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Edwardsville the Intelligencer

A HEARST NEWSPAPER

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Breaking news at theintelligencer.com

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 \$1

Doctor hails arrival of COVID-19 vaccine for kids

By Scott Marion
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GLEN CARBON — The next step has arrived in the effort to get more of the U.S. population vaccinated against COVID-19, and a local doctor is excited about what it could mean.

On Monday, U.S. regulators authorized Pfizer and BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use in children age 12 to 15.

The vaccine has been available under an emergency use authorization (EUA) to people as young as 16 in the U.S. The vaccine makers said

they had started the process for full approval for those ages last week.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it was amending the EUA to include millions of children age 12 to 15.



Didriksen

"It's a huge deal for these kids," said Dr. Libby Didriksen from Bard and Didriksen Pediatrics in Glen Carbon, "to be able to get vaccinated and have a chance to have their lives be a little closer to normal."

"As we've seen with adults, getting this vaccine out has really reduced the disease and

people aren't getting hospitalized or nearly as sick from COVID. For kids to be in school, for teenagers, who may not be the best at social separation, this will help to make them much safer."

She noted that getting vaccinated also will help with academics, as well as mental and physical health.

"There are so many layers where it makes a difference," Didriksen said.

While she encouraged parents of children age 12 to 15 to get the vaccine, it will not be provided at the Bard and Didriksen office.

"You'll be able to get it at any

"It's a huge deal for these kids to be able to get vaccinated and have a chance to have their lives be a little closer to normal."

— Dr. Libby Didriksen

of the locations that are already giving the Pfizer vaccine, which requires the minus-80 or 90-degree temperature for shipping and storage," Didriksen explained. "It's probably not going to be available in the smaller doctors' offices."

"Moderna doesn't have the

super-low temperature requirements that Pfizer does," she continued, "and it's currently for people 18 and over. You need to use a certain number of doses every day, so you can't, just, do them for your patients as they come through. You need to hold vaccine clinics. When it gets to where the Moderna vaccine is approved for under 18, then I think we will have it at our office."

Most children with COVID-19 develop only mild symptoms or none at all. But, children are not without risk of

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Marcus leads his first village trustee meeting

By Charles Bolinger
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GLEN CARBON — Just like last Tuesday in Edwardsville, a new mayor was sworn in, along with a new clerk and a new village trustee, as Mayor Robert Marcus took the gavel and the helm of the village.

A difference between what happened last Tuesday and this one is that Marcus did not appoint anyone to fill his now vacant trustee seat.

Judge Ronald Motil swore in the candidates, starting with village clerk Kathy Perry-Scaturro; the three village trustees, Ben Maliszewski, Mike Sonderegger and Walt Harris; and ending with Mayor-elect Bob Marcus.

The biggest announcement at the meeting was about the impending water supply switch from the City of Edwardsville to Illinois-American Water (IAW). The village has been using city water since June of 1996. In 2019, the village announced it was going to detach from the city's water system ahead of a planned rate increase, which the village wanted to avoid passing on to its residents.

Before it could change wholesale water suppliers, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its Illinois arm, the IEPA, rescinded any further supply changes until and unless extensive testing was completed first. This was due in part to water situations like what occurred in Flint, Michigan, in New Jersey and in the Chicagoland area.

Now that all of the testing is complete and the results are in the village's favor, the switch is projected for June 1. The trustees were presented with a second amendment to the IAW agreement. Bowden said the section that changed is regarding the minimum purchase and allowable rate of delivery.

Utility Superintendent John Leezy, Juneau and Associates President, Charlie Juneau, and IAW representatives have been invited to the next two trustee board meetings, May 25 and June 8, to review where the village is now and where it will be headed regarding water supply and transmission.

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For the Intelligencer
Collinsville Middle School Nurse, Debra Welch, poses with the tablet computer that Hazel Health provided her to use for student telehealth consultations.

Bringing care to schools

Collinsville schools, Hazel Health partner for telehealth endeavor

By Charles Bolinger
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COLLINSVILLE — The Collinsville School District announced a partnership with Hazel Health to expand health care services available to Collinsville High School (CHS) and Collinsville Middle School (CMS) students.

Hazel offers virtual doctor visits or telehealth visits accessible from the school nurse's office and from home. The service began May 5 for all CHS and CMS students: those with and without primary care physicians; and those with and without insurance.

The Collinsville Community Unit School District #10 Board of Education approved the partnership with Hazel Health at its April 19 meeting.

Last Friday, Collinsville Middle School Nurse, Debra Welch, and Director of Special Education, Alison Underwood, talked more about the new system. Welch completed three Hazel Health visits between May 5 and May 7.

"It's been a really useful tool," Welch said. "One of the gaps I've

had throughout the years is sometimes when a student does not have a physician's order for pain or allergy medicine but the come in [to my office] and are continuously having a sinus headache or a headache or something that causes them to miss class time."

In her first three times using Hazel Health, Welch said it bridged that gap. Welch said Hazel allows her to service children who normally may not be able to be reached through an outside service.

"They meet with me and they meet with the student," she said. "Within 10 minutes or less, the provider has spoken to me, to the student and has been able to reach out to the parent and has been able to provide a level of treatment."

What could have become recurring visits turned into one-time visits, and those students have not lost any more class time.

Hazel is an external, independent healthcare service that provides physical and behavioral healthcare to more than 1.5 million students. CHS and CMS parents

can opt-in by submitting a signed consent form. If a student isn't feeling well during the school day, school health staff can facilitate a telehealth visit. In addition, families who are enrolled in the program can utilize a video doctor visit from home, even during summer break.

However, Hazel Health supplemental and is not meant to replace wellness visits to the family pediatrician or physician. Hazel provides extended student health services including:

- Medical treatment: stomach aches, headaches, sprained ankles, asthma concerns and everything in-between

- Medication: doctors' prescriptions or over-the-counter meds provided at school when needed

- Coordination with family physician and school, Hazel's on-demand visits use board-certified doctors, physician assistants and nurses who can dispense care in the student's preferred language. Hazel provides families with referrals, resources and the follow-up.

"I think this is also just a fantastic way to connect with our families, our community to do what we can to keep our children safe," said Welch.

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Contact us at 618-656-4700

CARE

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Director of Special Education, Alison Underwood, led Hazel's launch. She pointed out that this program is currently only for district middle and high school students.

"The reasons we started with middle and high school students is that it's more developmentally appropriate for kids that age to be able to speak to their symptoms," Underwood said. Telehealth visits do not work as well with younger students, she added.

Another component of the program includes medical carts for the schools. Hazel Health supplied them with a dedicated tablet computer and stand with which to do the visits and a medicine cart.

"There's a basket here where we can keep a thermometer, pulse-ox,

various tools we use to take vitals and we have a cart." There's a scale and a tape measure for height and weight. Allergy medications, nasal decongestants, ointments and more over-the-counter medications.

Welch said an iTouch unit for photos or video that can be uploaded via the iPad to allow Hazel Health officials to see what the nurses are dealing with from case to case.

"This will allow us the opportunity to provide another layer of resources and wrap-around services for all CHS and CMS students. Hazel is a virtual health care platform accessible for all students, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

"Students will be able to access this service from home or in the nurse's office if deemed appropriate. Hazel can diagnose a student, recommend over the counter medications and/or prescriptions before the



For the Intelligencer The tablet computer is mounted on a stand with casters for portability and a small basket holds typical nursing tools, stethoscope, thermometer, etc.

student even leaves the nurse's office," she said.

Hazel offers an additional tool if a student shows symptoms while

at school. If an at-school telehealth visit seems warranted, the school will contact the child's parent or guardian. Fol-

lowing the visit, parents or guardians receive a detailed update.

"Our health staff members are excited to partner with Hazel Health to better serve our student population," said Head Nurse Lisa Sabatino. "It continues to be our goal to keep students well and in school when possible, as well as to assist parents with finding appropriate healthcare resources. Hazel will extend our school health reach, allowing additional health professionals to diagnose, provide over the counter meds and send prescriptions to the family's preferred pharmacy when appropriate. Overall, Hazel Health will allow us to provide families with quicker access to healthcare in order to get students well and ready to resume learning."

CHS and CMS families can sign-up for the services by creating an account and providing consent for their stu-

dents to be seen by the Hazel-licensed providers. For more information and a link to the consent form, visit the Hazel/Kahoks website.

"We are pleased to offer an additional service to help our high school and middle school families access health care when needed," said Collinsville CUSD 10 Superintendent Dr. Mark B. Skertich. "When students aren't feeling well, they miss school. We are making doctor visits available to CHS and CMS through Hazel Health to minimize lost academic time as well as disruptions to our families' already hectic schedules."

Hazel Health, based in San Francisco, California, offers school-based telemedicine visits to keep students healthy and safe. Hazel currently serves school districts representing 1.5 million K-12 students.

Reach reporter Charles Bolinger at 618-659-5735

VACCINE

Continued from Page A1

becoming seriously ill, and they can still spread the virus. There have been outbreaks traced to sporting events and other activities for children in this age range.

Vaccines are crucial to ending the pandemic. But many health officials are concerned vaccine hesitancy in some adults will be even more pronounced when it comes to their children.

"Vaccine hesitancy is such a huge subject and I have a significant number of parents who have told me they are not ready for the vaccine and they're not giving it to their kids, either," Dirriksen said. "I encourage

those parents to get it for themselves, even when their kids can't because it protects the kids by protecting their environment.

"There are a lot of layers to vaccine hesitancy, but we have done a lot of studies on the vaccines," she said. "Millions of vaccines have been given and they're working hard to collect huge amounts of data. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine was halted for a while as a precaution, but overall, the number of severe side effects has been very small. I think the (government health agencies) have been very transparent about what is going on."

Pfizer and BioNTech representatives said in March that they found the vaccine produced robust antibody respons-

es and was safe and effective in those age 12 to 15 in a clinical trial.

In the trial, of 2,260 adolescents aged 12 to 15, 18 cases of COVID-19 in the group received a placebo and none among those who received the actual vaccine, resulting in 100% efficacy in preventing the illness the companies said at the time.

"The studies they did on these kids show that the vaccine was equally effective, maybe even more effective, than it was for the 16- to 25-year-old group," Dirriksen said.

"The side effect profile was no greater than it had been for the others, with similar side effects and only for two or three days and worse on the second dose."

Widely vaccinating

12- to 18-year-olds could allow U.S. schools to relax masking and social distancing measures suggested by the Centers for Disease Control.

Pfizer and BioNTech representatives asked the Food and Drug Administration to expand their EUA to include the younger age group in early April.

"It's exciting because they're testing the vaccine for the 6 to 12 age group," Dirriksen said, "then there is the 2 to 5 group and the six months to 2-year-old group."

"For the youngest groups, that may not be until January, February or March, but the 6 to 12 could happen as early as August or September. If we could get it down to age 5 before school starts, we could have a normal school year."

DEATHS

EIDSON

EDWARDSVILLE - Russell S. "Russ" Eidson, age 63 of Edwardsville, Illinois, passed away suddenly on Monday, May 10, 2021, at his residence. Arrangements are pending at Weber & Rodney Funeral Home in Edwardsville.

LOTTERIES

ILLINOIS

Tuesday (Mid-day)
Pick Three 5 9 1 (8)
Pick Four 6 8 5 4 (0)
LuckyDay Lotto 15 22 31 35 38

Monday (Evening)
Pick Three 6 5 1 (2)
Pick Four 7 4 5 0 (8)
Lucky Day Lotto 02 06 21 27 42

Extra Shot 02 06 08 20

37 48 Extra Shot: 10
MISSOURI
Tuesday (Mid-day)
Pick Three 2 9 3
Pick Four 4 7 5 6
Monday (Evening)
Pick Three 2 8 6
Pick Four 1 6 6 0
Show Me Cash 20 29 30 36 39

MARKETS

EDWARD JONES CO.

(Previous day's close)
Apple Inc: 125.91
Amazon: 3,223.91
Ameren: 83.39
AT&T: 32.26
Blackrock Inc: 844.10
Boeing Co: 228.88
BP PLC ADR: 25.97
Caterpillar: 239.30
Cigna Corp: 260.86
ConocoPhillips: 55.72
Emerson Electric: 95.26
Ford Motor Co: 11.58
Home Depot Inc: 330.66
Intl Bus Machine: 144.22
Intel: 55.04
Johnson & Johnson: 168.88
Lowes Companies: 205.34
McDonald's: 233.86
Merck & Co: 77.46

Microsoft: 246.23
Olin: 46.93
Pepsi: 145.65
Royal Dutch: 39.24
US Bancorp: 60.15
Walmart: 139.55
Dow Jones: 34,269.16
Change: -473.66
Nasdaq: 13,389.43
Change: -12.43
S&P: 4,152.10
Change: -36.33
Utilities: 910.14
Change: -9.79
Source: Randy Dunn at Edward Jones branch in Glen Carbon.

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Corn: 7.53
Soybeans: 16.43
Wheat: 7.23

TRUSTEE

Continued from Page A1

It was Leezy who brought it Bowden's attention that in the original amendment to the IAW agreement, the allowable delivery rate of 850 gallons per minute (gpm), was not enough, in his estimation, to provide storage during a string of hot summer days. After reviewing system specifications with Leezy and Juneau, the amended amount, 1,200 gpm, "is more than adequate." IAW's engineers accommodated the change and trustees unanimously approved the amendment Tuesday.

In other news, Marcus announced the new seating arrangement on the dais and the voting order. Marcus reaffirmed his department heads - Jamie Bowden as village administrator; Todd Link as police chief; Scott Borrer as director of finance; Stacy Jose as building and zoning administrator; Rick Tutka as treasurer; James Schrempf as village attorney; Todd Link as emergency services coordinator; and Mark Foley as Glen Carbon regional sewer commissioner. Unfilled positions include public works director, which has been vacant since last October. An interim consultant has filled in when needed on projects. Marcus juggled the committee assign-

ments. For the new term, they are:

- Building and development committee chairperson: Victor Smith with Ben Maliszewski and Walt Harris as members
- Finance and administration committee chair: Ben Maliszewski with Mike Sonderegger and the new trustee to be named later as members
- Public safety committee chair: Walt Harris with Mark Foley and the new trustee as members
- Public service committee chair: Mark Foley with Mike Sonderegger and Victor Smith as members

Marcus listed his appointments for volunteer commission and committee assignments, too. In other action, the

village trustees unanimously approved the following items:

- A new 2021 Ford Interceptor police vehicle for \$52,029 from Morrow Brothers Ford in Greenfield
 - Approving any department heads' extra-curricular activities for the 2021-2022 fiscal year
 - Approval of new, four-year agreements with the following department heads: Village Administrator Jamie Bowden, Police Chief Todd Link and Director of Finance Scott Borrer
- The next village trustee meeting is May 25 at 7 p.m. at village hall, located at 151 N. Main Street, or via Zoom.

Reach reporter Charles Bolinger at 618-659-5735

YWCA announces final call for Women of Distinction nominations

The Intelligencer

YWCA of Alton is issuing its final call for 2021 Women of Distinction (WOD) nominations.

WOD Nominations are due Monday, May 17 at 5 pm or postmarked by May 17. Nomination packages are available at YWCA or on the YWCA website (www.altonywca.com). You may request nomination materials by calling 618-465-7774 or by emailing info@metroeastywca.org. The community, especially members from the Women of Distinction Academy, is urged to nominate women who are making a difference in their communities. Women must live, work or volunteer in Madison and Jersey

County to be eligible.

Thirty one years strong, YWCA provides a unique opportunity to support and acknowledge remarkable women who honor the YWCA mission of eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice and dignity for all persons through their personal and professional lives. Women of Distinction honorees are a diverse group striving to improve both individual lives, families, and their community through solid, consistent and self-less efforts.

After being honored at the 30th Annual Women of Distinction Celebration scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 26 at the Best West-

ern Premier Conference Center in Alton.

A volunteer panel of judges will select the 2021 honorees from nominations. Honorees will be selected for significant contributions in giving back to the community through time, talent, mentoring and resources, demonstrating a commitment to YWCA mission, working for positive social change that helps improve communities, including advocating for policies and practices, changing attitudes and taking action, and creating programs that positively impact families,

including, but not limited to, the areas of health, safety, economic stability or development.

Established in 1918, YWCA of Alton is part of the largest and oldest women's organization in the world. YWCA tailors our programs to meet the unique needs of our communities, as aligned with three key national platforms: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls.

YWCA of Alton is proudly sponsored by Alton Memorial BJC Healthcare, Morrissey Contracting Company, Inc., and Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery.

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