

CCFPD call volume up more than 10%



Lady Coalers go 3-1 at holiday tourney

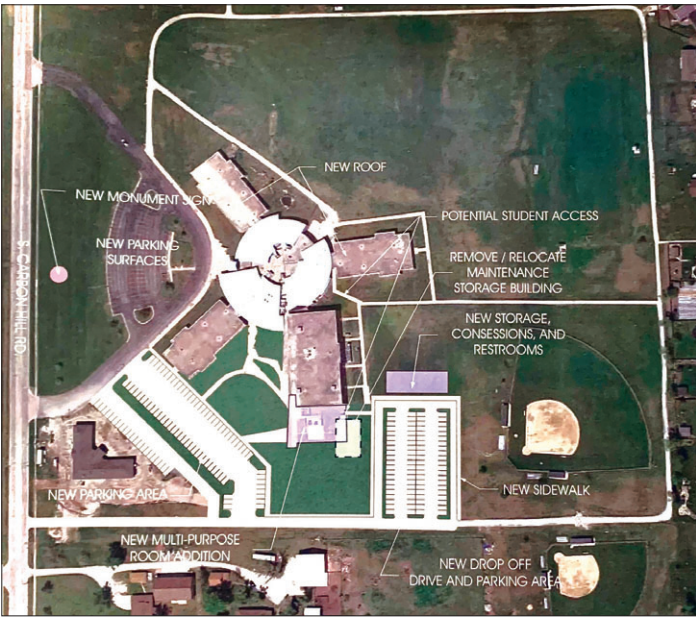


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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023

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Courtesy image

A FACILITY IMPROVEMENT plan commissioned by the Unit 1 Board of Education proposes to construct a multi-purpose room at Coal City Middle School. The plan also calls for a reconfiguration and expansion of parking areas and new roofs over two of the academic wings in the 23-year-old building.

Addition suggested for Middle School

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A multi-purpose room, expanded parking and an access road are just a few of the suggestions offered in a facility improvement plan for Coal City Middle School.

Architects have also put forth the idea of building an outdoor concession stand and restroom facility, removing and relocating on-site storage and installing new roofs on two of the three academic wings.

Each of the considerations are included in a district-wide improvement plan drafted by Cordogan Clark, the Unit 1 School District's architectural firm.

As with each of the building level proposals presented by architects, the building is set to receive new paint, furnis-

hings and a monument sign at the front of the campus.

The architect's report indicates a need for new flooring throughout the 23-year-old building, as well as renovating its restrooms and upgrading its heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC).

The big ticket item on the list is the construction of a multi-purpose room added on the south end of the athletic wing—a space for wrestling, basketball and other needs. An existing storage building would have to be removed.

Storage would then be moved to the east side of the campus as part of a building that would include a concession stand and restrooms.

Board members questioned the proposed location of the multi-purpose space with the idea there might be a better spot on the campus.

Architect Richard Blair said other locations can be considered and noted these are simply considerations put on paper.

The additional space, they said, is needed to meet an increasing demand for student programming.

Additional parking is needed at the middle school. Expanding and reconfiguring the existing lot between the school building and district administration center would add 84 spaces in a lot proposed west of the baseball field.

The plan further calls for a new drive to be installed to the south of the administration center that connects to both parking areas. It would further connect to the existing gravel path on the far east side of the campus.

Architects say the additional access points would

reduce vehicle congestion before and after school and create a better flow by separating bus and parent pickup and drop-off locations.

The new parking area would provide direct access to both the outdoor playing fields and new multi-purpose room.

Should the proposals move forward, the Board would have the right to revisit the exact locations for the new spaces.

Jason Smith, the district's chief school business officials, pointed out the impacts of construction.

"Thinking about when we actually build these spaces how much we disrupt the campus in the construction phase. If we know we are going to tear up the south side of the middle school campus to fix traffic

SEE NEEDS, PAGE 2



THE LONG AWAITED announcement that a Jewel-Osco would be constructed in the village of Diamond came in 2022. The project is two decades in the making and one that will pave the way for additional businesses to establish in the town's commercial corridor along Route 113.

Coal City seeks \$650,000 to rehab homes

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

Another round of housing rehabilitation funds are being sought by the village of Coal City, dollars to assist homeowners complete necessary home repairs.

The funds, if awarded, would provide the village \$650,000 to rehab the interiors and exteriors of approximately 10 single family homes.

Funded with federal Community Development Block Grant [CDBG] dollars, the program overseen by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO] seeks to assist low to moderate income homeowners complete repairs such as new roofs and windows, as well as kitchen and bath renovations, and making spaces handicapped accessible.

The village has submitted a few housing rehabilitation grant applications over the past few years and one of those applications resulted in over \$500,000 in home repairs within a designated project area.

Unlike previous applications, the current application opens the program to the entire village. And, instead of \$50,000, the next round of funding would provide up to \$60,000 per qualified home.

Connie Buchanan, who heads up the housing rehabilitation program for the North Central Illinois Council of Governments [NCICG] outlined the village's latest grant application that is boosted by a \$20,000 pledge from the town's capital fund and backed by a number of residents who could end up qualifying for assistance.

Recipients are selected on basis of income, as well as necessity of repairs.

Homes are classified as minor, moderate or major depending on the amount of

"IF WE QUALIFY, WE SHOULD FIND OUT IN ABOUT SIX MONTHS OR SO. IF AWARDED THERE WILL BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THEN WE WILL SOLICIT ACTUAL APPLICATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL HOMES."

CONNIE BUCHANAN NORTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

work needed, and priority is given to low income seniors and the disabled.

In addition to covering the cost of construction, the funds are used for related administrative and construction management costs.

Housing rehabilitation funds have been handed out for nearly four decades, mainly in communities in southern Illinois.

Buchanan said her organization started working with communities across north central Illinois on funding applications about 5 years ago.

The city of Morris and village of Braceville are also seeking a portion of the \$7 million being made available through the program.

"It's a very competitive program," Buchanan said.

Selection is based on a point system that takes into account several factors including community engagement and financial support.

"If we qualify, we should find out in about six months or so. If awarded there will be an announcement and then we will solicit actual applications for individual homes," Buchanan said.



The events that shaped 2022

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A new year brings opportunity for a new beginning. It's a time to start fresh, set new goals and focus on what makes one happy.

Each January 1 we re-set the clock—525,600 minutes that shape who we are as individuals and a community.

As this new 365-day journey begins, it seems only fitting to take a look back at the projects and events that shaped our community in the past 12 months. Days were celebrated together and mourned together. We cheered for the home team, stated our opinions and broke from the grip of a global pandemic.

In 2022, the community was presented with plans for infrastructure improvements, roadway upgrades in Coal City and Diamond and a community-wide park district centered around a community center.

The concept of establishing a park district and building a community center was not new, rather a renewed project that had been shelved for a short time.

Mailers went out to residents within the boundaries of the Coal City Fire Protection and Unit 1 School District with information regarding a proposal to establish a park district and construct a facility at a cost of about \$18.2 million.

However, the project did not progress as a community determined 60% of respondents did not support the formation of a park district and 59% were opposed to funding the center's construction.

Local residents also had something to say about a plan to construction apartments within the Meadow Estates Subdivision.

Developer Mark Scaggs submitted a petition in July to amend the zoning of a lot on the southwest corner of Berta Road and Foxgrove Drive from commercial to high-density residential, a change that would allow him to construct up to 15 units.

Scaggs shared that after 16 years with no interest shown on commercial development at that site, he was prepared to construct something that was in demand—apartment rentals.

Subdivision residents and neighboring property owners were not on the same page, they packed Coal City Village Hall to address their concerns and opposition with the town's Planning and Zoning Board.

In September, a month after that meeting, Scaggs withdrew his petition. At the close of the year no new plans had been submitted for that site.

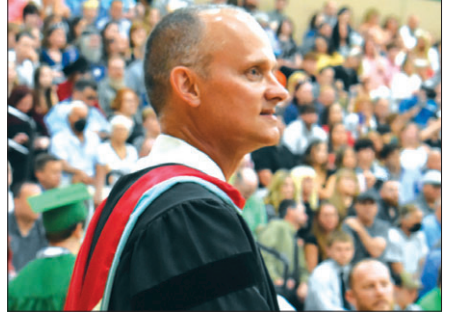
It was also in September that two men were shot dead at Gippers Sports Club & Eatery in Goose Lake Township.

Grundy County Sheriff's deputies called to the establishment around

SEE 2022, PAGE 2



A GRANT PROVIDED the village of Coal City with funds to renovate 10 homes at no cost to the homeowner.



AFTER 33 YEARS in education Dr. Kent Bugg retired in July. He was the district's longest serving superintendent.



A PROPOSAL TO establish a park district and community center failed to receive the public support needed to move forward.

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Morris Chop Shop joins partnership for senior+ meals

Grundy County residents over age 60, their spouses and caregivers are invited to enjoy special low-cost meals up to three times a week at the Morris Chop Shop, with the new "Dine Around Town" program.

"Dine Around Town" is a partnership of the Morris Chop Shop with the Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services Association (CNNSSA). The Morris Chop Shop owners Jackie Clisham and Tim Berner will offer seven Chop Shop favorite meals, adapted to meet nutritional requirements for older adults.

Community Nutrition Network is registering clients for monthly meals on pre-loaded payment cards at its office on the first floor of Saratoga Towers, 1700 Newton Pl., Morris. Those interested may also call Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services Association at 815-941-1590 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the week for more information. The suggested donation is \$6 per meal.

CNNSSA is a donation-based nonprofit serving those age 60 or above, their spouses, and their caregivers. No one is ever turned away if unable or unwilling to pay.

The Dine Around Town dinner menu will include delicious favorites, such as the Chop Shop mac-'n'-cheese, a tender filet with caramelized onions, mushrooms, aged cheddar, and smoked Gouda creamy pasta. The fettuccine and meatballs includes house-made meatballs, sauteed with garlic and red onions, in a demi-cream sauce or marinara

with fettuccine and shaved Parmesan, with garlic French bread. Steakhouse Stroganoff and chimichurri steak will also be on the menu, along with lighter options such as the Chop Shop Cobb salad, a Caesar salad, and a roasted beet salad.

The menu will be offered on Wednesdays (4-8 p.m.), Thursdays (4-9 p.m.), and Sundays (3-8 p.m.), during the Morris Chop Shop's regular hours. Customers are welcome to dine in or take out. All meals meet U.S. federal standards for nutrition for older adults, and the menu has been reviewed and approved by a licensed dietitian with AgeGuide, the state area agency on aging.

The Morris Chop Shop is known for preparing all meals from scratch and grilling over a real wood fire. Cooking on a wood-burning grille and rotisserie gives a natural smoke and char distinctive to cooking over live fire.

Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services Association (CNNSSA) provides home-delivered meals five days a week, weekend meals, shelf-stable meals twice a year, and meals at local restaurants through special partnerships.

Cafes in Morris, Minooka, Mazon, Coal City, and Diamond provide nutritious lunches during the week and socialization opportunities.

For more information, please call 815-941-1590. CNNSSA is funded in part by the Meals on Wheels Foundation of Northern Illinois and AgeGuide of Northeastern Illinois.

Beloved volunteer leaves \$1 million gift

Gretchen Johnson had already left a legacy at Morris Hospital by serving as the organization's first and only volunteer historian for more than 20 years where she preserved the hospital's history dating all the way back to its 1906 founding.

Now the dedicated volunteer, who passed away in July 2021 at the age of 90, has become part of history herself by leaving a \$1 million gift to Morris Hospital through her estate. It's the largest gift the Morris Hospital Foundation has ever received from a single donor.

"Gretchen had always disclosed that she was going to make a gift to Morris Hospital, but we don't discuss the amount with our legacy donors," said Hannah Wehrle, Morris Hospital Auxiliary & Foundation Officer. "As shocked as I was by the size of the gift, it's not surprising that even after she's gone, Gretchen is still finding a way to support Morris Hospital."

A lifelong resident of Morris, Johnson started volunteering at Morris Hospital in 1998. A few years later when the hospital was preparing for its centennial celebration, she was asked if she was interested in researching the hospital's history. Johnson graciously accepted the assignment, which evolved into a permanent volunteer historian role where she dedicated her volunteer hours to researching and preserving the hospital's history, spending countless hours reading archived newspaper articles at the Morris



A LONG TIME Morris Hospital volunteer Gretchen Johnson gifted \$1 million to the hospital foundation through her estate.

Public Library and putting together scrapbooks and typewritten reports. She had a total of 8,591 documented volunteer hours with Morris Hospital.

Prior to becoming a Morris Hospital volunteer, Johnson worked as a clerical secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Grundy County Home. She also worked in the accounting and administrative department for Northern Petro Chemical Company. She and her husband Samuel R. Johnson, who died in 1981, did not have children.

"Even though Gretchen wasn't an employee of Morris Hospital, this is where she spent the majority of her hours.

Morris Hospital was home for her," said Wehrle. "She was valued and appreciated, and she loved the interactions she had with employees, patients and community members."

Wehrle said that Johnson left her gift unrestricted, meaning the Morris Hospital Foundation can apply the gift to the areas of greatest need. "Unrestricted gifts are very important to the Morris Hospital Foundation because they allow us to provide funding for new services and programs and updated equipment and technology that are really important to the community but might not otherwise have been possible," Wehrle explained. "Leaving a gift of this size and allowing us to decide what to do with the money demonstrates that Gretchen loved Morris Hospital and trusted us enough to know that however we use the money, it will be in good hands."

Despite the magnitude of the gift, Wehrle said Johnson's dedicated volunteerism at Morris Hospital will always be her greatest legacy.

"What's most special is how many hours she gave of herself," said Wehrle, noting that even in the height of the pandemic during Johnson's final years of life, she continued to do her volunteer work from home. "She was an incredibly patient, very thoughtful person, and so incredibly kind. She truly was like a little angel on earth."

2022

12:30 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 24 for a report of shots fired.

When deputies arrived at the Pine Bluff Road establishment there were two victims—Darius D. Travis, 33, and Dameonta D. Terry-Travis, 25—and both were deceased.

The shooting took place in the pavilion area on a night when there was a large crowd inside the bar enjoying an 80s cover band.

The shooting remains under investigation and no arrests have been made.

Gippers ownership announced in mid-December that it was ceasing operations.

After months of uncertainty through most of 2021 about the future of the Dresden Generating Station, Constellation Energy announced in November its intent to seek a 20-year extension of the facilities operating license.

That was good news for the community as the generating stations provides hundreds of direct and indirect jobs and provides millions of dollars annually in property taxes.

The company is asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission [NRC] to extend the license of its two operating units, and if granted the extension would extend the life of Dresden Unit 2 until 2049 and Unit 3 to 2051.

The announcement came about six months after a five year property tax deal was struck with the seven taxing districts that have the facility within its boundaries.

The new deal finds the company paying \$26.2 million annually, dollars that are split up among the taxing district with the Unit 1 School District

receiving 65.8% of the total for an annual payment of \$17.27 million.

Dr. Kent Bugg served as the lead negotiator for the taxing districts, and it was one of his final acts as superintendent.

After 33 years in education—29 in school administration—Bugg retired on June 30 as the longest serving superintendent in the school district with 18 years of service.

His tenure at Unit 1 began as a building level principal and three years into his employment he was selected to assume the post upon the retirement of Dr. Mike Throneburg.

Under his leadership, the district developed a standards based curriculum and assessment system, expanded early childhood education, brought special education services in-house and saw the district through a global pandemic. And, he oversaw the construction of the early childhood center and an addition to the high school that included an 800-seat performing arts center that now bears his name.

He worked with the Board of Education to ensure the district's finances were strong and in order and he fought tirelessly on the energy bill that ensured the continued operation of Dresden Generating Station, the district's largest taxpayer.

He was a transparent leader who served the community with honesty and integrity.

Bugg was not the only member of his family to make a difference in the community.

In her 20 years on earth, Megan Bugg did more and gave more of herself that she may have recognized. She gave a much needed voice to childhood cancer advocacy

and research,

At the age of 13, Megan was diagnosed with State 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma—a rare soft tissue cancer—and was given a 20% change of a one year survival.

Through weeks of chemotherapy and radiation treatments, numerous surgeries and hospital stays, Megan fought.

Over the course of her journey, she connected with young cancer fighters from coast-to-coast, advocated for more federal funding to childhood cancer research and treatments and her efforts result in millions of dollars raised to support research projects across the country and the development of the Megan Bugg Global Rhabdomyosarcoma Research Lab at the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute.

Megan passed away on the evening of March 9 with her parents at her side.

The mission she started continues on with the Megan's Mission Foundation, a nonprofit established by her parents, Kent and Debbie, and sister, Mackenzie.

Megan once said she wanted to be remembered as the girl who did something. Not only did she do something, she started a movement that will improve the lives of

children across the globe.

There are so many moments in the past year that have been made by remarkable members of the community who ensure children are educated, the less fortunate are fed, and opportunities are available for everyone to find success and fulfillment.

One of those groups is the newly formed Beans-and-Bites, a non-profit that provides workforce opportunities for people with disabilities.

The past year included the long awaited announcement that a Jewel-Osco would be constructed in the village of Diamond. A project two decades in the making and one that will pave the way for additional businesses to establish in the town's commercial corridor.

From the pages of this newspaper, we are reminded a lot occurred in the 52 weeks that was 2022—new businesses opening, the addition of new police officers, homes renovated, community celebrations and student achievements in the classroom, on the playing field and on the stage.

The past year had its sorrows, but there were also moments of great joy. As 2023 begins we open the door to new opportunities, never forgetting the events that shaped the past and set a course for the future.

Need

flow, which is a big problem we need to fix, there is an advantage of having only one mobilization instead of having two pieces of the campus [torn up].

His comments coming in reference to suggestions that the multi-purpose space be considered for a different location on the campus.

Consideration should be given to the potential need for

additional classroom space and how that would be configured within the existing grade level wings.

"We can have conversations about all of these topics as we get closer to go time," Smith said.

Even though the Board has been provided with considerations for each of the educational buildings, they have yet to determine what projects, if any, are to be completed.

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Foreclosure sale of 1285 S. Gorman Rd.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
ARVEST CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY; Plaintiff,
-v-
RAYMOND M. FARCUS et al; Defendant,
2022 FC 18

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 8, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on January 25, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PARCEL 1:
BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE PROCEED 436 FEET DUE WEST; THENCE 200 FEET DUE SOUTH; THENCE 436 FEET DUE EAST; THENCE 200 FEET DUE NORTH TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PARCEL 2:
BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 32 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE PROCEED 436 FEET DUE WEST; THENCE 200 FEET DUE SOUTH TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE 436 FEET DUE EAST TO THE EAST LINE OF SECTION 7; THENCE DUE SOUTH 30 FEET; THENCE DUE WEST 436 FEET; THENCE DUE NORTH 30 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF GRUNDY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1285 S GORMAN RD, MAZON, IL 60444
Property Index No. 09-07-200-010
The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
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E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-22-01588
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2022 FC 18
TJSC#: 42-4588

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2022 FC 18
13209562
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

Bee Natural by Kat files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE
Assumed Name
Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 14, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Bee Natural by Kat, located at 940 Granville Rd., Morris, IL 60450.
Dated this 14th day of December, A.D. 2022.
Kay T. Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 21, 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

EM Lash Studio 844 files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE
Assumed Name
Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on December 19, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as EM Lash Studio 844, located at 333 E. US Route 6, Morris, IL 60450.
Dated this 19th day of December, A.D. 2022.
Kay T. Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 4, 11, and 18, 2023.

Village of Carbon Hill to hold hearing on proposed Zoning Text Amendments

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT)

Notice is hereby given of a Public Hearing to be held before the Village of Carbon Hill Planning & Zoning Board on Tuesday, 31st day of January, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village of Carbon Hill Zoning Board and Village Board at the Village of Carbon Hill Town Hall at 695 North Holcomb Street, Carbon Hill, Illinois. The purpose of the hearing is to consider Zoning Text Amendments to the Village of Carbon Hill Code regarding (1) the regulations and limitation on height and bulk of buildings hereafter to be erected, (2) to establish, regulate and limit, the building or set-back lines on or along any street, traffic-way, drive, parkway or storm or floodwater runoff channel or basin, (3) to regulate and limit the intensity of the use of lot areas, and to regulate and determine the area of open spaces, within and surrounding such buildings, (4) to classify, regulate and restrict the location of trades and industries and the location of buildings designed for specified industrial, business, residential, and other uses, (5) to divide the entire municipality into districts of such number, shape, area, and of such different classes, (6) to fix standards to which buildings or structures therein shall conform, (7) to prohibit uses, buildings, or structures incompatible with the character of such districts, (8) to prevent additions to and alteration or remodeling of existing buildings or structures in such a way as to avoid the restrictions and limitations lawfully imposed (9) to classify, to regulate and restrict the use of property on the basis of family relationship, which family relationship may be defined as one or more persons each related to the other by blood, marriage or adoption and maintaining a common household, (10) to regulate or forbid any structure or activity which may hinder access to solar energy necessary for the proper functioning of a solar energy system, (11) to require the creation and preservation of affordable housing, including the power to provide increased density or other zoning incentives to developers who are creating, establishing, or preserving affordable housing; and (12) to establish local standards solely for the review of the exterior design of buildings and structures, and designate a board or commission to implement the review process. (65 ILCS 5/11-13-1).

A copy of the proposed Zoning Text Amendments is available for review, inspection or copying. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Questions or comments may be submitted orally, in writing, or both.

BY ORDER OF THE
VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL
PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Taxpayers to see savings this year

Lower tax rate calculated in annual levy

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

An increase in the assessed value of the village will result in a decreased tax rate for Coal City property owners.

Based on a conservative increase of 4%, the village administrator puts the savings at \$10 per \$100,000 of equalized assessed value [EAV]. Therefore, the owner of a home with a market value of \$150,000 would see a savings of \$15.01 on the village portion of the tax bill.

Administrator Matt Fritz believes the final EAV assigned to the village will come in higher than the \$139 million outlined in the levy request, meaning a further reduction in the rate and increased savings for the town's taxpayers.

As 2022 came to a close, the village of Coal City filed its \$2.87 million tax levy request with the county clerks in Grundy and Will counties.

The request includes just over \$2 million to cover operating expenses, a 3.99% increase from the 2021 levy. The remaining dollars sought to cover the town's bond payments totaling \$854,341.

Fritz said the rate used to calculate the extension in the corporate line had been adjusted upwards to .25 from .249. This action will bring the rate to its maximum. In the past, town officials have set the rate conservatively and when the EAV comes in higher at tax time, dollars are actual, "left on the table."

"I think the intent of the Board has been to levy enough dollars to get as much as possible under that general corporate levy as possible. The total amount of levy is much less than what we do with our general fund portion, but putting a few more dollars into it you may get closer to actual [costs]," Fritz said.

Based on a rate of .25, the village anticipates collecting \$362,000 for the corporate fund—an additional \$12,500 from what was sought in the tentative levy. The final ask results in an increase of \$27,195, a difference of 8.1% from the prior year.

The village levies funds in 10 additional categories, the police pension fund among them.

According to Fritz, the Village Board has levied an amount above the required contribution put forth by the actuary, "in an effort to close the gap on its current funding on the way to being fully funded like the IMRF pension position."

The levy requests \$632,000 for the police pension fund with no increase from the prior tax year.

As for the IMRF [Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund] levy, the village is seeking to collect \$48,000, a reduction of 20% from tax year 2022.

Fritz further noted the park levy rate was also adjusted to its maximum of .10 bringing in

\$139,800, a increase of \$39,364 or 39.2% from the prior year.

As for the remaining requests contained in the 2022 levy—funds that will be received in summer 2023—the village seeks \$104,850 for police protection, an increase of 4.4%.

The \$246,983 request to cover liability insurance expenses represents an increase of \$23,206.

Coal City is seeking to collect \$175,100 to cover Social Security contributions and the request for the workman's compensation fund is \$150,248. The final numbers result in no increase to the Social Security fund and an \$8,297 reduction for workman's compensation.

There were minor reductions—\$5 in total—within the audit and street lighting funds with current requests of \$25,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

The final levy line is street and bridge and for the coming year the village is seeking to collect \$83,800, an increase of 4.4% resulting in an additional \$3,525.

Increased enrollment causes need for additional staff

Unit 1 seeking speech pathologist

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As pre-school enrollment increases, Unit 1 School District administrators say there is a growing need for specialized services.

Luke Kripple, the district's director of special populations, reports that speech is the number one need among pre-schoolers.

The district currently employs four full-time speech pathologists. Two are assigned to the early childhood center, one assists students at the elementary and intermediate schools, while the fourth pathologist is assigned to the middle and high schools, with additional duties at the early childhood center.

When classes resume this week, the district will be opening two additional sections of pre-school. With that comes the prospect of an additional 20 or so students needing speech services.

Kripple said the existing staff is tapped out on the number of students they can serve. Illinois school code sets a limit on the case load of a speech pathologist to 60 students, and all four working in the district are at or near that level.

"I think anytime we get close to 55 or 60 we're probably not doing the best we can for students. We need to add help here for our kids," said Kripple,

who asked the Board of Education to hire an additional speech pathologist.

If it wasn't for the added sections of pre-school starting this month, Kripple said the district could probably get through the rest of the school year without additional staff. But with the potential for additional students needing services, it's not something that can be pushed off.

"I would like to say it's something we have an option on, but we really don't. It's something we have to do," Superintendent Chris Spencer told the Board.

In comparison to neighboring school districts, Unit 1 is not part of special education cooperative that provides this type of service. Coal City brought those services in-house when it left the coop years ago. That required an increased number of speech pathologists on staff.

Based on existing enrollment, the district currently has one speech pathologist for every 536 students. In neighboring Reed-Custer, the coop provides one speech pathologist for every 432 students and in Minooka there are 13 on staff which is one for every 343 students.

Kripple was given the go ahead to post the position with the hope the district would be able to have an individual hired in January. The addition of a fifth speech pathologist would reduce case load to approximately 50 students per staff member.

Call volume up in 2022



File photo
THE COAL CITY FIRE Protection District responded to 2,681 fire and emergency medical calls in 2022, an increase of 314 calls over the previous year. In the past year, the fire district also bid farewell to its deputy chief Karl Wexelberg who retired from the fire service in October. He served the residents of the Coal City Fire Protection District for 14 years. Nick Doerfler, who has served in multiple roles with the department, has been selected as the new deputy chief. The fire district provides fire and emergency medical services from two locations—Station 1 at 35 DeWitt Place and Station 2 at 1455 S. Berta Rd.

Amended code paves way for wellness clinic

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

A new business is coming to the village of Coal City in the new year.

Jennifer Loughran plans to open a wellness clinic at 695 S. Broadway, a facility that will combine a variety of wellness concepts in one space.

Loughran will be providing mental health therapy for individuals, families and children.

In addition to her counseling office, the clinic will provide space for a beauty salon featuring hair styling and permanent ink makeup applications among

other services.

The application of permanent ink falls under adult uses in the village's zoning code and such businesses are limited to operating within industrial areas.

The location Loughran selected for her business is zoned commercial, so the proposal to provide the service of permanent color applications to lips, eyelids and eyebrows—licensed under the Tattoo and Body Piercing Establishment Registration Act and the Illinois Department of Public Health—was not allowed in that space based on the town code.

Commissioners of the Planning and Zoning Board took the matter under consideration and recommended amending

the adult use definition in the town's zoning code to exclude services traditionally provided within a beauty salon. Those services include micro-blading, permanent ink application to lips, scalp, eyelids, eyebrows and mastectomy recovery applications.

The Village Board approved the recommendation at its December meeting with no objections.

Traditional body art—tattooing—remains an adult use.

Moments after adopting the amendment, village trustees granted Loughran a conditional use for the operation of a wellness clinic at her chosen location.

Six set to serve in the village of Carbon Hill

STAFF REPORT

Six commissioner positions are up for election in the village of Carbon Hill and six residents have filed to fill those positions on the Village Board.

Four of the available positions come with a four-year term and the four residents seeking those spots are Gary Smith, Laura Johnson, current finance commissioner Laura Jones and Tyler Jones, who serves as a park commissioner.

Seeking the two-year unexpired terms are Eric Johnson and parks commissioner Lorna Surman.

Carbon Hill voters will have the opportunity to cast their votes in the consolidated election set for Tuesday, April 4.

Speech season begins with tournament victory

Speech season is well underway and as a team the speaking Coalers took first place in the annual Seneca Tournament.

The Coalers posted six individual first place finishes. Medal winners were Chessa Kuhel and Kevin McConnell, humorous duet acting; Izzy Kostbade, humorous interpretation; Amelia Fritz, impromptu; Melody Kinder, oratorical declamation and original oratory, and Kate Promis, special occasion speaking.

Logan Hausman finished the tournament in second place in dramatic interpretation and Jacob Cimino earned a second place ranking in extemporaneous speaking.

Third place finishes were posted by Gio Bruno and Hausman, dramatic duet acting; Jada Moore, informative speaking; Kevin McConnell, original comedy, and Corinna Barkley in original oratory.

Additional placers at the Dec. 10 tournament were Kostbade, poetry; Kuhel, prose; Fritz, dramatic interpretation; Grey Vanek and Sam Vota, dramatic duet acting; Angelina Seeley and Kayla Connelly, humorous duet acting; Connelly, oratorical declamation, and Seeley, original

comedy.

The Coalers host their own Winter Break Tournament on Dec. 17.

Kostbade was the tournament champion in humorous interpretation.


Kuhel and McConnell posted a sixth place finish in humorous duet acting, Madison Wilson finished sixth in radio, and Fritz was a finalist in dramatic interpretation.

In the novice division the Coalers posted three first place finishes with Vanek and Vota in dramatic duet acting and

Kinder taking the top spots in oratorical declamation and original oratory.

Vanek earned second place in humorous interpretation, Lana Larson was second in impromptu and Cimino finished second in informative and third in extemporaneous speaking.


Also placing at the tournament were Hausman, dramatic interpretation; Barkley, original oratory; Promis, special occasion speaking, and Alyssa Parks in special occasion speaking and prose.



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In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 6- Mahjong - 1-3 p.m.

Fun Fridays, 3 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 9-Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

Terrific Tots - 10 a.m.

Country Meadows Book Club - 10am

Preschool Storytime - 11 a.m.

Eager Readers Homeschool Edition - 1 p.m.

Eager Readers - 4 p.m.

Family Lapsit - 6 p.m.

Preschool Storytime - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 10-Memory Keepers - 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Tween Club - 3:15 p.m.

CCPLD Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m.


Wednesday, Jan. 11- Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Family Lapsit - 10 a.m.


Preschool Storytime - 10 a.m.

Paint with Paula - Snowman - 6 p.m.

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We can do better

SHADOW LAKES—Hoping everyone had the most wonderful Christmas, whatever way you chose to celebrate. My wish for the new year is that everyone will be a little more kind, and a little less selfish. Remember none of us would be here if it weren't for the immigrants in our family tree, unless of course you're Native American. To those of you who write sarcastic comments, when they are thought provoking or humorous they are a joy to read. When they are mean and spiteful it only makes people feel sorry for you. We all can do better. I know I can. Cyndi Lewis

A brave patriot

WILMINGTON—Never before have so many witnesses forgotten so much. The January 6th Select Committee interviewed more than a thousand people and the common refrain to their questions was "I don't recall". Was the intelligentsia running our country at that time so truly incompetent? Or rather, did the powerful in high positions find it so easy to disgrace our nation with blatant dishonesty? Regardless, some light shines through. And never more brightly than by a young woman who defied the shameful advice of her attorney who told her to hide the truth. Cassidy Hutchinson told the nation what she knew despite whatever consequences she would suffer. All Americans are forever indebted to such brave individuals who are protecting our democratic republic. Irene

Another eyesore

WILMINGTON—Hillbilly Heaven here we go again. As I travel down beautiful Route 66 I see the pole barn is done (across from Berkot's grocery store). Now it's used to store a bunch of junk vehicles. It looks like a perfect place for the Munsters, Herman and Lily. They would love it. Thank you building committee for approving this. I bet if this was across from Winchester Green Plaza, it would of never got approved. You guys make Wilmington proud. Where is the ordinance officer? Come on let's clean this place up. I bet Coal City, Braidwood, Lockport and surrounding towns would never allow this. I'm tired of looking at eyesores.

Too dependent

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. I understand we had a very severe winter across the country this year. I lived in Bridgeview, IL in the winter of 81-82. We had a wind-chill factor of -82 below zero, you can check that. I had the only car in the apartment complex that started. I tried to help many people jump-start their cars. I do not remember anybody dying from this. What is the problem with people today? I do not understand it. Do they not take precautions as we did years ago? Or are they just too dependent on the government?

Jail doors opened

DIAMOND—Just a reminder. Don't forget as of Jan. 1, 2023 all of Illinois, 102 counties will see their jail doors open to release all prisoners. There will be murderers by the dozens. Assaulting rapists galore, free to trespass at their pleasure. Need I say more. All are dangerous and will arm themselves ASAP. Remember to thank our benevolent Governor Pritzker who wishes you all a miserable new year. P.S. I heard that approximately 95-100 counties of Illinois wish to secede, leaving Chicago and Cook Co. plus any collar counties wishing to stay under their control. Only gossip you understand, but it does sound promising, Sharon.

A Fox reminder

WILMINGTON—Whenever I see Tucker Carlson and Jesse Watters on Fox I am reminded for all is evil at least Rupert Murdoch hires the handicapped.

Where it's hot

WILMINGTON—Governors Abbott and DeSantis like to portray themselves as evangelical Christians and yet they treat the least of us as if they were the worst of us. Good thing they are used to hot weather.

A divided board

WILMINGTON—I heard the Wilmington Area Historical Society has a divided board. I had to see and hear for myself and reevaluated the conditions. It does look like there is a divided board in the museum. Divided board must come together and work together. There have been board members who were voted in and never have shown up for a meeting. The only time they show up is when the Vice President wants to throw someone off the board in which it has happened. Then the Vice President wants to put someone on the board who voted the Secretary off in vote that was against the constitution and the bylaws, and the meeting should have stopped right then but it continued. I also noticed in meeting that things from the Wilmington Township problems were carried over to the meeting at the museum. Is this normal? In my viewpoint attending other meetings in the surrounded communities this is unethical. I have a question for the Vice President. Mr. Vice President. I never understood your ways of conducting a meeting at the museum. Seems when there is no show, your followers don't show either. Can you explain yourself to the community of Wilmington? Until the problem is resolved it will continue to

be the way it is. It can't correct itself until all those who are involved resign and a new board is in place. Noticing how some board member actions are and listen to only one person who thinks they are in control. It doesn't work. Neither does micromanaging the board. Until the board gets on the board and works together hand-in-hand, the situation will remain the same.

Nice friendly people

SHADOW LAKES—I want to wish my neighbors on Fossil Cove Lane a Happy New Year. It's seldom in life you live in a neighborhood we're 99 percent of the people are nice friendly people. Eddie

Add to wish list

COAL CITY—How about making a parking lot for parents to pick up their children at the elementary school instead of that line up on the south side of building? That isn't great.

5 million here

There is only one person that can deal with the open borders disaster, 9,000 illegally were crossing in Texas alone in one day recently. President Joe Biden refuses to deal with the illegal immigration problems. All he has to do is call on Congress, both parties, to come up with a decent immigration plan and he does nothing. Our tax dollars are caring for the 5 million that came here illegally in 2022 as they are held in hotels, motels, shelters, free bus rides all over U.S.A. Mexico, China, Russia, etc. just enjoy the charades.

Fraud king

MORRIS—Just when you thought you heard or read it all, along comes Sam Bankman-Fried, age 30, son of two Stanford University law professors. He was once worth many billions and was looked at as the next Warren Buffet in the stock market circle. After he donates recently \$40 million to Democrat Senate candidates running for office. Then he files bankruptcy, now facing criminal charges for wire fraud, security fraud, money laundering, etc. I read this is one of the biggest financial frauds in American history. He was taken into custody in the Bahamas where he owned \$300 million in houses and other real estate holdings plus a house in a wealthy gated community purchased for his parents now part of bankruptcy proceedings. Once he was brought to U.S., New York City, he's allowed out of jail on \$250 million bail to be with his parents in California. It should have been no bail. There's good lawyers and bad lawyers. It's us versus them. Millions had invested in FTX and lost it all. The Democrats will see to it Sam is treated very well.

Wake up people

SHADOW LAKES—I was born in 1949 and I have never in my lifetime seen a president go through so much by the opposite party. I do believe that Trump wants to bring America back to being a strong country, but the communists, aka Democrats, are doing everything they can to prevent him from ever running or becoming president again and I would be that when he runs in 2024 they will do everything they can to make him lose and he probably will. There are too many misinformed people in this country. Too many people who have never even fought for this country. Too many giveaway programs by the Democrats starting with Lyndon Johnson's great society which in fact has created the single parent family. So I hope you people, my neighbors especially, will wake up. If they don't, I'm accusing them of being Communist.

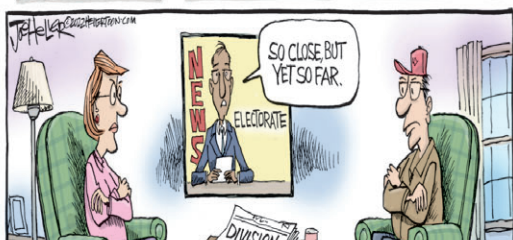
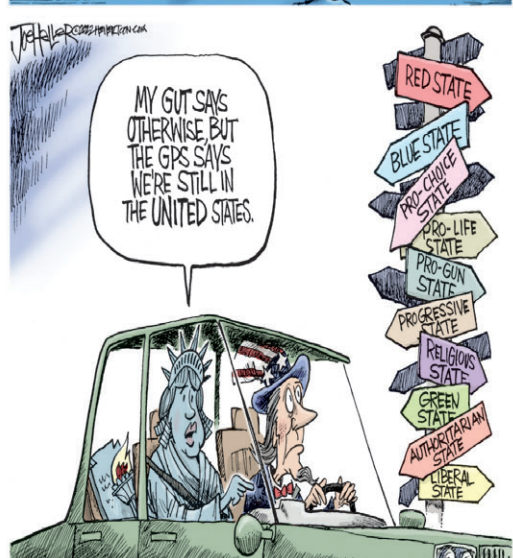
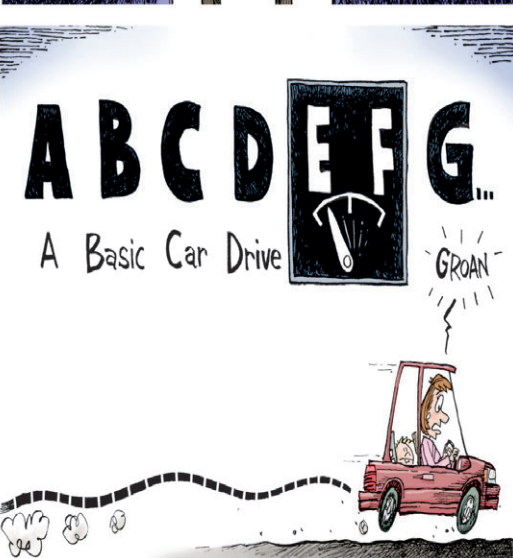
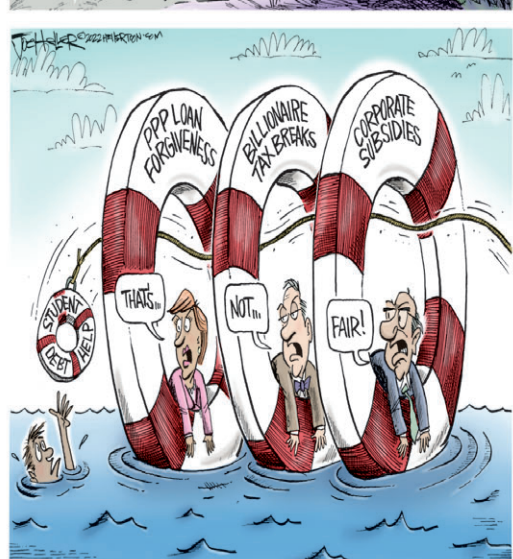
Dan Hill

Selective prosecution

BRAIDWOOD—Biden's Department of Justice (USDOJ) is selectively targeting pro-lifers. Biden betrayed USDOJ's historic mission to treat all Americans equally under the law. Now USDOJ harasses and selectively prosecutes those who oppose Biden's pro-abortion policies, terrorizing them and their families, while not lifting a finger to prosecute the criminals who vandalized & firebombed 17 pro-life offices & pregnancy centers. FBI SWAT teams with ballistic shields, helmets, and assault rifles executed raids on peaceful pro-life leaders like Mark Houck, the father of seven who was arrested at his rural PA home, and Paul Vaughan, the father of 11, arrested at his TN farmhouse. Both of these arrests took place in front of their children who were terrified to see their fathers shackled in their homes. The purpose of these raids is to chill & discourage pro-life activism. The silent majority must not accept this.

Out in the cold

WILMINGTON—It makes me sick to see all the people who leave their pets out in the cold during the winter. There are three different houses along our street where dogs are left out at night. One has a dog house while the other two are just in a fenced yard with no protection from the cold. It is so inhumane to leave a pet out in the cold. Have a heart and at least give them shelter in a garage or something. Better yet, put them in your house, show them you care by petting them and giving them a warm home. You'll get lots of love in return.



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State's minimum wage rises to \$13 an hour

The Illinois minimum wage increased \$1 on Sunday, making the new required minimum wage \$13 an hour.

Minimum wage workers are encouraged to keep a close eye on their paychecks in the new year as any time worked in 2023 must reflect the new \$13 an hour minimum wage.

There have been five increases in the state minimum wage since Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation in 2019 that establishes a schedule of wage increases, putting Illinois on the path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage by 2025.

Prior to the first of these minimum wage increases in 2020, the last time work-

ers in Illinois received an increase in the minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010.

"Illinois workers deserve a minimum wage that keeps up with the rising costs of living," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why, during my first year as Governor, we raised the minimum wage with a gradual ramp to \$15 an hour. Starting January 1st, minimum wage workers will get a raise and businesses will continue receiving tax credits for providing their workforce with a living wage."

The minimum wage for workers who regularly earn tips has increased to \$7.80 an hour; these workers must still earn the

minimum wage after receiving tips, or the employer is required to make up the difference. Workers under 18 who work fewer than 650 hours a year will earn a minimum wage of \$10.50 per hour.

All employers in Illinois are required to post the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" poster in the workplace where notices to employees are regularly posted.

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL at <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/Complaints.aspx> or by calling the minimum wage hotline: (800) 478-3998.

Picnic, camping permits go on sale

The Forest Preserve District's picnic and camping permits go on this week, both online and at Sugar Creek Administration Center in Joliet.

Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnic permits are available for more than 30 rentable shelters that are nestled in forest preserves throughout Will County. Permits are required for groups of 25 or more and encouraged for smaller groups that want to ensure the use of a specific shelter location.

Browse picnic permit details and view photos of the shelters on the Picnicking Page before deciding on a location for your 2023 get-together with family, friends or colleagues.

Tent camping is allowed at Forked Creek Preserve - Ballou Road Access in Wesley Township, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Crete Township, Hammel Woods - DuPage River Access in Shorewood, McKinley Woods - Frederick's Grove in Channahon and Messenger Woods Nature Preserve in Homer Glen.

In addition to online and in-person booking options, camping permits also are available by phone. A 50 percent discount is offered to youth groups. The Forest Preserve also offers a "No Gear, No Problem" program for those who need to rent camping equipment. The camping gear rental fee will drop from \$25 per rental in 2022 to \$20 in 2023. For more information, visit the Camping Page.

Permits went on sale at 10 a.m. Jan. 3 at these locations: Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon, Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville and Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township. These visitor centers are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, and closed Mondays.

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New year brings price jump at the pump

Gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 10.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.24/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"For the first time in two months, the nation's average price of gasoline rose sharply last week, as extremely cold weather led to many refinery issues, shutting down over a million barrels of refining capacity, pushing wholesale prices up," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Add to that the first of two state tax increases this year and the price at the pump jumped 29 cents at Wilmington stations, 17 cents in Braidwood and 11 cents in Coal City.

The lowest price in the state on Monday was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$2.30/g. Joliet stations were averaging

\$2.94/g while in Bourbonnais it was \$3.19 and Morris \$3.06.

"While the jump at the pump will likely be temporary as most refiners get back online after cold-weather related issues, some regions like the Rockies may see more price increases than others as cold-weather shutdowns hit the region fairly hard, with one refinery likely remaining down through the first quarter of 2023. Most areas have seen the bulk of the rise already hit, but should oil continue to rally, more increases could be on the way."

Prices in Illinois are 40.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 8.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.67 per gallon.

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Illinois' high court makes history

Majority-female court is first ever

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - The Illinois Supreme Court made history last month when two newly seated members gave the bench a 5-2 majority of woman judges.

Justices Elizabeth Rochford and Mary Kay O'Brien, of Essex, were sworn in on Dec. 5. The two Democrats were both elected to the high court in November. Justice Joy V. Cunningham, who was appointed to replace retired Justice Anne M. Burke, was sworn in on Dec. 1.

The new justices join Lisa Holder White, who was sworn in as the court's first Black woman justice on July 7. Cunningham became the second, bringing the number of Black justices on the Supreme Court to three, also a high-water mark for the institution.

The historic court will be led by Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, who officially assumed that title in October, following Burke and becoming the fourth woman chief in the court's history.

She's been on the court since 2010 and ascended to the top spot by the court's standard process, which gives the gavel to longest-tenured justice who hasn't yet held it.

She'll preside over a court on which four of its seven members have been seated for less than six months.

"In my life story, I am not a trailblazer. I am not Mary Ann McMorrow, who was the first woman on our court," Theis said in an interview with Capitol News Illinois.

McMorrow was first elected to the court in 1992.

Diversity on the bench, Theis said, is both enriching to deliberations and important from a symbolism standpoint.

"It wasn't that long ago when Charles Freeman was the first African American on this court. He joined the court in 1990," Theis said. "But he was the only African American up until 2018 and then Scott Neville joined this court."

Neville remained the only Black justice until he was joined this year by Holder White and Cunningham.

"Suddenly, we're now going to have three people (on this court) that are people of color," Theis said. "It says something about our state and something about our court that we've evolved to such a place that we can have that diversity."

While Theis said she's invigorated by the new court and the experiences and worldviews its new members will bring to the bench, she described the challenges of the court's turnover as "innumerable."

Preschool hike for Little Explorers

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will host a "Little Explorers - Colors of Winter" event from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Bring your preschoolers ages 3-5 to Four Rivers to explore the colors of winter with a story, a hike, hands-on activities, crafts and free play. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities. Free registration is due by Jan. 17.

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

For the ninth consecutive year, Illinois lost population and the losses are accelerating.

Overall, the United States grew by 0.4% over the past year that ended July 1. That's 1.25 million additional people for a total of nearly 333.3 million nationwide.

Most of the states grew with Florida and Texas leading the way in the latest U.S. Census estimates released last week. Eighteen states saw negative net migration. Behind only California and New York, Illinois was third worst for people leaving the state.

Illinois had more births than deaths in the year that ended July 1, and more inbound international migration. But, domestic migration saw the state lose 141,600. For the year that

Mobile food pantry coming to Wilmington

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting a mobile food pantry at Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participants need to line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. The mobile food pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute

food. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Coal City United Methodist Church to host soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving their delicious homemade chicken noodle soup & chili. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert. Carry-outs are available.

The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12 and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Check your button number

Looking for #219

The search continues for a winner of the Christmas Parade split-the-pot button drawing sponsored by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

After two weeks without button owner 183 claiming the \$410 prize money, a new button number—219—has been

drawn. The owner of button number 219 has until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to claim the prize by calling the Chamber at 815-476-5991.

A new number will be drawn Friday if 219 is not claimed before the 5 p.m. cutoff.

Tai Chi class to begin

The Wilmington Lions Club announce a 12-week session of Tai Chi on Fridays beginning Jan. 6 at the Lions Hall, 805 River St., Wilmington.

Class will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. The fee for the 12 weeks is \$35. Seniors and veterans pay \$30 or students who have completed a previous 12-week session will pay \$25.

Tai Chi originated as a Chinese martial art practiced primarily for health benefits. The movements are slow, methodical and repetitive.

It has been shown that this type of activity is perfect for strengthening the tissues around joints and improving balance and strength.

The beginning Tai Chi student will be introduced to the basics of Tai Chi, that of weight transfer as they learn the positions.

The intermediate/advanced student will perfect their practice by working towards the flowing "meditation in motion" which produces the many health benefits of Tai Chi.

Participants should arrive Jan. 6 at 9 a.m. to register. Dress comfortably. For more details call Wayne 815-478-4016.

Illinois' annual population loss is accelerating

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

For the ninth consecutive year, Illinois lost population and the losses are accelerating.

Overall, the United States grew by 0.4% over the past year that ended July 1. That's 1.25 million additional people for a total of nearly 333.3 million nationwide.

Most of the states grew with Florida and Texas leading the way in the latest U.S. Census estimates released last week. Eighteen states saw negative net migration. Behind only California and New York, Illinois was third worst for people leaving the state.

Illinois had more births than deaths in the year that ended July 1, and more inbound international migration. But, domestic migration saw the state lose 141,600. For the year that

ended July 1, Illinois lost 110,000 on net.

"Not good numbers for the state and continued rejection of the policies that we've seen from here and it's important to note that our neighboring states, with the exception of Michigan, they all grew," Wirepoints President Ted Dabrowski said.

The total net loss for Illinois in the past year equates to around the size of Peoria or Springfield.

When looking at the annual estimate change from April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022, Illinois' population went from 12.8 million to 12.5 million, a decline of more than 230,513.

It's not just the annual estimates that show Illinois' decline accelerating. There's continued IRS migration data or moving companies that have Illinois high on the list for outbound moves.

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Hop a cruise ship for a Yellow Bird cocktail

The 2023 Wave Season is here! What exactly is Wave Season? Wave Season marks the time of year when cruise lines offer their best deals on cruises for the upcoming year, and the timing is perfect as most of us are looking to board a ship to any destination where the weather is warm.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

claim that a drink was named after the song. That drink had to be yellow, of course.



The other version of the origin asserts that the drink has nothing to do with the song and has everything to do with the bright yellow color of the drink. In Caribbean countries the drink was likely made with a gold rum which further compounds the gold/yellow tint when added to bright yellow liqueur.

I can see either one of those versions of the origin as correct, more than likely it was a combination of the two.

This is where the twists and turns begin. Let's assume that one Caribbean Island had a version of the Yellow Bird, and you loved it.

Then, you ordered the drink on your next port of call and the bartender literally just made up something on the spot that was sweet, yellow, and loaded with rum. The drink may have been yellow, but it would not have been a Yellow Bird without one key ingredient: Galliano.

Unlike many "yellow" drinks, the Yellow Bird does not rely on pineapple juice or banana liqueur to achieve the bright yellow hue. The yellow tint in the Yellow Bird comes from the curiously complex Italian herbal liqueur, Galliano.

The IBA (International Bartenders Association) specifies that the yellow bird is a four-ingredient cocktail made of lime juice, white rum, triple sec, and Galliano. No Galliano, no Yellow Bird.

Like most herbal Italian liqueurs, Galliano is a digestif meaning it is meant to be enjoyed after a meal. About fifty years ago the mixology community began to experiment with Galliano and found the complexity to be more of an asset than a hindrance and the liqueur became a key ingredient in modern classic cocktails such as the Harvey Wallbanger, Golden Cadillac, and Golden Dream.

Galliano serves as an excellent sweetener due to its strong vanilla notes, but also brings subtle notes of juniper, lavender, peppermint, and cinnamon.

In addition to Galliano, you are going to need a quality triple sec to turn out a great Yellow Bird. It doesn't get any better than Cointreau in that department.

Cointreau is not cheap but is available in 375ml bottles at 50% of the price of the 750ml. If Cointreau is unavailable and you need a substitute, go with Bol's triple sec.

In most cases I avoid overly sweet light rum in cocktails, but in this case a sweeter light rum performs well and compliments the bitter orange peel notes of the Cointreau and the sour lime.

The Galliano is both sweet and floral which ties this drink together. Bacardi light rum may be a bit peppery for this drink, go with a smooth Caribbean rum like Cruzan, or the Nicaraguan Flor de Cana 4 year.

Use fresh lime juice in this and every cocktail that calls for lime juice and be sure to give this drink a good shake to bring all four ingredients together.

I have tried blended versions of the drink loaded with frozen fruit, and I have tried yellow tinted shots by the same name. The original is best, hands down. You may have to visit more than one store to track down Galliano and Cointreau, but I assure you it's absolutely worth the effort.

You have heard the song, now you can enjoy the drink while you plan your 2023 Caribbean cruise. Trust me, you have heard the song. Add the Arthur Lyman version to your playlist while you enjoy the Yellow Bird. If it sounds familiar it's because it has played in nearly every sitcom's "Hawaiian episode" from I Love Lucy to Full House.

The Yellow Bird is built in a shaker and served in a chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

Combine in shaker:
1 oz. light rum
1/2 oz Galliano
1/2 oz. triple sec (Cointreau is best)
1/2 oz fresh lime juice
Shake well with plenty of ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass
Garnish with maraschino cherry
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Zachary Plese weds Jerica Gladstone



MARTY AND MAUREEN PLESE of Wilmington would like to announce the marriage of their son Zachary Plese to Jerica Gladstone, daughter of Patricia and Steele Gladstone of Mechanicsville, Maryland. Zach, a 2014 graduate from Wilmington High School, and Jerica were married on October 14, 2022 in Tennessee and then honeymooned in Hawaii. The newlyweds are both employed by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department as detectives and live in Nashville, TN.

Judge invalidates cash bail reform in some counties; Supreme Court appeal pending

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — A Kankakee County judge ruled Wednesday, Dec. 28 that lawmakers overreached their constitutional authority in passing a measure to abolish cash bail in Illinois, while other provisions in the wide-ranging SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform were not affected by the ruling.

The ruling by Judge Thomas W. Cunnington leaves the impending cash bail reform in limbo in at least 64 of Illinois' 102 counties that had joined the consolidated lawsuit ahead of the reform's scheduled Jan. 1 implementation.

The reform remains scheduled to take effect in the more than 30 counties that did not sue, which contain roughly two-thirds of the state's population. Of the state's 10 most

populous counties, six were not part of the lawsuit (Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, St. Clair and Champaign). The counties of Will, McHenry, Winnebago and Madison were all part of the lawsuit.

The ruling did not invalidate other provisions of the SAFE-T Act which had already taken effect, such as reforms to police officer training and certification standards and police body camera requirements.

Cunnington wrote in a 36-page decision that the cash bail provisions effectively and improperly amended a section of the state's constitution that states, "all persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties," except in a few specific circumstances.

He also wrote that ending cash bail is an improper overreach by lawmakers, who have no constitutional authority to govern the administrative functions of Illinois courts due

to the separation of powers. Bail, Cunnington wrote, has been held by the Supreme Court to be "administrative" in nature.

The constitution also specifically mentions bail in a section on victims' rights, when it states victims have a right "to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail." Cunnington found that eliminating bail prevents courts from "effectuating the constitutionally mandated safety of the victims and their families."

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in a news release the state will appeal the decision directly to the state Supreme Court, but a timeline for a ruling from the high court is unclear.

"Most of the SAFE-T Act's provisions have been in effect for more than a year, and regardless of today's circuit

court decision, all parts of the SAFE-T Act, including the pre-trial release portions addressed in the court's decision, will go into effect Jan 1," Raoul said. "For instance, the right of individuals awaiting criminal trials — people who have not been convicted of a crime and are presumed innocent — to seek release from jail without having to pay cash bail will go into effect in a few short days, despite the court's ruling against those provisions."

Cunnington rejected other arguments by the dozens of state's attorneys that centered on the legislative process, namely that the bill was not given a proper hearing and violated the "single subject" rule. Court precedent holds that as long as the House speaker and Senate president certify that a bill is properly passed, courts have no standing to intervene, he wrote.

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- Tap 1/9-2/18 - \$40
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OBITUARIES

Linda Anderson

BRAIDWOOD—Linda A. Anderson (nee Morris), 72, of Braidwood, passed away after a six year battle with cancer, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

She was born Sept. 2, 1950 in Columbus, OH to Calvin Morris and Geraldine "Bum" (nee Ashley) Jankowski. Linda graduated from Plainfield High School and retired in 2016 from Ulta Beauty as an executive assistant. She loved cooking and baking, and was proud to be a part of a local quilting group that created lap quilts for disabled veterans.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Ronald (Kimberly) Fowler, of Wilmington; grandson, Joshua (fiancé, Alexandra Medeiros) Fowler, of Georgia; brother-in-law, Richard Luzbetak of Joliet; sister-in-law, Barb Morris, of Braidwood; brothers: Ray (Ruth) Jankowski, Leonard (Edith) Jankowski and Father James Michael Jankowski; sister, Marianne (Sonny)

Skole and nephews and niece, Jeff (Angie) Luzbetak, Charlene (Paul) Abbinanti, Matthew and Mitchel Morris and several additional nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Calvin and Bum; sister, Kathleen Luzbetak and brother, Philip Morris.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A memorial visitation for Linda was held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

Memorial donations in her name to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Shirley M. Miller

DIAMOND—Shirley M. Miller, 95, of Diamond, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Born May 22, 1927, in Chicago, Shirley Marie was a daughter of John and Essie Edna (Winters) Albrecht. She was raised in Chicago until her sophomore year of high school, when she moved to Coal City and went on to graduate with the Coal City High School class of 1945. On Sept. 14 of that same year, Shirley married Raleigh Miller in Chicago, and together they made a home and raised a family in the Coal City/Diamond area. She worked various jobs throughout the years, which included employment at the Joliet Arsenal, Testa's IGA, Wescom, DeMert & Dougherty and Major School of Dance. Shirley was an active member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, where she enjoyed singing in the choir, taught Sunday school, was involved with the Evening Star Circle, and more recently active with Friendship Circle. When her girls were young, Shirley volunteered with the PTA/PTO and Music Boosters, served as a 4-H Leader and Brownie Leader, and assisted as a Room Mother. In addition, Shirley was of constant support of her husband Raleigh's musical career and was sure to be in attendance at many of his performances. She served as an Election Judge, belonged to the White Star Chapter of the Eastern Star, volunteered for Meals on Wheels, and leaves a legacy of constant caregiving of the young, the old, and those who needed a helping hand.

A generous, hard-working, kind-hearted and beautiful soul, Shirley's life was centered on family and friends. She took pleasure in feeding the birds, tending to her flower and vegetable gardens, swimming, and decorating her home for the seasons. With her warm smile and jovial laugh, Shirley was one to "never, never, never give up."

Survivors include three daughters: Cynthia

(Dean) Miller-Webb, of Snellville, GA and Romeoville, IL; Jacqueline (Dale) Kuntz, of Kingwood, TX and Carol (Bob) Crawford, of Diamond; grandchildren: Timothy (Hollie) Washburn, of Coal City; Tod (Jamie) Washburn, of Morris; Shelley Crawford, of Parker, CO; Katie (Steve) Hlavac, of Yorkville, IL; Catherine (Michael) Williams, of Marietta, GA; Christy (Andy) Steinhauer, of Powder Springs, GA; Daren (Trisha) Kuntz, of Bennington, NE and Danielle (Joe) Mazurkiewicz, of Grayslake, IL; great-grandchildren: Ali, Emma, Abby, Nolan, William, Ava, Addison, Natalie, Reagan, A.J., Rigdon, Sam, Max, Elise and Jaxson; great-grandchildren: Jace and Jenna, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 54 years, Raleigh, in 2000; brother-in-law, Gayle Miller; sister-in-law, Faith Miller Harris; and her dear special friend, Tom Trotter.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd. in Coal City on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, from 10 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter will officiate, and burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, where Shirley will be laid to rest with Raleigh.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Shirley's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416; Bohemian National Cemetery, Braidwood, IL, at www.bohemiannational.org; or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Shirley's memorial page online through social media.

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

Deacon William F. Bevan III

JOLIET—Deacon William F. Bevan III, D.D.S., 86, and a lifelong resident of Joliet, went to eternity on Dec. 25, 2022.

Born July 30, 1936 in Joliet, William was a son of Dr. William F. II and Marguerite (Welch) Bevan. He was proud to have been the great-grandson of Fred Bevan, a Roman Catholic who came from England; served in the Civil War, and is laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee, as well as Herman Welch who emigrated from Germany; also served in the Civil War, and is laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery in Cabery, IL.

A graduate of St. Raymond's Grade School (1950), Joliet Catholic High School (1954), Joliet Junior College and Lewis University, William completed his post graduate work at Northern Illinois University and Marquette University. He received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery at Loyola University, and post graduate work at the University of Michigan Dental College. Dr. Bevan practiced Dentistry in Joliet with his father, Dr. William F. Bevan II for 53 years, a practice his grandfather started in 1896.

Dr. Bevan was a life member of the American and Illinois Dental Society; past president of the Will County Dental Society; life member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, and was a member of The Catholic League.

Baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Joliet, William received his First Holy Communion,



Confirmation and was ordained a Deacon at the Cathedral of St. Raymond's. He was assigned a Deacon at St. Paul Catholic Church in Joliet, and most recently at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Coal City.

Deacon Bevan will lie in state at the Cathedral of St. Raymond, 604 N. Raynor Ave. in Joliet on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Vigil Service. Funeral services will follow Friday morning, Jan. 6, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Cathedral. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Rev. Michael Lane presiding, and Deacon Karl Huebner assisting.

Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville, where he will be laid to rest with his parents.

Pallbearers will be fellow Joliet Diocesan Deacons. Honorary Pallbearers are John Cronin, Jim Sefcik, Art Hrvatin, David Skorupa, Jim Skorupa, John Rems, Tom Grohar, and classmates from the Joliet Catholic graduating Class of 1954.

In lieu of flowers, Masses are preferred. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Deacon Bevan's memorial page.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes.

Arland E. Percy Jr.

WILMINGTON—Arland E. Percy Jr., 62, of Wilmington and formerly of Joliet, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox.

Born Sept. 20, 1960 in Mattoon, IL, Arland Edward was a son of Arland "Edward" Percy Sr. of Diamond and the late Linda Jean (Paden) Percy. He attended Laraway School and graduated from Joliet East High School with the class of 1978. Following high school, Arland worked in the Steel Mills before gaining employment with the City of Wilmington Water Department. Most recently he had been working security.

On Oct. 1, 1994, Arland married Brenda (nee Davis) in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, and together they made their home together in Wilmington. Over the years, Arland took pleasure in playing baseball and fishing, and was a fan of all sports, particularly following the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Cubs. He enjoyed old movies and radio shows, and had a love of animals, especially his dogs. To his family he was known to be a gentle giant and never mean, vindictive or aggressive to anyone. Arland always enjoyed making people laugh and will be remembered for his witty

sense of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda; father, Ed Percy; two sisters, April Veerman, of New Lenox and Georgianna (Jeff) Shenk, of Braidwood; his mother-in-law, Annette Kincheloe, and brother-in-law, Douglas Davis, both of Wilmington, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arland was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Percy; brother-in-law, Brad Veerman; maternal and paternal grandparents, and his father-in-law, Benjamin Kincheloe.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and a memorial service is being planned for a later date. Correspondences may be directed to the family c/o Baskerville Funeral Home.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Arland's memorial page online through social media.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Arland's memory to his family for their distribution.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Jeff J. Bowen

BRAIDWOOD—Jeff J. Bowen, 63, of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 at his home.

Born July 20, 1959 in Joliet, he was the son of Gifford and Barbara (nee Linssen) Bowen. He was a graduate of Lockport Township High School and member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #241 in Wilmington and Teamsters Local #179 and #705. Jeff was an over the road truck driver his entire life. He was known to be a "backyard mechanic" who enjoyed working on his vehicles and he also appreciated the art of bushcraft.

Surviving are three children: Chance Houston Gifford (Jade) Bowen, of Wilmington; Sgt. Austin Taylor Bowen, of Braidwood and Dakota Raye (Christopher) Pahr, of Goodlettsville, TN; six grandchildren: Kaylie Eitzkorn, Damian Mixon, Nickolas Bowen, Elijah



Bowen, Matthias Bowen, and Waylon Bowen; five siblings: Neil, Jerry, Jan, Rosie, and Linda; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and beloved wife, Rebecca Lynn (nee Elliott) Bowen, who he married Nov. 24, 1978 in Lockport and predeceased him on Nov. 17, 2019.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Interment followed in Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Lemont, IL.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Benny R. Cline Jr.

ORLAND PARK—Benny R. Cline Jr., 53, of Orland Park, passed away on Dec. 23, 2022 at his home.

Born July 31, 1969 in Chicago, he was a son of Benny Sr. and Carolyn (Thomas) Cline. Benny was raised and educated in Chicago. On July 8, 2017 Benny married Heidi Lamkin in Luttrell, TN she survives. Benny enjoyed watching WWE and was a huge sports fan, with many considering him to be the biggest Chicago Cubs fan in all of history. He enjoyed playing catch but more importantly being a commentator during the baseball games which most people found more exciting than the game itself. During his time in Tennessee he served as a deacon at his church. He was known by many to always see the good in people and seem to never know a stranger. Benny loved both Country and Christian music and could always be heard singing. He truly wore his heart on his sleeve and saw other people's needs above his, often times saying, "They need it more than I do." Benny cherished his family and will always be remembered for his love of life and dedicated service to others.

Survivors include his wife, Heidi Lamkin, of Orland Park; two children, Colleen Cline, of



Spring Valley, IL and Carrie Cline (Bina), of Homer Glen, IL; three brothers: Michael Cline, of Orland Park; Earl (Amy) Cline, of Rochester, IN and Randy (Jenny) Cline, of Kokomo, IN; two sisters, Martha (Jorge) Alvarado, of Orland Park and Rebecca (Jeff) O'Shaughnessy, of Orland Park and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Benny was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City on Jan. 4, 2023 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m. Reverend Dr. Roy Backus will officiate and burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials in Benny's memory may be made to the family to assist with funeral expenses.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Benny's memorial page via social media.

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

Ronald Gabriel

ELWOOD—Ronald Rex Gabriel, 70, of Elwood, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born March 25, 1952 in Joliet, Ronald Rex was a son of Rex L. and Marion L. (Clever) Gabriel. He was raised and educated in the Plainfield area, and went on to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Upon his honorable discharge, Ron went on to make his career as a mechanic.

He was an active member of Families of Faith Church in Channahon; belonged to the American Warriors Motorcycle Club, and was a member and the past Jr. Commander at Stone City VFW Post 2199. Ron will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, and his passion for Veteran's organizations.

Survivors include his brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Shelley Gabriel, of Joliet; nephew, James Rex Gabriel (Amber Marie Hubner); great-niece, Aurora Skye Gabriel and great-nephew, Logan Hubner, as well as numerous



cousins and friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Rex and Marion Gabriel.

Cremation rites are being accorded, and a Memorial Service is in the planning at Families of Faith Church in Channahon.

Following the services, Ron will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

A complete obituary with service details will be updated as information becomes available.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Ron's memory to a Veteran's Organization of the donor's choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Ron's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Dorothy Ventsias

DIAMOND—Dorothy J. "Dottie" Ventsias, 90, of Diamond and formerly Joliet, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 20, 2022 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox.

Born April 22, 1932 in Lockport Township, Dorothy Joan was a daughter of Kelly George and Lucy (Coates) Barto. She was raised and educated in the Lockport area and graduated from Joliet Township High School. Dorothy married John Ventsias and worked alongside John for more than 25 years as the office manager for the family restaurant supply business. Throughout the years, Dottie enjoyed numerous crafts and took pleasure in cooking and baking. In addition, she enjoyed the theater, both stage plays and movies. She was a member of the Country Meadows Association.

Dorothy is survived by two sisters-in-law, Thea Ann Ventsias, of Stamford, CT and Penny Barto, of Sugar Grove, IL, and one brother-in-law, James Ventsias, of Yorkville, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John on Dec. 25, 2002; son,

Anthony on March 22, 2013 and daughter, Deborah on Dec. 17, 2013.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial gathering will be held at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 from 10 a.m. until time of Celebration of Life at 12 p.m. Inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 1:30 p.m., where she will be laid to rest with her late husband.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Dottie's name to any of her favorite charities: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Native American Heritage Association or to Morning Star Mission in Joliet.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Dorothy's memorial page.

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



OBITUARIES

Rosie Lee Waters (nee James)

CHANNAHON—Rosie Lee Waters, 80, of Channahon, passed away on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, at Rock Run Place Assisted Living and Memory Care in Joliet.

Born Nov. 2, 1942, in New Haven, IL, she was a daughter of Orville and Thelma May (Kennedy) James. Rosie was raised and educated in Norris City and graduated from Norris High School with the class of 1960. Rosie worked as a CNA for Morris Hospital retiring after 32 years. Rosie loved her four-legged feline pets, and most importantly cherished her family especially her time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include four children: Scott (Dreama) Unland, of Virginia; Julie (Bob) Watts, of Coal City; Donnie (Jen) Unland, of Virginia and Laurie (Tim) Smith, of Channahon; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one sister, Euna (Ron) Stokes, of Norris City; one brother, Wayne (Ruth) McKenzie, of Norris City; one sister-in-law, Sue James, of Norris City,



as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Robert; sister, Sheila Horste; one brother, Ray James and stepfather, Warren McKenzie.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of IL Route 47 in Morris on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11 a.m. Rev. Dr. Roy Backus will officiate, and burial will follow in Willard Grove Cemetery where Rosie will be laid to rest with her husband, Robert.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Rosie's page via social media.

Funeral services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes Ltd. in Morris.

Michael D. Brown Sr.

FLORIDA—Michael D. Brown Sr., 76, passed away at his home in Florida on Sept. 24, 2022 after a very long illness.

Mike was an employee of Caterpillar Inc., from 1965-1998, as a welder, instructor, and supervisor. He was a lifelong conservative who had a strong sense of right and wrong. In his Florida retirement he served on several county boards and was chairman (2017-2018) of the Republican Party of Charlotte Co. He worked hard from the time he was a child until the last decade of his life. Mike played hard, too: He was an outstanding pony league baseball pitcher and a fast and tough high school football player. In his younger days, Mike enjoyed fishing and hunting. In his later



years, Mike and Gloria enjoyed boating and Mike's Harleys. In his home workshop, he was a craftsman of fine solid-oak cabinetry and furniture as well as beautiful stained glass art pieces.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Fox); his children: Lisa, Mike Jr. and Pat; grandchildren: Lucas, Michael, Katie, Rebekka and Angus; two great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews; and two sisters, Betty and Diana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Greta Brown; nephew, Erich and great-niece, Riley.

His ashes were interred in the memorial garden of his church on Nov. 19, 2022.

Barney Stewart

COAL CITY—Barney Stewart, 78, of Coal City, and formerly of Chicago, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 at his home.

Barney is the husband of Nancy; father of Elizabeth (Stephen) Scofield, of England; Debbie (Rich) Carollo, of Colorado and the late Troy Stewart; grandfather of six, great-grandfather of one and brother to Chris and Joey Smolka.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter

from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will follow.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barney's memory to PAWS Chicago.

A complete obituary is available on the funeral home website, and will be published in next week's paper.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Barney's memorial page online through social media.

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



Photo by Eric Fisher

FOG AND DROPLETS of rain greeted area residents to start the new year. This photo was taken about 6 a.m. near Prairie Land and Vista Dr in Wilmington. With the flash turned on, the photograph shows the moisture in the air as it blew with the wind. The forecast for this week shows highs above freezing with rain expected Wednesday into Thursday before sunny skies prevail.

Automatic renewal for FOID card with fingerprints

The Illinois State Police (ISP) can automatically renew a person's Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) for individuals who have submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP specifically for their FOID card or Concealed Carry License.

The individual's FOID card will remain active for a period of 10 years from the date of the Firearms Transaction Inquiry Program approval.

Individuals who apply for a FOID card may include a full set of their fingerprints transmitted through a live scan fingerprint vendor licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR). Individuals who currently have a FOID card but have not submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP may do so by going to a live scan vendor and uploading them to their account at www.ispfsb.com.

Drawing by Grace Keane



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Dropoff string lights, electronics

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Jan. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Holiday string lights that are no longer working may be dropped off for recycling. This is for string lights only, no stand alone LEDs, CFLs or other fluorescent lights.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions (limit 2), monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets),

electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants

(PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

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CCAC to hold annual meeting

The Coal City Area Club will be holding their annual meeting on Jan. 18, 7 p.m. at 285 S. Broadway, Coal City. The regular monthly meeting will follow.



Front Row: Grace Smith, Dayna Vargocko, Samantha Olson. Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

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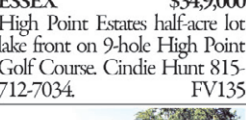
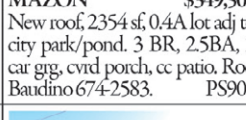
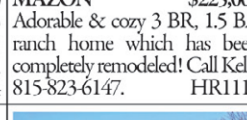

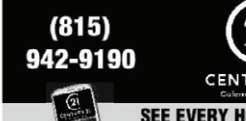


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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS ARVEST CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY Plaintiff, -v- RAYMOND M. FARCUS et al Defendant 2022 FC 18 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 8, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on January 25, 2023, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1285 S GORMAN RD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 09-07-200-010 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-01588 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 18 TJSC#: 42-4588 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 FC 18 13209562 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Dec. 21 & 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

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Indoor plants that can help your home air quality

Dear EarthTalk: Do houseplants really improve indoor air quality? Which ones are the most effective as such?

-- Kay Hamm, Los Angeles, CA



In recent years, more and more people have developed an interest in keeping houseplants. There are many potential reasons why there has been such a resurgence in indoor gardening. Many people took up tending to houseplants during the pandemic as a quarantine hobby.

As the years have progressed, people's interest in keeping houseplants has continued to thrive and it's easy to understand why. They liven up any living space, and provide people with something to care for—both which provide many mental health benefits.

However, there has been speculation as to whether or not keeping houseplants provides environmental and health benefits through purifying the air in our homes.

The short answer is that houseplants do have the potential to purify the air in our homes. When plants perform photosynthesis, they take carbon dioxide out of the air and emit oxygen as a byproduct.

Since plants output oxygen into the surroundings, by scientific definition they have the potential to increase the oxygen concentration in your living space. However, the degree to which they can detoxify the air and measurably make a difference to the air quality in a person's living space is another matter.

"There is currently no evidence...that a reasonable number of houseplants remove significant quantities of pollutants in homes and offices," reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Indeed, in order to make a considerable difference in the air quality of your home, you'd have to keep a large number of houseplants under specific climatic conditions, requiring a large amount of effort, time and money that isn't realistic for most of us.

Having houseplants can even worsen indoor air quality if you are overwatering them, as overly damp soil may promote the growth of microorganisms which can affect allergic individuals.

However, if you are interested in keeping houseplants that have the potential to clean the air in your home, there are a variety to choose from.

There are two major air pollutants found in homes: particulates—dust, mold, etc.—and volatile organic compounds (VOC)—gases that are released from materials such as fabric, paint and cleaning products.

Spider plants, philodendrons, ZZ plants, dumb canes, pygmy date palms and ivies are among the plants suited to indoor living that are especially good at filtering out particulates.

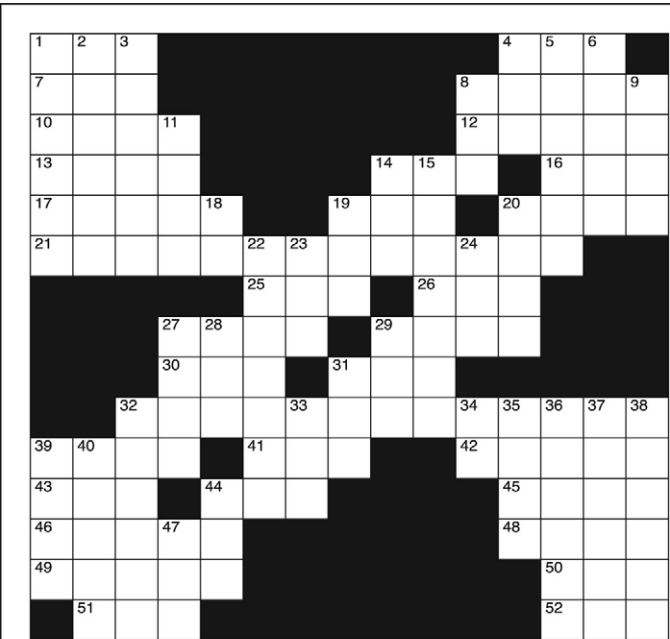
Other plants especially good at removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) out of your indoor air include pathos, bamboo, Areca palms, rubber plants and peace lilies. You can usually find a wide assortment of indoor plants — and get more advice — at a local nursery or garden center.

Of course, there are also many other ways to improve the air quality of your home. Keeping a clean home reduces the amount of particulate matter in the air.

Investing in air purifiers and home air filters can help reduce both the concentration of VOCs and particulate matter that could be impairing your indoor air quality. Simple tasks like opening your windows and airing out your home in the warmer

months increases air circulation and benefits your home's indoor environment.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie ___ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. Major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

License plate fees for low-income drivers drop

Eligible older adults and persons with disabilities will see their annual license plate renewal fee reduced by more than half in the new year.

Public Act 102-0807, which took effect Jan. 1, drivers who qualify for IDoA's Benefit Access Program will pay only \$10 for their license plate stickers, a decrease from \$24 currently.

"During this time of high inflation, many older adults are finding it increasingly difficult to cover everyday expenses," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta. "This income-based discount on license plate renewals is welcome news for older drivers, helping them save money and keep their vehicle registration current."

The Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program determines eligibility for a

license plate discount from the Secretary of State's office and free transit on fixed route systems in Illinois.

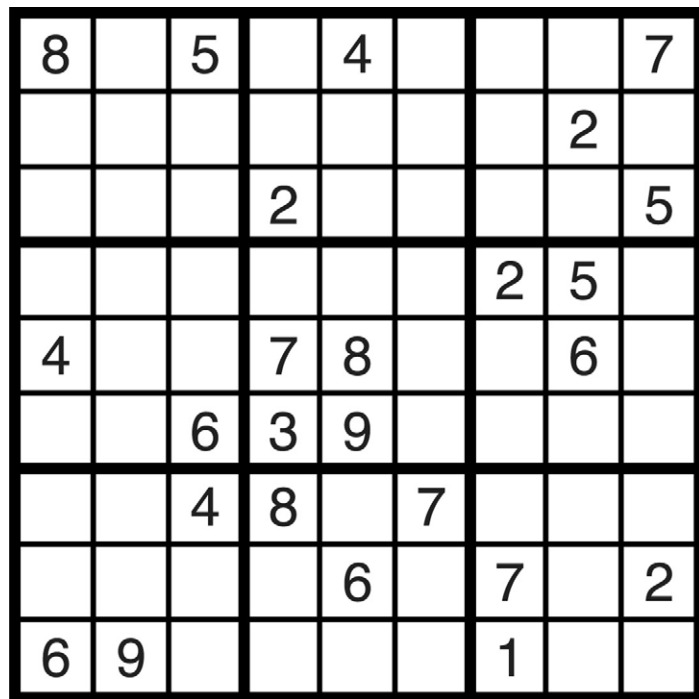
To qualify, residents must be at least 65 years of age or 16 years of age and disabled, as well as meet income requirements. For a household containing one person, the annual income cap is \$33,562.

To apply for the Benefit Access Program online, please visit www.ilaging.illinois.gov/benefitsaccess.html. For assistance with the online application, older adults can call IDoA's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

Those with specific questions about the price reduction, or about their vehicle's registration status, are encouraged to contact the Illinois Secretary of State's office at 800-252-8980.

IDoA serves older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department's programs

and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Employers reminded to display new poster

The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) has released the 2023 version of the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" poster.

Employers must display the poster where employees will see it.

The poster is available at www.labor.illinois.gov.

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Coalers rock Abe's Rumble

The wrestling Coalers won the Abe's Rumble in Springfield for the second year in a row, finishing 9-0 during the 60-team dual team tournament.

Going undefeated were Drake Dearth (9-0) including six falls; Michael Gonzalez (7-0) with six falls; and Braiden Young (4-0) with four falls.

Coal City defeated Canton 61-14, Chicago Hope 84-0, Peru St. Bede 78-3, St. Joe Ogden 69-7, Murphysboro 67-9, Vandalia 59-18, Oregon 59-9, Riverdale 46-24 and Lena-Winslow 47-13.

The Coalers improve to 30-2 overall. On Thursday they travel to Lisle for a dual Lisle and Peotone. On Friday and Saturday they will participate in the Princeton Invitational tournament.

TWO-TIME CHAMPIONS—The Coal City wrestling team won the Abe Rumble Dual Team tournament in Springfield last week for the second year in a row. The Coalers went 9-0 during the 60-team tournament to win the first place trophy. Squad members include (kneeling, from left) Aidan Kenney, Evan Greggain, Trace Wilson, Mason, Chase Dehler, Jake Piatak, Mataeo Blessing, Culan Lindemuth, Luke Munsterman, Noah Houston, Brody Widlowski, Brock Finch and Buddy Widlowski. Standing are coach Mark Masters, Joey Breneman, Zakk Kramer, Tyler Porth, Drake Dearth, Coach Jim Looper, Cade Poyner, Braiden Young, Alec Waliczek, Andrew Feisley, Derek Carlson, Landin Benson, Jack Poyner, Michael Gonzalez, Coach Keigher, Coach Berman, Coach McGuinn and Coach Widlowski.

Coalers win two at Plano

The Coal City boys basketball team went 2-2 during the Plano Holiday Classic tournament, beating Hinckley-Big Rock and Plano is back-to-back games before falling to Sandwich.

Coal City was in the running on Friday when they lost to Sandwich 49-41. They trailed 25-23 at the half before the Indians went on a 24-18 run in the end to clinch it.

Coal City was shy on rebounds 37-27 and shot 32 percent from two-point range as they fall to 5-9 overall.

Cason Headley led the charge with 18 points. Carter Garrelts pulled down eight rebounds to go along with his eight points. Carson Shepard also finished with eight points while Jim Feeney chipped in six and Chris Cholico one.

Overtime free throws

Plano rallied late to tie the score but Coal City shot 100 percent at the free throw line, going 14-for-14, to win it in overtime 47-42.

The Coalers should have won it in regulation after being up 31-23 entering the fourth quarter. That's when the Reapers went on a 14-6 run to tie it at 37-37.

Fortunately the Coalers made the best of their free throw chances to win it.

Headley finished with 17 points including 8-for-8 at the charity stripe. Garrelts shot a couple of three-pointers to finish with 12 points and eight rebounds. Shepard had a solid performance with nine points and six rebounds.

Also scoring for CCHS were Owen Wren with five points, and two points each for Feeney and Cholico.

Big fourth quarter

Coal City was down 22-17 to Hinckley-Big Rock before rallying back to 33-28 at the break. They maintained their lead in the third and erupted for 29 points in the final quarter to win



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WITH HIS EYE on the basket and no defender nearby, Coal City junior Jim Feeney pulls up for a shot.

it 76-65. Four Coalers ended with double figures as they finished with 13 three-point shots.

Garrelts had the hot hand with 24 points including four treys. Also scoring four treys was Shepard who tallied 18 points. Headley went 7-for-10 at the line to finish with 15 points while Feeney made a couple of three-pointers to finish with 10 points.

Wren chipped in with five points and five rebounds while Dillon Harrington and Cholico contributed two points each.

The Coalers host Reed-Custer Friday, travel to Morris Saturday before hosting Seneca on Tuesday.



Photo by Amy Walker

LOOKING TO PASS the ball to a teammate is Coal City senior Kerigan Copes.

Lady Coalers win plaque during Lisle Tourney

The Coal City girls basketball team made a respectable run during the Lisle Holiday Tournament, finishing 3-1 including a 28-25 victory over Wheaton Academy in the final round.

"This was a great way to end this tournament. We battled through some injuries and our bench played great all tournament," commented coach Brad Schmitt.

"Points were at a premium tonight, but we scored when we had to and our defense was really tough all game. Glad to see our girls come out on top as we head into the second half of our season."

The Lady Coalers (12-4 overall, 3-2 in conference) trailed after one but managed to take a 13-12 lead at the half. After going on a 9-8 in the third quarter, Coal City held Wheaton to just four points in fourth.

Mia Ferrias led Coal City with 13 points including a pair of three-point shots. Makayla Henline scored 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds while sister Makenzie Henline grabbed 10 rebounds and put in two points. Kylee Kennell also scored a bucket.

Ferrias on fire

In round three, Coal City rallied to force the game into overtime before winning 57-52.

After taking a 16-12 lead in the first frame they scored just four points in the second to trail 25-20. They fought back to tie it 47-47 after regulation to finish with a 10-5 run in overtime for the win.

Ferrias went 9-for-13 at the line and 8-for-12 from the field during a 31-point, 5-steal performance. Makayla Henline chipped in with eight points while Kerigan Copes came off the bench to score six points while grabbing eight rebounds.

Also providing bench support were Tanna Curry with four points and Abby Stiles with three points. The Lady Coalers finished the contest with 15 steals and 29 rebounds.

Second quarter reign

The Lady Coalers tallied 30 points in the second quarter of the third round game against Walther Christian to win it with ease, 65-32.

Nine Coal City players scored points, led by Ferrias with 19 including a couple of treys. Kennell hustled to put up 11 points while Makayla Henline nailed a couple of three-pointers to finish with 10 and six rebounds.

Emma Rodriguez got playing time to finish with seven points while Stiles chipped in with six points. Scoring four points each were Makenzie Henline (10 rebounds) and Paige Walker. Scoring two points each were Bella Veraveic and Payton Benson.

Coal City controlled the boards with 45 rebounds.

Edged for openers

Somehow Westmont stole the momentum and scored 25 points in the final quarter to win it 49-47.

Coal City was in the driver's seat 34-24 after three quarters. Westmont poured on the pressure and sent the Lady Coalers to the line where they made just 11-of-25 on the night.

Meanwhile Westmont shot 14-for-16 at the line to finish with the win.

Ferrias and Makayla Henline teamed up for 11 points each. Makenzie Henline grabbed nine rebounds and scored six. Recording four points each were Audrey Cooper, Stiles, Walker and Kennell. Abby Gagliardo finished with three points and five rebounds.

The Lady Coalers play at Lisle Thursday and Peotone Monday before hosting Wilmington Jan. 12.



Photo by Amy Walker

EASY TWO - Coal City's Makayla Henline scores two points with a layup during the holiday tournament at Lisle.

Put your health first this New Year!

Start the New Year out right by scheduling your annual check-up with your primary care provider! Annual check-ups help you monitor existing health issues, keep you up-to-date on vaccinations and screening tests, and increase the likelihood of detecting new health issues before they develop into something serious.

If you have fallen behind with your routine check-ups, the New Year is the perfect time to get back on schedule.



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