. I protested when Trump was elected, not to change the results but to make sure everyone knew how much I hated the man. I also don't understand

why people are donating to his funds to raise legal cases over election results. And it even says on the donation website that half of all donations goes towards paying off his campaign's debts and funding his RNC activities. All that money literally goes straight to Trump. Why would you continue to support a man that is literally taking your money and using it for his own personal needs? Trump has been talking about running again in 2024 but still refuses to concede. The news says today Trump has been bolstered by the march. I sincerely hope barely anyone shows up to it. People all over twitter have been telling people not to go out in counter-protest because the MAGA people are looking for confrontation. To go out would only be playing into their hands. I have to agree. Don't stoop to the level of the lowlife. As Michelle Obama says, "When they go low, you go high." I guess we will just have to wait and see how things turn out.

I saw today that a judge denied bail to the 2 men who killed Ahmaud Arbery. News broke that one of the men left a voicemail to the District Attorney asking him to call him and delete his social media accounts. Their lawyer is arguing that the case isn't about race and that he was defending his community, falling back on the citizen's arrest law. I also just learned they took a video of them shooting Ahmaud and it was disturbing. I no way do I believe after watching that that they were acting in self-defense. In no way do I believe after watching the video that Ahmaud was causing a threat jogging down the street. Nothing about their mentality says spur of the moment defensive action. Pairing the video with what we know from police reports and the judge's denial of bail because the video demonstrates that they pose a threat if they are free, I don't see this case going well for them. And rightly so. Vigilantly justice (in this case extremely flawed and racist vigilantly "justice") is not acceptable. We already have issues with the legal justice.

The Coles county health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 20 new cases as of 5:15pm. This changes totals to 2869 total cases with 16 hospitalized, 658 in recovery, 2141 recovered, and 54 deceased. I'm seeing more and more posts on social media urging people to not go places for Thanksgiving. Given the idiocy of the Republican county that we are in, I don't see people staying away from each other despite the fact cases have been rising rapidly. I saw on twitter we could be looking at half a million cases a day nationally come Christmas. Right next to it was a post about an Asiatic country having a large crowded outdoor event because they have had no domestic cases of covid in the last 200 days. It is troublesome the spot we're in and that 70 million people thought this idiot with no plan should've stayed in power. He is the reason we are in this mess in the first place because he refused to take action at the start of the year as soon as it became clear what this virus was capable of. I can't help but wonder if Hilary had won instead of Trump, if we would be in as much trouble as we are now?

Sunday November 15, 2020

Trump is on Twitter again. He tweeted that Biden won because the election was rigged. I think this is the closest we're going to get to a concession tweet. Honestly, I hope Trump doesn't go to Bidens inauguration. Let everyone see how incredibly childish this stain on the human race is. I don't want to his face again anyway.

Tropical storm Iota is approaching the states and is expected to be upgraded to a hurricane.

Yesterday was the MAGA march. Trump tweeted about the hundreds of thousands of people protesting the election results. His press secretary tweeted about how over 1 million people showed up. In actuality, the number was under 100,000. I saw on social media talking about how they caused a lot of damage and there were disturbances. I also saw on Twitter people talking about police should be protecting their right to peacefully protest for what they think but the police were not protecting them when they were protesting racial injustices. Sunday Today says that there were violent protests between pro- and anti-trump supporters and at least 20 people were arrested. Videos were circulating on social media and trump tweeted the DC's mayor and the police to do their job, calling the anti-trump protesters the "human radical left garbage." Politicians, the sane ones anyway, have been pushing uniting rhetoric. Trump continues to divide. Personally, I feel nothing but contempt for every person that attended that rally. My patience is running thin. I would never condone violence; it is a basic American right for people to protest. But I certainly don't blame the people who snapped and attacked people. It isn't right and it shouldn't happen, but the anger is understandable. The element Trump brings out and emboldens in terrifying.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook that we have 36 new cases as of 12:30pm. This changes totals to 2905 total cases with 20 hospitalized, 689 in recovery, 2142 recovered, and 53 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 56 male and 71 female for a total of 127 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 171 male and 204 female for a total of 375 (12.9%), ages 20-29: 313 male and 371 female for a total of 684 (23.5%), ages 30-39: 157 male and 200 female for a total of 357(12.3%), ages 40-49: 157 male and 155 female for a total of 312 (10.7%), ages 50-59: 156 male and 192 female for a total of 348 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 151 male and 156 female for a total of 307 (10.6%), and ages 70+: 184 male and 211 female for a total of 395 (13.6%).

Wednesday November 18, 2020

Lots of things have hit the news cycle today. Trump fired the person that was the head of the election task force because he said there wasn't any fraud in the election. He continues refusing to concede the election. I also learned that there are a number of legal cases waiting for Trump when he leaves office. He's been talking about pardoning himself but that's more or less a gray area. Nowhere in the constitution is he given that power and no one has tried it before. Personally, I hope he rots in prison. I watched a lawyer discuss the TED talk given by Van Jones and how it is incorrect. I feel much better after watching that. Unless some very extreme conditions are met, there is no way Trump will stay in office come January 20th. Biden has over 300 electoral votes and there is no legal case Trump can bring that will reverse the results.

Pritzker announced last night that new restrictions are being put in place. Museums, restaurants, and any indoor areas where large amount of people gather have been closed back down. Stores are being limited in their capacity. This isn't a full shut down, just more

restrictions are being put in place. At the cabin, the visitor's center is officially closed come Friday. Luckily, I am able to finish out my employment to the end of November. Instead of staffing the desk I'll now be helping to winterize the site and taking inventory. Not exactly as cushy as my desk job but hey, work is work. Money is money.

Hurricane Iota, ranked category 5, has hit Central/South America in the same spot as Eta. They just can't catch a break. 2020 has been a hellish year for everyone.

On Nov. 16th, we had 51 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 2956 total cases with 23 hospitalized, 734 in recovery, 2145 recovered, and 54 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 56 male and 75 female for a total of 131 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 173 male and 206 female for a total of 379 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 318 male and 373 female for a total of 691 (23.4%), ages 30-39: 160 male and 205 female for a total of 365 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 159 male and 158 female for a total of 317 (10.7%), ages 50-59: 158 male and 196 female for a total of 354 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 154 male and 160 female for a total of 314 (10.6%), and ages 70+: 187 male and 218 female for a total of 405 (13.7%). On the 17th, we had 35 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 2991 total cases with 26 hospitalized, 750 active cases, 2159 recovered, and 56 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 57 male and 75 female for a total of 132 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 173 male and 207 female for a total of 380 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 320 male and 377 female for a total of 697 (23.3%), ages 30-39: 161 male and 207 female for a total of 368 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 163 male and 159 female for a total of 322 (10.8%), ages 50-59: 160 male and 199 female for a total of 359 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 159 male and 162 female for a total of 321 (10.7%), and ages 70+: 189 male and 223 female for a total of 412 (13.8%). For today, the Coles county health department posted on Facebook that we have 52 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 3043 cases with 28 hospitalized, with 800 in recovery, 2159 recovered, and 56 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 58 male and 75 female for a total of 133 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 174 male and 212 female for a total of 386 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 322 male and 384 female for a total of 706 (23.2%), ages 30-39: 164 male and 215 female for a total of 379 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 170 male and 160 female for a total of 330 (10.8%), ages 50-59: 161 male and 203 female for a total of 364 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 163 male and 165 female for a total of 328 (10.8%), and ages 70+: 191 male and 226 female for a total of 417 (13.7%).

Thursday November 19, 2020

EIU has officially decided that they are going fully online post-Thanksgiving Break and are encouraging all students to go home. Campus will still be open for students to live on and dining halls open, but everyone is being encouraged to stay home if they can. As of now, they are planning to be back in person come the Spring semester. On some sadder news, I heard today that EIU's strength coach for the football team was found dead in his apartment on Monday. Reports say it was natural causes. The man was 30 years old. It's incredibly sad and unexpected. My heart goes out to his family and the football team.

Rudy Giuliani is back at his antics. In a Trump press conference today, Giuliani had some cheap hair dye in and as the press conference went on, it was literally dripping down his face.

On both sides. Just black streaks running down from the hairline in front of his ears. Part of me is like, why did no one tell him this was happening? The other part says thank goodness they didn't because the internet has been memeing him to the moon and back. It's extremely satisfying.

The battle for the senate continues. At this point, democrats control the House. Currently, the republicans hold the senate. The run-off races in Georgia for the 2 senate seats will determine if Biden will actually be able to do anything. If democrats win both of Georgia's seats, the senate will be tied. Then Harris, as vice president and head of the senate, will then break the tie. Any kind of agenda Biden wants to do depends on democrats winning. If they don't McConnell will be in charge and will block anything and everything. He outright admitted that's what he was doing with the Obama administration, he will do it again here.

Lindsey Graham is at it again. He asked Georgia's Secretary of State if legal votes from the counties with the most amount of signature issues could be thrown out. This man has no dignity. How did this scum get reelected?

The Coles county health department says that we have 55 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 3098 total cases with 22 hospitalized, 735 in recovery, 2284 recovered, and 57 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 62 male and 75 female for a total of 137 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 174 male and 213 female for a total of 387 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 328 male and 395 female for a total of 723 (23.2%), ages 30-39: 166 male and 217 female for a total of 383 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 173 male and 165 female for a total of 338 (10.9%), ages 50-59: 164 male and 207 female for a total of 371 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 169 male and 166 female for a total of 335 (10.8%), and ages 70+: 194 male and 230 female for a total of 424 (13.7%).

Saturday November 28, 2020

I haven't done an entry for the past week. As we got into the beginning as last week I started back into a funk where I didn't want to do anything, and I felt mentally fried. I needed some time off but now I feel more energized and ready to catch up on the events of the last week.

Two days ago, was Thanksgiving. We stayed home and each of us picked on thing we wanted to eat so my dad smoked a turkey, mom made stuffing, I made mashed potatoes, and I helped mom make lemon and pumpkin pie. Bro-in-law and my sister set up a Zoom room so that family could call in throughout the day to catch up. We were all doing our best to stay safe and stay away from each other. But other people weren't so responsible. I heard stories of airports filled up with people traveling for the holidays. Several people at work went and had thanksgiving with extended family. They make me nervous to be around, who knows what they picked up when in close quarters with other people. Reports say the case counts could be 8x higher than is currently reported so we will have to see in the coming weeks how it will affect the numbers.

Before Thanksgiving, the GSA finally started the transition process for Biden. More republicans have been stepping up saying that Biden has won and needs to be given access to resources he needs. Trump is still refusing to concede claiming voter fraud. Yesterday had went off on a reporter asking him if he would leave on election day, calling him rude and disrespectful. He said, "I'm the president of the united states, you can't talk to me like that." I can't help but think of Game of Thrones in this moment. There's a point where Joffrey is angry because he feels Tyrion disrespected him at a council meeting, and he screams "I am the King!" His grandfather Tywin responds, "Any man that must say 'I am the King' is no true king." Trump is a sad little brat throwing a tantrum as his toys are no longer amusing. He is losing his power. "A sad little king of a sad little hill" (River Tam, *Firefly*).

Trump issued a pardon to Michael Flynn who helped to cover involvement with Russia in 2016. Trump wished him to have a good life in a tweet. Democrats have been calling him out as this is an abuse of his power. It's pretty pathetic we've reached a point where the president of the United States can issue pardons to his friends that break the law for him, and no one can do anything about it. That power is supposed to be reserved for times when a person is convicted of something that is morally right but legally wrong (think convictions based on racism, sexism, etc.). This is a blatant abuse of this power and its incredibly disheartening to see what the presidency has become.

The supreme court has been active the last week. They passed down a decision this last week that it is unconstitutional to close houses of worship in covid restrictions. Decision 5-4, they said NYC can't close churches during a pandemic as it violates first amendment rights. One guess as to whom the swing vote was, Barrett the disgrace. The dissenting opinion was from Chief Justice Roberts who sided with the 3 liberal members. Congress is currently in a deadlock when it comes to passing more financial relief. I don't foresee anything happening from them until the new year.

AstraZeneca paired with Oxford and has announced that they have produced a vaccine as well. But there was a dosing error in their phase 3 trials and it's the accidental dosages has 90% efficacy. Frankly, it's amazing that 1 possible vaccine has above 90% efficacy. I find extremely suspicious we now have 3 companies claiming this.

On Friday Nov. 20th, we have 29 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes total to 3127 total cases, with 20 hospitalized, 748 in recovery, 2302 recovered, and 57 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 62 male and 75 female for a total of 137 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 177 male and 214 female for a total of 391 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 331 male and 398 female for a total of 729 (23.3%), ages 30-39: 167 male and 217 female for a total of 384 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 176 male and 170 female for a total of 346 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 167 male and 210 female for a total of 377 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 170 male and 166 female for a total of 336 (10.7%), and ages 70+: 195 male and 232 female for a total of 427 (13.7%). On Saturday Nov. 21st, we had 20 new cases as of 3 pm. This change totals to 3174 total cases with 21 hospitalized, 767 in recovery, 2302 recovered, and 57 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 62 male and 76 female for a total of 138 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 177

male and 214 female for a total of 391 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 331 male and 401 female for a total of 732 (23.3%), ages 30-39: 168 male and 219 female for a total of 387 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 178 male and 171 female for a total of 349 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 167 male and 213 female for a total of 380 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 170 male and 169 female for a total of 339 (10.8%), and ages 70+: 197 male and 234 female for a total of 431 (13.7%). On Sunday Nov. 22nd, we had 17 new cases as of 1:45 pm. This changes totals to 3164 total cases with 21 hospitalized, 780 in recovery, 2306 recovered, and 57 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 64 male and 78 female for a total of 142 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 177 male and 214 female for a total of 391 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 333 male and 402 female for a total of 735 (23.2%), ages 30-39: 169 male and 220 female for a total of 389 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 179 male and 172 female for a total of 351 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 167 male and 215 female for a total of 382 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 170 male and 173 female for a total of 343 (10.8%), and ages 70+: 197 male and 234 female for a total of 431 (13.6%).

On Monday Nov. 23rd, we had 51 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 3215 total cases with 15 hospitalized, 834 in recovery, 2308 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 64 male and 79 female for a total of 143 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 177 male and 221 female for a total of 398 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 342 male and 408 female for a total of 750 (23.3%), ages 30-39: 170 male and 222 female for a total of 392 (12.2%), ages 40-49: 185 male and 172 female for a total of 357 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 171 male and 218 female for a total of 389 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 173 male and 175 female for a total of 348 (10.8%), and ages 70+: 201 male and 237 female for a total of 438 (13.6%). On Tuesday Nov. 24th, we had 39 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 3254 total cases with 14 hospitalized, 805 in recovery, 2377 recovered, and 58 deceased. On Nov. 25th, we had 65 new cases as of 3:30 pm. This changes totals to 3319 total cases with 14 hospitalized, 859 in recovery, 2388 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 65 male and 81 female for a total of 146 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 184 male and 228 female for a total of 412 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 349 male and 418 female for a total of 767 (23.1%), ages 30-39: 175 male and 226 female for a total of 401 (12.1%), ages 40-49: 189 male and 180 female for a total of 369 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 175 male and 225 female for a total of 400 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 184 male and 183 female for a total of 367 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 209 male and 248 female for a total of 457 (13.8%). I couldn't find an update for Nov. 26th. For Friday Nov 27th, we had 46 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 3365 total cases with 19 hospitalized, 900 in recovery, 2388 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 67 male and 81 female for a total of 148 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 186 male and 232 female for a total of 418 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 350 male and 422 female for a total of 772 (22.9%), ages 30-39: 177 male and 229 female for a total of 406 (12.1%), ages 40-49: 191 male and 187 female for a total of 378 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 177 male and 229 female for a total of 406 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 187 male and 186 female for a total of 373 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 212 male and 252 female for a total of 464 (13.8%).

For today, the Coles County health department says that we have 18 new cases as of 2pm. This changes totals to 3383 total cases with 18 hospitalized, 902 in recovery, 2405 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 68 male and 82 female for

a total of 150 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 186 male and 232 female for a total of 418 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 351 male and 423 female for a total of 774 (22.9%), ages 30-39: 181 male and 231 female for a total of 412 (12.1%), ages 40-49: 191 male and 188 female for a total of 379 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 180 male and 229 female for a total of 409 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 188 male and 187 female for a total of 375 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 212 male and 254 female for a total of 466 (13.8%).

Sunday November 29, 2020

Last week an Iranian nuclear scientist was assassinated and in the last couple days Iran has declared they will hunt down and punish whoever is responsible (They suspect Iraq to be behind it). Tensions are building and no one actually knows who was behind it yet. This could prove to make diplomatic relations very sticky. I sincerely hope it wasn't a US group behind it as that would've been an incredibly stupid thing to do.

The US is losing its mind over a 10-foot monolith that was found in Utah last week. A helicopter passing overhead spotted the metal monolith in the desert and people aren't sure how it got there or who put it up. Alien conspirators are losing their minds. Didn't help things that news broke today that the monolith is now gone and replaced with a pile of rocks. Some theories say that the piece is a prop for movies and was being left there until it was needed. My opinion, this is some kind of publicity stunt. Someone is trying to mess with alien believers. Or if it is a movie prop, then the people sent to collect thought it would be funny to mess with people by leaving a pile of rocks.

I've noticed more and more Trump signs are being taken down. I think people are finally beginning to realize the reality of the situation. I noticed today the Trump flag I wanted to burn was finally removed and I would be lying if I said I didn't feel a small amount of satisfaction. My next-door neighbors still have their Trump sign up. Not entirely surprising since these are also the same people that allow their children to scream in the back yard late into the night and let their dogs bark incessantly.

The Coles county health department says that we have 14 new cases as of 12pm. This changes totals 3397 total cases with 17 hospitalized, 901 in recovery, 2421 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 68 male and 82 female for a total of 150 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 187 male and 233 female for a total of 420 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 353 male and 424 female for a total of 777 (22.9%), ages 30-39: 181 male and 231 female for a total of 412 (12.1%), ages 40-49: 192 male and 189 female for a total of 381 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 182 male and 230 female for a total of 412 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 189 male and 188 female for a total of 377 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 213 male and 255 female for a total of 468 (13.8%).

Wednesday December 2, 2020

Pfizer announced today that the UK has officially signed their vaccine off for mass production and administration. All these vaccines make me nervous. That was fast for the vaccine to be peer reviewed and tested. I am worried that in their haste to get a public vaccine

that they're only going to hurt people. Public officials are urging people to continue social distancing and wearing masks. Just because a vaccine is out there doesn't mean the virus is suddenly gone.

A Georgia election official went off during a press conference yesterday I believe. A 20-year-old employed by the voting office received death threats and found a noose with his name on it. This gentleman was not the only one involved in the vote counting to receive death threats and threats of violence. In the press conference, he called on Trump to tell his supporters to stop the violence and stop the death threats. It is unacceptable and it needs to stop. People on social media, Twitter in particular are hailing this as a significant moment. This election official is Republican and publicly called out and condemned Trump for his behavior. I feel for the people just trying to do their jobs in Georgia. They don't deserve to be treated that way for just doing their jobs. It's horrible. Violence inspired by a horrible man.

On Monday Nov. 30th, the Coles county health department posted that we had 49 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 3446 total cases with 17 hospitalized, 950 in recovery, 2421 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 69 male and 83 female for a total of 152 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 189 male and 236 female for a total of 425 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 357 male and 432 female for a total of 789 (22.9%), ages 30-39: 185 male and 236 female for a total of 421 (12.2%), ages 40-49: 195 male and 190 female for a total of 385 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 186 male and 234 female for a total of 420 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 189 male and 194 female for a total of 383 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 215 male and 256 female for a total of 471 (13.7%). On Tuesday December 1st, we had 35 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 3481 total cases with 20 hospitalized, 906 in recovery, 2497 recovered, and 58 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 69 male and 83 female for a total of 152 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 191 male and 238 female for a total of 429 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 358 male and 436 female for a total of 794 (22.8%), ages 30-39: 188 male and 240 female for a total of 428 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 196 male and 192 female for a total of 388 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 187 male and 235 female for a total of 422 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 190 male and 198 female for a total of 388 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 220 male and 260 female for a total of 480 (13.8%).

For today, the Coles county health department says that today we have 43 new cases as of 4pm. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 70 male and 83 female for a total of 153 (4.3%), ages 10-19: 193 male and 241 female for a total of 434 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 361 male and 440 female for a total of 801 (22.7%), ages 30-39: 189 male and 244 female for a total of 433 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 197 male and 194 female for a total of 391 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 189 male and 240 female for a total of 429 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 193 male and 203 female for a total of 396 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 222 male and 265 female for a total of 487 (13.8%).

Friday December 4, 2020

Yesterday, Clinton, Bush, and Obama all said that they would be willing to take the vaccine on tv to instill public confidence in it. Regardless of what they say, I'm not taking it until

I get a 100% ok from Fauci. No offense to them, but I trust a doctor over a politician in these matters.

Wildfires have broken back out on the West Coast. From what I hear, these aren't as big as the fires from earlier this year, but they are still being difficult to control.

After the mysterious monolith in Utah disappeared, others have pooped up around the world. I saw a report this morning that the 3rd one had been spotted somewhere in Europe.

I saw a ruling a couple hours ago that a judge is forcing Trump to allow DACA to function properly. He tried to destroy it earlier this year because he's a xenophobic piece of trash. Goodness knows what else Trump is going to sabotage in his temper tantrum before he leaves office.

The Coles County health department posted a memo on Facebook on Thursday the 3rd that we have 31 new cases as of 1:15 pm. This changes totals to 3555 total cases with 16 hospitalized, 981 in recovery, 2497 recovered, and 61 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 71 male and 83 female for a total of 154 (4.3%), ages 10-19: 199 male and 243 female for a total of 442 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 363 male and 442 female for a total of 805 (22.6%), ages 30-39: 189 male and 245 female for a total of 434 (12.2%), ages 40-49: 199 male and 197 female for a total of 396 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 193 male and 241 female for a total of 434 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 194 male and 204 female for a total of 398 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 225 male and 267 female for a total of 492 (13.8%). For today we have 37 new cases as of 2:15pm. This changes totals to 3592 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 1024 in recovery, 2497 recovered, and 61 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 72 male and 85 female for a total of 157 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 203 male and 247 female for a total of 450 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 367 male and 448 female for a total of 815 (22.7%), ages 30-39: 193 male and 247 female for a total of 440 (12.2%), ages 40-49: 202 male and 197 female for a total of 399 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 194 male and 242 female for a total of 436 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 196 male and 204 female for a total of 400 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 225 male and 270 female for a total of 495 (13.8%). I saw a report on the news that Illinois is regularly breaking its daily record case count. Things now are way worse than they were back in March. We're going back into lockdown at home. We are limiting how much we go out and our contact with fast food people. We've also gone back to our 2-week shopping schedule, so we only go to the store about twice a month.

Sunday December 6, 2020

It was announced this afternoon that Rudy Giuliani has tested positive for covid. Frankly, good riddance. Although he was recently at the voter fraud hearings that have gone viral and none of them were wearing masks. Who knows who he gave it to?

The voter fraud hearings are still continuing. Trump has lost all but one of his suits. The one that won was to get his party's people to move forward a little bit at the voting counting place. Judges have called their cases some of the weakest they've ever seen.

Protests and riots have been happening in Paris.

As for covid, the US is seeing an increase in hospitalizations in 40 states. Luckily, Illinois is not one of them. 3 in 10 ICUs across the nation report at least 80% capacity according to a Good Morning America. Several states including California are passing new shutdowns, but local government and police are pushing back, refusing to shut down or restrict. US death count has passed 280,000. That is expected to rise as soon as cases begin to present due to holiday get-togethers and traveling. Over the last 5 days, the US has seen over 1 million new cases added to the total. My grandma called today and told us that a couple of my grandpa's siblings have tested positive for covid. At this point, it sounds like they're doing alright. One was put in the hospital, but it sounds like she was taken off breathing assistance which I take as a good thing.

On Saturday the 5th, the Coles county health department said we have 24 new cases as of 1 pm. This changes totals to 3616 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 1048 in recovery, 2497 recovered, and 61 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 72 male and 88 female for a total of 160 (4.4%), ages 10-19: 205 male and 249 female for a total of 454 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 367 male and 448 female for a total of 815 (22.5%), ages 30-39: 195 male and 248 female for a total of 443 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 203 male and 199 female for a total of 402 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 194 male and 245 female for a total of 439 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 198 male and 206 female for a total of 404 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 226 male and 273 female for a total of 499 (13.8%). For today we have 25 new cases as of 1:45 pm. This changes totals to 3641 total cases with 13 hospitalized, 1070 in recovery, 2497 recovered and 61 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 73 male and 90 female for a total of 163 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 207 male and 251 female for a total of 458 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 368 male and 450 female for a total of 818 (22.5%), ages 30-39: 196 male and 251 female for a total of 447 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 204 male and 200 female for a total of 404 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 195 male and 246 female for a total of 441 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 200 male and 207 female for a total of 407 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 229 male and 274 female for a total of 503 (13.8%).

Tuesday December 8, 2020

Some news. The supreme court rejects the GOP bid to overturn the results of PA in the election. Still beating a dead horse and he keeps losing repeatedly.

In Europe they officially gave out the first covid vaccine. This seems to mark the beginning of a mass roll out of the vaccine. FDA officially came out this evening and said that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and approved for mass use. That makes me feel a little bit better about it. Trump is claiming victory for the vaccine like he had something to do with it. And this in the wake of it becoming public that Trump refused to buy a mass number of vaccines when Pfizer offered. He only bought 50 million. I've of mixed opinions on this. When they offered, things were still uncertain so I would rather error on the side of caution. But he is the President and has more access to info than I do and top experts. Surely, they must know something more about it. But then Trump turned around and tried denying that he denied buying a mass

number of vaccines which Pfizer directly contradicted. I think Trump tried to arrange a vaccine summit at the white house, I assume to buy more vaccines and play the hero, but Pfizer refused. I suppose we will have to wait and see how things turn out.

The Coles county health department said that on Monday the 7th, we had 20 new cases as of 4pm. This changes totals to 3661 total cases with 13 hospitalized, 208 in recovery, 3304 recovered, and 64 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 74 male and 91 female for a total of 165 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 208 male and 252 female for a total of 460 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 369 male and 453 female for a total of 822 (22.5%), ages 30-39: 197 male and 253 female for a total of 450 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 207 male and 202 female for a total of 409 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 195 male and 246 female for a total of 441 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 201 male and 207 female for a total of 408 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 230 male and 276 female for a total of 506 (13.8%). For today we have 14 new cases as of 4pm. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 74 male and 91 female for a total of 165 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 208 male and 252 female for a total of 460 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 370 male and 454 female for a total of 824 (22.4%), ages 30-39: 199 male and 254 female for a total of 453 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 208 male and 203 female for a total of 411 (11.2%), ages 50-59: 196 male and 247 female for a total of 443 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 201 male and 208 female for a total of 409 (11.1%), and ages 70+: 232 male and 278 female for a total of 510 (13.9%). The daily test positivity result is 8.1% with 7-day rolling average of 9.0%. In the US, we've had 15,000 deaths last week. As of today, the total national death count sits at 285,643.

Friday December 11, 2020

In the wake of rising cases, several states have been introducing new measures. Virginia has started a 7-week curfew. NYC is closing indoor restaurants. Last I heard, congress was debating passing new relief funds, but I haven't heard if it's been successful yet. In the Champaign- Urbana area I think they've reinstated shutdowns of restaurants and they are cracking down. Two restaurants refused to close indoor service, so they pulled their food permits. I think that's a good choice. They can still serve food, but they shouldn't be so flippant with the health and safety of their customers.

On Wednesday the 9th, the Coles county health department says that we had 34 new cases by 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 3709 total cases with 18 hospitalized, 194 in recovery, 3433 recovered, and 64 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 75 male and 93 female for a total of 168 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 208 male and 254 female for a total of 462 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 373 male and 460 female for a total of 833 (22.5%), ages 30-39: 201 male and 256 female for a total of 457 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 209 male and 204 female for a total of 413 (11.1%), ages 50-59: 197 male and 247 female for a total of 444 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 201 male and 214 female for a total of 415 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 234 male and 283 female for a total of 517 (13.9%). On Thursday the 10th, we had 31 new cases as of 1:45pm. This changes totals to 3740 total cases with 20 hospitalized, 222 in recovery, 3433 recovered, and 65 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 77 male and 93 female for a total of 170 (4.5%), ages 10-19: 210 male and 255 female for a total of 465 (12.4%), ages 20-

29: 375 male and 461 female for a total of 836 (22.4%), ages 30-39: 202 male and 258 female for a total of 460 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 213 male and 208 female for a total of 421 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 198 male and 251 female for a total of 449 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 203 male and 216 female for a total of 419 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 235 male and 285 female for a total of 520 (13.9%).

For today, we have 102 new cases as of 5pm. This changes totals to 3842 total cases with 22 hospitalized, 291 in recovery, 3464 recovered, and 65 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 81 male and 99 female for a total of 180 (4.7%), ages 10-19: 213 male and 258 female for a total of 471 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 388 male and 468 female for a total of 856 (22.3%), ages 30-39: 209 male and 267 female for a total of 476 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 221 male and 215 female for a total of 436 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 200 male and 256 female for a total of 456 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 209 male and 223 female for a total of 432 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 241 male and 294 female for a total of 535 (13.9%). The daily positivity rate is 9.6%. The 7-day rolling average is 8.4%. I believe we are starting to see the aftermath of poor choices made during Thanksgiving.

Sunday December 13, 2020

I was going to do an entry last night, but I needed to calm down I was so furious. The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by a Joseph Epstein. A little background on Joseph. He has a bachelor's degree and taught for years at Northwestern University and has an honorary doctorate. His op-ed was directed at Dr. Jill Biden telling her that because her doctorate was in education, she should drop the "Dr." as she isn't a medical doctor. His article more or less implied she didn't earn the title of Dr. He also was incredibly disrespectful by calling her by her first name and "kiddo." I was beyond angry when I read his article. It is sexist and misogynistic to the extreme. This is a reflection of how men are intimidated by educated women and lash out to degrade them. It is disgraceful. This is all the more disgusting coming from someone that worked with women who had earned their doctorates first-hand. It is comforting to see the negative reaction to the article on twitter. Women have been adding "Dr." to their twitter handles to stand in solidarity with Dr. Biden. Someone made a t-shirt that says, "That's Dr. Biden to you, sir." It sold thousands within the first hour. The New York Times published an article about the negative reaction pointing out the sexist nature of the article. Personally, I hope Joseph gets what coming to him and WSJ should retract the article and issue an apology. That kind of abusive language is unacceptable.

Yesterday, Trumpites gathered in DC to protest the 2020 election results. Not sure how many showed up, but I would say under 10,000. Marine One did a fly over during the protest as a show of Trump's support of the protesters. I've heard some reports that some Trumpite lawmakers have started suggesting succession. I've also heard some reports that people fighting to overturn the election results could constitute a crime. Trump's team has exhausted every option open to them and the Supreme court shot it down so to continue pushing would be in violation of that ruling. The cult of Trump makes me very nervous. It's honestly pathetic that the GOP would start a civil war to retain a lowlife like Trump in office.

An article went up this morning that the first official truck with vaccines has left the Pfizer factory in the US. This is supposed to be the start of mass vaccinations. We will have to see what this means in the long run for employees and businesses. As far as I know, essential workers are the first to receive the vaccine so it's more or less a guess as to how long it will be before the general public can have access to it.

On Saturday the 12th, the Coles county health department said that we had 9 new cases as of 11:45am. This changes totals to 3851 total cases with 16 hospitalized, 305 in recovery, 3464 recovered, and 66 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 81 male and 100 female for a total of 181 (4.7%), ages 10-19: 214 male and 259 female for a total of 473 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 388 male and 468 female for a total of 856 (22.2%), ages 30-39: 212 male and 267 female for a total of 479 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 223 male and 216 female for a total of 439 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 200 male and 256 female for a total of 456 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 209 male and 223 female for a total of 432 (11.2%), and ages 70+: 241 male and 294 female for a total of 535 (13.9%). Today we have 13 new cases as of 12:45pm. This changes totals to 3864 total cases with 13 hospitalized, 283 in recovery, 2502 recovered, and 66 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 83 male and 100 female for a total of 183 (4.7%), ages 10-19: 216 male and 260 female for a total of 476 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 389 male and 468 female for a total of 857 (22.2%), ages 30-39: 212 male and 268 female for a total of 480 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 224 male and 216 female for a total of 440 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 201 male and 256 female for a total of 457 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 210 male and 225 female for a total of 435 (11.3%), and ages 70+: 241 male and 295 female for a total of 536 (13.9%).

Friday December 18, 2020

I have been very busy this past week prepping for Christmas. I've been putting together boxes for Bro-in-law's Christmas present, and I have been helping my friend with her Christmas shopping. I bought the cats some cat toys, trying to get them used to being close to people, associate us with good things. Jitterbug loved it so much she stole it from the kitchen and took it to whatever hidey hole she curls up in at night. I guess it good thing she loves it. A bit of a pain that she took it. I must admit they are growing on me.

Some events from the past week. 2 days ago, the first people to receive the covid vaccine in Illinois were doctors from Carle. One of which was the father of one of my coworkers from work. 2 days ago, Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital received the first shipment of the vaccine. As of this morning, 288 doses had been administered in Coles county. We were picked as one of the first counties to receive vaccines because our high death numbers. They are prioritizing which groups receive it first, but they say after that, the vaccine will be available publicly. Either today or yesterday, Pence received the vaccine publicly and televised. Frankly, he makes me angry. This man who was in charge of covid response and did jack garbage to help people and prevent it then turns around and receives the vaccine as if he's the shining example of doing the right thing. Can't stand him. Speaking of people, I can't stand; Bill Barr has announced that he is resigning. Good riddance to him. Trump still refuses to say, "he lost." Instead, he's starting to say that "he didn't win," and as long as he doesn't say "lost" it's like he didn't lose. Whatever

logic that is. But he is back at it telling aids that he will refuse to leave the white house come inauguration day. I would pay to see him dragged out by his ankles. Biden is hitting headlines as he has tapped recently elected Rep. Haaland from NM to be Secretary of the interior. She will be the first Native American to hold this position and this is incredibly important. I find it comforting that more minority voices are being valued and brought to light. The government has looked and sounded the same for far too long. Speaking of a useless government, we are again looking at a national government shut down as they have midnight deadline coming up. A new spending plan for the new year needs to be passed but included in that is \$900 billion devoted to covid relief. Republicans are refusing to pass the plan because they don't want to put that much money towards relief. So, if congress can't work something out, we will go into a shut down because they can't pass a spending plan. This is ridiculous. I firmly believe these representatives have been too long removed from the people they supposedly represent. Far too concerned with their self-interests and party interests, not enough concern for the people that gave them authority.

On Monday the 14th, we had 49 new cases as of 8 pm. This changes totals to 3913 total cases with 16 hospitalized, 329 in recovery, 2502 recovered, and 66 deceased. The daily positive rate is 11.8% with a rolling 7-day positivity rate of 8.7%. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 86 male and 101 female for a total of 187 (4.8%), ages 10-19: 220 male and 262 female for a total of 482 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 394 male and 470 female for a total of 864 (22.1%), ages 30-39: 214 male and 270 female for a total of 484 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 230 male and 218 female for a total of 448 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 204 male and 257 female for a total of 461 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 214 male and 228 female for a total of 442 (11.3%), and ages 70+: 244 male and 301 female for a total of 545 (13.9%). On Tuesday the 15th, we had 27 new cases as of 2:45 pm. This changes totals to 3940 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 297 in recovery, 3568 recovered, and 66 deceased. The daily positivity rate is 10.3% with 7-day rolling average rate of 8.8%. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 89 male and 105 female for a total of 194 (4.9%), ages 10-19: 221 male and 264 female for a total of 485 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 395 male and 475 female for a total of 870 (22.1%), ages 30-39: 215 male and 272 female for a total of 487 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 233 male and 218 female for a total of 451 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 204 male and 259 female for a total of 463 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 215 male and 230 female for a total of 445 (11.3%), and ages 70+: 244 male and 301 female for a total of 545 (13.8%). On Wednesday the 16th we had 51 new cases as of 5:45pm. This changes totals to 3991 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 346 in recovery, 3568 recovered, and 66 deceased. The daily positivity rate is 2.4% with a 7-day rolling average rate of 7.9%. On Thursday the 17th we had 39 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 4030 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 384 in recovery, 3568 recovered, and 67 deceased. The daily positivity rate is 10.9% with a 7-day rolling average rate of 8.3%.

For today, the Coles county health department posted that we have 25 new cases as of 2 pm. This changes totals to 4055 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 411 in recovery, 3568 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 97 male and 109 female for a total of 206 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 224 male and 269 female for a total of 493 (12.2%), ages 20-29: 403 male and 489 female for a total of 892 (22.0%), ages 30-39: 224

male and 278 female for a total of 502 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 238 male and 223 female for a total of 461 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 213 male and 264 female for a total of 477 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 225 male and 236 female for a total of 461 (11.4%), and ages 70+: 252 male and 311 female for a total of 563 (13.9%). The state reports that Coles county has 3936 total cases with 67 deaths. Statewide, they report we have 886,805 total cases with 15,015 deaths and 1,191 probable covid deaths. 12,259,595 total tests have been performed and the recovery rate is at 98%. The US has passed 300,000 deaths nationally, sitting at about 313,588 deaths according to John Hopkins. Case count for the US is about 17,459,296. The country falling in the number 2 position is India with 10,004,599 cases. The US response has been an embarrassment. But what can you expect when an embarrassment calls himself president?

Thursday December 24, 2020

I have been busy getting things together for Christmas, so I took a step back from the news. I came back to a storm of idiocy. Congress agreed to pass the bill to give \$600 in covid relief. Then Trump came in and said no, it should be \$2000! Democrats were like yes, let's do \$2000! The GOP found their spines at the worst time and shot it down today refusing to upgrade the \$600 to \$2000. And of course, while Congress is duking it out, Trump is on the golf course. Where else would that moron be. I fully don't understand republicans. But I'm hearing rumors that republicans choosing to do this has more or less shot them in the foot when it comes to the GA elections. Thus far, reports say a high number of people who didn't vote in the presidential election have voted early for this one and appear to lean more democratic in nature.

Trump is once again abusing his power and I can't say I didn't expect this. He has been going off on a pardoning frenzy. As of today, he has pardoned Roger Stone, Paul Manafort, Charles Kushner (father of his son-in-law), Margaret Hunter, among 22 others. Trump is using his last few days in office to get his buddies off while he can. NBC news says that many more pardons are coming. It is incredibly disturbing and upsetting to see his misuse of power and knowing that no one can stop him. These rich people with their high society friends get off charges and it's disgusting. As of date, Trump has issued more than 40 pardons in his 4 years.

On Tuesday we had a rare astrological event. Jupiter and Saturn were the closest to each other they've been in 400 years. It's called "The Christmas Star." Some really awesome pictures have been circulating of the two planets next to each other. It is beautiful to see Saturn and its rings so close to Jupiter. Unfortunately, I didn't find out this was a thing until the next day and we've had cloud cover and rain the last couple of days. But at least I can enjoy the pictures.

On Saturday December 19th, the Coles county health department reported that we had 32 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 4087 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 286 in recovery, 3722 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 97 male and 111 female for a total of 208 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 224 male and 270 female for a total of 494 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 405 male and 491 female for a total of 896 (21.9%), ages 30-39: 225 male and 280 female for a total of 505 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 238 male and 225

female for a total of 463 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 218 male and 270 female for a total of 488 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 228 male and 238 female for a total of 466 (11.4%), and ages 70+: 252 male and 315 female for a total of 563 (13.9%). On Sunday the 20th, we had 37 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 4124 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 310 recovering, 3734 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 99 male and 112 female for a total of 211 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 224 male and 271 female for a total of 495 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 405 male and 495 female for a total of 900 (21.8%), ages 30-39: 227 male and 282 female for a total of 509 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 241 male and 226 female for a total of 467 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 223 male and 275 female for a total of 498 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 231 male and 241 female for a total of 472 (11.4%), and ages 70+: 254 male and 318 female for a total of 572 (13.9%). On Monday the 21st, we had 29 new cases as of 2:30 pm. This changes totals to 4153 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 297 recovering, 3779 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 99 male and 112 female for a total of 211 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 224 male and 271 female for a total of 495 (11.9%), ages 20-29: 408 male and 502 female for a total of 910 (21.9%), ages 30-39: 229 male and 284 female for a total of 513 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 244 male and 229 female for a total of 473 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 223 male and 276 female for a total of 499 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 232 male and 242 female for a total of 474 (11.4%), and ages 70+: 258 male and 320 female for a total of 578 (13.9%).

On Tuesday the 22nd, we had 33 new cases as of 3:15 pm. This changes totals to 4186 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 293 recovering, 3816 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 99 male and 114 female for a total of 213 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 225 male and 272 female for a total of 497 (11.9%), ages 20-29: 412 male and 506 female for a total of 918 (21.9%), ages 30-39: 233 male and 284 female for a total of 517 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 245 male and 232 female for a total of 477 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 223 male and 280 female for a total of 503 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 235 male and 246 female for a total of 481 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 259 male and 321 female for a total of 580 (13.9%). On Wednesday the 23rd, we had 69 new cases as of 3:45 pm. This changes totals to 4255 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 326 recovering, 3852 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 102 male and 114 female for a total of 216 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 226 male and 274 female for a total of 500 (11.8%), ages 20-29: 419 male and 507 female for a total of 926 (21.8%), ages 30-39: 238 male and 290 female for a total of 528 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 249 male and 238 female for a total of 487 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 227 male and 282 female for a total of 509 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 243 male and 254 female for a total of 497 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 263 male and 329 female for a total of 592 (13.9%).

For today, the Coles county health department posted that we have 16 new cases as of 12 pm. This changes totals to 4271 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 318 recovering, 3874 recovered, and 70 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 102 male and 115 female for a total of 217 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 226 male and 275 female for a total of 501 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 420 male and 510 female for a total of 930 (21.8%), ages 30-39: 238 male and 292 female for a total of 530 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 249 male and 239 female for a total of 488 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 228 male and 283 female for a total of 511 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 244

male and 255 female for a total of 499 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 263 male and 332 female for a total of 595 (13.9%).

Monday December 28, 2020

Lots of news since Christmas Eve. I woke Christmas morning to news of a bombing in Nashville. Police confirmed it was intentional and as of today, the news says the man responsible, Anthony Warner, died in the explosion. Videos were given to the public of a RV parked at an AT&T building exploding but his motive is unknown. GMA suggested in a news clip that it may have been connected to his paranoia about 5G technology. It sounds like police got a notice they had a time limit to evacuate the area, but the news clip is a little vague on that. Thankfully, it sounds like the bomber is the only one who died in the blast.

Trump actually did something good today. He's been holding off on signing the relief bill but thankfully he signed today. If he hadn't before the end of the year, we would be looking at another government shutdown. McConnell is back at his usual tricks and has reportedly said that he will strike down everything Biden puts up even if it's a good bill. What a pathetic excuse for life.

On the covid front, we have surpassed 300,000 deaths nationally. I saw that 4 months ago, they were projecting this. It's exhausting to see that so little has been done to prevent this. My great and aunt and uncle in Springfield are both still sick but they say that they are doing better. I also heard that my grandfather, my dad's dad, who is wintering in Florida has also tested positive. Thankfully he is asymptomatic. If he was presenting symptoms, he would have almost zero chance of surviving it based on his current health. As for us, both of my parents and I have been possibly exposed to the virus. My sister and brother-in-law came over for Christmas. We've all been taking steps to make sure we were all safe, so we didn't really take any precautions. Christmas morning, they went to visit his parents first. My sister texted me yesterday that his mother woke up that morning with no taste or smell. Both of those are symptoms of covid. If she does have covid, she would've been contagious over Christmas. If she passed it to my sister or Bro-in-law, they could've passed it to us when we got together later that day. His mom has yet to be tested and it sounds like she might not go and get tested. I'm super paranoid now. I don't want it. I don't want the life-long health repercussions that come with it. I'm also a little paranoid it's been passed to my dad. If he gives it to his patients then he could possibly kill them. Man, this year just sucks.

I couldn't find a case count update for the 25th. On Saturday the 26th, we had 29 new cases as of 6:15 pm. This changes totals to 4300 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 275 recovering, 3943 recovered, and 71 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 102 male and 117 female for a total of 219 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 228 male and 275 female for a total of 503 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 421 male and 511 female for a total of 932 (21.7%), ages 30-39: 240 male and 294 female for a total of 534 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 250 male and 243 female for a total of 493 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 231 male and 287 female for a total of 518 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 246 male and 256 female for a total of 502 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 266 male and 333 female for a total of 599 (13.9%). On Sunday the 27th, we had 15 new cases as of

4:30 pm. This changes totals to 4315 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 256 recovering, 3979 recovered, and 71 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 102 male and 119 female for a total of 221 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 228 male and 276 female for a total of 504 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 421 male and 511 female for a total of 932 (21.6%), ages 30-39: 240 male and 295 female for a total of 535 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 250 male and 245 female for a total of 495 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 232 male and 287 female for a total of 519 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 249 male and 257 female for a total of 506 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 269 male and 334 female for a total of 603 (14.0%).

For today, the Coles county health department posted that we have 16 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 4331 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 250 in recovery, 4005 recovered, and 71 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 102 male and 120 female for a total of 222 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 228 male and 276 female for a total of 504 (11.6%), ages 20-29: 421 male and 514 female for a total of 935 (21.6%), ages 30-39: 242 male and 295 female for a total of 537 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 250 male and 245 female for a total of 495 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 234 male and 289 female for a total of 523 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 251 male and 259 female for a total of 510 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 269 male and 336 female for a total of 605 (14.0%).

Wednesday December 30, 2020

Yesterday, Vice-President Elect Harris received the covid vaccine publicly. President-elect Biden received his first dose last week. I saw that Fauci had publicly received the first dose last week, I think? That makes me feel much better about the vaccine now that he's gotten it and stands behind its effectiveness. But, on its heels come the mutated strain of covid from the UK. The first variant strain case was reported in Colorado. Doctors are saying that this strain is possibly even more contagious than the current strain of covid. The person is reported as being a man in his 20s with no travel history which frightens me. This means the case count for this new strain is currently unknown. Someone had to bring it in and who knows who that was. Also hitting the headlines today is Luke Letlow who was the congressman elect for Louisiana. He tested positive on December 18th and died December 28th. He was 41 and leaves behind a wife and 2 small children. I feel for his family and the pain they must be going through. However, I find it difficult to feel bad for him. He repeatedly downplayed how dangerous the virus is and the need for masks. He conducted campaign events without using masks. He more or less brought this on himself. It's just a shame his family has to suffer for his poor choices. Thankfully, it sounds like the vaccine will work on this mutated strain a well.

I learned from watching an MSNBC news segment, this new strain in the UK (and now Colorado) is actually the 4th mutation. Various mutations have popped up in different parts of the world every 3 months or so. The British mutation is much more infectious than the US mutation which suggests it won't be more virulent just more infectious. This different from the South Africa mutation which appears to not only be more infectious but also more virulent, particularly in young people. The scientist in this article does point out that all the studies of the vaccine have not tested their effects in the new strains, such as the British strain. So, their effectiveness is, more or less, a guess. Scientists are calling for broader studies to be done to

see if something can be verified as to its effectiveness with different strains. In California, covid is exploding and is being described as a “viral tsunami,” and this is still the aftermath of Thanksgiving. There are rumors that if things continue to spiral downward, a panel will have to be created to decide who can receive care and who doesn’t as they are running out of room.

A bit of a scandal surrounding the vaccine has spreading. As of yesterday morning, with a CBS This Morning news segment, 11 million doses had been shipped in and about 2 million people had been vaccinated so far. In NYC, an owner of urgent-care clinics was forced to shut down and return 2300 doses of the Moderna vaccine after they allegedly gave the vaccine to people that were not supposed to receive it. I absolutely think there should be a pecking order as to who receives the vaccine first. I don’t understand why more isn’t being done to stop these republican congress people and office holders that have done everything in their power to stop preventive measures are allowed to receive the vaccine. They’re rich and they have power. It’s pathetic. Medical professionals should be first in line. People 60 and older, especially those with preexisting conditions should be the first to get it. Not some 40-year-old white male republican that screams personal freedom while receiving the vaccine on the side. It is beyond frustrating.

On Tuesday the 29th, we had 31 new cases as of 2:45 pm. This changes totals to 4362 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 240 in recovery, 4041 recovered, and 71 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 103 male and 121 female for a total of 224 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 231 male and 276 female for a total of 507 (11.6%), ages 20-29: 424 male and 517 female for a total of 941 (21.6%), ages 30-39: 243 male and 296 female for a total of 539 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 251 male and 246 female for a total of 497 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 236 male and 292 female for a total of 528 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 253 male and 263 female for a total of 516 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 272 male and 338 female for a total of 610 (14.0%). For today, the Coles county health department posted that we have 34 new cases as of 2:15 pm. This changes totals to 4396 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 249 in recovery, 4067 recovered, and 72 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 104 male and 121 female for a total of 225 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 233 male and 283 female for a total of 516 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 425 male and 521 female for a total of 946 (21.5%), ages 30-39: 243 male and 298 female for a total of 541 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 253 male and 247 female for a total of 500 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 238 male and 293 female for a total of 531 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 255 male and 267 female for a total of 522 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 273 male and 342 female for a total of 615 (14.0%). The daily positivity rate is 13.3% with a 7-day rolling average of 9.7%. The state reports that Coles county has 4272 total cases with 70 deceased. The state numbers are 955,380 total cases with 16,357 confirmed deaths and 1,454 possible deaths. A little over 13 million tests have been performed and the recovery rate is at 98%.

P.S. We have had some difficult news this evening. My grandfather that tested positive for covid last week was admitted to the hospital today. He was diagnosed with covid-related pneumonia. Throwing an extra wrench in it, he is refusing to stay in the hospital. My dad was on the phone with him trying to convince him to stay. We will have to wait and see what happens in the coming days.

Thursday December 31, 2020

We received some depressing news last night. My grandpa's scans came back, and they found lung cancer on top of everything else. His lungs are too far gone for any covid treatment so there isn't anything they can do for him. They gave him some antibiotics and steroids to help but, none of us expect him to make it another week. Mom said she didn't think she would last the couple of days it would take to travel from Florida to Illinois. One of my aunts left for Florida today. My other aunt is leaving for Florida on Saturday. My dad is searching flights as I'm typing to head down. Honestly, feels fitting for end of the crap-fest that was 2020. I had originally planned to make my lemon cakes and stay up until midnight to shout Jumanji, but now I'm just exhausted and numb. I just want to go to bed.

The Coles county health department posted that we have 19 new cases as of 12:15 pm. This changes totals to 4415 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 236 in recovery, 4098 recovered, and 73 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 104 male and 121 female for a total of 225 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 232 male and 283 female for a total of 518 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 427 male and 522 female for a total of 949 (21.5%), ages 30-39: 245 male and 299 female for a total of 544 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 253 male and 248 female for a total of 501 (11.3%), ages 50-59: 239 male and 296 female for a total of 535 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 256 male and 269 female for a total of 525 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 275 male and 343 female for a total of 618 (14.0%). The state reports Coles county has 4294 total cases with 70 deceased. The state reports 963,389 total cases with 16,490 deaths and 1,488 possible deaths. As of today, The US has 19.9 million cases with 344,000 deaths. The case numbers just for today were 229,349 cases with 3,808 deaths. The top 5 states in case counts per capita in the last 7 days in order are: California, Texas, New York, Florida, and Pennsylvania. Illinois falls in at number 10.

Saturday January 2, 2021

New day, new year. I am feeling better today. More energetic and motivation. I made my lemon cakes today and I'm relatively satisfied with how they turned out considering this is the first time I've ever made them. We're expecting an ice/snowstorm, so we've been taking steps to prep for bad weather. Grandma said when she called that we are getting somewhere between 1-2 inches of snow tonight.

In covid news, Larry King has been hospitalized in LA with covid. No news on his condition. GOP official, Mike Reese who was a representative for Pennsylvania, died from covid. He tested positive in December and as of now, the news is saying cause of death was a brain aneurysm. He was 42 and leaves behind small children. My grandfather is doing slightly better today. My aunt that went up 2 days ago forced my grandpa back to the hospital and more or less had to stay there overnight to make sure he didn't try to leave. My dad and one of my uncles, went up yesterday. My other aunt would've arrived sometime today, goodness help them. Since he's being forced to stay in the hospital, he's been there long enough for some drugs to take effect. The likelihood he will recover is slim, but I know that if my aunt hadn't hauled his butt to the hospital, he would be dead by now. We will just have to see how things progress.

In idiot news, a group of GOP officials, both newly elected and currently already sworn in, plan of protesting the passing of the election results come Tuesday. This is sheer lunacy. These morons are claiming the results are fraudulent and shouldn't be certified. First off, you were elected to your office on the same ballot. You're protesting the president vote but not your own vote? Second, these results have been scrutinized every which way and there has been no evidence of fraud. The lawsuits failed spectacularly. Officials from both political parties have signed off on the results. Who are you trying to impress? The man whose backside you have been firmly kissing will out on his butt come the 20th. It is shameful behavior. I don't understand how some people view this as acceptable.

The Coles county health department posted that we had 41 new cases on the 1st and 12 new cases today as of 1:15 pm. This changes totals to 4467 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 289 in recovery, 4098 recovered, and 73 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 106 male and 124 female for a total of 230 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 237 male and 288 female for a total of 525 (11.8%), ages 20-29: 428 male and 526 female for a total of 954 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 248 male and 304 female for a total of 552 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 262 male and 253 female for a total of 515 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 242 male and 299 female for a total of 541 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 258 male and 270 female for a total of 528 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 277 male and 345 female for a total of 622 (13.9%). The state reports Coles county has 4350 cases with 74 deaths. The state reports we have 975,352 total cases with 16,674 deaths with 1,543 probably deaths.

Monday January 4, 2021

It is the eve of the GA senate elections. In the last few weeks, Trump and other GOP leaders have been prompting people to boycott the election and not vote because its rigged. Honestly, I would be cool with that. I don't really want crazy Trumpers to vote anyway. But GA polling official Gabriel Sterling gave a press conference today disproving all these claims and prompting people to go out and vote. So, we will have to see how things turn out. I keep getting distracted while watching the press conference by the ASL interpreter. Sterling is talking a million miles an hour and this dude is signing like crazy. It's really impressive to watch.

Speaking of Trump, scandal broke yesterday. Trump made a call to GA secretary of State begging him to "find" him more votes. Trump was begging and threatening the official making it very clear he meant create votes for him or else. The recording was released in response to trump tweeting misleading information about his conversation with the Secretary of State. I'm not surprised. Trump is hateful and a bully. This is exactly how he acts, treats everyone like they owe him something.

I also found out a couple of things happened at the beginning of this month that I hadn't heard about. On the first, the Proud Boys were out in the streets for some reason, I'm assuming they were out protesting. Regardless, they clashed with police in which police got rough and shots were fired. Can't say I feel anything but satisfaction when hearing that. Then on the 2nd, Mitch McConnell's house was graffitied. I disagree with the actions protesters took. They

should never have damaged his personal property. That stain of a human makes it very hard to side with him.

The Coles county health department posted that on Sunday the 3rd we had 26 new cases as of 5:30 pm. This changes totals to 4493 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 313 in recovery, 4098 recovered, and 73 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 107 male and 126 female for a total of 233 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 237 male and 290 female for a total of 527 (11.7%), ages 20-29: 432 male and 529 female for a total of 961 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 249 male and 308 female for a total of 557 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 264 male and 255 female for a total of 519 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 242 male and 301 female for a total of 543 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 259 male and 271 female for a total of 530 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 278 male and 348 female for a total of 626 (13.9%). For today, we have 33 new cases as of 3:15 pm. This changes totals to 4526 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 251 in recovery, 4190 recovered, and 74 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 110 male and 127 female for a total of 237 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 241 male and 294 female for a total of 535 (11.8%), ages 20-29: 433 male and 531 female for a total of 964 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 250 male and 310 female for a total of 560 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 267 male and 257 female for a total of 524 (11.6%), ages 50-59: 243 male and 302 female for a total of 545 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 260 male and 273 female for a total of 533 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 279 male and 350 female for a total of 629 (13.9%).

Wednesday January 6, 2020

I took a nap after lunch and I woke up to insanity. I'm so irritated and angry. I will try to recount what I know but the beginning of this event is rather unknown at this moment. Yesterday, Trump protesters gathered to demand congress do not ratify the election results. I think Trump gave a statement yesterday asking his supporters to continue to "fight for Trump." Then today, Pence refused to stop the ratification because it wasn't his decision to stop it. I think, this was the trigger for protesters to turn rioters and stormed the capital building. Armed rioters broke through security while congress was in session reviewing the GOP dispute of Biden's win. Congress members that were on their respective floors were evacuated to safe locations. Pence is still in the building because it isn't safe for him to leave. Congress members that were still in their offices were advised to shelter in place. From them, the news reports that they have decided they will not leave the building until their job is done. If they need to do it from the secure location, then they will. For a couple of hours, there was little happening from the police stopping rioters. Reports as of 3:42 my time is that one protester was shot by law enforcement. She was taken to the hospital and no update on her condition. 2 IEDs were found on the capital building grounds. NBC news reporters on the ground did see some FBI movement on the capital building so we may see something more happen as it gets closer to their 6 pm curfew. The national guard has also been called in and the DC mayor I think asked officers from surrounding counties to assist. They spotted some police using pepper spray or some kind of gas against protesters reportedly breaking windows.

Biden had a press conference already scheduled today and used the opportunity to address the events in DC. He gave a forceful speech in condemning the actions of the rioters and called on Trump to say something. He incited it, now he has to fix it. Trump finally tweeted a recorded video message in which he told them he loved them, he understood their pain of having the election stolen from them and from him, but they needed to go home. This was a political flop if I've ever seen one and that's putting it lightly. You are telling them they are doing a good thing. In no way shape or form did he actually condemn their actions. I just learned from listening to a press conference from the DC police chief that protesters used gas on officers to get through them into the building. I want to know how this could happen. How were they not prepared for something like this to happen? Why is taking so long for something to happen? A group a civilian just marched in and tore the place up. This should not be possible. I've seen pictures of protesters standing on top of armored police vehicles and it is frightening. My sister sent me a picture from the CBS News livestream she's watching in the background you can see someone brought their child to this. It is horrifying. I don't foresee this ending anytime soon. My sister sent me an excerpt from what she's watching and the news casters there pointed out that they spent money to travel to DC and protest. They have no intention of leaving and "this is their Disneyland." Tack on the fact both democrats won the GA race and now democrats have control of the presidency, the house and the senate, this is going to get worse before it gets better.

It is 4 pm and officers in riot gear are on the steps and have gotten those people to leave. Numbers are dispersing although they are still hanging out there. NBC reporters are suggesting police are regaining control of the situation. She also mentioned that protesters are also heading to the Supreme Court building. News reports that after Trump tweeted the video that a protester with a bullhorn tried to tell people to leave because Trump told them to. Another protester responded they would not leave, and they weren't being violent. Another got on top of the armored car and used a bullhorn telling people to come back to do their patriotic duty. Seems there is some division within the group.

It is 4:09 pm my time and there are live images of the West front of the capital building of what looks like flash bangs being used. It appears they are trying to clear the grounds, but we don't really know who threw it. On social media and the news, it a frenzy of people calling out the double standard. When it came to the BLM protests, rubber bullets and tear gas were used on peaceful protesters. Yet, with this, minimal force is being used with rioters. One would be remiss to not acknowledge the level of white privilege present here. I thought Trump capable of a lot of evil things, but I can say I never saw this coming. I never thought people would allow him to do this. I actually felt better about the stain of life named McConnell who stated this morning it was time for the GOP to accept the loss. Everything that could have been done has been done and it was time to accept the results.

Igor Babic is giving an interview with NBC and he was inside the building reporting. He said that he came across a group of protesters trying to get up the stairs and one officer with a baton tried to hold them off but wasn't able to. He captured some of the first photos of the inside when things first start happening. At this time, 4:26 pm, he said he was able to get out

and was safe in a secure location outside the capital building. It is 4:34 pm and NBC reporters on the ground say that tear gas has started to be used within the last 15 minutes. He said one protester came up to him before they went up on the air and said, "If they don't hear our voices today, they will hear our muskets tomorrow." How terrifying. It is infuriating to me that the man who is responsible for inciting this violence and rioting gets off scot free. There needs to be consequences for this. You do not get to destroy democracy and continue your rich and lavish lifestyle. It is 4:46 pm and police lines have started pushing people back from the buildings.

Reporters who have talked to protesters, they are saying they feel the election was stolen, they want to VP to step up because he does have the authority to overturn the results. A man who made it inside said he just wanted change, and this was all they could do by storming the building. It is 4:49 pm, we have received news the woman was shot in the chest and has died. There is now an official death count. Reports say it is working and they have managed to clear the capital building grounds. It sounds like they haven't need tools like tear gas recently and have been able to break the group. However, protesters have made it clear they are not done and intend to be back. In the capital building, an announcement has been made that anyone in the capital building that is not supposed to be there, past curfew they will be subject to arrest. Kristen Welker said multiple people are urging Trump to make a more forceful statement against these actions, however no indication he will actually do that. I can safely say when he was sworn in 4 years ago, I never saw this happening. Him getting us blown up by South Korea or Russia, yes, inciting a civil war and getting his supporters to shut down the capital, no. I never thought people would allow it to get to this point.

It is 5:06pm and there's no reports of fighting or violence as curfew goes into effect. President tweeted about 7 minutes ago in which he said this is what happens when people are mistreated for so long. Then followed it by telling them to go home peacefully and know he supports them. This lowlife, this stain, this pathetic excuse of life, he encourages these people. He encourages the violence. And because we have this reverence for the office of the presidency, he is allowed to say these things unimpeded. I can't express how angry I am. It is now about 5:13 pm my time and there are multiple police lines. There are still some people out, but the crowd has largely dispersed. Representative Ilhan Omar tweeted an hour ago that she is drawing up articles of impeachment in response to his actions. I haven't heard any word from other officials on impeachment on today's events. On twitter, there's a cellphone video of what appears police opening up the barricade gates earlier today letting protesters get up to the building. Lots of people have been asking why police haven't been arresting people and I have to agree. Reports say they are combing photos to find out their identities and arrest them, but I want to know, why weren't people being arrested in the moment? Was it because they didn't have the manpower? The resources? So, they were ready to arrest people at the BLM protests but not a MAGA one?

Rep. Markwayne Mullin is giving an interview with NBC, and he said he doesn't think its trump supporters because it's never gotten to this point before.... Where were you when they were targeting minorities when he was elected? Where were you when they clashed with protests? Where were you when 2 supporters threatened to shoot protesters walking on their

sidewalk? This kind of behavior has been here the whole time. Trump encourages this behavior because it makes his base more loyal to him. It is despicable. This is how dictatorships are born. Then Mullin turns around said this is all from the other side... yes... democrats are trying to sabotage themselves after they've won... because that totally makes sense.

Mike Hanna tweeted an hour ago that the Secretary of Defense has confirmed that Pence authorized the deployment of the National Guard and not trump. I also learned that Trump spoke to the protesters today and not yesterday. The counting of the electoral votes was also forced to stop at Arizona in their alphabetical program. It is now 5:47 pm and NBC reports that things are extremely quiet. It appears the protests have quieted but who knows if it'll pick up as the night progresses. NBC keeps interviewing Mullin and he is seriously ticking me off. He doesn't acknowledge that by contesting the electoral votes, he is contributing to the chaos. He keeps trying to blame the left, take the blame away from where it really is, with Trump and his followers. There is obviously a problem when multiple world leaders are blaming Trump and GOP officials for causing this. To not acknowledge this is to just bury your head in the sand. Chuck Todd in his interview segment brought up some concerns if Trump has the temperament and mental capacity to finish his presidency. I've also found it interesting they keep calling these people protesters. Not always rioters, not traitors, but protesters. They have crossed a line and yet they are still protesters. And Trump quite blatantly told his supporters to march to the Capital building and take back the country, to stop the vote. Yet, they are protesters. Not traitors, agents of violence, rarely rioters. At least, in some ray of hope, some of the GOP officials that had objected before are retracting their objections.

Nancy Pelosi has put out a statement that they will ratify the election results tonight no matter how long it takes. It is now 6:08 pm and the capital grounds is crawling with police and law enforcement. There are a couple of hundred protesters still there. My biggest question is why did they wait to pull out the big guns until curfew started? Why weren't they there when the violence first broke out? Also, another question, these people are out past curfew, why aren't they being arrested? Holy cow. It is 6:12 pm and twitter has locked Trumps account because 3 of his tweets could have incited violence. His account will be locked for 12 hours assuming he deletes those tweets. If he does not, his account will remain locked. This is major. Twitter has put a block on the account of a sitting president. They have been sitting pretty with all the hateful stuff he's been tweeting the last 4 years. Now they actually did something. I almost can't believe it.

It is now 6:35 pm and NBC says that Pence has returned to the senate. Reporters and staff are being allowed in. It sounds like congress should be back in session within the coming hours. VP says in a statement that they will "finish the people's business." NBC is making note that statements from Pence has left out any mention of Trump. They suggest it is hinting at some discord among the two. Pence is being praised for actions while Trump is being condemned. NBC is also echoing the motion for impeachment this late in the game. At this point, it isn't about removing him from office. It is a symbolic gesture to make it clear this is not ok.

It is now 6:42 pm and news has broken from the white house the Melania Trump's press secretary Stephanie Grisham resigned today because of the violence at the Capital. Some people are saying it isn't as meaningful because she only has 2 weeks left but some others are saying it meaningful. Grisham has been an adamant support for Trump and defended him to the press. Now she resigns and comes out and blatantly calls out the president for the violence. So, take from that what you will. It is 6:52 pm my time and it announced that Congress will reconvene at 8:00 pm DC time and McConnell will be the first to address the houses. NBC is reporting that there was some activity from Proud Boys today and social helped to draw different groups and people from the East Coast to the event.

The Coles county health department posted that we had 29 new cases as of 5:15 pm on Tuesday January 5th. This changes totals to 4555 total cases with 12 hospitalized, 279 in recovery, 4190 recovered, and 74 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 110 male and 127 female for a total of 237 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 245 male and 295 female for a total of 540 (11.9%), ages 20-29: 434 male and 531 female for a total of 965 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 252 male and 312 female for a total of 564 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 267 male and 258 female for a total of 525 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 247 male and 305 female for a total of 552 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 264 male and 277 female for a total of 541 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 279 male and 353 female for a total of 632 (13.9%). For today, the county health department posted that we have 39 new cases as of 5:15 pm. This changes totals to 4594 total cases with 14 hospitalized, 267 in recovery, 4239 recovered, and 74 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 110 male and 127 female for a total of 237 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 246 male and 300 female for a total of 546 (11.9%), ages 20-29: 437 male and 533 female for a total of 970 (21.1%), ages 30-39: 254 male and 318 female for a total of 572 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 269 male and 261 female for a total of 530 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 249 male and 311 female for a total of 560 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 265 male and 280 female for a total of 545 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 280 male and 355 female for a total of 635 (13.8%). The state reports that Coles county has 4474 total cases and 74 deceased. The State also reports we have 999,288 total cases with 17,096 deaths. A little over 13.5 million tests have been done. For US totals, a little over 239,000 cases and 3,664 deaths were reported today. The total is about 21.1 million total cases with 357,000 deaths.

It is now 6:57 pm my time. I am logging off the news and I will wait to add anymore updates until tomorrow. I need to eat and decompress from following these events for the last 4 hours.

Thursday January 7, 2021

We have more news today about the rioting yesterday. Early this morning, Congress confirmed the Biden/Harris Presidential election win. 68 people were arrested in total, and only one was actually from DC. They are still working to identify, and arrest individuals involved with storming the capital building. Several different white house staffers resigned yesterday because of the events. Trump is refusing to take any responsibility for the raid and continues to claim the election was stolen from him. He did say this morning in a statement that there will be a

peaceful transition of power on January 20th so, that's something at least. There has been some murmuring among his cabinet about invoking the 25th amendment but no action has actually been taken. CBS news white house reporters are making it clear that the white house is a tense place at the moment because Trump and Pence are at odds and Trump's carefree attitude has angered people.

Unfortunately, after all this, some Republicans still in the hearings were touting this rigged election nonsense. I tuned in a little bit last night. I saw Tammy Duckworth's end remarks and was particularly proud of her. I think the applause well deserved. Then a couple people later, Josh Hawley had the gall to stand up there and talk about how Pennsylvania passed last minute laws to deal with the pandemic. I had to turn it off because it ticked me off so much. Hawley is from MO. Why the heck is he so obsessed with Pennsylvania? Is he really stupid enough to believe the state was able to pass all these laws without these concerns being addressed? Is a pandemic not enough of a special circumstance for you? It's quite clear these people who were opposing the confirmation are pulling a political stunt. They are trying to win over Trump voters and in the process, they are destroying our country and our democracy. It is disgusting. Ted Cruz's team actually had the nerve to send out fundraising texts while the raid was happening. I fully don't understand how, after having their own lives threatened, they continue to spout the nonsense that Trump spews. After everything is said and done, 120 Republicans in the House voted against ratifying the results. Reports say that early in the morning, a democrat and a republican came so close to blows in arguing that they had to be separated by Capital police.

People are still trying to figure why nothing was done to stop these people. A CBS news reporter that has worked in the capital building for a long time has said she's them arrest people en mass and will get very rough even with disabled individuals. There's still a question if it is the police were overwhelmed or is it the double standard and hypocrisy in which its cool with republican white people do it but not for everyone else. We have learned this morning that the woman who was shot is not being officially identified. But some reports are saying that she was a veteran and an ardent Trump support, and she was one of the people storming the capital building. Probably worst is that they knew this was coming. There's no way they couldn't have. There's online chatter for weeks beforehand. Social media found photos of sweatshirts worn by people there that said, "Civil War 6 January 2021." That didn't raise any red flags? Some right-wing media outlets are trying push that the riots were caused by ANTIFA. This is not true. There is 0 evidence to support this. This idea was pushed during the riots by the same media outlets as a scapegoat because they couldn't handle their precious viewers being the ones who were responsible. Pelosi gave a press conference today which she said very plainly, she wants the 25th amendment invoked and if that is not done, they will move forward with impeachment. It is just frustrating that it had to reach such extremes for people to finally realize the dangers this man causes. He should never have been president. I hope this teaches people to be more careful in the future. Or that some people shouldn't vote. And side note, Ivanka called the rioters patriots but then the tweet was taken down.

There is some local scandal going around. Newly elected Republican official Mary Miller said in a speech at the rally in front of the Capital Building on Tuesday, "Hitler was right about one thing; he said, 'Whoever has the youth has the future.'" It takes a special kind of moron to quote Hitler. On Wednesday, she was criticized by the Illinois Republican Party, Pritzker, and the CEO of the Anti-Defamation League, just to name a few. EIU released a statement today in which they firmly denounce both the event of yesterday and Mary Miler. Miller has yet to apologize publicly as I write this around 6 pm. On Wednesday, her twitter account tried to deflect the comment and compared "left-wing radicals" to evil dictators. She sounds like a Trumper if I've ever heard one. But I guess it makes sense she sees nothing wrong with quoting Hitler since she is blond and blue eyed.

The Coles county health department posted that we have 21 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 4615 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 281 in recovery, 4252 recovered, and 74 deceased. The daily positivity rate is 15.2% and the 7-day rolling average is 10.2%. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 110 male and 127 female for a total of 237 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 247 male and 303 female for a total of 550 (11.9%), ages 20-29: 438 male and 534 female for a total of 972 (21.1%), ages 30-39: 256 male and 319 female for a total of 575 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 270 male and 264 female for a total of 534 (11.6%), ages 50-59: 251 male and 312 female for a total of 563 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 267 male and 281 female for a total of 548 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 280 male and 357 female for a total of 637 (13.8%). The state reports that Coles county has 4494 total cases with 75 deceased. The state also reports 1,008,045 total cases with 17,272 deceased.

Friday January 8, 2021

This morning I found out that 4 people died in the raid on the Capital Wednesday. 1 was the lady who was shot, 2 were people who had medical emergencies and couldn't receive help, and 1 was a capital police officer who was beaten to death with a fire extinguisher. It infuriates me that in the wake of 4 people dying, people like Cruz and Hawley still had the nerve to get up and contest the election results. They refuse to except any kind of responsibility in this. I saw headlines that Cruz has been getting calls to resign because of his behavior. Speaking of resignation, Mary Miller, the Illinois senator who made the Hitler comments, finally apologized this morning. Her office has reported getting multiple calls for her to resign. I've also seen at least one petition floating around for her to resign. I also learned that she is an EIU alumni which is why the university put out a statement on her. As all this was going on, I couldn't help but think of 9/11. I thought about writing it down as I was watching things happen, but I thought that might be taken as a tad overdramatic. But I've been seeing on social media, particularly twitter, other people echoing this sentiment. The constant news cycle, the chaos and violence, and not knowing. I was alive for 9/11 but I was too young to really remember anything. While we didn't experience anything on the level of death like 9/11 (thank goodness), I suppose I can now say I experienced something similar to it. And I have the support from those that do remember 9/11 as they said the 6th reminded them of that too.

Trump put out another video yesterday evening in which he condemned the actions of the rioters and said that he would not run for a second term. Watching it, it was clear that the script was written without his input and he was being forced to say it. Probably with all the calls to enact the 25th amendment, he realized if didn't it would be his behind. He sent out a tweet today saying that he would not attend Biden's inauguration which I feel is going to make things worse. Just going to give his base the ammunition to keep claiming the election was stolen from him.

The Coles County health department posted that we have 39 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 4652 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 288 in recovery, 4281 recovered, and 74 deceased. The daily test positivity rate is 6.8% and the 7-day rolling average is 9.5%. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 111 male and 127 female for a total of 238 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 251 male and 306 female for a total of 557 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 440 male and 540 female for a total of 980 (21.1%), ages 30-39: 260 male and 322 female for a total of 582 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 272 male and 265 female for a total of 537 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 252 male and 312 female for a total of 564 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 270 male and 283 female for a total of 553 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 283 male and 359 female for a total of 642 (13.8%). The state says that Coles county has 4529 cases and 75 deceased. They list the state totals as 1,017,322 total confirmed cases with 17,395 confirmed deaths.

Saturday January 9, 2021

Arrests continue today from Wednesday. So far there are 17 facing federal charges and about 40 with lower charges. The 17 include the guy who got a picture of himself with his feet on Nancy Pelosi's desk, the guy who took her lectern, and the guy in face paint with the fur hat. The scary thing is some of the people arrested are members of their state's government. It's clear some level of mob mentality was present at the raid. I get the feeling a good chunk of the people who ended up in the raid didn't go there with the intention to break the law. There are those though that went with the intention to hurt. I heard on the news one guy went armed and sent texts to people he knew that he hoped he would be able to kill Speaker Pelosi. Another guy brought his van full of explosives and parked it nearby while he went and participated. I'm glad twitter finally decided yesterday to permanently block his twitter account. He brings out and encourages violence in his base that is frightening. It's just sad it's taken people 4 years to see what I've seen since before he was elected. Trump JR got on twitter arguing that his dad's account shouldn't be blocked because there are dictators and terrorists that have accounts that promote physical violence and haven't been blocked. I mean, he has a point. If you're promoting violence you should be blocked. You should not have a public platform. Which is exactly why Trump was blocked. Clearly, not thinking things through runs in the family.

The Coles county health department did not post cases today.

Monday January 11, 2021

Today is the first day of classes. I picked up a French class at Eastern and an A&P course at Lake Land for the semester. My goal is to refine my skills to prepare for graduate school. I'm

a bit anxious. I haven't been in school for 8 months, so it'll be a bit of an adjustment to get back into it. Not off to a terrific start as there's some kind of glitch in D2L for Eastern. For some reason my class isn't coming up, so I have to wait until someone in tech support fixes it. At least I'm not the only student and this has happened across multiple classes so there will be some kind of urgency to fix this.

In all the chaos that was last week (or the week that didn't seem to end), I forgot to mention my dad came home last Tuesday evening. We went into a brief quarantine, wearing masks around each other until my dad had a negative covid test on Thursday. My grandfather is doing better since he actually stayed long enough to get treatment. One of my aunts stayed in Florida with him as he will be in the hospital at least through this week. After that, I think the plan is to bring him back to Illinois. From there, I don't know what will happen.

News keeps coming out about January 6th. Arnold Schwarzenegger put out a video statement commenting on the riots. He said he grew up in Austria with people that believed the lies of Hitler. He said he knows first-hand the dangers and the violence that can come from unchecked leaders. He says that he thinks that we can overcome this ending Trump's time as president is a step. It was a rather powerful video, clearly came from an emotional place. This comes on the heels of more videos being released of rioters attacking police as they tried to get in. MSNBC in a news segment said that Trump was confused as to why others weren't happy with him that his supporters were moving to stop his removal. Now, the segment was clearly emotional with a clear hatred of Trump. Can't say I blame them, but it was obviously influencing their choices of words. Now I have no idea what the report on trump's mental state was during, but his lack of action speaks louder than words. He had no intention of trying to stop it. Maybe he wanted to see what would happen? Wanted them to succeed? Can't say for sure. But for whatever reason, he clearly didn't have any intention of trying to stop it.

There are still calls for Pence and Cabinet to enact the 25th amendment but I highly doubt that will happen. At least 2 members of the Cabinet have resigned, whether or not they did that so they wouldn't have to decide to use the 25th is up for debate. Not to mention, neither Pence nor the Cabinet have the balls to do it. Last I heard, they are moving to start the impeachment process today so we will see what happens. All I want is to make sure this moron can never hold any kind of public office again. The worth of his word is shot. As recent events have shown, he is a danger to all of us as long as he is allowed to function within our government unchecked.

The Coles county health department posted in one big post that we had 17 new cases on the 9th and 18 new cases yesterday the 10th as of 1 pm. This changes totals to 4687 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 233 in recovery, 4281 recovered, and 74 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 112 male and 127 female for a total of 239 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 252 male and 311 female for a total of 563 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 443 male and 547 female for a total of 990 (21.1%), ages 30-39: 260 male and 324 female for a total of 584 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 272 male and 267 female for a total of 539 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 256 male and 313 female for a total of 569 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 270 male and 284 female for a total

of 554 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 287 male and 362 female for a total of 649 (13.8%). The state reported that we Coles county had 4562 total cases and 75 deaths as of the 10th. They also reported 1,028,750 total cases and 17,574 total deaths as of the 10th. A little over 14 million tests have been done in the state. For today, we had 22 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 4709 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 345 in recovery, 4281 recovered, and 76 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 112 male and 127 female for a total of 239 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 252 male and 314 female for a total of 566 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 447 male and 553 female for a total of 1,000 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 261 male and 326 female for a total of 587 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 274 male and 268 female for a total of 542 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 258 male and 313 female for a total of 571 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 271 male and 284 female for a total of 555 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 287 male and 362 female for a total of 649 (13.8%).

I actually received an email today from the Mattoon School District. It was an interest form for the staff of who would be interested in receiving the vaccine once it becomes available to the district. As a coach, I am included in the staff so I would have access to it as well. I am going to respond that I am interested. By getting it not only would I be protecting my kids but also my community.

Tuesday January 12, 2021

Congress met today to try and get Pence to enact the 25th amendment. He didn't as I expected. No way any of them have the guts to remove him from office forcibly. It sounds like they are starting impeachment proceedings tomorrow. Let's see if they can get it done in 7 days. Trump made his first public appearance since the Capital Hill Riot and refused to accept any responsibility. He still claims that all his comments on the day of were appropriate. This man makes me angry. And he continues to fuel his base as they continue to make threats. There are rumors of possible assassination attempts on Biden on inauguration day. Flyers and messages have been tracked down calling for trumpites to fly to Washington the week of the inauguration and to come armed. Messages among his base have been tracked down encouraging others to fight for their president or die trying. This is honestly terrifying. I'm scared someone will assassinate Biden. Katie Mettler, who is a Washington Post reporter, posted on twitter that she was shopping for a coat that would fit over a bullet proof vest while she was covering the inauguration. What is this world that we're living in?

Speaking of how Trump supporters are scum, CNN did a news segment how a manatee was found with "TRUMP" etched into the algae on its back. According to the news segment, manatees are endangered and harassing one is a federal crime punishable by time in prison and up to a \$50,000 fine. How awful do you have to be to deface a living thing? I sincerely hope the animal wasn't hurt when they did that to it.

News also broke that one of the congresswomen has tested positive for covid in the wake on the Capital Hill Riot. She announced it on twitter and called out her republican colleagues that she was confined in the safe room with that did not have masks and refused to wear one when offered one. I'm not positive if she was blaming them for giving it to her or she

was calling them out for not protecting themselves against the possibility of getting it. Either way, she was not happy. Also, on the topic of covid, early this morning in Tuscaloosa Alabama, Crimson Tide fans flooded the street to celebrate the team winning their 18th national title. From the video I saw, it was lots and lots of people crammed into a very small space. The video is too far away to see if they're wearing masks but based on the carefree body language and movement, I'm gonna go out on a limb and guess there were people not wearing one.

The Coles county health department posted that we have 10 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 4719 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 250 in recovery, 4386 recovered, 77 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 112 male and 127 female for a total of 239 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 255 male and 316 female for a total of 571 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 448 male and 554 female for a total of 1,002 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 262 male and 326 female for a total of 588 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 274 male and 269 female for a total of 543 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 258 male and 314 female for a total of 572 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 271 male and 284 female for a total of 555 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 287 male and 362 female for a total of 649 (13.8%). The state reports that Coles county has 4602 total cases with 77 deceased. The state also reports 1,040,168 total cases with 17,743 total confirmed deaths with 1,754 probable deaths.

Wednesday January 13, 2021

Congress started hearings for impeachment in the house today. So far, I think there's 4 or 5 GOP members that have definitively said they will vote for impeachment. The entire nation is prepping for violence within the next week. There's been news that armed protests have been planned to occur in all 50 state capitals. I don't understand why more isn't being done to stop this. We have the right to peaceful protest, not protests ready to cause destruction should they feel like it. I feel like this shouldn't be protected. The national guard has been more or less permanently stationed inside the Capital building in anticipation of more violence in the coming days. Pictures are circulating of them lining the halls asleep. It's certainly a sight I didn't imagine seeing. I saw footage this morning from the rioters' point of view from the 6th. It was disturbing to watch. There's no way this was a group that split off from the main protest. This was mob mentality at its finest. Some rioters went there with the intent to hurt. Others were drawn into the violence. This was Trumpite mentality all the way.

News fresh off the presses. It is about 3:47 pm and about 15 minutes ago, the house voted to impeach Trump for "Incitement of Insurrection." This will make him the first president to be impeached twice. The house also raised concerns inside help was used in the Capital Hill riot, so an investigation is being done into that. Rep. Jason Crow said in an interview with ABC News that there are multiple verified terrorist attacks takes planned for inauguration day and steps are being taken to get ahead of that. For the vote, 10 republicans voted to impeach. I am glad that some are stepping up and speaking out but I'm still very disappointed. That vote means somewhere 200 Republicans either voted not to impeach or chose not to vote at all. That's 200 people that see nothing wrong with his behavior. That is incredibly infuriating. Vote count was 232 for and 197 against.

The state reports that Coles county has 4624 total cases with 77 deaths. The state has also updated its totals reports with a new category. They report 1,046,030 cases with 17,840 deaths and 1,777 probable deaths. As of today, 384,658 vaccines have been administered.

Saturday January 16, 2021

Various pieces of news from the last couple of days. The NRA filed for bankruptcy. Not entirely surprising as the leaders are all a little corrupted. News broke on the 14th that Harold Bornstein, Trump's former personal physician died at the age of 73. On the Covid front, this week has been the deadliest week thus far. On Wednesday evening, CBS did a report about how the US has passed 4,300 daily covid deaths. There's been some news circulating that they are taking steps to start expanding who can be vaccinated. However, there's been some rumors that the national storage of vaccines is running out and there won't be enough to meet the demand. I haven't seen anything official dominating the news cycle so I'm assuming this is a more a possibility than a definite.

I had my first in person class since last March this past Wednesday night. I'm taking my dad's night anatomy and physiology class at Lake Land. The campus is set up to limit the people that are on campus. They closed one of the entrances, so everyone had to take the main entrance which leads to a checkpoint everyone has to go through. At the booth, you have to show the attendant you have a mask and you filled out the covid form. The form basically says that you are a student or faculty and haven't come across anyone with covid. The thing I don't understand is, you fill out your own form. You could totally lie and just get on campus anyway. I understand checking for masks, but I feel like the form is a little stupid. Sitting in a classroom is weird. I couldn't get next to anyone at the desks and I since I've stopped working, I'm not used to wearing a mask for a long time anymore. There is a lot of memorization in this class, so I think this is going to be a difficult class. I'm just glad that I'm not taking this class along with a full load. I think that might kill me. I think I'm doing ok with my French class. This is difficult trying to learn online. It is a learning curve. I also found out that we aren't having a Spring break this semester. Eastern's logic is that because they are giving us "Wellness days" throughout the semester, that takes the place of spring break. And they're not shorting the semester either. I'm not terribly thrilled about this. I don't know if they know this, but 1 or 2 days "off" a month isn't going to do anything. Goodness knows students aren't actually going to take those days off, they have too many projects and crap they have to get done those days will be used on schoolwork, or actually work.

My friend is back in the hospital. She went back in yesterday, but it sounds like they've figured for certain it was pneumonia on steroids which is good considering the alternative. If all her tests come back normal, she should be released tomorrow and having an outpatient bronchoscopy wither next week or the week after. All this was rather preventable. It's a little annoying that is got to this point. But hopefully, this will be the last time and she can finally kick the pneumonia once and for all.

The Coles county health department posted on Thursday the 14th that we had 23 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 4763 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 233 in recovery,

4445, recovered, 77 deceased. On Friday the 15th, we had 20 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 4783 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 218 in recovery, 4479 recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 115 male and 132 female for a total of 247 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 258 male and 318 female for a total of 576 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 452 male and 560 female for a total of 1,012 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 265 male and 328 female for a total of 593 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 278 male and 272 female for a total of 550 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 259 male and 319 female for a total of 578 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 276 male and 289 female for a total of 565 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 291 male and 371 female for a total of 662 (13.8%). For today's update, we have 16 new cases as of 5 pm. This changes totals to 4799 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 234 in recovery, 4479 recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 115 male and 133 female for a total of 248 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 261 male and 318 female for a total of 579 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 454 male and 563 female for a total of 1,017 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 265 male and 330 female for a total of 595 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 278 male and 272 female for a total of 550 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 259 male and 322 female for a total of 581 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 276 male and 290 female for a total of 566 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 291 male and 372 female for a total of 663 (13.8%). For some reason the state covid update page isn't showing any kind of numbers or graphs. Maybe a bug? Maybe their updating it right now?

The Coles county health department has announced that are moving from phase 1A (essential personnel) to phase 1B next week which includes those 65+ and pre-existing conditions. People have to sign up to receive vaccinations so we will see how that goes.

Sunday January 17, 2021

Armed protests have started popping up. One was in Michigan today. The Illinois National guard has blocked off and is standing guard over the Illinois State Capital in case any protests happen in the next couple of days.

Lindsey Graham again shows that he has no spine or any kind of morals. After denouncing the rioters at the hearings to certify the election results, he is coming out now and telling Biden to back off Trump. He's defending Trump again. He has no spine, no morals, no nothing. He is only out to further his own political agenda. He has no sense of the damage he causes. How on earth is still in office?

The Coles county health department posted that we have 7 new cases as of 2:45 pm. This changes totals to 4806 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 208 in recovery, 4511 recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 115 male and 133 female for a total of 248 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 261 male and 318 female for a total of 579 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 454 male and 564 female for a total of 1,018 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 330 female for a total of 596 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 280 male and 272 female for a total of 552 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 259 male and 322 female for a total of 581 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 276 male and 290 female for a total of 566 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 293 male and 373 female for a total of 666 (13.9%). The state reports that we have 4690 cases in Coles county with 79 deceased. The

state also reports that we have 1,068,829 total cases with 18,208 deceased and 1,842 total probable deaths. A little over 14.5 million tests have been done and 487,040 vaccines have been administered.

Wednesday January 20, 2021

Today is inauguration day. Trump left the white house a little over an hour ago. Early this morning he did what we were all expecting and issued 73 pardons and 70 commutations, one of which was Bannon. Besides being a horrible person in general, Bannon defrauded donors to Trump's wall of more than a million dollars. Figures he leaves the office still steeped in corruption. At least he didn't pardon himself or his kids like he's been floating for months. But at least now, he is out of the white house and I never have to call him president ever again. I saw on social media he wants to start his own political party called the Patriot Party. People on twitter are telling him he absolutely should because he will draw support from the republican party and they'll never win another election. Personally, I think I would be ok with that. Let him wallow with his few supporters and he will never hold office again.

A couple of days ago, I believe the Mattoon school district had its first death due to covid. Her name was Hannah Mansell. She was 26 years old and was a sign language interpreter for the middle school. The school system is asking to people to celebrate her by doing random acts of kindness. It's very sad when someone so young dies tragically. I can't help but wonder if she got sick at the school. And if she did, would her death have been preventable if the school systems weren't so quick to reopening?

Coles county is being moved up from Tier 3 to Tier 1. This means more people can gather and the insides of buildings will be reopening. I saw Eastern put out a notice that their workout facilities are opening back up with limited capacity. I also noticed the Charleston library will be opening back up the inside. The numbers have been going down recently but I'm also a little concerned by opening everything up the numbers will go back up. My grandfather is now covid free and he is back in town. He came by the house 2 days ago with my aunt. He's not out of the woods yet but at least he's closer to his kids. There's no way he would be here if he had his way and didn't go to the hospital.

I'm watching the inauguration on CNBC livestream and seeing the last 2 trump appointed supreme court nominees infuriates me. They don't deserve to be anywhere near that court. At least everyone is wearing masks. I think I just heard someone behind the camera boo vice president Harris' kids. That's incredibly rude if they did. Ope, here comes Pence, I wonder if they'll boo him. How does Michelle's hair stay so curled and perfect? Well, no booing for Pence. Based on what I can see, it looks more like a polite applause. I saw some people on the platform not applaud for him at all. They did a shot of the conductor and the way he's flapping his wrists; he looks a bit like an angry bird. One of the trombonists is struggling with the wind and is fighting to get his music pinned to the stand. I miss Obama. I just adore that family. Harris is on her way! Ope, Harris almost tripped on the last stair, I was just thinking I hope she doesn't fall. Doug has his princess wave down, you go Emhoff. Where do they get all these nice, fitted leather gloves from? I need a pair; they look so nice. Here comes Biden, so

close to officially offing the giant Cheeto. Mrs. Biden looks lovely in the light blue. Oh, it's started snowing in DC, I can see the snowflakes. Election day feels like eons ago. When it happened, it felt like today would never come and now we're here. It almost feels unreal that Trump isn't in the white house anymore. It feels like most of the speeches and the prayer are aimed at the trump administration, talking about the riot, storming of the capital, the mistreatment of minorities, and the loss of the American spirit. Or its possible I think it's aimed at him because I blame him for all those things. Oh, lady Gaga is singing the national anthem. She looks lovely in her dress, although it looks like the stairs may have been a bit of a challenge. I like her, she did a good job. I love that the person they have reciting the pledge of allegiance also did it in sign language.

I'm so excited for Harris to be sworn in! And she's being sworn in by Justice Sotomayor! I like her. I could cry. I'm tearing up. We have our first Asian, black, and female vice-president. This is such a huge step for not only women but people in minority groups. I hope little girls in the future don't have to experience these firsts because it will be commonplace by then. Oh, J-Lo looks lovely in her suit. I like her, she did a good job too. It stopped snowing in time for Biden to be sworn in. It is 10:49 and we officially have a new president. I feel such relief in this moment. Its indescribable the weight I feel that has been lifted off my shoulders. Now I won't want to scratch my eyes out every time the president speaks. This might just be my imagination, but I think there is bullet proof glass surrounding the balcony. I didn't watch Trumps inauguration. I was furious that he won, and I was furious that the Mormon Tabernacle Choir performed at it; I signed a petition to have them not perform. Before Trump, I was too young to be interested in politics and never watched really. This year, I'm actually excited to watch and to hear from Biden. I'm excited that he's acknowledging racial injustice and going after white supremacy and domestic terrorism. I'm excited that he'll actually take effective action against covid and actually work with scientists. I find it hilarious when he's talking about division in our society and it cuts to a shot of McConnell. Ope, we got a "folks"; everybody take a shot. Garth Brooks performing *Amazing Grace* acapella is beautiful. I like him, he did a good job too. He invited people to sign the last verse with him, that's so sweet. You can actually hear them singing in the background. Aw, he went around to give all the former presidents hugs. What on earth is a poet laureate? I'm not positive what it is but she did a lovely job. She's an excellent public speaker, her gestures further emphasize her words and she's memorizing to listen to. I see great things in Amanda Gorman's future. The first time in a very long, I'm actually feeling patriotic in this moment. The band is playing *Stars and Stripes Forever*, listening to it is giving me flashback to high school band... such a bad time. Oh, I had forgotten Pence was even there until it cut to a shot of him. And with that, Biden is safely inside the Capital building. I can finally relax. I was so tense the whole time he was giving his speech that something was going to happen. But it didn't and we're all fine. I'm excited to see what he will accomplish in his first 100 days with the House and the Senate behind him. And, I just realized this, none of the people involved in the riot will be receiving pardons. Thank goodness, they deserve to be punished.

On the 18th, the Coles county health department posted that we had 8 new cases as of 4:15pm. This changes totals to 4814 cases with 11 hospitalized, 214 in recovery, 4511

recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 115 male and 133 female for a total of 248 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 261 male and 319 female for a total of 580 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 456 male and 566 female for a total of 1,022 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 331 female for a total of 597 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 281 male and 272 female for a total of 553 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 259 male and 322 female for a total of 581 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 277 male and 290 female for a total of 567 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 293 male and 373 female for a total of 666 (13.8%). On Tuesday the 19th, they posted we have 7 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 4821 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 221 in recovery, 4511 recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 115 male and 133 female for a total of 248 (5.1%), ages 10-19: 262 male and 319 female for a total of 581 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 456 male and 567 female for a total of 1,023 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 333 female for a total of 599 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 281 male and 272 female for a total of 553 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 259 male and 323 female for a total of 582 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 277 male and 291 female for a total of 568 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 293 male and 374 female for a total of 667 (13.8%). The daily test positivity rate is 4.8% and the 7-day rolling average positivity rate is 4.5%.

For today, we have 19 new cases as 5 pm. This changes totals to 4840 total cases with 13 hospitalized, 188 in recovery, 4560 recovered, and 78 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 117 male and 133 female for a total of 250 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 264 male and 319 female for a total of 583 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 457 male and 568 female for a total of 1,025 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 333 female for a total of 599 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 283 male and 274 female for a total of 557 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 260 male and 324 female for a total of 584 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 278 male and 294 female for a total of 572 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 295 male and 375 female for a total of 670 (13.8%).

Saturday January 23, 2021

News since Wednesday. News broke this morning that Larry King died. So sad. Bernie sanders with his mittens and wrapped up in his coat has become a meme sensation. People are photoshopping him in all sorts of places. It's quite entertaining to see all the creativity. Someone also photoshopped Michelle Obama as a jedi. It was quite cool.

In the first 24 hours of being president, Biden signed 17 executive orders reversing the work of Trump. This included instituting a national mask mandate of federal property, reversing the travel ban, and stopping any funds/support going towards the wall. Fauci is back and able to work unimpeded. In his first press conference since Biden came into office, he more or less threw trump under the bus for being a psychopath. Thankfully he doesn't have to worry about a political vendetta from an idiotic man. He also revoked approval for the Keystone pipeline. I'm very glad about that. That pipeline had no business being approved. He also rejoined the Paris Climate Accord and the World Health Organization. He is also instating the "100-day mask challenge," encouraging people to wear a mask for 100 days. I heard this on the news, and I have to agree, it's pretty smart to make it sound like a TikTok challenge. Makes it sound less like an order and more something that people can have fun with. I'm am very hopeful that more will be done to combat climate change. We are running out of time and this is one of my biggest points of interest, outside of the ensuing pandemic.

Today, some idiotic GOP congresswoman was caught trying to carry a firearm onto the floor. I'm sure she did this in some kind of protest but how incredibly moronic. I can't even begin to explain. She did this after a riot with people armed and willing to kidnap/ kill congress people. Not to mention, it is extremely illegal to carry on federal property, especially Capitol Hill. It's been illegal for years and years and years. What on earth was this lady thinking? I hope she gets slapped with a hefty fine or does some jail time. She deserves to know actions of consequences.

In covid news, scientists are reporting that people are dying faster from covid than they did during WWII. But hopefully we can get on top of it with Biden's 10 executive orders specifically meant to combat covid. He is requiring masks on planes and buses, increasing support for studies and trials of covid treatments, and making data of cases and vaccinations more public. It's a bit odd, to actually feel comfortable with my country's leaders. I haven't felt this way in the last 4 years. Something a bit odd is popping and its being called "vaccine tourism." People are flocking to Florida to get a vaccine because as it set up, you don't have to be from the state to get it. Because this started to become an issue, the state had to crack down and require some sort of proof of residency, such as a license.

The Coles county health department posted that on Thursday the 21st, we had 19 new cases as of 4:45 pm. This changes totals to 4859 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 189 in recovery, 4579 recovered, and 80 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 118 male and 135 female for a total of 253 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 265 male and 320 female for a total of 585 (12.0%), ages 20-29: 460 male and 570 female for a total of 1,030 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 334 female for a total of 600 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 283 male and 275 female for a total of 558 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 260 male and 325 female for a total of 585 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 280 male and 296 female for a total of 576 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 295 male and 377 female for a total of 672 (13.8%). On Friday the 22nd, we had 20 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 4879 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 176 in recovery, 4610 recovered, and 82 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 120 male and 136 female for a total of 256 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 268 male and 324 female for a total of 592 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 461 male and 573 female for a total of 1,034 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 266 male and 336 female for a total of 602 (12.3%), ages 40-49: 283 male and 275 female for a total of 558 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 260 male and 325 female for a total of 585 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 281 male and 296 female for a total of 576 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 296 male and 379 female for a total of 675 (13.8%).

The Coles county health department has not posted numbers for today. The state reports that Coles county has 4783 total cases with 83 deceased. The state also reports 1,098,527 total cases state-wide with 18,711 total deaths and 1,934 possible deaths. A little over 15 million tests have been performed and 657,820 vaccines have been administered.

Thursday January 28, 2021

An update on everyone. My grandpa is staying with my aunt while he's getting treatment at Sarah Bush. It's been confirmed he has lung cancer and he's getting a biopsy next week to find out what kind. We also learned that his kidneys are failing because of mismanaged diabetes. I think he starts radiation either next week or the week after. My dad's cousin Michael is in town this weekend and the family is getting together on Saturday for lunch. I haven't decided if I want to go or not. We are still in a pandemic and it's not the smartest thing to go out in public and gather in a large group of about 12. But it's clear to all of us he isn't in good health and the likelihood extended family will be back before he passes is slim. I don't know what to do. It's responsible to not go but I don't want to give up the last possible get-togethers with him.

My friend had her bronchoscopy done last Monday but her lung collapsed after the procedure. She had a chest tube in and was able to have it removed on Friday. She still has to take it easy for a while but we're all glad that she's doing better.

Biden has been extremely busy signing executive orders in his first couple weeks. He is instating a new travel ban for countries with rising case counts. I know Europe is on the list and I think Brazil but I'm not positive about that. He is also expanding the Affordable Care Act and changing all post office vehicles to electric. The CDC announced that schools are clear to open again with the necessary precautions. Personally, I don't understand that. The pandemic hasn't gone anywhere, vaccinations are few and far between. Why are schools being cleared? I did hear Fauci say that he thinks we will reach herd immunity faster than vaccine immunizations because of how crap the last administration handled and left things. At this point only about 1% of the population has been vaccinated. I guess the CDC is operating on that assumption? Chicago teachers voted to not reopen because of the high case count potential. Mattoon is transition into full day attendance again. Today they announced the football schedule for the spring. They are going to have a basketball season like normal and they will livestream the game so people can watch instead of attend in person.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene is under extreme heat to resign, others are calling for her to be removed. She is a Q- Anon believer and is being linked to contributing to the fervor of the Capital Riot. She also kept promoting the rigged election nonsense with no evidence. Then recently, a video surfaced of her following Parkland survivor David Hoggs and his sister and yelling at them. Personally, I hope they remove her. She has no right to hold any kind of office in government. Trump has set up an "Office of a Former President" in Florida... not exactly sure what he's trying to do but as long as he stays far away from me, I have no issues.

On Sunday the 24th, we had 10 new cases as of 12 pm. This changes totals to 4908 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 173 in recovery, 4642 recovered, and 82 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 121 male and 140 female for a total of 261 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 271 male and 324 female for a total of 595 (12.1%), ages 20-29: 467 male and 574 female for a total of 1,041 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 269 male and 338 female for a total of 607 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 284 male and 276 female for a total of 560 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 260 male and 327 female for a total of 587 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 285 male and 297 female for a total

of 582 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 296 male and 379 female for a total of 675 (13.8%). On Monday the 25th, we had 12 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 4920 total cases with 10 hospitalized, 162 in recovery, 4665 recovered, and 83 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 121 male and 140 female for a total of 261 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 273 male and 325 female for a total of 598 (12.2%), ages 20-29: 467 male and 578 female for a total of 1,045 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 270 male and 339 female for a total of 609 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 284 male and 276 female for a total of 560 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 260 male and 327 female for a total of 587 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 299 female for a total of 585 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 296 male and 379 female for a total of 675 (13.7%).

On Tuesday the 26th, we had 14 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 4934 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 165 in recovery, 4677 recovered, and 83 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 121 male and 140 female for a total of 261 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 274 male and 327 female for a total of 601 (12.2%), ages 20-29: 467 male and 580 female for a total of 1,047 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 272 male and 341 female for a total of 613 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 285 male and 276 female for a total of 561 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 261 male and 328 female for a total of 589 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 301 female for a total of 587 (11.9%), and ages 70+: 296 male and 379 female for a total of 675 (13.7%). On Wednesday the 27th, we had 23 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 4957 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 188 in recovery, 4677 recovered, and 83 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 121 male and 140 female for a total of 261 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 278 male and 329 female for a total of 607 (12.2%), ages 20-29: 472 male and 584 female for a total of 1,056 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 274 male and 342 female for a total of 616 (12.4%), ages 40-49: 285 male and 278 female for a total of 563 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 261 male and 329 female for a total of 590 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 301 female for a total of 587 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 297 male and 380 female for a total of 677 (13.7%).

Today, the Coles county health department posted that we have 20 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 4977 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 178 in recovery, 4704 recovered, and 84 deceased. The state says that Coles has 4858 total cases with 85 deceased. The state reports totals of 1,116,372 total cases, 19,067 total deaths, and 2,007 total probable deaths. 15,733,562 tests have been done and 829,488 total vaccines have been administered.

Friday January 29, 2021

News has been circulating about GameStop's stocks in recent days. Apparently, it started on a Reddit post where it was pointed out a hedge fund bet heavily against GameStop to favor the big companies. Redditors found out about this and banded together in a thread and bought up GameStop's stock which caused the hedge fund to massively hemorrhage money. Now Wall Street is angry because the system is being turned against them. Now people are worried what else are Millennials going to target. Personally, I've never been prouder. People are working the system against itself to drive out the massive groups that hurt small (er) businesses. It makes me so happy to see the power and comradery for good causes on the internet.

Biden is heavily pushing to get a \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill passed. The includes buffers for businesses and personal checks going to those who qualify. As I think about it, it's insane that through this whole thing, Trump only sent out 1, maybe 2 stimulus checks throughout all the shutdowns. I have been so lucky to be able to live with my parents and they have been able to continue working throughout the shutdowns. I can't imagine what this must have been like for people that didn't have the same kind of support systems as me. I saw a post on Facebook from the Mattoon School District that they will be offering the choice for students to go back full day learning 4 days a week starting Tuesday February 16th. We will have to stay tuned and see how that ends up working out. We've managed to get case counts down, hopefully going back to school won't cause an uptick.

The Coles county health department posted that we have 12 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 4989 total cases with 11 hospitalized, 174 in recovery, 4719 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 123 male and 140 female for a total of 263 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 280 male and 332 female for a total of 612 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 475 male and 587 female for a total of 1,062 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 277 male and 347 female for a total of 624 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 288 male and 280 female for a total of 568 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 263 male and 331 female for a total of 594 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 302 female for a total of 588 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 297 male and 381 female for a total of 678 (13.6%). The state reports that Coles has a total of 4871 total cases with 86 total deaths. The state also reports that state totals are 1,120,528 total cases with 19,138 confirmed deaths and 2,008 probable deaths. About 15.8 million tests have been done and a total of 887,85 vaccines have been administered.

Saturday January 30, 2021

So after so thought, I have decided not to go to the family dinner tonight. As much as I want to go to see my cousins and hang out with people, I can't justify going out and gathering in large groups. Knowing this part of the family, I fully expect some blow back for not going. But at least I don't have to deal with the family drama. Last night my grandpa was on the phone chewing out another one of dad's cousins because she kicked out a visiting cousin. This cousin thinks that cousin is possibly violating parole by crossing state lines without permission and there was something about alcohol? Apparently, this cousin is trying to go sober and that cousin either had been drinking or had alcohol with them? Either way, this cousin kicked out that cousin and soon the news made the family rounds. Pretty soon they were trying to pull people to sides because goodness knows, they hold grudges for forever. So, I can avoid that loveliness by not going.

In congressional news, its democrats versus democrats again. Biden is desperately pushing relief and has more or less directly said that they will be passing the \$1.3 trillion with or without republicans. This is directly different from his preaching of unity but it something that he can accomplish because democrats control everything. Republicans are opposed to the large price tag attached to it. The news played an audio clip from Senator Rob Portman of Ohio saying that he didn't understand "why there's a grave emergency right now" (GMA news clip). This bill includes \$160 billion for vaccinations, more help for small businesses, and another round of \$1400 relief payment. Personally, I think this bill is a good thing. And when I hear GOP

members talk, all I can think is, just how incredibly stupid are you? I fully understand the concern for being fiscally conservative, spending what you have and budgeting appropriately to not drive-up debt. But seriously? You want to stingy when there are people out there who have lost their jobs and have to rely on food banks and charities to survive? You want to be stingy when people have become homeless because they can't afford rent payments without being able to work? You want to be stingy when small businesses are suffering, and people rely on them to survive? You want to be stingy about funding vaccines when only 1% of the population has been vaccinated? When I hear comments like the ones made by Sen. Portman, I just want to scream that it needs to be so much because of their refusal to do anything! There wouldn't be a need for such a high price tag if they had acted sooner! Things have just gotten worse over time, not better and a lot of that has to do with the GOP's incompetence. It just drives me crazy. We would not be in this mess now if they had grown a pair and stood up to trump. We would not be here now if they had stopped to think about the people they represent over their own political agendas. Now I can't even stand to hear any GOP members talk. Just hearing their voices makes me want to pull my hair out.

The Coles county health department posted that we have 10 new cases as of 12:45 pm. This changes totals to 4999 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 186 in recovery, 4719 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 123 male and 140 female for a total of 263 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 280 male and 333 female for a total of 613 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 476 male and 590 female for a total of 1,066 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 279 male and 347 female for a total of 626 (12.5%), ages 40-49: 289 male and 280 female for a total of 569 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 264 male and 331 female for a total of 595 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 302 female for a total of 588 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 297 male and 382 female for a total of 679 (13.6%). The state reports that Coles has a total of 4885 total cases and 86 deceased. The state totals are 1,123,873 total cases and 19,203 confirmed deaths with 2,010 probable deaths. As of today, 945,137 vaccines have been administered. I believe this number is the number of people that have received it and not the amount of shots given out as each person needs multiple. When I go into further data for vaccines, it says there been a total of 1,829,575 dose in Illinois with 945,137 having been administered. Of that number 496,100 have been allocated to Long-term care facilities with 145,587 being administered to LTC facilities. The 7-day rolling average for vaccine administrations is 41,045. The population of Illinois as of last year is 12.59 million.

Tuesday February 2, 2021

Today is groundhog day. I think where they held the official ceremony it was cloudy and snowing. In national news, Jeff Bezos has stepped down as CEO of Amazon. Thank goodness, he's a stain of a human being. Hopefully this means I won't have to keep boycotting Amazon. On the covid front, I believe I heard that 3 variants of covid have been identified in the US and are gaining traction. There is some possibility that vaccines will start making their way to pharmacies for distribution soon.

The Coles county health department posted on Sunday the 31st that we had 12 new cases as of 12:15 pm. This changes totals to 5011 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 199 in

recovery, 4719 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 123 male and 142 female for a total of 265 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 280 male and 334 female for a total of 614 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 476 male and 591 female for a total of 1,067 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 280 male and 350 female for a total of 630 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 291 male and 280 female for a total of 571 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 264 male and 331 female for a total of 595 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 303 female for a total of 589 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 382 female for a total of 680 (13.6%). On Monday the 1st, we had 9 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 5018 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 205 in recovery, 4719 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 124 male and 142 female for a total of 266 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 281 male and 335 female for a total of 616 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 476 male and 592 female for a total of 1,068 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 280 male and 350 female for a total of 630 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 292 male and 280 female for a total of 572 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 264 male and 332 female for a total of 596 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 304 female for a total of 590 (11.8%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 382 female for a total of 680 (13.6%).

For today, they posted that we have 15 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 5033 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 146 in recovery, 4795 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 124 male and 142 female for a total of 266 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 281 male and 336 female for a total of 617 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 476 male and 596 female for a total of 1,072 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 282 male and 354 female for a total of 636 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 293 male and 281 female for a total of 574 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 264 male and 332 female for a total of 596 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 304 female for a total of 590 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 384 female for a total of 682 (13.6%). The state reports that Coles county has 4914 total cases and 86 total deaths. They also report the state totals at 1,130,917 total cases with 19,306 deaths and 2,030 probable deaths. A little over 16 million tests have been done and 1,028,969 vaccines have been administered.

Friday February 5, 2021

Christopher Plummer, the actor that played Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* died today. So sad. He was 91.

Q-Anon, Jewish-space laser Marjorie Taylor Greene was officially removed from the education and finance committees. She tried to save face by giving a speech in congress where she walked back her denial of 9/11 and the Sandy Hook shooting. Personally, I think she got off easy just being removed from the committees. If I had my way, she would be booted from the assembly all together. She is a horrific human being that should be nowhere near the government. A Power-hungry imbecile is what she is, can't function without some sort of attention and admiration. Speaking of, Smartmatic is following through on their threats to sue Fox News, Giuliani, and Jeanene Pierro among others because of their continuous claims the voting machines that Smartmatic makes were rigged. Their suing for a few billion I think for their diminished reputation. There's no way that they will get the amount they asked for. It's clearly to attract attention and get people talking. Personally, I hope they grind them into the dust. If they bankrupt fox news in the process, so be it.

On Wednesday the 3rd, the Coles county health department posted that we had 11 new cases as of 3:30 pm. This changes totals to 5044 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 157 in recovery, 4795 recovered, and 85 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 125 male and 142 female for a total of 267 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 281 male and 338 female for a total of 619 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 477 male and 599 female for a total of 1,076 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 282 male and 355 female for a total of 637 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 293 male and 281 female for a total of 574 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 266 male and 332 female for a total of 598 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 305 female for a total of 591 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 384 female for a total of 682 (13.5%). On Thursday the 4th, we had 11 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 5055 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 149 in recovery, 4814 recovered, and 86 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 126 male and 143 female for a total of 269 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 281 male and 339 female for a total of 620 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 478 male and 602 female for a total of 1,080 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 283 male and 355 female for a total of 638 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 295 male and 281 female for a total of 576 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 266 male and 332 female for a total of 598 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 306 female for a total of 592 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 384 female for a total of 682 (13.5%).

For today, we have 21 new cases as of 4:15 pm. This changes totals to 5076 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 148 in recovery, 4836 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 126 male and 143 female for a total of 269 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 282 male and 343 female for a total of 625 (12.3%), ages 20-29: 480 male and 604 female for a total of 1,084 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 285 male and 357 female for a total of 642 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 295 male and 283 female for a total of 578 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 268 male and 333 female for a total of 601 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 286 male and 308 female for a total of 594 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 385 female for a total of 683 (13.5%). The state reports that Coles county has 4960 total cases and 88 deaths. The state totals are reported at 1,141,219 total cases with 19,526 deaths and 2,077 probable deaths. The first variant cases have been reported in Illinois. Currently there are 17 confirmed variant cases. 1,231,418 total vaccinations have been administered at this time. All Illinois regions are in phase 4 but honestly, I'm rather surprised. Vaccinations are going out very slowly, Cases counts are still problematic, and we have variant strains now on top of that. I find the level of seeming indifference as we progress further into this pandemic interesting.

Sunday February 7, 2021

Today is the Superbowl. I will not be watching; I have 0 interest in sports. I'll watch them if I have to but it's not something I choose to watch. Although I hope Tom Brady loses. He is a gigantic jerk, so he deserves to lose.

My parents went to church today for the first time since the shut down in March of last year. Everyone in the building is required to wear a mask if they are able and no one is allowed to sit next to each other. Personally, I did not go. I don't trust a good number of the members as far as I can throw them to make good choices and protect themselves. The church is filled

with Trumpites and I absolutely believe they aren't taking this seriously. I won't be stepping foot inside a church building until there is a good handle on this pandemic. Speaking of churches, I saw a report that churches in California are being allowed to reopen. I'm honestly shocked. California is a gigantic hotspot for cases and hospitals are being overrun. I don't understand why they're reopening.

The Coles county health department posted that we had 16 new cases as of 3:15 pm on Saturday the 6th. This changes totals to 5092 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 163 in recovery, 4836 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 127 male and 143 female for a total of 270 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 283 male and 346 female for a total of 629 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 482 male and 606 female for a total of 1,088 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 285 male and 357 female for a total of 642 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 295 male and 285 female for a total of 580 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 269 male and 334 female for a total of 603 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 309 female for a total of 596 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 298 male and 386 female for a total of 684 (13.4%).

As for today, the county health department posted that we have 16 new case as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 5108 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 179 in recovery, 4837 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 127 male and 143 female for a total of 270 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 284 male and 347 female for a total of 631 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 483 male and 608 female for a total of 1,091 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 288 male and 360 female for a total of 648 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 295 male and 287 female for a total of 582 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 270 male and 334 female for a total of 604 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 310 female for a total of 597 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 299 male and 386 female for a total of 685 (13.4%). The state updated totals that Coles county has 4986 total cases and 88 total deaths. The state reports their totals at 1,146,341 total cases with 19,633 total confirmed deaths and 2,105 probable deaths. A little over 16.5 million tests have been performed at this point and a total of 17 variant cases have been identified in the state. 1,342,857 total vaccines have been administered and Illinois has a total of 2,132,025 total doses. Our 7-day rolling vaccination average is 51,553. If you break it down by county, about 1.5% of the population in Coles county has been vaccinated. So far, Adams county has the highest percentage with 4.14% vaccinated. About 2.2% of Chicago's population has been vaccinated. Springfield is sitting at about 3.45% has been vaccinated. State wise, the average is about 2.32% of the state's population has been vaccinated. The state's vaccine inventory as reported on Friday the 6th, the total reported inventory is 282,780. The reported inventory at Local Health Department is 150,981. The reported inventory at Community partners is 131,799.

Monday February 8, 2021

People are on social media and they are not happy about the Superbowl. The jerk Brady won again. But apparently there were 25,000 people in the stand, a severe cut down from the amount that can fit but still a large number of people. People on social media are not happy that a) people were there and b) that they allow people to gather for a football game but not theatrical, artistic, or musical performances. Honestly, I'm very surprised people were there. I thought that they were going to do what they've been doing up to know, putting up cardboard

people in the stands and livestreaming the games. I think that was a huge mistake on their part to allow people to gather in such a large number there. On the bright side, everyone is going nuts over Amanda Gorman's performance.

For today the Coles county health department posted that we have 1 new case as of 3:15 pm. I honestly didn't expect us to be hitting such low numbers considering how stupidly these conservative jerk wads behave. This changes totals to 5109 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 134 in recovery, 4883 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 127 male and 143 female for a total of 270 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 284 male and 347 female for a total of 631 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 483 male and 608 female for a total of 1,091 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 289 male and 360 female for a total of 649 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 295 male and 287 female for a total of 582 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 270 male and 334 female for a total of 604 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 310 female for a total of 597 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 299 male and 386 female for a total of 685 (13.4%). The state reports that Coles county has 4994 total cases with 88 total deaths. The state totals are 1,148,088 total positive cases with 19,688 total deaths and 2,111 probable deaths. A total of 20 variant cases have been identified and 1,358,967 total vaccines have been administered. I saw a headline that 108 million doses of the covid vaccine have been administered in 67 countries. Despite the pathetic performance in the US when it comes to vaccinating people, the US, Canada, and Europe have the highest vaccine numbers. So far, 5/6 variants of covid have been identified worldwide. As far as I know, scientists still believe that the vaccines are effective against the variants.

Tuesday February 9, 2021

Today is the first day of Trump's trial in the senate. It was decided that his trial is constitutional so it will be going forward. I feel pretty confident with democratic majority that he will be prevented from ever holding public office again.

We've been feeding some feral cats in the neighborhood since May. There is a momma we've named Jitterbug, her kitten we've named Button, and the dad mom has named Scat because he runs away from you. There were other kittens, but we think they were either killed or died from malnutrition back in July. Button was the only one that made it. Today I picked up a toy for the cats. It's a stuffed mouse on a string attached to a wand and on the mouse is twine, bells, and feathers. I got Button to play with me while I was holding the toy for a little bit. Considering they wouldn't come within 10 feet of you 4 months ago, this is huge progress for a feral cat. We've been able to close Button in the house and she hasn't freaked out. Jitterbug tends to freak out if we close the door on her. But she loves to yowl and rub it in your face that you're torturing her even if you open the door back up. We haven't seen Jitterbug for about 2 days now. Mom thinks she might have gotten pregnant again and has settled down somewhere to give birth. So, we will see. We may have more kittens on our hands.

For today the Coles county health department posted that we have 19 new cases as of 4:45pm. This changes totals to 5128 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 149 in recovery, 4887 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 127

male and 144 female for a total of 271 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 285 male and 352 female for a total of 637 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 487 male and 609 female for a total of 1,096 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 289 male and 361 female for a total of 650 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 297 male and 288 female for a total of 585 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 271 male and 334 female for a total of 605 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 311 female for a total of 598 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 299 male and 387 female for a total of 686 (13.4%). The state reports that Coles county has 4998 total cases with 88 total deaths. The state totals are 1,150,170 total cases with 19,686 total deaths and 2,116 total probable deaths. 22 variant cases have been reported in total and 1,417, 156 total vaccines administered.

Thursday February 11, 2021

Trump's trial continues. Today concluded the opening arguments. Thank goodness Trump's twitter account was deleted or we would have to continually listen to his insanity. Some new footage of January 6th was shown at the trial of the initial breach of the capital, both from the rioters' point of view and from the security video view. We also learned that officer Goodman saved Senator Romney seconds before the mob started making their way that direction by telling him to run the other way. There is a pretty consistent arguments coming for the respective sides. Prosecution is arguing that he directly spurred them to action, and he can't be allowed the opportunity to ever hold office again. Defense is arguing he is already gone, the voters got what they wanted, so there isn't a need for an impeachment. I don't understand how after all this, people can still come to Trump's defense.

The Coles county health department posted that we had 18 new cases as of 4:45 pm on Wednesday the 9th. This changes totals to 5146 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 167 in recovery, 4887 recovered, and 88 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 128 male and 144 female for a total of 272 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 286 male and 353 female for a total of 639 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 490 male and 614 female for a total of 1,104 (21.5%), ages 30-39: 289 male and 361 female for a total of 650 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 298 male and 289 female for a total of 587 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 274 male and 335 female for a total of 609 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 311 female for a total of 598 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 300 male and 387 female for a total of 687 (13.4%).

For today, they posted that we have 14 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 5160 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 160 in recovery, 4907 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 129 male and 145 female for a total of 274 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 287 male and 354 female for a total of 641 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 491 male and 615 female for a total of 1,106 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 289 male and 362 female for a total of 651 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 298 male and 291 female for a total of 589 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 278 male and 335 female for a total of 613 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 312 female for a total of 599 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 300 male and 387 female for a total of 687 (13.3%). The state reports that Coles county has 5039 total cases with 88 deceased. The state reports that Illinois has a total of 1,155,833 total cases with 19,841 total deaths and 2,144 total probable deaths. A total of 23 variant cases have been identified and 1,549,108 vaccines have been administered in the state.

Monday February 15, 2021

Massive snowstorm today. We've gotten more snow today than I can remember in the last couple of years. Both Eastern and Lake Land cancelled classes today. Lake Land closed campus tomorrow because of incoming weather, have yet to hear from Eastern about tomorrow. Apparently, we're supposed to get something like a thunder snowstorm tonight. It should be interesting. We've closed the cats in because of the weather. Jitterbug was not happy about it. She is camping out under the chair and occasionally yowls when she hears one of us nearby. Button doesn't care. I caught her sleeping on grandpa's pillow in mom's office.

The senate voted to acquit Trump 2 days ago. The severely ticks me off. Only 7 republicans broke and voted guilty. That cowardly scum McConnell voted not guilty then got up and gave a speech about how Trump is morally responsible for January 6th. It is incredibly irritating. Trump put out a statement, but I didn't bother to see what it is. I know him and I already know what he said. Frankly, I've had enough of him from the last 4 years. I'm done listening to anything he has to say. I think history will remember this a severe miscarriage of justice because a cultish political party took advantage of the loopholes in the constitution and vagueness of the law.

On Friday the 12th, the Coles county health department posted that we had 11 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 5171 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 169 in recovery, 4907 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 130 male and 145 female for a total of 275 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 288 male and 356 female for a total of 644 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 491 male and 615 female for a total of 1,106 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 290 male and 362 female for a total of 652 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 299 male and 291 female for a total of 590 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 280 male and 337 female for a total of 617 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 287 male and 313 female for a total of 600 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 300 male and 387 female for a total of 687 (13.3%). On Saturday the 13th, we had 15 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 5186 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 184 in recovery, 4907 recovered, 89 total deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 132 male and 145 female for a total of 277 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 288 male and 358 female for a total of 646 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 495 male and 615 female for a total of 1,110 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 290 male and 362 female for a total of 652 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 300 male and 291 female for a total of 591 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 280 male and 339 female for a total of 619 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 288 male and 315 female for a total of 603 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 301 male and 387 female for a total of 688 (13.3%). On Sunday the 14th, we had 8 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 5194 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 184 in recovery, 4907 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 132 male and 145 female for a total of 277 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 288 male and 358 female for a total of 646 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 496 male and 615 female for a total of 1,111 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 290 male and 364 female for a total of 654 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 300 male and 291 female for a total of 591 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 281 male and 341 female for a total of 622 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 289 male and 316 female for a total of 605 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 301 male and 387 female for a total of 688 (13.2%).

For today the 15th, we had 4 new cases as of 4 pm. This changes totals to 5198 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 195 in recovery, 4907 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 132 male and 145 female for a total of 277 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 290 male and 358 female for a total of 648 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 496 male and 615 female for a total of 1,111 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 290 male and 364 female for a total of 654 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 300 male and 291 female for a total of 591 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 341 female for a total of 623 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 289 male and 316 female for a total of 605 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 302 male and 387 female for a total of 689 (13.3%). The state reports that Coles county has 5080 total cases with 89 total deaths. The state reports its totals as 1,163,574 total cases with 20,002 confirmed deaths and 2,164 probable deaths. A total of 23 variant cases has been reported in the state, one of which was confirmed as the variant from Africa. A little over 17 million tests have been performed to date and 1,823,208 vaccines have been administered.

Thursday February 18, 2021

Collection of news today. Rush Limbaugh died a couple days ago, good riddance. I feel like his afterlife will be rather uncomfortable. Today NASA landed another rover on Mars which marks 50 years of Mars research. Today, started my test proctor training at Lake Land. It was incredibly boring; I have to read this gigantic manual and take a test to be certified to give this test. I got about halfway through but there were times it was really hard to focus. I could hear my new boss and the office lady talking about politics. Both are die-hard Trumpets and said they wanted Pelosi impeached then followed by Biden and Harris which then would allow Trump to be put back in office. I take wishing death on others very seriously so when I say I sincerely hope that man has a heart attack in the next 4 years, I mean it. Ted Cruz is back in the news for being a gigantic moron. In the wake of the giant snowstorm, we got on Monday (we got at least 10 inches here), multiple states were in lockdowns. In Texas, there didn't have a huge accumulation, but they were unprepared. House heating systems broke down because they couldn't handle the stress so many neighborhoods were left without heat in extreme low temperatures. They're pictures of people setting up tents people are living in because it's warmer than their houses. I can't remember exactly which city it was, but one Mayor posted on Facebook that he didn't care about people complaining. More or less said it's their own fault they were freezing. Yesterday, Cruz and his family had a police escort to go on their vacation to Cancun. There was a massive backlash on social media that he was going on vacation while the people he was supposed to be serving were freezing in tents in front of their houses. So today, he returned back to Texas. I don't know how this dude is still in office. I don't think you could convince me that he cares about the people he was elected to serve.

On the 16th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases since the 14th. This changes totals to 5207 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 138 in recovery, 4975 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 132 male and 145 female for a total of 277 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 290 male and 358 female for a total of 648 (12.4%), ages 20-29: 497 male and 616 female for a total of 1,113 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 291 male and 366 female for a total of 657 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 302 male and 291 female for a total of 593 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 341 female for a total of 623 (12.0%), ages 60-

69: 291 male and 316 female for a total of 607 (11.7%), and ages 70+: 302 male and 387 female for a total of 689 (13.2%).

On the 17th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5215 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 147 in recovery, 4975 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 132 male and 145 female for a total of 277 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 290 male and 360 female for a total of 650 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 497 male and 618 female for a total of 1,115 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 292 male and 367 female for a total of 659 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 302 male and 292 female for a total of 594 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 342 female for a total of 624 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 291 male and 316 female for a total of 607 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 302 male and 387 female for a total of 689 (13.2%).

The Coles County health department posted that we have new cases as of. The state reports that Coles county has 5114 total case with 89 total deceased. The state reports its totals at 1,168,683 total cases with 20,129 total confirmed deaths and 2,129 probable deaths. A little over 17 million tests have been done and a total of 43 variant cases are documented in the state. A total of 1,977,033 vaccines have been administered.

Sunday February 21, 2021

I haven't felt well the past couple of days. My sinus's have been so congested; I've been having sinus pain, headaches, and migraines. Today I actually feel functional.

The democrats have released the first text of their 600-page relief bill. This bill includes extending unemployment benefits at \$400 a week through August. This will include another round of direct payments and increase minimum wage to \$15 an hour gradually over the next 4 years. Biden says that they have ordered more vaccines and there should be enough for every American to have it by July but there will be roadblocks with that right now because of weather. Within the last month, there has been a decline in cases and hospitalizations nationally. Reasons for this include people staying at home rather than going out, peak virus virality falls between January and February so we are edging our way out of that season, and there is partial immunity in the population as some people have antibodies from contracting covid, and of course the vaccine. About 20-30% of the adult population has contracted the virus so take a portion of that who obtained antibodies and add it to the vaccinated and you've got some headway. It's been reported that around 4% of the US pop has received both doses of the vaccine and around 11% has received one dose.

On the 18th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 19 new cases. This changes totals to 5234 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 138 in recovery, 5004 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 135 male and 145 female for a total of 280 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 292 male and 362 female for a total of 654 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 500 male and 621 female for a total of 1,121 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 292 male and 368 female for a total of 660 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 302 male and 295 female for a total of 597 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 342 female for a total of 624 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 292 male

and 316 female for a total of 608 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 302 male and 388 female for a total of 690 (13.2%).

On the 19th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5238 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 137 in recovery, 5004 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 135 male and 145 female for a total of 280 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 293 male and 363 female for a total of 656 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 500 male and 621 female for a total of 1,121 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 292 male and 368 female for a total of 660 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 303 male and 295 female for a total of 598 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 342 female for a total of 624 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 293 male and 316 female for a total of 609 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 302 male and 388 female for a total of 690 (13.2%).

On the 20th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5249 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 150 in recovery, 5004 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 135 male and 145 female for a total of 280 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 296 male and 363 female for a total of 659 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 501 male and 621 female for a total of 1,122 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 294 male and 369 female for a total of 663 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 303 male and 295 female for a total of 598 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 342 female for a total of 624 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 293 male and 317 female for a total of 610 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 305 male and 388 female for a total of 693 (13.2%).

For today, the Coles County health department posted that we have 10 new cases as of 3 pm. This changes totals to 5259 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 160 in recovery, 5004 recovered, and 89 deceased. The state reports that Coles county has 5140 total cases with 90 total deaths. The state totals 1,174,409 total cases with 20,269 total confirmed deaths and 2,197 probable deaths. A little over 17.5 million tests have been done and a total of 43 variant cases have been identified. 42 of those are the B.1.1.7 which originated in the UK. Only 1 is the B.1.351 which originated in South Africa. As of now, 2,151,952 vaccines have been administered. Illinois reports 2,702,175 total doses with 2,151,952 total administered doses. 282,820 doses have been administered at long-term care facilities and the 7-day rolling average is 52,658. The Coles county health department released a memo that as of the 25th, they are opening vaccination sing-ups to those 18+ with specific underlying conditions. Because of the limited inventory, they specifically state that applying and getting approved will not result in an immediate vaccination. It will probably take a while considering they still haven't finished vaccinating people 65+.

Wednesday February 24, 2021

We've had some nice warm weather the last couple days. I've actually been able to go out without a coat the last couple of days. I was asked to fill in as desk assistant at the dental clinic at Lake Land until they hire someone new, and I'm not used to a desk job anymore. I've spent yesterday and today sorting and filing paperwork. My back muscles are very sore.

News broke this morning that the FDA approves Johnson & Johnson's single covid shot as safe and effective. I will be curious to see if it overtakes Pfizer's 2 shot vaccine. But hopefully, this does mean vaccines can be given out more rapidly.

The Coles County health department posted that we have 7 new cases as of 4:30 pm. This changes totals to 5287 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 125 in recovery, 5066 recovered, and 90 deceased. The state reports that Coles county has 5162 total cases with 90 deceased. The state totals are reported at 1,179,342 total cases with 20,374 total confirmed deaths and 2,201 probable deaths. The number of variant cases remains at 43 and 2,310,929 vaccines have been administered. For the US, we have a total of 28.3 million cases, and we passed 500,000 deaths yesterday. Biden and Harris held a candlelight vigil at the White House to honor those that had died. Worldwide, there are around 112 million cases and around 2.5 million deaths. It is mind blowing to me that through all of this, millions dying, the world shutting down for months, there are still antivaxxers out there. There are crazy conspiracy theories that the vaccine causes autism, some pastors are claiming it will turn you gay. I don't understand. I would think this would cause a surge in people wanting vaccines. Just ridiculous.

On the 21st, the Coles County health department posted that we had 10 new cases. This changes totals to 5259 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 160 in recovery, 5004 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 137 male and 145 female for a total of 282 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 296 male and 363 female for a total of 659 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 504 male and 622 female for a total of 1,126 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 294 male and 370 female for a total of 664 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 303 male and 296 female for a total of 599 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 343 female for a total of 625 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 294 male and 317 female for a total of 611 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 305 male and 388 female for a total of 693 (13.2%).

On the 22nd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5267 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 123 in recovery, 5050 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 137 male and 145 female for a total of 282 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 296 male and 363 female for a total of 659 (12.5%), ages 20-29: 506 male and 624 female for a total of 1,130 (21.5%), ages 30-39: 295 male and 372 female for a total of 667 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 304 male and 296 female for a total of 600 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 343 female for a total of 625 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 294 male and 317 female for a total of 611 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 305 male and 388 female for a total of 693 (13.2%).

On the 23rd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 13 new cases. This changes totals to 5280 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 113 in recovery, 5050 recovered, and 89 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 137 male and 146 female for a total of 283 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 299 male and 364 female for a total of 663 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 506 male and 625 female for a total of 1,131 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 296 male and 373 female for a total of 669 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 306 male and 296 female for a total of 602 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 282 male and 343 female for a total of 625 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 317 female for a total of 613 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

For today, the Coles County health department posted as of 4:30 pm that we have 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5287 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 125 in recovery, 5066 recovered, and 90 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 137

male and 146 female for a total of 283 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 300 male and 365 female for a total of 665 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 506 male and 626 female for a total of 1,132 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 297 male and 373 female for a total of 670 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 307 male and 296 female for a total of 603 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 283 male and 344 female for a total of 627 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 317 female for a total of 613 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

February 28, 2021

Today is the last day of February. It is mind blowing to me it's almost March again; that we've been in this pandemic for a year already. Most medical professionals are saying that covid will never go away and it will be something that we will have to be prepared for at least a lifetime. I am curious to see what life will be like after this, what human interactions will be like following. I assume it will be something like we saw in the 1920s when they went from staying away to each to massive partying and a joyous attitude. Hopefully we don't have any of the bad stuff that happened in the 20s. Speaking of bad stuff, in the past couple of months, I've been seeing calls for Cuomo (governor of NY) to resign. I had no idea what this was about then I learned this morning that 2 female aids had come forward accusing him of sexual and verbal harassment. This comes on top of some lawmakers attacking his handling of covid deaths in nursing homes. I'm not sure what will happen. Cuomo has called for an independent investigation into the claims, and I am inclined to believe the woman in these kinds of situations. I hope the truth comes out and the guilty person is charged. In other legal news, Trump has been ordered to turn over all his tax info to the NY attorney's office. Hopefully this means they can throw his butt in jail. In government news, the covid relief bills has passed through the House yesterday and is currently going through the senate. We will see what will happen.

On the 25th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5295 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 125 in recovery, 5066 recovered, and 90 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 138 male and 146 female for a total of 284 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 300 male and 367 female for a total of 667 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 506 male and 626 female for a total of 1,132 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 297 male and 373 female for a total of 670 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 308 male and 296 female for a total of 604 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 285 male and 345 female for a total of 630 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 318 female for a total of 614 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

On the 26th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5303 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 117 in recovery, 5091 recovered, and 91 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 139 male and 146 female for a total of 285 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 300 male and 367 female for a total of 667 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 507 male and 626 female for a total of 1,133 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 298 male and 374 female for a total of 672 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 309 male and 297 female for a total of 606 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 286 male and 345 female for a total of 631 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 319 female for a total of 615 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

On the 27th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5307 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 121 in recovery, 5091 recovered, and 91 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 139 male and 146 female for a total of 285 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 300 male and 367 female for a total of 667 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 508 male and 626 female for a total of 1,134 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 299 male and 375 female for a total of 674 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 309 male and 297 female for a total of 606 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 286 male and 346 female for a total of 632 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 319 female for a total of 615 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

For today, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases as of 5:30 pm. This changes totals to 5315 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 129 in recovery, 5091 recovered, and 91 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 302 male and 367 female for a total of 669 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 509 male and 626 female for a total of 1,135 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 300 male and 375 female for a total of 675 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 310 male and 298 female for a total of 608 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 287 male and 346 female for a total of 633 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 319 female for a total of 615 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 306 male and 388 female for a total of 694 (13.1%).

Thursday March 11, 2021

Things have been warming up. We're hitting mid 50s, 60s pretty regularly. There was one day a couple days ago I was actually able to go out in a t shirt and flip flops and be comfortable. Spring is certainly in the air. I've been working in the dental office at Lake Land from the last 2 weeks and I'm very tired. I've forgotten how much effort takes to leave the house and work multiple days, including some full days. There's been a couple days where I slept for 10-12 hours just to catch up on my energy. It is official; it has been 1 year since covid was declared a pandemic. Biden is supposed to give an address tonight at 8. Texas announced either last week or the week before that they are opening up fully with no restrictions at all. I think the governor decided to do this in the wake of the massive cold front they had last month. I think he thinks that if everything opens, people will go back to work, back to spending money, and it will help people pay their massive electricity bills. I think it's incredibly idiotic as it's just setting them up for another spike. I'm honestly confused about what's up with the covid relief bill. I heard that it was passed in senate by a 50-49 vote but then a couple days later I saw that it was going back to the house to be voted on, so I think it passed the senate on the condition of some revisions which need to go back to the house to be voted on. I think that might have something to do with what I heard that only certain people will be getting a relief check and not everyone. I got an email today from Carle clinic that they are now taking appointments for people 18-65 that have underlying conditions to get the covid vaccine. Inching a bit closer to being able to get one. I want to go out and go places, check out the gorgeous Van Gogh exhibit at the Art Museum in Chicago, get a haircut. I can't do any of that, masked up and everything, until I get the vaccine. I just really want a haircut. Even more women have stepped up accusing

Gov. Cuomo of sexual harassment. He continues to refuse to resign. I don't see the next election going well for him after this and the nursing home scandal.

On March 1st, the Coles County health department posted that we had 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5322 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 136 in recovery, 5091 recovered, and 91 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 302 male and 368 female for a total of 670 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 509 male and 626 female for a total of 1,135 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 300 male and 376 female for a total of 676 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 312 male and 298 female for a total of 610 (11.4%), ages 50-59: 287 male and 347 female for a total of 634 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 320 female for a total of 616 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (13.1%).

On the 2nd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 13 new cases. This changes totals to 5335 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 104 in recovery, 5137 recovered, and 91 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 302 male and 372 female for a total of 674 (12.6%), ages 20-29: 509 male and 628 female for a total of 1,137 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 301 male and 377 female for a total of 678 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 312 male and 300 female for a total of 612 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 287 male and 350 female for a total of 637 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 296 male and 320 female for a total of 616 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (13.0%).

On the 3rd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 13 new cases. This changes totals to 5348 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 110 in recovery, 5145 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 304 male and 374 female for a total of 678 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 628 female for a total of 1,138 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 302 male and 378 female for a total of 680 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 312 male and 302 female for a total of 612 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 289 male and 350 female for a total of 639 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 297 male and 321 female for a total of 618 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (13.0%).

On the 4th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 12 new cases. This changes totals to 5360 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 131 in recovery, 5145 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 374 female for a total of 679 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 630 female for a total of 1,140 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 303 male and 379 female for a total of 682 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 313 male and 302 female for a total of 615 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 350 female for a total of 642 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 298 male and 323 female for a total of 621 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (13.0%).

On the 5th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5367 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 110 in recovery, 5161 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 146 female for a total of 286 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 374 female for a total of 679 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 630 female for a total of 1,140 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 303 male and 381

female for a total of 684 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 313 male and 304 female for a total of 617 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 352 female for a total of 644 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 298 male and 324 female for a total of 622 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (12.9%).

On the 6th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5376 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 117 in recovery, 5163 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 147 female for a total of 287 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 377 female for a total of 682 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 630 female for a total of 1,140 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 303 male and 381 female for a total of 684 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 315 male and 305 female for a total of 620 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 353 female for a total of 645 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 299 male and 324 female for a total of 623 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 388 female for a total of 695 (12.9%).

On the 7th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5378 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 117 in recovery, 5163 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 147 female for a total of 287 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 378 female for a total of 683 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 630 female for a total of 1,140 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 303 male and 381 female for a total of 684 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 315 male and 305 female for a total of 620 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 353 female for a total of 645 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 299 male and 324 female for a total of 623 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 389 female for a total of 696 (12.9%).

On the 8th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5381 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 120 in recovery, 5163 recovered, and 92 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 147 female for a total of 287 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 378 female for a total of 683 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 630 female for a total of 1,140 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 303 male and 383 female for a total of 686 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 316 male and 305 female for a total of 621 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 353 female for a total of 645 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 299 male and 324 female for a total of 623 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 389 female for a total of 696 (12.9%).

On the 9th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5385 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 123 in recovery, 5163 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 147 female for a total of 287 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 378 female for a total of 683 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 510 male and 631 female for a total of 1,141 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 304 male and 383 female for a total of 687 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 317 male and 306 female for a total of 623 (11.5%), ages 50-59: 292 male and 353 female for a total of 645 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 299 male and 324 female for a total of 623 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 389 female for a total of 696 (12.9%).

On the 10th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 20 new cases. This changes totals to 5405 total cases with 8 hospitalized, 110 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 140 male and 148 female for a total of 288 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 305 male and 379 female for a total of 684 (12.7%), ages

20-29: 511 male and 634 female for a total of 1,145 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 306 male and 384 female for a total of 690 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 319 male and 308 female for a total of 627 (11.6%), ages 50-59: 293 male and 354 female for a total of 647 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 300 male and 327 female for a total of 627 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 390 female for a total of 697 (12.9%).

The Coles County health department posted that we have 12 new cases as of 5 pm. This changes totals to 5417 total cases with 9 hospitalized, 121 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. As of yesterday, 14,935 vaccines have been administered in the county with 5,971 people fully vaccinated. The rolling 7-day average is 262 vaccines a day. The state reports that Coles county has 5281 total cases with 93 deceased. The state totals are 1,204,409 total cases with 20,863 total confirmed deaths and 2,259 probable deaths. 18.8 total tests have been performed and 98 variant cases have been identified in the state. As of today, 3,680,703 vaccines have been administered.

Sunday March 14, 2021

Congress passed the stimulus package, and it sounds like relief checks should be going out relatively soon. Biden is planning a cross country road trip to promote the vaccines and encourage people to take them. In my mind not the best idea as we are to be staying away from each other, but I understand his motivation. He said it is his goal to have vaccines available to every adult by May. Mom got her vaccine this past week. She said that she's feeling side effects from it including the sensation of feeling hot. I wish I could get the vaccine already; waiting is making me antsy. I heard a report yesterday that Friday had the highest vaccine numbers yet having delivered 150,000 vaccines in one day. Yesterday was also the 1-year anniversary of Breonna Taylor's death. Memorials and rallies were held around the country to remember her. The police officers were never directly convicted of wrongdoing and because of our double jeopardy laws, unless something new comes out and changes the case they never will be. Was with my grandfather when the news was talking about it. He said that if people would just do what the police said they wouldn't get shot. It took all my will power not to yell at him. I had to hold my hand over my mouth and think over and over again *don't say anything*. His ignorant, racist, and sexist comments infuriate me sometimes. I also saw that a jury had been selected for the dude the murdered George Floyd so I expect his trial will begin relatively soon. I haven't heard anything about the two guys that gunned down the jogger, Ahmaud Arbery. I have no idea if their trial has even started.

On the 12th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 13 new cases. This changes totals to 5430 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 136 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 150 female for a total of 292 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 310 male and 382 female for a total of 692 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 513 male and 635 female for a total of 1,148 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 306 male and 384 female for a total of 690 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 323 male and 310 female for a total of 633 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 354 female for a total of 648 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 302 male and 328 female for a total of 630 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 390 female for a total of 697 (12.8%).

On the 13th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5435 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 144 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 150 female for a total of 292 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 310 male and 383 female for a total of 693 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 515 male and 635 female for a total of 1,150 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 306 male and 384 female for a total of 690 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 324 male and 310 female for a total of 634 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 354 female for a total of 648 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 302 male and 328 female for a total of 630 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 391 female for a total of 698 (12.8%).

The Coles County health department posted that we have 4 new cases as of 3:45 pm. This changes totals to 5439 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 144 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. As of yesterday, 15,675 vaccines have been administered with 6170 people fully vaccinated. The 7-day rolling average of 276 vaccines a day.

The state reports that Coles county has 5309 total cases and 93 total deaths. Statewide, there are a total of 1,209,331 cases and 20,943 total deaths with 2,263 probable deaths. A little over 19 million tests have been performed and 99 variant cases have been identified. There are 94 cases of the UK variant, 3 cases of the South African variant, and 2 cases of the Brazil variant. As of today, 4,040,302 doses have been administered with the 7-day rolling average of 97,441 doses per day. Approximately 11.68% of the population has been vaccinated with 1,488,244 people fully vaccinated. At this point, Adams county is the most vaccinated with 25.57% of its population fully vaccinated.

Friday April 2, 2021

Taken a little break from writing. Life has kind of run away. I've gotten responses back from graduate programs and I found out I was accepted to SIU Carbondale. I've been trying to take get ready for that, apply for scholarships, graduate assistantships, working 25 hours a week at the Lake Land Dental office, and trying to keep up with schoolwork. I'm only taking 2 classes and I feel stressed, I can't imagine what it's like for students going full time right now.

I heard from the local Carle clinic that they will be opening vaccinations to everyone 18 and up come mid-April. Biden has said it is his goal to have a vaccine available to every adult by May. I am hopeful I'll get mine quickly. I wish I was working at the cabin right now. As a government worker, I would be able to go out and get one right now but, oh well. I've made it a year without, what is a couple more weeks.

The trial of Derek Chauvin started on Monday. They've been live streaming the trial so people can watch. The defense is framing it, so Floyd died from being high combined with his preexisting conditions. They are also working to frame the witnesses, who are largely if not all people of color, as the stereotypical angry black people which made the officers fearful for their lives. I only watched a few clips, but it made me so angry listening to this lawyer that I couldn't do anymore. Chauvin had a smirk on his face and absolutely nothing about his body language

said that he was fearful. People have been comparing his trial to that of OJ Simpson. I sincerely hope this trial has a different outcome.

A ship, the Ever Given, got stuck in the Suez Canal on March 23 because of a Sandstorm. It went viral but it did have a determinantal effect on the world economy since it stopped all traffic in the canal for 6 days. Apparently 15% of all shipping goes through there. My guess, this was not the highlight of this captain's career.

Since covid began, there has been a rise in hate crimes against people of Asian ancestry. Not surprising since trump fueled all this with racist rhetoric. Then this week in Atlanta, a man went and shot up 3 Asian owned spas, killing 8 people. 6 of those were 6 Asian women. He admitted to his racist motivations and also claimed to be a god-loving, gun-toting, trump supporter. Reports say that hate crimes towards Asians have increased by almost 150% over the course of 2020 and covid. This kind of behavior is unacceptable. This just shows how much damage a person in power can do.

Speaking of Matt Gaetz is in trouble. There is evidence he's being extorted over his father's activities and evidence he's been involved in either child prostitution or child sex trafficking. Either way, I'm almost positive he's being accused of sleeping with a 17-year-old girl. He dragged Tucker Carlson into his schemes by saying he saw them together. He's not doing himself any favors by not shutting up. I hope he goes to jail.

Today around lunchtime my time I think, the Capital went into lockdown again. Not much has been released to the press but what we do know is that a car rammed the entrance to the Capital grounds. Not sure if it was intentional or the car lost control, but signs are pointing towards intentional. The car rammed into the barricade and a firefight ensued. The driver as well as 2 officers All three were taken to the hospital. 1 officer and the driver died as a result of their injuries. I don't understand. The US feel so unstable because of the chaos trump caused for 4 years. It infuriates me he can't be prosecuted because everything he said is technically protected under free speech. Doesn't matter if his words directly caused people's deaths, its protected speech. I hate him. I hate him so much.

On March 15th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5441 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 150 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 310 male and 384 female for a total of 694 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 515 male and 636 female for a total of 1,151 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 307 male and 385 female for a total of 692 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 324 male and 311 female for a total of 635 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 354 female for a total of 648 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 302 male and 328 female for a total of 630 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 391 female for a total of 698 (12.8%).

On March 16th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 15 new cases. This changes totals to 5456 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 165 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151

female for a total of 293 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 310 male and 384 female for a total of 694 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 518 male and 639 female for a total of 1,157 (21.2%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 385 female for a total of 693 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 328 male and 312 female for a total of 640 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 355 female for a total of 649 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 303 male and 329 female for a total of 632 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 391 female for a total of 698 (12.8%).

On March 17th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5467 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 175 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 311 male and 385 female for a total of 696 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 522 male and 642 female for a total of 1,164 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 385 female for a total of 693 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 328 male and 314 female for a total of 642 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 355 female for a total of 649 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 303 male and 329 female for a total of 632 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 307 male and 391 female for a total of 698 (12.8%).

On March 18th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5474 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 182 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.4%), ages 10-19: 311 male and 385 female for a total of 696 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 523 male and 643 female for a total of 1,166 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 385 female for a total of 693 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 328 male and 315 female for a total of 643 (11.7%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 356 female for a total of 650 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 303 male and 330 female for a total of 633 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 308 male and 392 female for a total of 700 (12.8%).

On March 19th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 6 new cases. This changes totals to 5480 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 116 in recovery, 5266 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 312 male and 385 female for a total of 697 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 525 male and 643 female for a total of 1,168 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 385 female for a total of 693 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 329 male and 315 female for a total of 644 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 294 male and 357 female for a total of 651 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 308 male and 392 female for a total of 700 (12.8%).

On March 20th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases and 5 new cases on March 21st. This changes totals to 5493 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 130 in recovery, 5266 recovered, and 93 deceased.

On March 22nd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 6 new cases. This changes totals to 5499 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 135 in recovery, 5266 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 315 male and 385 female for a total of 700 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 529 male and 645 female for a total of 1,174 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 387 female for a total of 695 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 331 male and 316 female for a total of 647 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 295 male and 358 female for a total of 653 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male

and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 311 male and 392 female for a total of 703 (12.8%).

On March 23rd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5507 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 101 in recovery, 5309 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 316 male and 386 female for a total of 702 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 529 male and 647 female for a total of 1,176 (21.6%), ages 30-39: 308 male and 388 female for a total of 696 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 332 male and 317 female for a total of 649 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 296 male and 358 female for a total of 654 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 311 male and 392 female for a total of 703 (12.8%).

On March 24th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 14 new cases. This changes totals to 5521 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 112 in recovery, 5312 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 388 female for a total of 707 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 530 male and 649 female for a total of 1,179 (21.6%), ages 30-39: 309 male and 388 female for a total of 697 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 334 male and 317 female for a total of 651 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 297 male and 358 female for a total of 655 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 312 male and 393 female for a total of 705 (12.8%).

On March 25th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5525 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 112 in recovery, 5312 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 388 female for a total of 707 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 530 male and 650 female for a total of 1,180 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 309 male and 388 female for a total of 697 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 334 male and 317 female for a total of 651 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 358 female for a total of 656 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 394 female for a total of 707 (12.8%).

On March 26th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5530 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 94 in recovery, 5337 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 389 female for a total of 708 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 531 male and 651 female for a total of 1,182 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 388 female for a total of 698 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 335 male and 317 female for a total of 652 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 358 female for a total of 656 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 394 female for a total of 707 (12.8%).

On the 27th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5535 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 99 in recovery, 5337 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 390 female for a total of 709 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 533 male and 651 female for a total of 1,184 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 388 female for a total of 698 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 335 male and 318 female for a total of 653

(11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 359 female for a total of 657 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 394 female for a total of 707 (12.8%).

On the 28th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5539 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 103 in recovery, 5337 recovered, and 93 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 391 female for a total of 710 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 533 male and 651 female for a total of 1,184 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 389 female for a total of 699 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 336 male and 319 female for a total of 655 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 359 female for a total of 657 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 304 male and 330 female for a total of 634 (11.4%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 394 female for a total of 707 (12.8%).

On the 29th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5548 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 111 in recovery, 5338 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 392 female for a total of 711 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 534 male and 652 female for a total of 1,186 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 390 female for a total of 700 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 338 male and 319 female for a total of 657 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 360 female for a total of 658 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 306 male and 330 female for a total of 636 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 394 female for a total of 707 (12.7%).

On the 30th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5557 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 43 in recovery, 5416 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 392 female for a total of 711 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 534 male and 655 female for a total of 1,189 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 391 female for a total of 701 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 339 male and 319 female for a total of 658 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 360 female for a total of 658 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 306 male and 332 female for a total of 638 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 313 male and 396 female for a total of 709 (12.8%).

On the 31st, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5562 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 43 in recovery, 5420 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 392 female for a total of 711 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 534 male and 656 female for a total of 1,190 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 391 female for a total of 701 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 340 male and 319 female for a total of 659 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 360 female for a total of 658 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 307 male and 332 female for a total of 639 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 314 male and 397 female for a total of 711 (12.8%).

On April 1st, the Coles County health department posted that we had 6 new cases. This changes totals to 5568 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 39 in recovery, 5429 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 319 male and 393 female for a total of 712 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 534 male and 657 female for a total of 1,191 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 310 male and 391

female for a total of 701 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 319 female for a total of 660 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 298 male and 360 female for a total of 658 (11.8%), ages 60-69: 308 male and 332 female for a total of 640 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 314 male and 398 female for a total of 712 (12.8%).

Today, the Coles County health department posted that we have 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5439 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 144 in recovery, 5194 recovered, and 93 deceased. As of yesterday, 15,675 vaccines have been administered with 6170 people fully vaccinated. The 7-day rolling average of 276 vaccines a day.

Friday April 9, 2021

I was able to sign up to get the vaccine yesterday. The National Guard is doing a giant clinic at Sarah Bush on today and tomorrow to give out free Johnson and Johnson vaccines. They've got 2,000 vaccines to give out over the two days and you have to book an appointment to get one. It's only available to people who live or work in Coles County. I went at 12:15 after I finished my morning at the dentist office at Lake Land. It was pretty well done and very efficient. From arriving to getting the vaccine, it was maybe 10 minutes. They had an observation area where you had to sit for 15 minutes to make sure you weren't going to go into anaphylactic shock from the vaccine. When you signed up, you got a QR code that they scanned so they could track who got the vaccine and how long they had been there, make sure no one checks out before their time is up. For me, the shot hurt when I first got it but within 10 minutes my arm stopped hurting. I keep moving it to hopefully get the vaccine moving around, make it less painful for tomorrow. I'm a bit paranoid about it. A lady at the dental office also got the Johnson and Johnson vaccine and she said she had pin for 5 days after and that her arm, her muscles, and her skin hurt for a couple days. Don't really want that. Mom is getting her second Pfizer shot today too.

Prince Phillip died this morning. I believe they said he was 98 years old.

Today wraps up week 2 of the Chauvin trial. This week the doctors testified as to the cause of death of George Floyd. We officially now know that he died from asphyxiation and not any kind of drugs. They brought in a lung and throat specialist to analyze the footage and he showed the jury how it can easily be calculated that his breathing rate was normal and not affected by any sort of drugs. He also explained that all the officers in pinning him down blocked any ability for him to breath deeply. The two prevented his sides and back from expanding and Chauvin placed his full body weight on Floyd's neck pinpointed through his knees. They showed a section of video where you can clearly see Chauvin's feet aren't touching the ground. It was disturbing to watch. At least the chief of police came forward and testified that Chauvin was in direct breach of police policy by doing that hold.

On April 3rd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 1 new case. This changes totals to 5577 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 48 in recovery, 5430 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 321 male and 393 female for a total of 714 (12.8%), ages

20-29: 535 male and 657 female for a total of 1,192 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 311 male and 391 female for a total of 702 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 319 female for a total of 660 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 300 male and 362 female for a total of 662 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 310 male and 332 female for a total of 642 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 314 male and 398 female for a total of 712 (12.8%).

On the 5th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5582 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 35 in recovery, 5451 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 393 female for a total of 715 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 535 male and 657 female for a total of 1,192 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 311 male and 391 female for a total of 702 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 319 female for a total of 660 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 301 male and 364 female for a total of 665 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 310 male and 332 female for a total of 642 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 315 male and 398 female for a total of 713 (12.8%).

On the 6th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5585 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 33 in recovery, 5456 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 535 male and 657 female for a total of 1,192 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 311 male and 391 female for a total of 702 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 319 female for a total of 660 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 301 male and 364 female for a total of 665 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 311 male and 332 female for a total of 643 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 315 male and 398 female for a total of 713 (12.8%).

On the 7th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5594 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 40 in recovery, 5456 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 151 female for a total of 293 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 536 male and 659 female for a total of 1,195 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 311 male and 394 female for a total of 705 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 321 female for a total of 662 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 364 female for a total of 666 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 311 male and 332 female for a total of 643 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 315 male and 398 female for a total of 713 (12.8%).

On the 8th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5601 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 41 in recovery, 5464 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 536 male and 660 female for a total of 1,196 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 311 male and 395 female for a total of 706 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 321 female for a total of 662 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 366 female for a total of 668 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 311 male and 333 female for a total of 644 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 315 male and 398 female for a total of 713 (12.7%).

For today, the Coles County health department posted that we had 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5604 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 43 in recovery, 5464 recovered, and 94 deceased.

The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 537 male and 660 female for a total of 1,197 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 312 male and 395 female for a total of 707 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 341 male and 321 female for a total of 662 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 366 female for a total of 668 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 311 male and 333 female for a total of 644 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 315 male and 399 female for a total of 714 (12.7%).

Saturday April 10, 2021

I feel awful. All of my joints hurt. The pain in my wrists and ankles reminds me of when I sprained them and the pain in my shoulders reminds me of when I had tendonitis. The meat part of my muscles feels like someone hit me with a metal bat if the slightest pressure is put on them. As gross as I feel now, last night was worse. I was having chills and hot flashes. At one point I was violently shivering for 2 minutes trying to warm up. I got so hot, I slept up against my wall because it was cold. My body hurt so I had all my limbs propped up on my fluffiest pillows. Today, I've taken about 3-4 naps and taken lots of Ibuprofen. Good thing it's Saturday and I can lay here and die. Mom isn't having a great time either. I think she's had the worst reaction out of all of us. When my dad got it, he had 1 bad day and then was a little sore. One mom's first shot, she had a heat rash and got headaches. This one she's nauseous and feels horrible in general. At least, in about 2 weeks, all of us will be fully vaccinated. I can finally book a haircut.

For today, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5608 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 47 in recovery, 5464 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 538 male and 660 female for a total of 1,198 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 312 male and 395 female for a total of 707 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 342 male and 321 female for a total of 663 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 366 female for a total of 668 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 311 male and 334 female for a total of 645 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 399 female for a total of 715 (12.7%).

Sunday April 25, 2021

The Chauvin trial concluded on this past Tuesday. He was found guilty on all 3 counts. There was celebration in the streets because the black community finally felt some justice was done for George Floyd. I was watching the live stream while I was working in the tutoring office at Lake Land. I didn't have my earbuds, so I was watching with it on silent and the captions on. I was thrilled to see the results. The sad thing is none of us were sure that he would actually be found guilty even though the entire thing was caught on video. But my joy was squashed by the other ladies in the office. I caught the receptionist watching Fox News for updates. Figures since these are the same trump lovers from earlier in the year. They were all ticked off that he was found guilty, saying that he accidentally killed George he was being framed for intentional murder. In actuality, he was convicted of unintentionally murder as a result of malicious actions. When I heard them talking, I just wanted to scream and storm out. It drives me nuts not being to say anything to any of them about how moronic they are they feed off a fear

mongering propaganda site. Either way, I think this is a step in the right direction. I hope this leads to more. We also saw this week congress pass an act officially taking a stand against racism against Asians. This is long overdue. I heard something about AOC and racist Margery are going to debate each other. I know the racist will get her behind handed to her but I'm not going to watch. This is all just a show for her supporters after her Nazi "America First" caucus was shot down by massive backlash. I'm not going to feed her ego by giving her another viewer.

On the 11th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5608 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 47 in recovery, 5464 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 538 male and 660 female for a total of 1,198 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 312 male and 395 female for a total of 707 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 343 male and 321 female for a total of 664 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 366 female for a total of 668 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 312 male and 334 female for a total of 646 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 399 female for a total of 715 (12.7%).

On the 12th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5615 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 55 in recovery, 5464 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 538 male and 660 female for a total of 1,198 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 312 male and 396 female for a total of 708 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 344 male and 323 female for a total of 667 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 367 female for a total of 669 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 312 male and 334 female for a total of 646 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 399 female for a total of 715 (12.7%).

On the 13th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5619 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 34 in recovery, 5488 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 395 female for a total of 717 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 538 male and 661 female for a total of 1,199 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 313 male and 396 female for a total of 709 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 344 male and 323 female for a total of 667 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 302 male and 367 female for a total of 669 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 312 male and 335 female for a total of 647 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 400 female for a total of 716 (12.7%).

On the 14th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5627 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 41 in recovery, 5488 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 396 female for a total of 718 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 539 male and 663 female for a total of 1,202 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 314 male and 396 female for a total of 710 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 344 male and 323 female for a total of 667 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 303 male and 368 female for a total of 671 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 312 male and 336 female for a total of 648 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 400 female for a total of 716 (12.7%).

On the 15th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5638 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 46 in recovery, 5494 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 153 female for a total of 295 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 322 male and 396 female for a total of 718 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 540 male and 667 female for a total of 1,207 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 314 male and 396 female for a total of 710 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 346 male and 323 female for a total of 669 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 303 male and 368 female for a total of 671 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 314 male and 337 female for a total of 651 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 401 female for a total of 717 (12.7%).

On the 16th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5645 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 42 in recovery, 5505 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 154 female for a total of 296 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 323 male and 397 female for a total of 720 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 540 male and 668 female for a total of 1,208 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 315 male and 396 female for a total of 711 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 346 male and 323 female for a total of 669 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 304 male and 369 female for a total of 673 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 314 male and 337 female for a total of 651 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 401 female for a total of 717 (12.7%).

On the 17th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 10 new cases. This changes totals to 5655 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 52 in recovery, 5505 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 154 female for a total of 296 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 324 male and 398 female for a total of 722 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 540 male and 672 female for a total of 1,212 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 315 male and 396 female for a total of 711 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 346 male and 324 female for a total of 670 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 304 male and 371 female for a total of 675 (11.9%), ages 60-69: 315 male and 337 female for a total of 652 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 316 male and 401 female for a total of 717 (12.7%).

On the 18th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5664 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 61 in recovery, 5505 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 154 female for a total of 296 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 325 male and 398 female for a total of 723 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 540 male and 672 female for a total of 1,212 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 315 male and 397 female for a total of 712 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 347 male and 324 female for a total of 671 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 306 male and 372 female for a total of 678 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 316 male and 338 female for a total of 654 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 401 female for a total of 718 (12.7%).

On the 19th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 1 new case. This changes totals to 5665 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 60 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 154 female for a total of 296 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 325 male and 398 female for a total of 723 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 540 male and 673 female for a total of 1,213 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 315 male and 397 female for a total of 712 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 347 male and 324 female for a total of 671 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 306 male and 372 female for a total of 678 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 316 male

and 338 female for a total of 654 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 401 female for a total of 718 (12.7%).

On the 20th, the Coles County health department posted that we had 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5676 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 72 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 155 female for a total of 297 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 326 male and 399 female for a total of 725 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 541 male and 674 female for a total of 1,215 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 316 male and 397 female for a total of 713 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 348 male and 324 female for a total of 672 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 308 male and 374 female for a total of 682 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 316 male and 338 female for a total of 654 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 401 female for a total of 718 (12.6%).

On the 21st, the Coles County health department posted that we had 13 new cases. This changes totals to 5689 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 85 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 142 male and 155 female for a total of 297 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 327 male and 401 female for a total of 728 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 543 male and 675 female for a total of 1,218 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 318 male and 397 female for a total of 715 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 349 male and 325 female for a total of 674 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 308 male and 375 female for a total of 683 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 317 male and 339 female for a total of 656 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 401 female for a total of 718 (12.6%).

On the 22nd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 12 new cases. This changes totals to 5701 total cases with 7 hospitalized, 94 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 143 male and 156 female for a total of 299 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 328 male and 401 female for a total of 729 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 543 male and 676 female for a total of 1,219 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 319 male and 398 female for a total of 717 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 349 male and 326 female for a total of 675 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 308 male and 377 female for a total of 685 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 318 male and 339 female for a total of 657 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 403 female for a total of 720 (12.6%).

On the 23rd, the Coles County health department posted that we had 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5705 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 100 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 143 male and 156 female for a total of 299 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 328 male and 401 female for a total of 729 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 545 male and 676 female for a total of 1,221 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 319 male and 398 female for a total of 717 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 350 male and 326 female for a total of 676 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 309 male and 377 female for a total of 686 (12.0%), ages 60-69: 318 male and 339 female for a total of 657 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 317 male and 403 female for a total of 720 (12.6%).

No update for the 24th or today.

Sunday June 27, 2021

I had considered ending this record in May however I wanted to wait until after the Derek Chauvin trial to give my thoughts on it. I

I was at the Cabin, and I was watching the trial on Friday live with a couple coworkers. The defense tried to ask for a retrial because a picture of a juror wearing a shirt that said “get off our necks” was released to the media. Just hours before the sentencing, the judge denied the request and upheld the verdict. It was heart breaking to see his family members talk. The pain they must have gone through to watch the video of their brother and uncle die over and over again. I can’t imagine. They had a video where they asked Floyd’s daughter some questions about her dad and your heart just breaks. She says all she wants to do is play with him when she sees him again. I felt like the state’s attorney went on way to long, but it was clear he was emotionally affected by the case as well. Chauvin’s mother got up to talk and was clearly in denial. She said repeatedly that her sons were innocent and spent the entire time talking about her pain. Not once did she express any sort of acknowledgement the pain the Floyd family was going through. She kept saying the Chauvin would always volunteer to go into work because he loved his job. He volunteered to go in the day Floyd was killed. I was sitting there listening to this and all I could think, did no one think he enjoyed his job because he is addicted to power? Chauvin got up to speak and said that he couldn’t say anything because of pending legal matters. Apparently, he still has a federal case pending being charged with depriving Floyd of his rights. But then he did the weirdest thing and turned towards the family and said there would be some information coming in the future that would help to bring them peace. What is that supposed to mean? I fully don’t understand. I was also struck at how emotionless Chauvin was the entire time. No reaction when the Floyd family talked, no reaction when his own mother got up to talk. When the judge went to his chambers, it was the longest 15 minutes. I also missed his verdict because I was at the front desk and there were people I had to talk to. The judge ruled Chauvin was to get 22.5 years and he can never own a firearm for the rest of his life. The crowds outside went wild. The judge wrote a 22-page opinion as to how he reached his verdict and I imagine that will it more difficult for the defense to challenge. I was thrilled when I heard the result. The State was asking for 30 years, and the defense was asking for probation with time served. The average sentence for 2nd degree murder is about 12.5 years and I was expecting something closer to that. After listening to the experts in court and watching them break down the video, I finally understood what it was that I was watching. I finally understood just how awful and horrific it was; and then for him to sit there and show no remorse or anything. Chauvin deserves life. But I can live with 22.5.

At this point, around 65% of adults in the US have had at least 1 vaccine shot. Restrictions have been lifted, including mask mandates. Fully vaccinated people no longer have to wear masks in stores or restaurants. I’ve been selectively not wearing masks when I go out depending on where I go. Since getting vaccinated, I have gotten my hair cut, been to a restaurant, and seen a couple movies in the theater. We are slowly making the trek towards pre-pandemic “normalcy.” It has been an incredible relief going out and not worrying about catching something. I’m moving the Memphis, TN in the fall for their Egyptian Art and Archeology Graduate program and I’m not thoroughly worried about catching something there. I have to say there are times that I do miss the mask sometimes. When I’m near someone

coughing, I really have to resist the urge to not find my mask because that might come off as rude. Biden has been working hard to get the country vaccinated but it looks like he's going to miss his 70% vaccinated goal by the 4th. It is an incredible relief to not hear about Biden every day, wondering what idiocy has happened or if we're going to get blown up. Trump is getting investigated and Giuliani had his NY law license suspended while he's being investigated by their, for a lack of better term, ethics committee for complaints about lying in court about the election fraud.

On April 24th there were 7 new cases, on the 25th there was 1, and on the 26th there were 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5705 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 100 in recovery, 5506 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 143 male and 158 female for a total of 301 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 328 male and 402 female for a total of 730 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 546 male and 676 female for a total of 1,222 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 321 male and 399 female for a total of 720 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 351 male and 327 female for a total of 678 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 309 male and 381 female for a total of 690 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 322 male and 339 female for a total of 661 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 318 male and 404 female for a total of 722 (12.6%).

On April 27th there were 21 new cases. This changes totals to 5745 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 64 in recovery, 5584 recovered, and 94 deceased.

On the 28th, there were 10 new cases. This changes totals to 5755 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 68 in recovery, 5589 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 144 male and 158 female for a total of 302 (5.2%), ages 10-19: 329 male and 406 female for a total of 735 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 679 female for a total of 1,227 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 401 female for a total of 725 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 328 female for a total of 682 (11.9%), ages 50-59: 312 male and 385 female for a total of 697 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 323 male and 340 female for a total of 663 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 319 male and 405 female for a total of 724 (12.6%).

On the 29th, there were 11 new cases. This changes totals to 5766 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 73 in recovery, 5596 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 158 female for a total of 303 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 330 male and 407 female for a total of 737 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 681 female for a total of 1,229 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 402 female for a total of 726 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 328 female for a total of 682 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 315 male and 386 female for a total of 701 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 323 male and 340 female for a total of 663 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 319 male and 406 female for a total of 725 (12.6%).

On the 30th, there were 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5774 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 74 in recovery, 5603 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 159 female for a total of 304 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 330 male and 407 female for a total of 737 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 684 female for a total of 1,232 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 403 female for a total of 727 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 315 male and 386 female for a total of 701 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 324 male and 340 female for a total of 664 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 320 male and 406 female for a total of 726 (12.6%).

On May 1st, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5776 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 75 in recovery, 5603 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 159 female for a total of 304 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 330 male and 407 female for a total of 737 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 684 female for a total of 1,232 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 404 female for a total of 728 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 315 male and 386 female for a total of 701 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 324 male and 341 female for a total of 665 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 320 male and 406 female for a total of 726 (12.6%).

On May 2nd, there were 1 new case. This changes totals to 5777 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 75 in recovery, 5603 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 159 female for a total of 304 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 330 male and 407 female for a total of 737 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 684 female for a total of 1,232 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 404 female for a total of 728 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 315 male and 386 female for a total of 701 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 324 male and 341 female for a total of 665 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 321 male and 406 female for a total of 727 (12.6%).

On the 3rd, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5780 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 54 in recovery, 5628 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 159 female for a total of 304 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 330 male and 407 female for a total of 737 (12.8%), ages 20-29: 548 male and 684 female for a total of 1,232 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 324 male and 404 female for a total of 728 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 315 male and 387 female for a total of 702 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 325 male and 341 female for a total of 666 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 321 male and 407 female for a total of 728 (12.6%).

On the 4th, there were 9 new cases. This changes totals to 5789 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 49 in recovery, 5642 recovered, and 94 deceased.

On the 5th, there were 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5794 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 46 in recovery, 5648 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 160 female for a total of 305 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 331 male and 407 female for a total of 738 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 552 male and 685 female for a total of 1,237 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 405 female for a total of 730 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 316 male and 389 female for a total of 705 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 325 male and 342 female for a total of 667 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 321 male and 408 female for a total of 729 (12.6%).

On the 6th, there were 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5798 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 46 in recovery, 5653 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 161 female for a total of 306 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 331 male and 407 female for a total of 738 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 552 male and 685 female for a total of 1,237 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 406 female for a total of 731 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 316 male and 390 female for a total of 706 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 325 male and 342 female for a total of 667 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 322 male and 408 female for a total of 730 (12.6%).

On the 10th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5811 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 28 in recovery, 5684 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and

sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 161 female for a total of 306 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 331 male and 407 female for a total of 738 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 554 male and 685 female for a total of 1,239 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 406 female for a total of 731 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 329 female for a total of 683 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 316 male and 391 female for a total of 707 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 327 male and 343 female for a total of 670 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 11th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5814 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 24 in recovery, 5690 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 161 female for a total of 306 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 331 male and 408 female for a total of 739 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 554 male and 688 female for a total of 1,242 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 407 female for a total of 732 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 354 male and 330 female for a total of 684 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 316 male and 391 female for a total of 707 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 327 male and 343 female for a total of 670 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 12th, there were 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5822 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 27 in recovery, 5696 recovered, and 94 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 161 female for a total of 306 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 331 male and 408 female for a total of 739 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 556 male and 689 female for a total of 1,245 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 407 female for a total of 732 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 355 male and 330 female for a total of 685 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 316 male and 392 female for a total of 708 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.6%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 13th, there were 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5828 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 31 in recovery, 5697 recovered, and 95 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 145 male and 161 female for a total of 306 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 408 female for a total of 741 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 558 male and 689 female for a total of 1,247 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 407 female for a total of 732 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 330 female for a total of 686 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 317 male and 392 female for a total of 709 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 14th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5831 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 28 in recovery, 5703 recovered, and 95 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 146 male and 161 female for a total of 307 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 408 female for a total of 741 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 690 female for a total of 1,249 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 407 female for a total of 732 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 330 female for a total of 686 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 317 male and 392 female for a total of 709 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 15th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5833 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 28 in recovery, 5705 recovered, and 95 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 146 male and 161 female for a total of 307 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 408 female for a total of 741 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 691 female for a total of 1,250 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 408 female for a total of 733 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 330 female for a total of 686 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 317 male and 392 female for a

total of 709 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 16th, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5834 total cases with 5 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5705 recovered, and 95 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 146 male and 161 female for a total of 307 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 408 female for a total of 741 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 691 female for a total of 1,250 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 325 male and 409 female for a total of 734 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 330 female for a total of 686 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 317 male and 392 female for a total of 709 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 410 female for a total of 734 (12.6%).

On the 17th, there were 7 new cases. This changes totals to 5843 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5713 recovered, and 98 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 147 male and 161 female for a total of 308 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 409 female for a total of 742 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 691 female for a total of 1,250 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 331 female for a total of 687 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 317 male and 392 female for a total of 709 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 18th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5841 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5713 recovered, and 98 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 147 male and 161 female for a total of 308 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 409 female for a total of 742 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 691 female for a total of 1,250 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 356 male and 331 female for a total of 687 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 19th, there were 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5848 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 30 in recovery, 5717 recovered, and 98 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 148 male and 161 female for a total of 309 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 333 male and 409 female for a total of 742 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 692 female for a total of 1,251 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 333 female for a total of 690 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 345 female for a total of 673 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 20th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5850 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5718 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 148 male and 161 female for a total of 309 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 334 male and 409 female for a total of 743 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 692 female for a total of 1,251 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 333 female for a total of 690 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.2%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 346 female for a total of 674 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 21st, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5852 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5720 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and

sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 148 male and 161 female for a total of 309 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 335 male and 409 female for a total of 744 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 559 male and 693 female for a total of 1,252 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 333 female for a total of 690 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 346 female for a total of 674 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 22nd, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5855 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 32 in recovery, 5720 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 148 male and 161 female for a total of 309 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 336 male and 409 female for a total of 745 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 560 male and 693 female for a total of 1,253 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 327 male and 410 female for a total of 737 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 333 female for a total of 690 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 347 female for a total of 675 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.6%).

On the 23rd, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5859 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 36 in recovery, 5720 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 149 male and 161 female for a total of 310 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 337 male and 409 female for a total of 746 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 560 male and 693 female for a total of 1,253 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 328 male and 410 female for a total of 738 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 334 female for a total of 691 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 347 female for a total of 675 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 24th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5862 total cases with 6 hospitalized, 35 in recovery, 5722 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 149 male and 161 female for a total of 310 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 409 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 562 male and 693 female for a total of 1,255 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 328 male and 410 female for a total of 738 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 334 female for a total of 691 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 328 male and 347 female for a total of 675 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 25th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5865 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 25 in recovery, 5738 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 149 male and 161 female for a total of 310 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 409 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 563 male and 693 female for a total of 1,256 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 329 male and 410 female for a total of 739 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 334 female for a total of 691 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 393 female for a total of 711 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 329 male and 347 female for a total of 676 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 26th, there were 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5870 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 26 in recovery, 5742 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 150 male and 161 female for a total of 311 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 409 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 329 male and 410 female for a total of 739 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 334 female for a total of 691 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 318 male and 394 female for a

total of 712 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 329 male and 347 female for a total of 676 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 27th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5872 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 29 in recovery, 5743 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 150 male and 161 female for a total of 311 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 409 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 330 male and 410 female for a total of 740 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 357 male and 334 female for a total of 691 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 319 male and 394 female for a total of 713 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 329 male and 347 female for a total of 676 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 28th, there were 5 new cases. This changes totals to 5877 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 34 in recovery, 5743 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 150 male and 161 female for a total of 311 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 409 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 331 male and 412 female for a total of 743 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 335 female for a total of 693 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 319 male and 394 female for a total of 713 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 329 male and 347 female for a total of 676 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 29th, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5877 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 35 in recovery, 5743 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 150 male and 161 female for a total of 311 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 410 female for a total of 748 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 331 male and 412 female for a total of 743 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 335 female for a total of 693 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 319 male and 394 female for a total of 713 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 329 male and 347 female for a total of 676 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On the 31st, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5880 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 37 in recovery, 5743 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 150 male and 161 female for a total of 311 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 338 male and 410 female for a total of 748 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 331 male and 412 female for a total of 743 (12.6%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 335 female for a total of 693 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 319 male and 394 female for a total of 713 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 331 male and 347 female for a total of 678 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 1st, there were no new cases.

On June 2nd, there were 8 new cases. This changes totals to 5888 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 20 in recovery, 5766 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 151 male and 162 female for a total of 313 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 339 male and 411 female for a total of 750 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 331 male and 414 female for a total of 745 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 336 female for a total of 694 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 320 male and 394 female for a total of 714 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 331 male and 347 female for a total of 678 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 3rd, there were 6 new cases. This changes totals to 5894 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 21 in recovery, 5771 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 695 female for a total of 1,259 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 333 male and 414 female for a total of 747 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 337 female for a total of 695 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 320 male and 394 female for a total of 714 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 331 male and 347 female for a total of 678 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 4th, there were 4 new cases. This changes totals to 5898 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 21 in recovery, 5774 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 696 female for a total of 1,260 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 333 male and 415 female for a total of 748 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 337 female for a total of 695 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 320 male and 394 female for a total of 714 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 348 female for a total of 680 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 5th, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5899 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 22 in recovery, 5774 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 696 female for a total of 1,260 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 334 male and 415 female for a total of 749 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 358 male and 337 female for a total of 695 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 320 male and 394 female for a total of 714 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 348 female for a total of 680 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 6th, there were 0 new cases.

On June 7th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5901 total cases with 4 hospitalized, 15 in recovery, 5783 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 696 female for a total of 1,260 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 334 male and 415 female for a total of 749 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 359 male and 337 female for a total of 696 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 321 male and 394 female for a total of 715 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 348 female for a total of 680 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 8th, there was 0 new cases.

On June 9th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5903 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 13 in recovery, 5788 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 335 male and 415 female for a total of 750 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 359 male and 337 female for a total of 696 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 321 male and 394 female for a total of 715 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 348 female for a total of 680 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 411 female for a total of 735 (12.5%).

On June 10th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5906 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 13 in recovery, 5790 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and

sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.4%), ages 30-39: 335 male and 416 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 359 male and 338 female for a total of 697 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 321 male and 394 female for a total of 715 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 348 female for a total of 680 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.5%).

On June 11th, there were 0 new cases. This changes totals to 5906 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 12 in recovery, 5793 recovered, and 99 deceased.

On June 12th, there were 0 new cases. This changes totals to 5906 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 9 in recovery, 5796 recovered, and 99 deceased.

On June 13th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5908 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 11 in recovery, 5796 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 336 male and 416 female for a total of 752 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 359 male and 338 female for a total of 697 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 321 male and 394 female for a total of 715 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 349 female for a total of 681 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.5%).

On June 14th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5911 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 13 in recovery, 5796 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 416 female for a total of 754 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 360 male and 338 female for a total of 698 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 321 male and 394 female for a total of 715 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 349 female for a total of 681 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.5%).

On June 15th, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5912 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 14 in recovery, 5797 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 416 female for a total of 754 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 360 male and 338 female for a total of 698 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 322 male and 394 female for a total of 716 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 349 female for a total of 681 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 16th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5915 total cases with 2 hospitalized, 12 in recovery, 5802 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 340 male and 411 female for a total of 751 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 416 female for a total of 754 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 361 male and 338 female for a total of 699 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 323 male and 394 female for a total of 717 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 350 female for a total of 682 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 17th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5917 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 15 in recovery, 5802 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and

sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 341 male and 411 female for a total of 752 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 417 female for a total of 755 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 361 male and 338 female for a total of 699 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 323 male and 394 female for a total of 717 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 332 male and 350 female for a total of 682 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 18th, there were 3 new cases. This changes totals to 5920 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 16 in recovery, 5804 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 341 male and 411 female for a total of 752 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 697 female for a total of 1,261 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 417 female for a total of 755 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 362 male and 338 female for a total of 700 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 323 male and 395 female for a total of 718 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 333 male and 350 female for a total of 683 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 20th, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5921 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 17 in recovery, 5804 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 163 female for a total of 315 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 341 male and 411 female for a total of 752 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 698 female for a total of 1,262 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 417 female for a total of 755 (12.8%), ages 40-49: 362 male and 338 female for a total of 700 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 323 male and 395 female for a total of 718 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 333 male and 350 female for a total of 683 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 21st, there were 0 new cases.

On June 22nd, there were 0 new cases. This changes totals to 5921 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 12 in recovery, 5809 recovered, and 99 deceased.

On June 23rd, there was 1 new case. This changes totals to 5922 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 13 in recovery, 5809 recovered, and 99 deceased.

On June 24th, there were 0 new cases. This changes totals to 5922 total cases with 1 hospitalized, 12 in recovery, 5810 recovered, and 99 deceased.

On June 25th, there were 2 new cases. This changes totals to 5924 total cases with 3 hospitalized, 10 in recovery, 5812 recovered, and 99 deceased. The new breakdown by age and sex is as follows: ages 0-9: 152 male and 164 female for a total of 316 (5.3%), ages 10-19: 341 male and 411 female for a total of 752 (12.7%), ages 20-29: 564 male and 698 female for a total of 1,262 (21.3%), ages 30-39: 338 male and 417 female for a total of 755 (12.7%), ages 40-49: 363 male and 338 female for a total of 701 (11.8%), ages 50-59: 324 male and 395 female for a total of 719 (12.1%), ages 60-69: 333 male and 350 female for a total of 683 (11.5%), and ages 70+: 324 male and 412 female for a total of 736 (12.4%).

On June 26th, there were 0 new cases.

For today, there are 0 new cases. The Coles County vaccine data as of June 24th is as follows: 31,747 vaccines have been administered with 16,284 (32%) fully vaccinated. The amount of Illinoisians 12+ is 54.3%.

I have reached the end and I want to take this moment to reflect. This past year has been a difficult one. I would like to say that we as humans have grown from this, but I sincerely

doubt it. Until we can dislodge the trumpites, I think we will continue to have political discord. I think we are making good strides rejoining the Paris Accords, but I wonder if there will be effective change to combat climate change in time. I think that to justice system and prison system needs a massive overhaul to rehabilitate and promote social health, to better prepare police to handle situations in non-violent ways if possible. However, I think people are too polarized and too party obsessed to see sense. I can't believe after all of this and a pandemic there are still antivaxxers out there. I can't fathom the stupidity it takes to still be against vaccines after watching 600,000 people die in front of your eyes. I hope we don't have a repeat of the 1812 flu where we think everything has calmed down just for it to come back with a fury. Despite the more pessimistic thoughts, there is potential for better. The Cheeto has been removed from office and we have the first female vice president in office. We saw potential for the earth to become healthier if we take the steps. We see that it's possible to get everyone health care. We have been forced to confront difficult topics like racial injustice and equality and through tragedy we've been able to make steps towards betterment. I'm hopeful that the future will hold better.