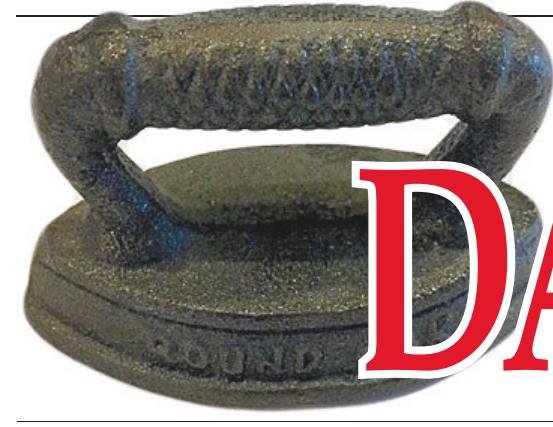


## History of sadirons in America and Effingham County



## Law enforcement agencies benefit from Back the Blue event

## Newton's Zwillin places ninth at sectional

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To submit an obituary, visit [obituaries.effinghamdailynews.com](#).

## WEATHER



**Today:** Cool with abundant sunshine.

**Tomorrow:** Plenty of sunshine.

Full report, **Page A2**

## ONLINE



EffinghamDailyNews.com and on social media

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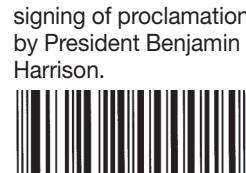
## HISTORY

Today is **Monday, Nov. 2**, the 307th day of 2020. There are 59 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 2, 1976, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter became the first candidate from the Deep South since the Civil War to be elected president as he defeated incumbent Gerald R. Ford.

## On this date:

- In 1783, General George Washington issued his Farewell Address to the Army near Princeton, New Jersey.
- In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.



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EFFINGHAM

# DAILY NEWS



Photos by Charles Mills | Daily News

**Staff Sergeant Michael Qualls** of Shelbyville hugs his daughter, Landrie Kay Qualls, after arriving in Effingham Saturday following a tour of duty overseas. Michael's wife, Emma Qualls, and daughter Gayle Grace Qualls were also waiting for Michael's arrival.

## Homecoming

Guardsmen return to Effingham after overseas deployment

CHARLES MILLS  
DAILY NEWS

EFFINGHAM — Halloween was a special day this year for some families in the Effingham area.

All the members of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry of the Illinois Army National Guard based in Effingham arrived back in Illinois Saturday afternoon returning from overseas deployment in Bahrain.

Bravo Company deployed in January to provide security forces at Naval installations to protect critical infrastructure and securing capabilities, according to a media advisory from the Department of Military Affairs, Illinois Army and Air National Guard in Springfield.

Two flights Saturday filled with soldiers and gear arrived at MidAmerica St. Louis Airport in Mascoutah, where they were welcomed home by Illinois National Guard Adjutant General Major Gen. Richard Neely; Senior Enlisted Leader Command Sgt. Major Dena Ballowe; Commander, 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Michael Eastridge; and 33rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Command Sgt. Major Michael Kelly.

A majority of Bravo Company soldiers were picked up by family in Mascoutah while a group of 15 traveled by bus to meet family in Effingham.

"I don't know if he's surprising us or he's not coming today. We're not sure, we're getting kind of nervous," said Rincker's stepfather Keith Wendt.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic,



**Tammy Wendt** holds a sign in anticipation of her son's possible arrival late Saturday afternoon at the Effingham Event Center parking lot.

families had the option of picking up their loved ones at the airport or waiting in Effingham for a bus coming from the airport, according to SFC Sims, who was waiting for the troops to arrive at the Bravo Company Illinois Army National Guard armory in Effingham.

Tammy Wendt of Heartville wasn't sure if her son was coming home. She parked facing West Fayette Avenue at the Effingham Event Center with her husband and other family members all hoping Sgt. E-5 Dylan Rincker was on the bus arriving in Effingham.

"I don't know if he's surprising us or he's not coming today. We're not sure, we're getting kind of nervous," said Rincker's stepfather Keith Wendt.

"He was suppose to text me a pic-

ture at 3 p.m. and I didn't get it," Tammy Wendt said. "I just messaged him, 'Where's my text?'"

At 5 p.m., spirits were getting low and emotions were high. Tammy Wendt was beginning to think her son might not be coming back Saturday. She stood with a sign welcoming home Bravo Company and her son.

"He has been gone 284 days since his deployment ceremony," Wendt said. "He won't tell us much. Maybe he can't for security reasons."

"He's kind of secretive anyway. He's really not telling us much," Keith Wendt said. "And his mom worries a lot."

"I just don't know what to think," Tammy Wendt added. "I just wish he'd come walking up behind me right now."

Meanwhile at Bravo Company Armory on West Temple Avenue, several family members were waiting for Staff Sgt. Jesse Koester to arrive. His wife, son, sister, cousins and mother and father were parked in the lot next to the armory in anticipation.

Jesse's son, 3-year-old Jack Koester of Dieterich, clung to his mother, Angela Koester, waiting to get a glimpse of his father he hadn't seen for months who was on a bus that was running a little late. Jack was getting anxious.

"He keeps asking, 'Where's my Daddy?'" Angela Koester said.

"He's getting closer," Koester said as

See **HOMECOMING** on A2

## Entire state now under mitigations

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) announced COVID-19 resurgence mitigations will be implemented in Region 2 — North-Central Illinois — beginning Nov. 4.

The region has seen a seven-day rolling average test positivity rate of 8 percent or above for three consecutive days, which exceeds the thresholds set for establishing mitigation measures under the state's Restore Illinois Resurgence Plan. Region 2 includes Rock Island, Henry, Bureau, Putnam, Kendall, Grundy, Mercer, Knox, Henderson, Warren, McDonough, Fulton, Stark, Marshall, Peoria, Tazwell, McLean, Woodford, Livingston and Lasalle counties.

The mitigations bar indoor dining or bar service and limit gatherings to 25 guests or 25 percent of overall room capacity. They also ban party buses. Mitigations do not apply to schools or polling places.

The Illinois Department of Public Health on Sunday reported 6,890 new confirmed cases of COVID-19, with 35 additional deaths.

The death total in Illinois since the start of the pandemic reached 9,792 with the latest numbers. There are 417,280 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the state.

Sunday's confirmed cases were the result of 78,458 tests conducted Saturday, placing the latest seven-day positivity rate for COVID-19 at 8%.

As of late Saturday, 3,294 people in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 692 patients were in the ICU and 284 patients with the coronavirus were on ventilators.

Effingham County Health Department received notice Friday of 33 new positive cases of COVID-19. The cases range in age from younger than 10 to 80s.

*Daily News contributed to this story.*

## A closer look at the key congressional matchups in Illinois

SOPHIA TAREEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — From Chicago's suburbs to the southern tip of the state, Tuesday's election will feature several closely watched congressional races in Illinois.

Here's a closer look at key districts:

### REMATCH IN THE 13TH

Four-term Republican Rep. Rodney Davis faces a tough reelection bid from Democrat Betsy Dirksen Londrigan in what's expected to among the most competitive races in Illinois.

The rematch follows Davis' narrow win over Londrigan in 2018 by less than 1 percentage point. The Republican-leaning district covers a swath of central and southwest Illinois, including farmland, universities and Illinois suburbs of St. Louis.

Davis, who first took office in 2013, has tried to portray himself as

See **CONGRESS** on A2

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