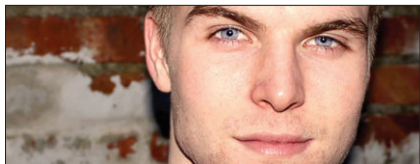


Nevin to perform
in all-state show



Johnson getting
kicks with Oxford



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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

| A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

O'Reilly Auto Parts proposed for Division Street

STAFF REPORT

A commercial real estate and investment firm is moving forward with plans to construct an O'Reilly Auto Parts store in the village of Coal City.

6S Development, LLC, a Texas-based firm, informed village officials six months ago it had a client looking to open a national retail franchise in the area, but it would need economic incentives to off-set construction costs.

Rather than allow the retailer to go elsewhere, the Village Board approved an inducement resolution preserving the village's capability to utilize tax increment finance [TIF] dollars to cover any incentives it would later authorize.

When the resolution was brought before the board in July, trustees were informed the developer intended to construct a metal building, but town code wouldn't allow for that type of construction. In order for the developer to make a bigger investment to meet design guidelines, the developer would need assistance.

In mid-December, 6S Development filed variance requests related side and rear yard setbacks for at 850 and 860 E. Division St.

According to Village Administrator Matt Fritz, the variances are due to the location of

the building on the lot. The variance is for rear yard setbacks next to a residential district and for the placement of a refuse pad near the rear lot line.

The requests are scheduled to be the subject of a public hearing before the town's Planning and Zoning Board on Jan. 18.

In addition to consideration of the variances, Fritz stated the Village Board will also consider vacating a portion of the existing alley that runs north and south between the existing auto parts store and the residential structure at 850 E. Division St.

6S Development is proposing to construct a 7,627-square foot building at the site of the Coal City NAPA store and an adjacent residential home directly west of the retail property.

According to the concept plan provided to the village, the developer would locate the building at the northwest corner of the site. One entry/exit point from Division Street would be located on the east edge of the property with 38 parking spaces located on the front and east sides of the building.

The combined properties are located within the town's TIF and are eligible for incentives. Exactly what the village will offer the developer has not yet been addressed.

"This redevelopment will include a number of actions to become reality," Fritz said.



Photo by Ann Gill

A PROPOSAL to construct a 7,627-square foot retail building to house an O'Reilly Auto Parts store is before the village of Coal City. 6S Development, a Texas-based firm, has submitted plans to redevelop 850 and 860 E. Division St., and is seeking economic incentives from the town to comply with the village's building guidelines.



EXELON NUCLEAR HAS announced its intent to close its Dresden Generating Station in Goose Lake Township. Efforts are being made at the state and local level to keep the plant open and protect local taxpayers.



THE UNIT 1 School District continues to modify its Return to School Plan. In the coming months the district is expected to continue updating the plan to meet current pandemic guidelines, as well as outline a direction for a full return to the classroom.



COMPETITIVE POWER VENTURES [CPV] Three Rivers Energy Center will take shape in the coming year. The 1,250 megawatt gas-fueled electric generating station is being constructed along Collins Road in Goose Lake Township.

Funding available to aid local restaurants, bars

STAFF REPORT

Grundy County restaurants and bars have less than a week to submit an application to access funding through the local CURES economic support grant.

County officials were made aware of the grant program that provides an opportunity to assist local restaurants and bars impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and it was announced last week the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity approved the county's grant application that will provide funds to support local businesses.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to provide financial assistance to our local restaurants and bars," said Grundy County Board chairman Chris Balkema.

Restaurants and bars located within incorporated and unincorporated Grundy County are encouraged to complete a grant application. However, due to program guidelines there is little time to receive and process applications.

Submissions must include a completed application and signed state of Illinois grant certification. The required documents can be accessed on-line at www.grundyco.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-CURE-Subrecipient-Application.pdf

Priority will be given to locally owned and operated establishments and funding will be awarded based on eligibility requirements, funding availability and economic impact.

Applications must be received by Grundy County's finance analyst Matt Melvin by 4:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 11. Completed submissions can be submitted by mail or in person at 1320 Union St., Morris or electronically to curesgrant@grundyco.org.

"Local restaurant and bar entrepreneurs that take a risk and invest in our community will hopefully be able to see a small bit of relief through this federal assistance package. I look forward to the day when

SEE FUNDS, PAGE 2

What's ahead in 2021

10 stories to watch in the new year



THE GOLDEN ARCHES standing at the corner of Broadway and Division Street will be all that remains of the McDonald's restaurant. Company officials announced plans to demolish the existing restaurant at 2 S. Broadway and replace it with a larger, modern state-of-the-art eatery with a tandem drive-thru. The redevelopment is expected to take place in the coming year.



THE VILLAGE OF Coal City is ready to roll out its much anticipated housing rehabilitation program. The village is one of 13 communities selected by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to share \$6.3 million in Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Funds, \$500,000 of that going to assist local homeowners improve their properties.



THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION is just a few months away and will determine the makeup of municipal, school and library boards, as well as township government. There will be some changes this spring, and some appointments to be made.



THE UNIT 1 Board of Education has a great deal of work ahead of it and finding a superintendent to succeed superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg is a priority. Bugg is set to retire from the district at the close of the 2021-2022 school year.



AN EXPANSION OF the village of Coal City's tax increment financing [TIF] district is expected in the first part of the new year. The change is part of a proposal that is expected to bring additional land into the village with the annexation of property along South Broadway that could bring new business to town.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS proposed for the villages of Coal City and Diamond are expected to take shape in the year ahead including a rail-served storage facility, auto parts store and a new gas station and car wash.



8 0 4 8 7 9 2 9 6 4 5 1 0

Grundy County's first baby of 2021 arrives on Jan. 1

Grundy County's first baby of the new year arrived at Morris Hospital on Jan. 1, 2021, at 1:17 p.m. Baby Keenan Lee Hetelle is the son of Hilary Bunting and Michael Hetelle of Morris.

Delivered by Morris Hospital obstetrician/gynecologist Dr. Erik Muraskas, Keenan Lee weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz., and measured 21 inches in length. He was welcomed home by big brothers Kayden, 7 and Kole, 2.

A certified nursing assistant on Morris Hospital's 2 East medical/surgical unit, Bunting was finishing up a 12 hour night shift on New Year's Eve when she started to not feel well. When her shift ended at 7 a.m., she decided to go straight to the Family Birthing Suites to get checked out since she was already at the hospital. After being examined, Bunting was informed that she would be staying.

"After everything that everybody went through in 2020, it was exciting to start 2021 with a surprise," said Bunting, whose due date was Jan. 10. "Keenan's arrival feels like a little sunshine. His big brother Kayden is beyond excited to have another brother."



Courtesy photo

THE HETELLE FAMILY welcomed a new addition on New Year's Day. Keenan Lee Hetelle was born at 1:17 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 1, the first baby of the new year delivered at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. Keenan is the son of Hilary Bunting and Michael Hetelle, of Morris. He was welcomed home by his parents and brothers, Kayden and Kole.

Another unexpected surprise for Bunting was finding out that registered nurse Patti Haage happened to be working

on Jan. 1. "Patti was there for the delivery of my other two boys, so we were over the moon when we learned that

she was working," said Bunting. "She's an angel walking these hallways. It was definitely special having her for all

three of my deliveries."

Unlike the birth of their first two sons, this was the first time Bunting and Hetelle's families weren't able to visit in the hospital due to COVID related visitor restrictions. Instead, members of the immediate family stood outside the window of her hospital room during the New Year's Day winter storm so they could see baby Keenan for the first time.

"It was a little weird because you're used to everyone coming in and celebrating with you," said Bunting. "Instead, we were on the phone talking and seeing each other through the window. This is the first time we've felt the COVID effect. It was emotional."

New Year's baby Keenan Lee is the grandson of Tammy Bunting, of Morris; Renee Hetelle, of Morris and the late Gary Lee Hetelle. His great-grandparents are Linda and Richard Roberts, of Morris and Phillip Young, of Marseilles.

As Grundy County's first baby of 2021, the family received a gift certificate courtesy of the Grundy Chamber of Commerce and a gift bag filled with gifts from the Morris Hospital Auxiliary.

Students of the Week



CAMERON HAAS
Intermediate School



KENDALL SHUTE
Intermediate School



HUNTER LANPHIER
Intermediate School

Data shows opening Illinois schools for some in-person learning is safe

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

A researcher from the University of Illinois Springfield said data shows schools are safe and should be reopened.

Nearly 1.2 million of the state's 1.9 million students were fully remote as of Dec. 18, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

In Chicago on Monday, the public schools were opened for in-person education, but there were issues with teachers union members worried about their health. Other districts across the state are eyeing reopening dates with boards considering votes to bring students back for some form of in-person learning.

Locally, Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington students have mostly been in school while each of the districts have offered a blend of in-person and remote learning.

UIS professor Gary Reinbold said data he reviewed from nearly a dozen different studies indicates in-person education is safe.

"When I say in-school that doesn't necessarily mean back to going to school all the time because most of the data is coming from places that are doing some form of hybrid schooling," Reinbold told WMAY. "But having them in school at least part of the time doesn't seem to be leading to new cases."

State Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, said it's up to local school boards to make the decision, but they have to weigh the costs.

"There's no question that statistics and the data show that there's a better outcome when kids are in school," Rezin said.

There are real consequences to the months of fully remote learning, she said.

"Something that we've been working on in the Education Committee and what we're concerned about is this huge learning gap that we will be seeing

in the next several years because of kids learning from home, and because of the e-learning and the challenges that are associated with that," Rezin said.

Reinbold said data he's reviewed is clear, this far into the pandemic schools should reopen for in-person instruction, even if a blended model.

"It's a low-risk activity," Reinbold said. "It's certainly not a no-risk activity, but when you start thinking about benefits and costs, the benefits are just so high in having children in school and if the risk seems to be quite low it doesn't seem to be a difficult decision anymore."

Among other things, the Illinois Education Association is pushing for rapid COVID-19 testing in schools, vaccination prioritization and more financial resources.

"Still we have members and students who are working and learning under dangerous conditions due, if nothing else, to the community spread in their counties," IEA said in a position statement.

SIUE fall graduates

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville completed virtual fall commencement exercises for more than 1,103 graduates on Friday, Dec. 18, 2020.

Local graduates are, Mackenzi Smith, of Coal City with a BA in psychology graduating Summa Cum Laude and Jonathan Smyk, of Morris with a BS in mechanical engineering.

Funds

all businesses are able to be 100% open for business," Balkema said.

Questions can be directed to Melvin at mmelvin@grundyco.org or county administrator George Gray at ggray@grundyco.org. The directors of the Grundy Economic Development Council and Grundy County Chamber of Commerce can also provide direction and can be contacted at nnorton@gcdc.com or director@grundychamber.com.

Baby Valentine Contest 2021

The GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club is sponsoring the 2021 Baby Valentine Contest. The contest is open to children from birth to 2 years old. There are prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

To enter the Baby Valentine contest, submit your child's photo by e-mail to

Melissa Alstott, Baby Valentine Chairman at misa8648@yahoo.com. Include parents' name, address, e-mail and phone number along with the baby's name and birth date. Pictures and information must be submitted by Jan. 13, 2021. No late entries will be accepted.

Photo display and voting will take place from Feb. 3-10, 2021. Voting information will follow at a later date. Information will also be posted on the Coal City Junior Woman's Club Facebook page.

What's happening at the Coal City Library

of activities to go along with the topic of the day. This program will be hosted through Zoom until we can safely meet in person again. When you register, you will receive a kit with most of the supplies you will need to participate in the class.

Makerspace Mondays – 2-2:15 p.m. Every Monday we will have a different activity for you to create. Supplies are available for pickup curbside or in-library. See someone in Youth Services. Supplies are limited and registration is required.

Family Storytimes in Meeting Room – 6-6:30 p.m. This storytime is designed for 1-5 year olds and their family members. We will be sharing stories, songs, finger plays and flannel boards. Masks will need to be worn until you find your seat for anyone over 2. Register only 1 person for your family. You will register for a month at a time, so when you register for any class in January, you will be registered for all of the classes at that specific time.

Tuesday, Jan. 12- CCPLD Board Meeting – 6-8 p.m. Open meeting of the CCPLD Board.

Wednesday, Jan. 13-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – 9 a.m.-12 p.m. David Veronda sponsored by the Morris Hospital will provide information about the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), which is a free statewide health insurance counseling service for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers. This is by appointment only and one hour appointments must be made through David Veronda by calling 815-942-2932 ext. 1063.

Family Storytimes in Meeting Room – 10-10:30 a.m.

Virtual Lapsit Class – 11-11:30 a.m. Join us virtually on our CCPLD Busy Bees Facebook Group for a Lapsit Storytime. If you don't have Facebook, don't worry. We can send you a link to a video of the class for you to watch at your convenience.

Brick Boredom Busters – 1:15 p.m. Enjoy this midweek Brick Boredom Buster by completing the LEGO activity we have posted on our Facebook page.

STEM in the Teen Zone – 3:30-3:45 p.m. Register to receive materials to explore a different STEM activity each month. Watch a video tutorial on our CCPLD Teen Zone Facebook Group. Don't forget to join CCPLD Teen Zone, so you can watch the video and receive other information for our Teens. We will let you know when the materials are available to pick up.

Top Notch Construction files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 29th, A.D. 2020, 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 Top Notch Construction, located at 180 E. Big Timber Drive, Coal City, IL 60416.

Dated this 29th day of December, A.D. 2020.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 30, 2020 and Jan. 6 and 13, 2021.

Attorney Schmidt files Greenway estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2020-P-123

In the Matter of the Estate of Gerald T. Greenway, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Gerald T. Greenway. Letters of office were issued on December 29, 2020 to Debra Packley as independent executor, whose attorney of record is Charles L. Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Courthouse, PO Box 707, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit: https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Charles L. Schmidt
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 6, 13 and 20, 2021.

Heidi's Happy Dog Treats files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on January 5th, A.D. 2021, 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 Heidi's Happy Dog Treats, located at 701 Hill Street, PO Box 109, Mazon, IL 60444.

Dated this 5th day of January, A.D. 2021.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 6, 13 and 20, 2021.

Attorney Black files Lutz estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 121

In the Matter of the Estate of Lavern R. Lutz, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Lavern R. Lutz. Letters of office as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Stephen Lutz, 1150 Patterson Dr., Morris, IL 60450 and Michael Lutz, 395 Twilight Dr., Morris, IL 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

STEPHEN LUTZ
MICHAEL LUTZ
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 23 and 30, 2020 and Jan. 6, 2021.

Winter Reading Challenge for all ages from Jan. 1 thru Feb. 28. Youth Babies-Pre-K Grade Winter Reading Challenge. Calling our "Stay at Homies" (Babies-Preschool) to "Quarantine & Chill" with us this winter. Log your reading and complete activities thru the Beanstack app to earn tickets towards the prize basket raffles. Complete the program by reading 18 books. Earn more tickets by reading even more and completing activity badges.

Friday, Jan. 8- Fun Fridays – 1-1:15 p.m. Register to receive most of the materials you will need to participate in a fun activity. Then, watch our Facebook page every Friday at 1pm to see what the activity is.

Monday, Jan. 11- Virtual Preschool Storytime – 10-10:30 a.m. Join us virtually on CCPLD Busy Bees Facebook Group for a storytime based on a different letter each week. When you register, you will receive a kit with a letter craft and a couple of letter fun sheets for your child to do. If you don't have Facebook, don't worry. We can send you a link to a video of the class for you to watch at your convenience.

Virtual Eager Reader – 1-1:45 p.m. This program designed to explore a new topic each week through books. Each week we'll read 2 - 3 books and do a couple

Attorney Black files Martin estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 113

In the Matter of the Estate of Alfred R. Martin, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Alfred R. Martin. Letters of office as Independent Administrator were issued to Deanna Romano, 30W 265 Maple Court, Warrenville, IL 60555, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

DEANNA ROMANO
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR

Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

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Deadlines for the Prairie Shopper

Display Advertising: Thursday 2 p.m.
Classified & Public Notices: Thursday 5 p.m.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fnusa.com
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Over 600 county healthcare workers vaccinated for COVID

STAFF REPORT

An anticipated 1,400 Grundy County healthcare workers will receive the COVID-19 vaccination, with over 600 having already received the first shot.

On Monday, the Grundy County Health Department released an updated mass vaccination schedule noting 640 of the county's healthcare personnel have been vaccinated since Dec. 20.

Healthcare personnel along with staff and residents of the county's five long-term care facilities will be the first to receive the vaccine in the phase 1a of the vaccination schedule.

The long-term care facilities are enrolled in the federal Pharmacy Partnership Program and will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine as soon as this month.

According to the schedule, healthcare personnel include those employed within the local hospital system, as well as outside providers, dentists, pharmacists, emergency medical service personnel (EMS), phlebotomists, morticians, school nurses, public health personnel, dermatologists, physical therapists, home caregivers, congregate living staff, as well as others deemed to be within the healthcare field.

The vaccination program is based on phases of vaccine administration as identified by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [ACIP] and recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH].

Phase 1b is anticipated to start in February and would include the vaccination of adults ages 75-plus and essential frontline workers including firefighters, police and corrections officers, postal service workers, educators and school support staff, grocery store employees, public transit workers, daycare personnel and manufacturing and food/agricultural workers.

Grundy County is expected to move into phase 1c in the spring with vaccination of adults ages 65 to 74 years, persons age 16-64 with high risk medical conditions, along with other essential workers.

Changes to the schedule can come at any time based on resources.

As currently outlined in draft form, phases 2-4 would include workers in other industries and occupations important to the functioning of society, followed by young adults defined as those aged 18-30 years and wrapping up with all other residents.

The health department reported last week the first shipment of vaccine resulted in 120 vaccines being administered to Morris Hospital & Healthcare personnel. A second shipment of 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine was directly received at the hospital on Dec. 28 and is being

administered to hospital and EMS personnel.

Michelle Pruim, Grundy's public health administrator, reports a third shipment of 400 Moderna vaccines are expected to arrive in the county soon and will be distributed though phase 1a of the vaccination schedule.

To date, the health department has been notified weekly by IDPH the maximum number of allocated doses [and the manufacturer] available for the county.

According to Pruim, the health department has ordered the maximum each time, and has been in cooperation with hospital personnel to administer efficiently.

Additionally, she noted the county is prepared to receive any of the FDA approved vaccines, including those needing to be stored at ultra-cold temperature, and is prepared to administer all vaccines in accordance with manufacturer instructions.

It should be noted, the health department is no keeping a list of interested community members and the county does not have a system for the general public to register or request a vaccine.

As of Monday, IDPH was reporting the county's case count had reached 3,969 cases with 49 COVID related deaths.

Between Dec. 25 and 31, the state health department reported 180 new cases in the county.

There were seven additional deaths reported between Dec. 28 and 31—one male in his 70s, two males in their 80s, one male in his 90s and three females in their 80s.

As of Dec. 31, the health department was following 239 people who had recently tested positive, as well as their close contacts.

The county's seven day rolling positivity rate for the week of Dec. 13-19 was 12.7% down significantly from the two prior weeks with a rate of 21.4% and 17.6% respectively. At the close of 2020, IDPH reported the county's rate was 12.6% and 9.5% for Region 2.

Additional data released last week by the county's health department shows the highest number of new cases—1,344—reported in November. An additional 913 cases were confirmed in December, 347 in October, 22 in September, 359 cases between June and August and 102 from March to May.

Per IDPH, as of Monday, 814 residents within the 60416 zip code have tested positive for the virus and 1,601 within zip code 60450.

Case counts in other Grundy communities include 104 in Mazon, 149 in Gardner, 97 in Braceville/Godley, 64 in South Wilmington, and 24 in Verona.

Testing is available throughout the county at local hospital systems and mobile testing

Mass Vaccination Schedule

Grundy County Health Department (GCHD) will structure the COVID-19 Vaccination Program around the phases of vaccine administration as identified by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and as recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). The Phased Approach is subject to change at any time based on available resources and as directed by advisory groups.

PHASE 1a; Started in Grundy on 12/20/2020					
Who	What	Where	When	Total Anticipated to Give	Total Given to Date
Healthcare Personnel	Pfizer and/or Moderna	Hospital system personnel will be vaccinated through the hospital system, and other providers will be vaccinated as coordinated with GCHD.	Start: 12/20/20	1400	640
		Other providers included are, and not limited to: physicians outside of the hospital system, dentists, pharmacists, EMS personnel, phlebotomists, morticians, school nurses, public health personnel, dermatologists, physical therapists, home caregivers, congregate living staff, etc.			
		GCHD is working with medical agencies throughout Grundy to obtain the number of interested persons from each facility, and will coordinate administration when vaccine is available.			
		Interested agencies should call 815-941-3404.			
Long-Term Care Facilities	Pfizer	Each of the five facilities in Grundy are enrolled in the federal Pharmacy Partnership Program, and will receive direct shipment for residents and staff.	Start: Jan 2021		

PHASE 1b; Expected to Start in Grundy in February 2021					
Adults 75+ Years	An FDA-approved vaccine	To be determined. Please consult local media sources regularly for updates. There is no list to sign-up.	Start: TBD		
Essential Frontline Workers	An FDA-approved vaccine	To be determined. Please consult local media sources regularly for updates.	Start: TBD		
		GCHD will contact applicable entities in Grundy to obtain the number of interested persons, and will coordinate administration when vaccine is available.			
		Frontline essential workers, defined as those workers who are essential for the functioning of society and including the following: • First responders: Firefighters (including volunteers) • Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs). (EMS personnel are considered under Phase 1a) • Corrections Officers • Food and Agriculture Workers • Postal Service Workers • Manufacturing Workers • Grocery Store Workers • Public Transit Workers • Education sector, including teachers and Support Staff • Daycare Workers			

PHASE 1c; Expected to Start in Grundy in Spring 2021					
Adults age 65-74 Years	An FDA-approved vaccine	To be determined. Please consult local media sources regularly for updates.	Start: TBD		
Persons 16-64 Years Old with High Risk Medical Conditions	An FDA-approved vaccine	To be determined. Please consult local media sources regularly for updates.	Start: TBD		
Other Essential Workers	An FDA-approved vaccine	To be determined. Please consult local media sources regularly for updates.	Start: TBD		

THE GRUNDY COUNTY Health Department released an updated mass vaccination schedule noting 640 of the county's healthcare workers had received the COVID-19 vaccination since Dec. 20. The vaccination program is based on phases of vaccine administration as identified by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [ACIP] and recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH].

sites operated by IDPH.

IDPH testing is available daily—8 a.m. to 4 p.m. —at the Kankakee County Health Department, 2390 W. Station St., Kankakee and Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd., Joliet.

Testing at mobile sites is free and offered to anyone regardless of symptoms or asymptomatic, by nasal swab. Results of testing is available 4-7 days after specimen collection.

Winter break is over, students back in class

STAFF REPORT

The second semester of the 2020-2021 school year got underway this week, the Unit 1 School District continuing with its hybrid learning plan as outlined in the district's Return to School plan.

As it has since the start of the school year in August, the district's plan allows students and families to select the learning model that best suits them—in-person or remote instruction.

Families that have selected to continue remote instruction for the second semester have until Monday, Jan. 11 to complete and submit the remote learning agreement. Families who do not complete the form are expected to have their students return to in-person registration beginning on Jan. 11.

Changes to the district's Return to School Plan include some recent changes when it comes to student expectations for those participating in remote learning.

Additions to the plan state a students, "camera must be on and students dressed appropriately to attend classes each day. Background may be blurred. Teacher may assist if needed," also, "Lack of participation and camera use, the student will be considered absent."

The start of a new semester includes the addition of three student teachers.

District officials report Leah Hiles, a student at the University of St. Francis, will complete her teaching requirements with high school social studies instructors Dave Sinkular and Ben Baer. Joel Rodriguez, a student at Olivet Nazarene University, will spend the next six weeks working with high school Spanish instructor Tyler Castle and Tammy Norris, a student at Grand Canyon University will spend 16 weeks at the middle school with eighth grade math teacher Jean Kripple.

GAVC students earn recognition

Each month Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] recognizes outstanding students with the Director Award, one of the highest honors given.

The Director Award is given to students based on attendance, citizenship, leadership skills, professional attitude, ability in practicum activities, classroom assignments, safety and teamwork.

Honorees are nominated by instructors from each of

GAVC's 15 programs.

Coal City High School students recognized in the month of November were Hannah Krull, agriculture; Gavin Brewick, building trades, and Devin Overton, CISCO/IT.

Also, Connor Huston, criminal justice; Madison Lauterbur, cosmetology; Brianna Kratochvil, early childhood, and Melody Hamerla, welding.

Nevin to appear in all-state theatre production

The Illinois Theatre Association's annual Illinois High School Theatre Festival is going virtual this year.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IHSTF had to cancel its in-person festival.

Now in its 46th consecutive year, IHSTF is the largest and oldest non-competitive high school theatre festival in the nation, and is produced by the Illinois Theatre Association.

Over 4,500 students, teachers, university representatives, exhibitors, and volunteers come together annually to put on theatrical workshops and various high school productions. The IHSTF organizes over 150 workshops, whose topics range from acting, musical theatre, auditions, improvisation, technical theatre, directing, stage management, make-up and costumes, lighting and special effects, to name a few.

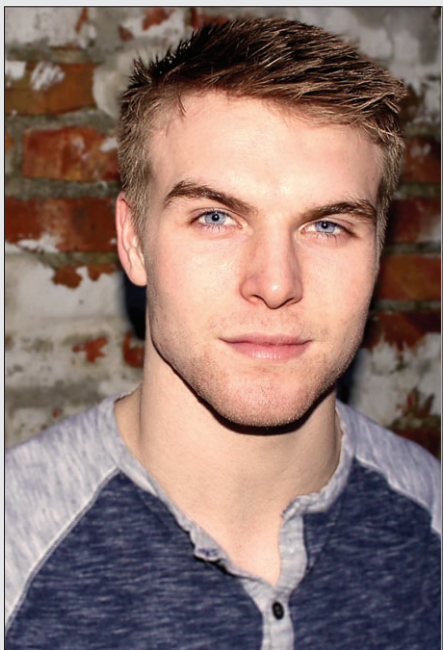
In addition, more than 25 high school productions, both showcases and full-length, from around the state are selected to perform at the IHSTF each year.

Though the traditional festival was called off, the planning committee has worked diligently to bring many of the elements of the event virtually to high school students and teachers across Illinois.

This year's all-state production will go on as a special streaming performance featuring a select ensemble of the top high school actors, technicians, and musicians from the graduating class of 2021.

Coal City High School senior Riley Nevin has been selected to participate in the virtual Cabaret scheduled to air at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 9.

This year's show will be his second year participating in the all-state production.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY HIGH School senior Riley Nevin has been selected to appear in the Illinois High School Theatre Festival's all-state show, a virtual cabaret, scheduled to be streamed for free at illinoistheatre-fest.org beginning at 7 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 9.

He appeared on stage for the 2020 production of "Aida" in the lead male role of Radames.

"The all-state experience is so magical. Just the sheer joy of virtually working with amazing students from all areas of Illinois helps to inspire all involved in theatre. It is our goal to start 2021 off with a great show that showcases the talent in this year's senior class. Students have lost many opportunities this past year, but the Illinois High School Theatre Festival looks forward to a revitalizing theatre in Illinois. This show is but a kick-off to even better days," said Mark Begovich, producer of the all-state show.

Rehearsals for the virtual cabaret have taken place online over a few long weekends during the fall and will culminate in the second of two performances—one was held in the fall—this weekend.

Admission is free, and the performance will be streamed at illinoistheatre-fest.org.

The all-state cast, crew and pit orchestra is comprised of the top student performers, technicians and musicians from the class of 2021, and the festival is being led by IHSTF executive director Judy Klinger, retired from Fremd High School.

Founded in 1972, the mission of the Illinois Theatre Association is to advocate quality theatre in Illinois through, encouragement and facilitation of closer and better communication amongst all theatrical divisions—professional theatre, university/college theater, secondary school theater, community theater, theatre for young audiences, and creative drama—in Illinois.

And, provision of public information about the extent and variety of theatre in Illinois; cooperation with state and federal agencies, and with regional and national theatre organizations in promoting recognition and development of theatre programs at all levels; maintenance and improvement of theatre production, teaching, and research at all levels; and affirmation of the value of theatre in the lives of individuals.

Wintry mix brings 2020 to a close

STAFF REPORT

Mother Nature delivered a wintry mix in December, days with rain, snow and blustery temperatures to close out 2020.

Grundy County Emergency Management Agency's [GCEMA] weather data division reports four days with measurable precipitation last month—three with rain and one with snow. In total, 2.08 inches of rain fell on the county and 2 inches of snow was recorded at the GCEMA's office located within the county administration center in Morris. The highest 24-hour precipitation, 1.14 inches, was recorded Dec. 12.

As the year ended, GCEMA reports 35.95 inches of rain fell during 2020, and the total snowfall for the season was reported at 2 inches.

On the topic of temperatures, the monthly high was recorded at 61 degrees on Dec. 10 while the low was recorded at 6 degrees on Christmas Day. The monthly average was 32 degrees as 30 of the 31 days in December were at or below 32 degrees.

The monthly data summary published by the GCEMA also notes the peak wind gust for the month that was recorded at 44 mph on Dec. 23.

The monthly reports are based on records kept on file in the GCEMA's office.

Helping you protect what matters most.

Let's set a time to discuss your auto, home and life insurance needs.



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Financial Representative
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Coal City, IL 60416-1604
www.countryfinancial.com/dean.tambling
dean.tambling@countryfinancial.com
(815)634-3184



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All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.

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Thank You!

December 30, 2020

The Braceville Fire Protection District (BFPD) would like to thank all the families who made donations to the Fire Dept. during the past year. Thank you from the Fire Dept. Members and Trustees. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Happy New Year and please continue to be safe. If you would like to make a donation to the BFPD, you can mail them to P.O. Box 237, Braceville, IL 60407 or you can drop your donation off at the firehouse.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to
www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Dedicated crew

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank the public works department for getting out on the evening of Dec. 29 and clearing the roads so quickly during our first snow storm of the season. I had trucks going down my road already at 5:30 p.m. clearing the snow from the streets. As a citizen I appreciate so much on how much they do to keep the roads clear and safe for all us elderly citizens in Wilmington and I hope all the other citizens appreciate it as well. Thank you again for all you do for keeping our roads safe and clean. Have a very happy new year.

Sherri Michaels

Enjoy socialism

WILMINGTON—I hope all those people waiting for their government checks realize that's socialism.

Waste of money

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the coronavirus relief checks. I do not think that people that work in local government, people that work in county government, state government, city government or federal government or people that are retired should get a check. None of these people have been put out of work. They all receive a monthly check. It is a ridiculous waste of money. Those monies should go to people who have had their businesses closed down, those who have not been able to go to work, people who have gone out of business and nobody else. Not even those in the medical profession, they are not out of work. So why does the government want to send everybody money? It is a big waste. When I had my check sent to me I called them back and told the government people like me who are retired should not be given a relief check.

Dan Hill

The Shadow's back!

WILMINGTON—Are you tired of people talking about presidents? He did this, he did that. They must have nothing else to yab about. The Walter E. Smith girls must not be selling much furniture, looks like they're starving. Who took Roger Eberts' place? We must not have needed him to start with. Hello Meg I bought a new Toyota. Sorry Ed there are no places to go. Dan Hill's neighbors told me all the birds fly upside down over his house, because he doesn't have anything worth pooping on. Haha. A fish was swimming up the river, he hit his head on something hard, he said "Dam"! Till next time.

The Shadow

All for themselves

COAL CITY—The USA is really an amazing country. We have corruption in congress and throughout every branch of government. We also have people in charge of the country who do as they please and help criminals and people in this country illegally and they're members in congress that spend the taxpayers' funds for everything they please without the consent of the taxpayers. If they decide to give financial aid to the Americans then there is always a way found to delay in helping its citizens. But there is no delay in giving financial aid to foreign individuals or foreign countries. It seems that some politicians in congress have decided that the American citizens have no right to question how the taxpayers' funds are spent. While Americans suffer because of the belief of some politicians work for them, instead of the government employees being public servants working for the American citizens. They prefer to work against the American citizens. Welcome to the Democrat party.

The killing of children

SHADOW LAKES—Fifty-six children were shot and killed in Chicago last year. Where was BLM? Where was Obama? No political profit is to be made on black on black crime. Tell me I am wrong.

Eddie

Open your eyes

WILMINGTON—With over 350,000 people who have died from this virus as of the first of the year now documented in the USA, have you people not gotten the picture? I give credit to the downtown bar-restaurant for not being open other than carryout. They are following the governor's mitigation orders while all other bars and restaurants in town are allowing people to dine in and drink at the bar. Shame on you. This virus is a very serious pandemic. God bless and hopefully you don't catch the virus.

Refuting the truth

WILMINGTON—Here is a thought why

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

To voice your opinion, please go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com, or Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Trump is screaming voter fraud. It has been said that Daddy Trump and lawyer Roy Cohn instilled in young Donald that there is no such thing as losing in life. If you want to be a success, you have to lie, cheat, deceive, swindle, refute the truth, make up stories, and sue anyone who gets in your way. So the real reason Trump is claiming voter fraud is there is a chance he might be sitting in a New York jail or prison after Jan. 20. By the way, I read about this stuff at a socialist facility, a library.

Enough is enough

COAL CITY—I read publisher Eric Fisher's commentary in the Dec. 30, 2020 issue, "State politics had it pretty good during 2020." It is an excellently written article to educate the citizens of our state of how your tax dollars are being spent on state representatives and senators in Springfield. Get a copy of the Free Press, Braidwood Journal or Coal City Courant. When will Illinois say enough is enough?

Illinois exodus

WILMINGTON—I enjoyed the commentary you had in the Dec. 30 issue of the Free Press Advocate. You did a fine job pointing out the wrongs that are happening in Springfield. The one thing Mr. Fisher forgot to list is the fact that Illinois has had seven straight years of population decline, including 79,487 residents from July 2019 to July 2020. Meanwhile states like Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri have all had population gains. It's obvious the Illinois exodus is growing thanks to inaction in Springfield. The Democrats love everything status quo as long as they get re-elected. Until there is pension reform, one thing Madigan and Pritzker have said they will not address, the Illinois exodus will continue.

Shop local first

COAL CITY—I look around our town and see small businesses struggling. Not to blame Gov. Pritzker for forcing some of them to close, instead I'd like to point out that now is the time they need our support the most. When you drive to Morris to shop instead at big box stores you're only hurting our community. Do you think the Morris corporate stores are going to close? They're raking in billions of dollars during this pandemic because they were the ones allowed to stay open. They saw big jumps in sales and their profits went to their ultra rich CEOs and stock holders. Meanwhile the small business owners selling appliances, flowers, groceries, tools, auto services and household goods right here in our town are suffering. They're the ones hiring local people and spend their money right back in their community. They're the ones sponsoring your kids' sport teams, who give to Promfest, who support the musicals and arts, who donate to benefits that help our neighbors pay medical bills. They won't survive if you don't shop local. Make an effort in 2021 to support our own businesses first!

Basic leadership

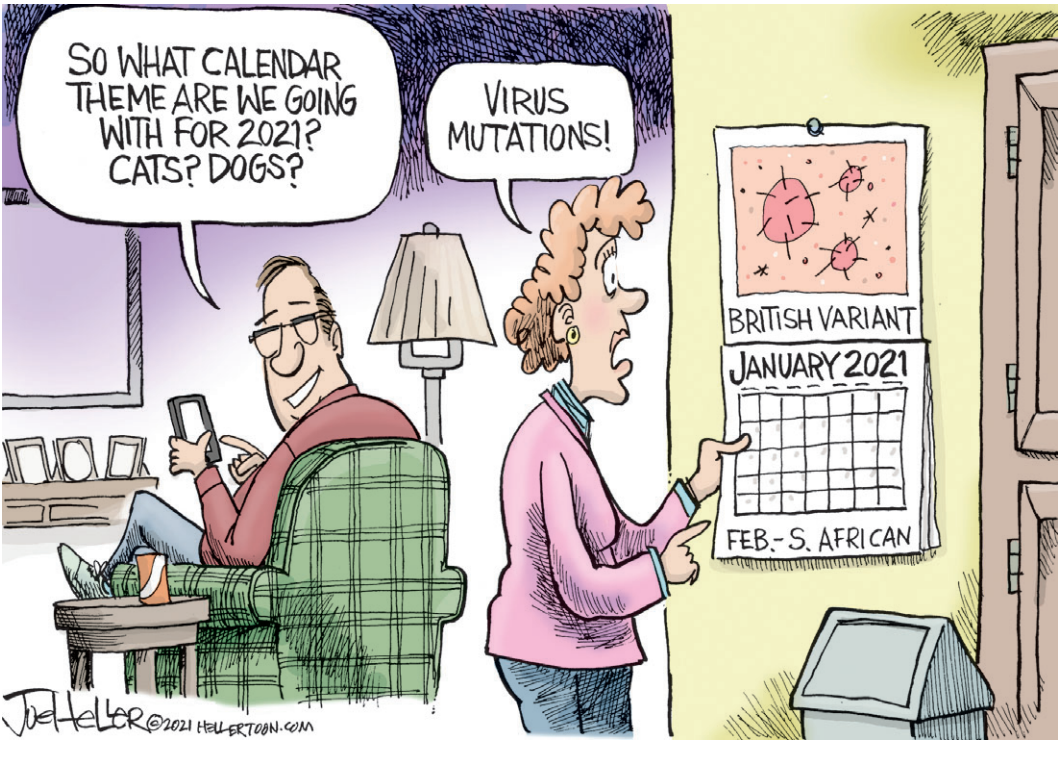
BRAIDWOOD—How can anyone in office not know how to use a computer? Let's face it, in today's world if you don't know how to use email or correspond by computer then you are doing a disservice to the taxpayers. Braidwood city commissioners were voted into office to bring leadership to our community. But when you have commissioners unable to lead using simple technology, that is poor leadership. They can come up with all kinds of excuses but the way I see it, this is so basic. It's like having a leader who refuses to go out and get the mail. In the next election there should be qualifications so that every candidate be required to use email as part of the job. If they don't or can't know how, then they can't run for office.

Worth watching

COAL CITY—We watched a documentary called "Lincoln is crying" on WTTW PBS a few weeks ago. It was excellent and truthful. Ask yourself why do the 12 million citizens of Illinois put up with political corruption for years and years and keep sending their tax dollars to those in charge? Our state is an unbelievably corrupt mess and deep in debt. It's the worst of any Democrat political machine state. PBS will run it again. Don't miss it. That is if those who produced it aren't found missing.

The day will come

COAL CITY—The newspapers are printing Byron Nuclear Plant and Dresden Nuclear Plants will be closed next fall. When the crying and whining begins if it happens, our question to those is "Who did you vote for?" President Trump would have never allowed the nuclear plants to be closed. The Biden-Harris presidency will do it gladly as they're all for wind turbines (a billion dollar business) and solar heating. You might not have liked President Trump's personality but the day will come when you'll know how much he cared about the USA.



Showing no respect

WILMINGTON—Admit it Margo. You didn't need a Jimmy Kimmel joke to decide to show no respect to Dr. Biden or her husband. Remember, Melania said to be best as usual.

Penny Lane

Destroyed by Trump

WILMINGTON—To the caller who said the Democrats want to destroy the Republican Party. Even if that's true, they are too late. Trump already did it. Check out the Lincoln Project.

Only those in need

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the COVID-19 relief package. I believe that Trump is right about cutting out the 230 package which gives money to many other countries and people should get a \$2,000 relief check, except those who are retired and those who are working. They do not need this. The people who need this relief are people who can't work because of governors and people who have been forced out of business. Those who have been forced out of business should actually get several thousand more. I even called Washington the first time these checks came out and told them I did not need a check. I'm retired and it makes no difference to me. I'm not out of work and if you haven't saved for retirement that is your own stupid fault because too many people in this country have overspent.

Dan Hill

Appropriate name

WILMINGTON—If these white men Republicans can call four Democratic women of color the squad can we call them the clan?

A political ploy

BRAIDWOOD—The moment changes, politics persist or one then another. As I become more informed reading about SARS and COVID-19 and listening to audio media, I am getting a different reason for having a patient during an eye exam being made a less-

Incoming Illinois lawmakers face COVID-19 oversight, budget deficit, other challenges

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

Because of COVID-19, the Illinois Legislature could take up the ability to legislate remotely in the new year, but some have concerns it could limit accountability and taxpayer participation.

Democrats at the Illinois statehouse have a variety of priorities for the new year, including criminal justice reform, clean energy legislation and other issues. But because of COVID-19, some have continued concerns from meeting in person.

A bill filed this month by state Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, could make legislating remotely happen.

State Rep. Chris Welch, D-Hillside, said lawmakers tried to allow that when they met briefly in May.

"It was our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who killed that motion," Welch said. "I'm not in favor of coming down here in person. I just spent two weeks in my basement because of COVID-19."

State Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, also spent time in isolation because of the virus. He said it's ridiculous to blame the failure of remote legislation this spring on minority Republicans when Democrats have a supermajority.

Regardless, Butler said the incoming legis-

lature needs to address the pandemic and provide oversight.

"That has to be at the top of our list," Butler said. "Also, we've got to figure out this budget mess that Democrats have put us in."

The budget passed in May by Democrats was based on a progressive income tax constitutional amendment that voters rejected and federal aid that never materialized.

In the face of Gov. J.B. Pritzker announcing \$711 million in expense cuts, state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said lawmakers have to end what he called corporate loopholes to plug the state's \$4 billion budget gap.

"We will fight to make sure that those immensely wealthy and profitable corporations pay their fair share to our state before we go after services that people need," Guzzardi said.

Butler said majority Democrats need to address the state's continued population loss.

"We need to unleash business to be able to create good jobs for the people of Illinois, which in turn would help revenues coming into this state because if we have a larger tax base to draw from, then it's going to help the coffers of Illinois, without raising taxes," Butler said.

There's a lame-duck session possible before the 102nd General Assembly is seated the second week of January. The first order of business for the House will be to elect the next speaker. That's expected to be contentious as House Speaker Michael Madigan no longer has majority support.

Despite pandemic, Illinois' legal weed sales skyrocket

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

Within three months time in 2020, cannabis in Illinois went from being illegal to essential, and it is big money.

Illinois started the new year with the first legal adult-use cannabis sales. On Jan. 1 in Springfield, David Watson, standing next to a cop car, was among the first to buy the legal product.

"It's different, I mean I'm a little nervous, but hey it's legal now and I'm fresh out of the store so I'm hoping I'm OK,"

Watson said.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Gov. J.B. Pritzker deemed certain retail outlets nonessential and shut them down, while pot stores were deemed essential. The Governor's Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer Toi Hutchinson in September noted sales continued to increase month after month.

"The sales of this have been through the roof, through the middle of a global pandemic," Hutchinson said. "[Revenue] is targeted to those very communities that are disproportionately impacted."

Taxes on the drug can be

more than 40 percent, with a portion going to community programs, the state's backlog of bills and several other areas.


State Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, noted earlier in the year the importance of tracking how that money flows.

"We can't have insider deals, we can't have this money going to waste," Butler said. "This is important tax revenue, and it's a lot of tax revenue coming through the door. That was one reason this was sold to the people of Illinois that this is tax revenue to help us pay our bills."

Through November, the state reports \$582 million in sales generating more than \$150 million in tax revenue.

Nick Niforatos, executive vice president of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, said that may sound like a lot of revenue, but it's a "drop in the bucket" of a more-than \$40 billion budget.

"The money does go kind of all over the place and so you're taking a very small number and really making it even smaller by putting it into some of these different programs," Niforatos said.



Wilmington Baseball/ Softball Assoc. 2021 Sign - Ups

When:
Fri., Jan. 22, 5-8 p.m.
Sat. Jan. 23, 9 a.m. to noon

Where:
Park District Building
315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Fees:	Pony (ages 14 & under).....\$100
	Bronco (ages 12 & under).....\$90
	Mustang (ages 10 & under).....\$85
	Pinto (ages 8 & under).....\$75
	Shetland T-Ball (ages 5-6).....\$70

There is a multiple player discount for families with two or more players.

There is a \$20.00 late sign up fee. If the player's division is full they will be placed on a waiting list and contacted with further details.

WBSA will be holding a raffle ticket fundraiser that goes along with sign-ups each player must sell 40 \$1 raffle tickets. All raffle tickets must be prepaid at time of pickup. This year there will be a \$40 per family volunteer fee. This money can be earned back by working in the concession stand during games. More information available at registration. The WBSA has joined the Rte. 66 League and will be playing with Elwood and Manhattan.

The WBSA welcomes any players to register from the local area; players do not have to live in Wilmington.

We suggest players be 5 years old by 4/30/21 to play Shetland T-Ball. Registration forms and medical release forms are available online or at sign up. For more information please visit:

leaguelineup.com/kane

Sunrise shot wins December photo contest

Voting to determine \$500 winner begins

Kevin Kuchler's love of sunrises gets him out in the preserves early and often. One particular trip led to a stunning sunrise shot at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield and the photo netted Kuchler the win in December's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. "That is very exciting! I have been entering the contest for the last few years now, not sure when I started but it feels like it's been a long time," he wrote in an email after being notified of his win. "It has come such a long way and it is awesome to see the submissions rise every year!" The Forest Preserve received a record number of submissions in 2020 with 1,092 photo entries from 467 individuals. Kuchler of Channahon said he has been snapping photos in the preserves since



THIS SUNRISE PHOTO by Kevin Kuchler of Channahon won first place in December's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. The picture was taken at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuchler

around 2010. "I love taking sunset or sunrise photos, but mostly sunrise because you can catch some pretty awesome birds that early in the morning too." Kuchler said he loves shooting landscapes and hiking in the preserves. "Walking in a forest with the birds and the quietness is relaxing. I also love sharing my photos on social media for others to see how beautiful our state and our county is. I think sometimes people forget that we have some amazing scenery here, sometimes it just takes a little longer to find." Honorable mentions were awarded to: Evi Kempf of Naperville for a photo of a path surrounded by golden vegetation at Lake Renwick; Eileen Capodice of Minooka for a photo of an eagle soaring high in the sky while clutching a fish at Rock Run Rookery in Joliet; Mark Hanna of Romeoville for a bevy of bullfrogs in a pond at Lockport Prairie in Lockport Township; and Tyler Paul of Wilmington for a squirrel peeking out of a tree trunk at

McKinley Woods in Channahon. All of December's entries can be viewed on the Forest Preserve's Flickr page, Flickr.com/WillCoForests. Kuchler is the eighth and final monthly winner in the 2020 photo contest, which concluded Dec. 31. Online voting to determine the top three photos from the monthly winners will be open from 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, to 1:59 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, on the District's Facebook page, Facebook.com/WillCoForests. The top three photos will advance to a final round and voters will have from 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, to 10:59 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18, to pick the winning photo. Overall winners will receive MasterCard gift cards worth \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place. Monthly photo contest winners received \$75 gift cards. The photo contest is sponsored by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

President signs Route 66 Centennial Act

On Dec. 23, President Donald Trump signed The Route 66 Centennial Commission Act (S1014) into law. For Route 66 enthusiasts across the country and around the world, this has been a three-year effort. Now, the countdown begins—not for the year 2020, but for the year 2026, the 100th birthday of historic Route 66. Though no longer part of the US highway system, Route 66 continues to be a popular tourist destination for both domestic and international travelers. This Act began its journey in 2017, when Congressman Rodney Davis (D-IL) introduced HR66 at the urging of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership. In April 2019, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) introduced a similar bill in the US Senate (S1014), where it passed out of the Senate in August and returned to the House to reconcile language differences. "The Road Ahead thanks everyone who helped introduce and move legislation through Congress to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission," said Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership Chair Bill Thomas. "Their efforts have given Route 66 a very welcomed Christmas present!"

Now that it has been signed into law, 15 Commissioners will be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation, Senate and House majority leaders, and governors of the eight Route 66 states. Appointees will have demonstrated both a dedication to educating others about the importance of historical figures and events, and a substantial knowledge and appreciation of Route 66. "Now, our attention turns to making plans that will celebrate the road's 100th anniversary and focus on ways to improve the lives of the 5+ million people living and working along Route 66," explains Thomas. "We'll do so, by working on projects that promote, preserve and economically develop Route 66." The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is taking a leadership role in the celebration of Route 66's 100th birthday. A five-year series of birthday celebration initiatives begins in 2021, culminating in 2026, the road's centennial year. A major part of the initiatives involves developing a Visionary Fund to support Route 66 through preservation, economic development, promotion, and research and/or education projects. The goal is to position the historic highway, the com-

munities along the road, and the people who live there for success during the next 100 years. The Road Ahead took the first step earlier this month, when they introduced the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Initiative. The initiative seeks 66 women in each of the eight states through which the historic highway runs, to be recognized as a Route 66 Extraordinary Women through their gift of \$1,000. The gift, which can also be given by men and organizations to honor a woman, can be paid in one lump sum or by giving \$200 per year for 5 years. To designate someone else as an Extraordinary Woman – and be one of the first 66 from your state – visit: <https://100extraordinarywomen.com/route-66-extraordinary-women-initiative>. Established in 2015, with the support of the National Park Service and the World Monuments' Fund, The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership's mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national and international icon through partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research and education, and economic development.

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington Jan. 11

Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food on Monday, Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road in South Wilmington, in the church parking lot (rain or shine). Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food (meat, produce and nonperishable items) to people in need. Participants are asked to

stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. You do not have to be Catholic to participate. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Coloring contest underway for those ages 3-6

Wilmington VFW Post 5422 Auxiliary is sponsoring a patriotic coloring contest for boys and girls ages 3 through 6. Entry forms to be colored by youngsters from Wilmington and Braidwood can be picked up at the VFW, 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

Winners of the local contest will be entered into a District competition. The name, age and address of child must be written on the back of each entry. Deadline to enter is Jan. 15, 2021. For more details call Kathy at 815-823-4324 or 815-926-2651.

Morris Hospital administering COVID-19 vaccine to staff

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers resumed administering the COVID-19 vaccine to physicians and staff on Dec. 29, following delivery of the hospital's first official supply of vaccine. The hospital received 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine on Dec. 28, as part of Phase 1a of the Illinois Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Program, which includes healthcare workers. Nine days earlier on Dec. 20, an unexpected supply of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was administered to 120 staff and physicians at Morris Hospital when a neighboring county offered supply that was nearing expiration due to storage requirements specific to the Pfizer vaccine. After the 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine are adminis-

tered over the next few days, Morris Hospital officials say they anticipate being able to order additional vaccine supply to administer to staff as needed, although information is not available regarding the specific time frame. Staff who received the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 20, are scheduled to receive their second dose Jan. 7-8. Those receiving the Moderna vaccine this week will be receiving their second dose Jan. 26-28, as Moderna vaccine requires an additional week between doses. While Morris Hospital isn't mandating the vaccine, staff is strongly encouraged to receive it. "Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use technology that has been under investigation for a decade, and the clinical

trials for both demonstrated that the vaccines are 94-95% effective," said Alyssa Knoderer, Pharmacy Director at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "Neither the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine use the live virus that causes COVID-19, which means it's not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine. We highly encourage everyone who is able to receive the vaccine." While time frames for subsequent phases of the State's Mass Vaccination Program haven't been announced, community residents should watch for announcements from the health department where they reside as information becomes available.

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Lunch at 209 schools

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Tues., Jan. 12: mini corn dogs, mac & cheese, baby carrots, tropical fruit and choice of milk
Wed., Jan. 13: Italian beef w/ Mozz., cheesy hash browns, mixed fruit and choice of milk
Thurs., Jan. 14: chili w/beans, PBJ sandwich, honey grahams, pears and choice of milk
Fri., Jan. 15: bacon cheese-burger on bun, fries, sorbet cup and choice of milk
Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

Breakfast at school

Mon., Jan. 11: Frosted Flakes, grahams, apple juice and choice of milk
Tues., Jan. 12: pancakes, orange juice and choice of milk
Wed., Jan. 13: Trix, animal crackers, fruit punch and choice of milk
Thurs., Jan. 14: mini cinni, orange juice and choice of milk
Fri., Jan. 15: Lucky Charms, goldfish grahams, fruit punch and choice of milk
Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.

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Pandemic response, budget, Black Caucus agenda on table for 'lame duck' session

House will reconvene Friday

BY PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers will return to the capital city on Friday, Jan. 8 for a "lame duck" session that is expected to focus on the state's COVID-19 response, a nearly \$4 billion budget deficit and a host of social issues being advanced by the Legislative Black Caucus.

House Speaker Michael Madigan's office notified that chamber's members of the plans in an email sent Wednesday, Dec. 30. Senate President Don Harmon has not officially announced his plans, but his spokesman said in an email over the weekend that senators have been advised to hold the dates open in the event lawmakers are called back into session.

Lawmakers haven't met since late May when they held an abbreviated special session to pass a budget and a few other items that were considered essential. The regular fall veto session, which had been scheduled for late November and early December, was canceled due to the COVID-19 pan-

demic.

The budget that lawmakers passed during that special session with only Democratic votes was about \$5 billion out of balance. But it was passed on the assumption that Congress would soon pass a stimulus package that would include aid to struggling state and local governments and that voters in November would approve a constitutional amendment to allow the state to levy a graduated income tax. Neither of those two things happened.

In November, Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker announced plans to borrow \$2 billion from the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility to cover revenue losses the state has suffered since the start of the pandemic. That was in addition to the \$1.2 billion the state borrowed to make up for revenue losses at the end of the last fiscal year.

In addition, in December he ordered more than \$700 million in spending cuts from executive branch agencies. But that still leaves the state more than \$1 billion short of what it needs to balance the current year's budget.

Republicans, who have been clamoring for months for lawmakers to return to session, said during a virtu-

al news conference Monday that they believe Democrats want to use the lame duck session to push through a tax increase to fill the budget hole.

"They refused to listen to our warnings over and over again," said House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs. "And now, after voters just sent the Democrats a message, Madigan and his cohorts will be trying to sneak a tax increase – yes, sneak a tax increase – into the lame duck session."

Pritzker has said in the past that he would consider closing certain business tax "loopholes" in order to raise additional revenue, but more recently he has said that he wants to focus on spending cuts.

Madigan, meanwhile, said in December that he was prepared to push for an increase in the state's flat income tax rate, should Pritzker propose one. But Pritzker has given no indication that he plans to make such a proposal.

Rep. Greg Harris, of Chicago, the House Majority Leader, did not immediately respond Monday to a request for comment about his plans for the special session.

In addition to dealing with the budget crisis, lawmakers may also consider

measures regarding the state's overall pandemic response, which so far has been managed almost exclusively out of the governor's office.

Many lawmakers, particularly Republicans, have expressed frustration during the pandemic that they have had no role in making decisions that involve closing schools, restaurants and bars or imposing limits on gathering sizes.

"We can stop allowing Gov. Pritzker to run this state unilaterally by executive order," Durkin said Monday. "We can fix the state's broken unemployment insurance system that still is barely functioning nearly a year later, resulting in thousands of families struggling to put food on the table each day."

Also likely to be on the agenda is a long list of policy initiatives being pushed by members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus focusing on racial and social justice issues that were thrust into the forefront following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers in May.

The session is scheduled to begin Friday, Jan. 8, and could run until Jan. 13, when the 102nd General Assembly will convene to inaugurate new members.

Only three new laws took effect Jan. 1

Minimum wage increases to \$11/hour

BY SARAH MANSUR
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - When a new year begins in Illinois, there typically are dozens if not hundreds of new laws going into effect.

Not this year. Like so many other things in 2020, the legislative spring session was stunted by COVID-19. Once the global pandemic reached Illinois in March, the General Assembly would meet for only four more days - wrapping up the odd session during masked and socially distanced gatherings at the Capitol and Bank of Springfield Center. The fall veto session was scrapped altogether.

As a result, only three new laws took effect on Jan. 1. Here's a look at them, as well as the next increase in the minimum wage.

Insulin costs cap
Senate Bill 667 [Public Act 101-0625] amends the Illinois Insurance Code to cap out-of-pocket insulin costs at \$100 per month for all patients using a state regulated insurance plan, regardless of the amount of insulin or type of covered prescription insulin drug used to fill the insured patient's prescription.

Roughly 1.3 million adults

in Illinois, or 12.5% of the population, have diabetes, according to the legislation.

SB 667 also provides that the Illinois Department of Insurance, along with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, must create a public insulin pricing report that includes a summary of insulin pricing practices and public policy recommendations to control and prevent the overpricing of insulin prescriptions.

Senator Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, chief sponsor of the Senate bill, said in a statement that the legislation shows Illinoisans don't have to accept costly prescriptions as the status quo.

"We can change the fact that prescription medication costs more in the United States than any place in the world. This legislation passed because people spoke up and told their story. This historic legislation doesn't become law without them and their effort," Manar said in the statement.

Use of DNA in missing person cases

House Bill 2708 [Public Act 101-0266] amends the Missing Persons Identification Act to allow law enforcement agencies to obtain a DNA sample of a missing person or a DNA reference sample from family members' DNA, once a missing person report is made.

The law also provides that law enforcement cannot retain DNA samples from family members or the missing person after the person has been located.

It also adds the National

Missing and Unidentified Persons System, a national information clearinghouse for missing persons, to the list of laboratories that law enforcement agencies can work with when trying to find a missing person.

Senator Tony Munoz, D-Chicago, who was one of the bill's sponsors, said in a news release that using the national system will hopefully help law enforcement find missing people sooner.

"Successfully finding a missing person requires law enforcement to move fast, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to do their job," Munoz said in the release.

Keeping victims' addresses confidential

House Bill 2818 [Public Act 101-0270] amends the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence Act by including survivors of sexual assault and stalking in the Illinois Address Confidentiality Program [ACP], which offers survivors protection from their abusers by allowing them to acquire and use a substitute address instead of their real address.

HB 2818 allows survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who fear for their safety to apply to the ACP through the Attorney General's Office. The ACP forwards all first-class mail and provides survivors with a substitute address for public records and documents, such as driver's licenses and state-issued identification cards.

The bill also changes the name of the law, from the Address Confidentiality for

Victims of Domestic Violence Act to the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Act.

In a written statement, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said ACP is an important added layer of protection and peace of mind for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

"I am committed to ensuring that survivors have access to the resources and support needed to aid their recoveries, and I encourage survivors to participate in this program that can help protect them from the individuals who perpetrated crimes against them," Raoul said in the statement.

Minimum wage increase

The minimum wage in Illinois increased from \$10 per hour to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1.

The Illinois General Assembly passed increases to the minimum wage in 2019 with legislation that raises the minimum wage \$1 every year until it reaches \$15 per hour in 2025.

In 2020, wage earners saw their hourly wage increase from \$8.25 to \$9.25 on Jan. 1, and to \$10 on July 1.

"We want to make sure that workers earning minimum wage are aware that the \$1 increase should be reflected in their paychecks for any time they work after the first of the year," Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor, said in a news release. "While we fully expect employers will pay the new wage, we also want workers to be aware of the change."

Give blood, get entered into trip to SuperBowl

The need for blood products doesn't pause for game days or a pandemic. As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma – leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product.

To help address the shortage of convalescent plasma, the American Red Cross is teaming up with the NFL to urge people, especially those who have recovered from COVID-19, to give blood now.

All who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win a getaway to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles.

In addition, those who give through Jan. 20, will auto-

matically be entered to win a Big Game at Home package, which includes a 65-inch television and a \$500 gift card to put toward food and fun.

Upcoming donor events include:

Bourbonnais - Jan. 7, noon to 6 p.m., The Annex, 1690 Newtowne Dr. (also Jan. 21 & 28; Jan. 8 from 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Bourbonnais Fire Department, 1080 Armour Rd.; and Jan. 14 from noon - 6 p.m., The Annex, 1690 Newtowne Dr.

Bolingbrook - Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Community Service Council, 440 Quadrangle Dr., Suite C

Joliet - Jan. 19 from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., Assembly Hall, 1550 Plainfield Road.

All blood types are needed. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Individuals can schedule an appointment by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Sip on a stinger, a 20th century cocktail

"It's a Stinger. It removes the sting."
- Bing Crosby to Grace Kelly in High Society, 1956

Ah, the Stinger. The curiously strong minty delight that exudes style and sophistication. Recipes for the Stinger began to appear in recipe books published on both sides of the Atlantic around the turn of the 20th century, but the drink began its rise as a status symbol during prohibition.

Wait a minute, the drink became more popular during prohibition? How is that possible?

It was possible to keep your home bar stocked quite well during prohibition if you had the money to do so, which the millionaires of the early 1920s were able to do. One such millionaire was Reginald "Reggie" Vanderbilt, heir to a large railroad fortune. Also, insert pop culture side note here, you may have heard of Reggie's daughter: fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt.

Reggie Vanderbilt had a mansion on 5th Avenue, and would invite guests to his "Martini lunches" where he

would entertain his guests by making drinks behind his lavish bar. A local paper ran a gossip column in 1923 crediting Reggie with the recent invention of the Stinger, but this is simply not true as the recipe appears in several publications prior to prohibition.

Vanderbilt may not have invented it, but it was a favorite drink of his and he kept the drink alive among Manhattan's elite during prohibition. Reggie did not live to see the end of prohibition, he died of liver failure in 1925 at the age of 44.

Once prohibition ended the Stinger began to appear in movies and novels, and was a bit of an accessory to the upper class when dining or socializing. The drink is a great fit either as an aperitif or digestif, fitting for either side of a large meal.

I lean more toward digestif as the drink is spirit forward (strong) and has a certain dessert quality to it thanks to the mint. The original version of the drink was heavy on the mint, approximately 2 parts brandy to 1 part mint. In recent years the mint has been dialed

back to 1/2 oz. to 3/4 oz. for a 2 oz. pour of brandy.

Where exactly does the "mint" come from? The mint flavor in the Stinger and other minty cocktails comes courtesy of crème de menthe, a mint liqueur. Crème de menthe is a strong, sweet mint. Think spearmint flavor with a more pronounced menthol. The crème de menthe settles into the drink nicely thanks to the bold, full-bodied flavor of brandy. There is a lot going on in this drink flavor wise making this perhaps the most complex two-ingredient cocktail in the book.

Crème de menthe is available in either green or white varieties, the only difference in the two is the color. For the Stinger, reach for the clear or "white" crème de menthe. You will find crème de menthe in the liqueur aisle of your local spirits retailer, look for brand names Drillaud, Jacquin's, and DeKuyper.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL

Brian Rung

Once you have your crème de menthe in hand, you will need to choose a brandy. Cognac is also a good fit, as it is technically a brandy. Choose wisely! At 2 oz. of brandy per drink, you are going to taste the brandy. Conventional wisdom usually says "don't use the good stuff in mixed drinks", but this is a situation where you will want to use the good stuff. If you have a VSOP brandy or cognac, use it in the Stinger. A VSOP brandy will have some age to it, at least 4 years. A mid-range brandy may be used, but you will not be getting the most out of this drink.

Speaking of getting the absolute most out of this drink, the cigar community loves this drink for cigar pairing. Something to think about if Santa brought some new sticks

for your humidor.

There is no "official" preparation for the Stinger. The early Stingers were shaken, the contemporary versions are almost always stirred. If you find that the 3/4 oz. crème de menthe is too minty, dial it back to 1/2 oz.

By the way, Gloria Vanderbilt passed away in 2019 at the age of 95, but her jeans remain in production. For those too young to remember: She was one of the most recognizable women in America in the late 1970s, appearing in her own commercials for a fashion line that brought in over \$200 million in 1980 alone.

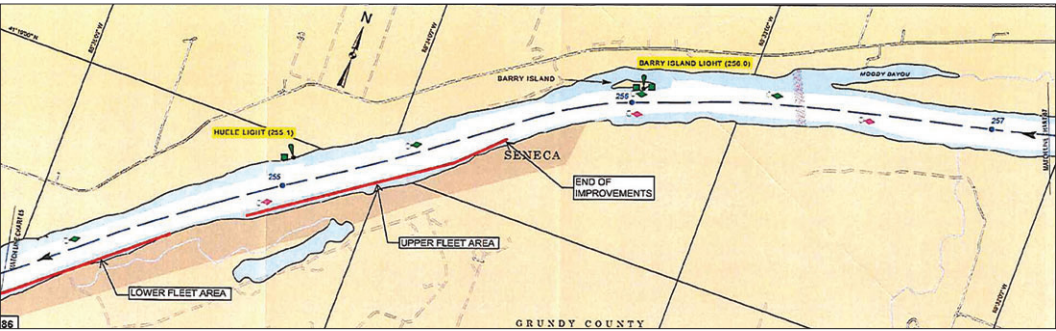
I'll drink to that.

The Stinger may be served in either a chilled rocks glass or a cocktail (Martini) glass. If you are going to serve over ice, the rocks glass is best while the cocktail glass lends a nice presentation to the drink if serving neat.

The Stinger is built in a mixing glass and served in a chilled rocks glass.



Combine in mixing glass:
2 oz. brandy (or cognac)
3/4 oz. crème de menthe
Stir with ice
Strain into ice-filled rocks glass
Garnish with mint sprig
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



A 1.6-MILE BARGE terminal located in the Illinois River just east of Seneca has become the subject of a lawsuit that has been filed in Grundy County. The map shows the proposed area (red line) on the south river bank just downstream of Barry Island.

Couple seeks to stop barge terminal on Illinois River

STAFF REPORT

A Grundy County couple seeking to stop the construction of a barge terminal along 1.6 miles of the Illinois River have filed suit against the developer, state of Illinois and the Department of Natural Resources, among others.

Richard and Gloria Sims, reside on Old Stage Road west of Morris. Their property located on the north bank of the Illinois River approximately 6 miles west of the city limits.

In November, Illinois & Michigan Oil, LLC, [IMOL] was granted an IDNR permit to construct a barge fleeting facility including mooring pins, and a 600-foot sheet pile dock wall and to perform dredging along the south bank of the river, across from the Sims' property.

Stating their, "quality of life, their quiet enjoyment of their residence and supporting premises and their property values will all suffer substantial adverse effects if the project is built," the couple filed suit in Grundy Circuit Court on Dec. 30 naming the IDNR, its director Colleen Callahan, the state of Illinois, Gov. JB Pritzker, and IMOL as plaintiffs.

The Sims are asking for administrative review to vacate the IDNR permit allowing Joliet-based IMOL to occupy 21 acres of the river to construct and operate a barge fleeting facility.

According to the suit, IMOL filed an application in March 2020 to construct a facility capable of holding 106 barges, with what the defendants state could be, "filled to capacity with potentially hazardous and toxic materials."

The Sims, per the suit, have raised procedural objections to the permit evaluation process pointing to a denial of a public hearing, a failure to obtain signed statements from property owners along the river and the failure to obtain governor's signature on the permit.

The suit claims the project could, "adversely impact the public's access to use and enjoyment of the river."

The project, per its application, would include the installation of 20 concrete filled steel mooring pins at 400 feet intervals along an estimated 1.6 miles of the river with a 600 foot long, 45 foot wide dock.

Additionally, IMOL's application sought permission to dredge 10 feet along the length of the project.

In the suit, the Sims raise concerns about the materials to be contained within the barges, cleanup plans should the barges become unmoored, potential adverse affects on the river and its adjacent land, and their own enjoyment of the river.

Additional issues raised involve a 100-year flood plain, velocity of the river current, lack of permitted zoning and approved permit from the Seneca Port District which has jurisdiction over the project location, among others.

The Sims are asking the court to vacate the IDNR permit, prohibit IDNR from issuing any permit for the project and IMOL from moving forward with construction, and award costs of the suit and attorney fees.

The couple is being represented by Maurides Law of Chicago and the Morris firm of Hynds, Yohnka, Bzdill & McInerney.

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Jeff Bonarek
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Jill Breneman
jill@loribonarekrealty.com
815.791.3602

Kristina Davy
kristina@loribonarekrealty.com
815.530.7497

Debbie Durando
debbie@loribonarekrealty.com
815.405.9995

Kim Engelhardt
kim.e@loribonarekrealty.com
815.370.2351

Amy Foley
amyfoley@loribonarekrealty.com
815.671.3549

John Geschwind
john@loribonarekrealty.com
815.735.3985

Brittany Hollis
brittany@loribonarekrealty.com
815-584-7942

Cindy Klein
cindy@loribonarekrealty.com
815.791.4591

Diana Mason
diana@loribonarekrealty.com
815.401.6008

Jen Phillips
jen@loribonarekrealty.com
815.530.2711

Paula Randolph
paula@loribonarekrealty.com
239.257.9413

Abbey Roseland
abbey@loribonarekrealty.com
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OBITUARIES

Linda L. Bockman

MORRIS— Linda L. Bockman, 74, of Morris, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 2020, at Morris Hospital. She was born March 27, 1946, in Peoria, IL where she was raised and educated. In 1963, she married her lifelong partner Richard and they built a home in Channahon where they lived for 30 years raising their two girls. They then built a home on 6 acres on a lake near Goose Lake where Linda loved the outdoors and entertaining and feeding friends and family when they would visit.

Linda loved to play cards and other games with her children and grandchildren, fishing for bluegills, and having the family over for large meals and gatherings. She also enjoyed antiquing and crafting. She will be terribly missed by her family and friends.

Linda is the beloved wife of 57 years to Richard Bockman; loving mother of Jackie (Jim) Jennings and Terri (Bill) Kelly; devoted grandmother of Jessica (Justin) Holman, Colton (Michelle) Kelly and Mackenzie Kelly; proud



great-grandmother of twins, Teagan and Camden Holman and Dixon Kelly; dear sister of Richard (Lois) Schall of Lakeland, Florida, Judy (Lloyd) Frazier of Magnolia, Shirley (George) Schafer Sr. of West Peoria, Ricky (Michelle) Stewart of Morris, and Peggy Hanson of Odell and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents Edward Stewart and Virginia Lloyd, and siblings Penny (Hubert) Sherman, and David Stewart.

Visitation for Linda will be held Saturday, January 9, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Funeral services and interment at Sample Cemetery will be private. Memorials can be made in Linda's honor to the American Cancer Society. In accordance with the Illinois guidelines, a 10 person capacity rotation will be followed, face masks are required, and social distancing will be observed. For more information visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Lori Ann Canupp

Lori Ann Canupp, 55, formerly of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Dec. 30, 2020 at the Carrier Mills Nursing Home in Carrier Mills, IL. She was born to Jessie and Pauline Canupp on May 25, 1965 at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet.

She was a great mother who enjoyed spending time with her three children and traveling to different places. She was raised and educated in Wilmington, attending St. Rose School and Wilmington High School, graduating with the class of 1983. She attended St. Francis University and earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing in 1999.

Surviving are her children: Max Springer, Adam (fiancee Olivia De Vera) Springer and Claire Springer; one sister, Pat (Dan) McHugh and three brothers: Steve (Sue Kern, deceased) Canupp, Brad (Pat) Canupp and Chris (Paula)



Canupp as well as her former husband and father of her children, Brian Springer and parents-in-law, Barbara and Lee Springer.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

A special thank you to the wonderful staff at the Carrier Mills Nursing Home and the love they had for Lori.

Cremation rites have been accorded and will be directed by Wilson Funeral Home in Karnak, IL. burial will be at a later date at St. Catherine's Cemetery in Grand Chain, IL.

Memorial donations in remembrance of her can be made and will be greatly appreciated to Huntington's Disease Society of America, hdsa.org/get-involved/tribute-memorial-donations/

Wilson Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Samuel Craig

BRACEVILLE— Samuel F. Craig, 87, of Braceville, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Born Feb. 12, 1933 in Springfield, MO. Sam was the son of Roscoe and Fannie (Graves) Craig.

Raised and educated in Missouri, Sam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after high school graduation. He was stationed in California where he met his first wife and mother of his seven children, Mary Klinge. After his honorable discharge, they returned to Illinois where they married in Chicago. Sam and Mary raised their children in the Naperville area.

Sam worked as a union carpenter for many years, employed at the nuclear reactors in the Braidwood area. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and sports. A favorite pastime was playing the slot machines in the gas stations.

After moving to the Coal City area, Sam

met his second wife, June Robarge, and her two sons, Rick and Randy.

He is survived by his children: Patti, David, Stephen, Robert, Michael, and Katherine; six grandchildren; and two stepsons, Rick and Randy Robarge.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Sam; his two wives, Mary and June; and his long-time companion, Vivian Formanek.

At Samuel's request, no funeral services will be held.

An online guestbook has been made for the family, where you may sign the guestbook, share memories and photographs. You can access this by visiting the website at www.ucdaviscallahan.com. Arrangements have been entrusted with U.C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home, 301 W. Washington Street, Morris.

Hazel A. Grega

COAL CITY—Hazel A. Grega, 95, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born Nov. 26, 1925 in Troy Grove, IL, Hazel Albertha was a daughter of Russell and Mabel (Kofoid) Miller. She was raised and educated in the Troy Grove area, and at an early age went to work for a short time at the Seneca Shipyards. It was here that she met Joseph Grega, and together they were married in her family home. After marriage, Hazel and Joe moved to Braceville, where they resided until building their home on Marguerite Street in Coal City.

Known as "Mama Hazel" to many, Hazel was an extraordinary child caregiver most of her life to families in the area. She was an active and devoted member of Coal City United Methodist Church, where she served on the church board, belonged to the Sunshine Circle, and enjoyed coordinating the fellowship breakfasts. Hazel was known for her love of cooking great meals and desserts, and will be remembered for the frequently spoken sentiment, "eat, so you don't get hungry..."

One who was a selfless caregiver at heart, Hazel leaves behind a priceless collection of memories for her family, the many children she cared for over the years, her church, and the community.

Hazel was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Grega Sr. She is the loving mother of Joseph Jr. (Karen) Grega, of Diamond and the late Debra Grega (John Florey), of Pontiac; dear



grandmother of Brian Grega, of Diamond and Haley (Charles) Phillips, of Braceville; great-grandmother of Ayden Phillips; sister to the late Russell Miller and special niece to her late aunt, Hazel Kofoid. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

A private family visitation and funeral service will be held in the Coal City United Methodist Church.

Those wishing to participate in Hazel's virtual funeral service are welcome to join the livestream webcast on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 beginning at 12 p.m. A link for the event will be available on Hazel's memorial page or through the Coal City United Methodist Church Facebook Page.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Hazel will be laid to rest with her late husband. Pallbearers will be Brian Grega, John Florey, Charles Phillips and Mark Pavlis.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Hazel's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Hazel's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Hazel-Grega.

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

Marguerite Siron

GOOSE LAKE—Marguerite "Peggy" Siron (nee Faletti), 65, of Goose Lake, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born June 19, 1955 in Morris, she was the daughter of Dominic and Levita (nee Schultz) Faletti. Peggy enjoyed many things in life, such as watching Chicago Bears games, cooking, baking, and she had a love for all animals. She welcomed all walks of life and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. Peggy was especially excited awaiting on the birth of her first grandchild that will be arriving soon.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Ronald Siron, who she married July 1998 in Morris; one son, Matthew (Heather Hill), of



Ottawa, IL; step-daughters, Sandy (Robert Bennett), of Plainfield, IL and Vickie Siron, of Tinley Park, IL and one brother, Rocky (Pat) Faletti, of Goose Lake.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded and private inurnment will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the family would be appreciated. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Winnie Jackson

BRAIDWOOD—Winnie Jean Jackson (nee Billingsley), 84, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully at the Gardens of Park Pointe Memory Center in Morris on Jan. 3, 2021.

She was born March 3, 1936 in Vienna, IL to Omer and Velma (nee Stokes) Billingsley. She was educated in the Goreville schools and was formerly employed by the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in Elwood, retiring in 1992. She spent most of her teenage years in the Joliet/Wilmington area where she met the love of her life, John (TJ) Jackson. They wed June 27, 1956 in Braidwood and made their home in Braidwood for the past 66 years.

Anyone who met her, fell in love with her. There was just something about her that no one could resist. Besides enjoying her plants and flowers, she loved to travel and camp anywhere. The love she had for her four legged children was amazing. In fact, anything that had fur and four legs was always a welcome site. As most knew she was not fond of the "other critters" that her grandchildren visited with, but she tolerated it. Her grandchildren were the light of her life and she adored them.

Survivors include her loved daughter and son-in-law, Tonya and Chris Cavanaugh, of Braidwood; cherished and loved grandchildren,



Ryan and Bret Cavanaugh, also of Braidwood; sisters, Deanna (Don) Ivy, of Goreville, IL and Rosa (late Donald) Tenny, of Morris; brother, Dale (late Theresa) Billingsley, of Essex and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Omer and Velma Billingsley; beloved husband of 66 years, John (TJ) Jackson (Dec. 23, 2017); brothers: Richard Billingsley, Billy Billingsley, and Bobby Billingsley in infancy.

Services will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2020 at 1 p.m., with Pastor Greg Linkous officiating. The visitation will begin two hours preceding the service.

All attendees are required to wear face coverings, follow social distancing guidelines, and due to the capacity requirements, please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects.

Interment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Rose Kocka

WILMINGTON— Rose Kocka, 79, beloved mother, grandmother and sister, was called to her eternal resting place on Dec. 28, 2020. She entered this world on March 3, 1941 in Effingham, IL, born to John and Lillie (Matthew) Moore.

Rose was a graduate of Wilmington High School. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, painting, music and singing. She loved Jesus, babies, her chihuahuas, being outdoors, and encouraging the people around her.

She is survived by daughter, Rochelle (Scott) Ruff; son, Richard (Jocelyn) Gartke; grandchildren, Miranda Ruff and Kayla Ruff; sisters: Ruth (Gary-deceased) Ratliff, Kathryn (Glenn) Wilde and Joyce (Kent) Richardson and

brother, John (Kye) Moore.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Bernard Kocka; siblings: brother, Earl Moore; sister, Lois (Wade) Riley; Juanita (Harold) Boeckel; sister, Mildred (Floyd) Bracken; sister, Doris Bushby; sister, Marie Webb; Amy (Dick) Bell and sister, Nora (Lee) Brewer.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at the Christian Faith Center, 1800 S. Water St, Wilmington. A private committal will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her late husband, Bernard.

Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home in Joliet was in charge of arrangements.

Rev. John J. Mattson

MORRIS—Rev. John J. Mattson, 77, of Morris and formerly of Downers Grove, IL, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 at his home.

Born April 4, 1943 in Chicago, John Joseph was a son of Arthur E. and Ramona (nee Rostochil) Mattson. He was raised and educated in Downers Grove and graduated from Downers Grove High School with the class of 1962.

Following high school, John entered into the United States Army. He honorably served from 1963-1966, of which during that time he was stationed in England. Following his discharge, John married Nancy M. Hawkinson in the United Methodist Church of West Pullman in Chicago. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of Illinois, Chicago and later his masters in business administration from Benedictine University in Lisle.

John began a career with Advocate Healthcare Corporate Office, where he worked in computer programming and information systems for 15 years. During those years, John followed his call to ministry and earned his masters in Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Hyde Park. He then went on to pastor for the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Montezuma and Clinton, IN from 2000 until his retirement in 2009. John and Nancy relocated to Morris, to be closer to family, and here they became active with the First Presbyterian Church of Morris, where he continued to be an active and dedicated member.

John was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Downers Grove Lodge, and in past years belonged to the DuPage Valley Barbershop Chorus. In addition to barbershop singing, John enjoyed singing in the church choir, bowling on a league, traveling and camping. He coached little league baseball when his boys were young, and served as a Boy Scout



leader. The family shared many memorable trips to the national parks, and he took pleasure in playing games, especially Cribbage, Sudoku and Bridge.

One who never had an unkind word about anyone, John was the light and the joy of his family.

Survivors include his loving wife of 51 years, Nancy; two sons, John A. Mattson, of Oswego, IL and David (Erin) Mattson, of Taylor Springs, IL; six grandchildren: Ashley and Tyler, of Oswego and Anne, Joe, Sally and Mark, of Taylor Springs; two brothers, Arthur (Angie) Mattson, of Orange, CA and Robert (the late Terry) Mattson, of Calara, AL; one brother-in-law, Bob Mladic, of Morris and three sisters-in-law: Alice (the late Edward) Kramarz, of Lockport; Ellen (James) Rossi, of Oak Forest and Janet (Jeffery) Monahan, of Midlothian, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

John was preceded in death by his parents, step-mother, Erna; one brother, Alan Mattson; sister, Nancy Mladic and one brother-in-law, Robert (Suzette) Hawkinson.

The family gathered for a private family visitation and service on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021.

Those wishing to watch the services virtually are welcome to log onto the service which is available through a link on John's memorial page.

Cremation rites were accorded following the services, and inurnment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris at a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share John's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/RevJohnMattson.

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

Brenda K. Melvin

COAL CITY—Brenda K. Melvin, 78, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born Sept. 7, 1942 in Pontiac, Brenda Kaye was a daughter of Eldo Arnold and Donna Louise (Ward) Brady. She was 1960 graduate of Chenoa High School, and went on to marry Roger E. Melvin on Oct. 16, 1960 in the Presbyterian Church of Chenoa.

Brenda was a member of the Coal City Area Club. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star. Throughout the years, she served as a Worthy Matron, Grand Lector, and the Grand Representative of Illinois and Wisconsin. Brenda was an avid doll collector from various eras (1930-1950). Brenda cherished family time at their vacation home in Friendship, WI.

Brenda will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who took great pride in her family. She loved spoiling their dog, Buster.

Though her passing is just five short weeks following the loss of her husband, Roger, the family finds comfort in knowing that both Brenda and Roger were cherished by all who were blessed to know them, and they will long be remembered and ever so missed.

Survivors include three children: Dean (Marianne) Melvin, of Coal City; Darren (Heather) Melvin, of Wilmington and Jennie (Art) Johnson, of Crest Hill; son-in-law, Todd Schumacher; eight grandchildren: Heather (Derek) Davis, Matt Melvin, Brian Popovich,



Katie Cialone, Julie Popovich (fiancé, Hunter Sayers), Amy Popovich, Douglas Johnson and Brady Johnson; five great-grandchildren: Emily Popovich, Braxton Davis, Kade Melvin, Jace Cialone and Ella Popovich; one brother-in-law, Michael Melvin, of Oglesby; one sister-in-law, Mary Ann Melvin, of Streator and numerous nieces and nephews.

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Roger on Nov. 28, 2020; daughter, Debra Schumacher; sister, Linda Volk and one brother, Edwin Brady.

Per Brenda's wishes, green flameless cremation rites will be accorded, and a memorial visitation and celebration of life for both Brenda and Roger will be planned for a later date.

Together, Brenda and Roger will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Joliet.

Please no flowers. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials in Brenda's memory be made to the Coal City Food Pantry, to help those in need in our community.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Brenda's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Brenda-Melvin

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

OBITUARIES

Carla J. Vacca

COAL CITY—Carla J. Vacca, 63, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2021 at her home.

Born Oct. 22, 1957 in Joliet, IL, Carla Jean was a daughter of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. She attended St. John's School for the Deaf in Wisconsin, and went on to graduate from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.

Carla worked in the Trust Department at Union National Bank in Joliet before relocating to the east coast. For most of her career, she worked as a civilian for the United States Army, as well as the United States Navy in the Shipyards in Pennsylvania until her retirement. Following the passing of her mother, Carla relocated back to Coal City, where she enjoyed spending time crafting and crocheting.

Survivors include her sister, Donna Gordon, of Coal City; nephew, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two great-nieces, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one great-nephew, Dominic Hahn, and her aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Carla was preceded in death by her parents, and her passing was also on the same date as her brother, John Vacca.



A COVID observant and walk through memorial visitation for both Carla and John will be held on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. A link is available on Carla's memorial page.

Inurnment will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Carla will be laid to rest with her parents and brother, John.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carla's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Carla's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Carla-Vacca

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

John J. Vacca

COAL CITY—John J. Vacca, 69, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2021 at his home.

Born Nov. 27, 1951, John James was the son of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. He was raised in Coal City, graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1969, and went on to attend Joliet Junior College.

John had a lifelong passion and remained active with the Boy Scouts, having just received his 60 year pin. In addition to collecting Boy Scout memorabilia, John loved his cars; was extremely meticulous, and enjoyed attending car shows. He also took great pleasure in local history, and volunteered at both the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museums, as well as at the Carbon Hill School Museum.

Survivors include his sister, Donna Gordon, of Coal City; nephew, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two great-nieces, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one great-nephew, Dominic Hahn and his aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents, and his unexpected passing was also on the same date as his sister, Carla Vacca.

A COVID observant and walk through



memorial visitation for both John and Carla will be held on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. A link is available on John's memorial page.

Inurnment will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where John will be laid to rest with his parents and his sister, Carla.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museums, Carbon Hill School Museum or to the Boy Scouts of America.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share John's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/John-Vacca

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

Ronald Jacobsgaard



WILMINGTON—Ronald "Jake" Jacobsgaard, 76, of Wilmington passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

Born Aug. 20, 1944 in Morris, Ronald Milton was a son of Vernon M. and Edith (Humbert) Jacobsgaard. He was raised and educated in Gardner, and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the class of 1962. Ronald served in the United States Army during the Vietnam Era from 1967 until his honorable discharge in 1969. He then gained employment with Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet where he worked for 40 years until retirement.

Ronald also co-owned Sailorettes Nautical Nook in Wilmington, and enjoyed spending his time outdoors fishing, hunting, and always enjoyed a good western book. He also took great pleasure in woodworking and cherished any time spent with his grandchildren.

Survivors include his wife, Anita (Nordhoff) Jacobsgaard, who he married on Feb. 12, 1983 in Wilmington; three children: Larry (Julie) Jacobsgaard, of Mazon; Colette



(Glenn) Boynton, of Wilmington and Kurt (Dina) Peterson, of Jacksonville, FL; nine grandchildren: Logan, Dannica, Brendan, Brianna, Angel, Liz, Paxton, Kami and Kaeman and one brother, Allen (Linda) Jacobsgaard, of Eureka, IL.

Ronald was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Betty Marna.

Per his wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and Ronald will be inurned with full military honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ronald's memory to the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Ronald's memorial page by logging onto: www.baskervillefuneral.com/obituary/RonaldJake-Jacobsgaard

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

Nancy Shoemaker

WILMINGTON—Nancy Shoemaker, 73, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at home.

She was born Feb. 23, 1947 in Salem, OH, the daughter of Ken and Ellen (Herb) Harsh. On June 26, 1965 she married Larry Shoemaker at Christian Church in Steubenville, OH.

Nancy was a member of the First Christian Church in Manteno and was a member of Eastern Star of Steubenville, OH. Nancy enjoyed crafts, quilting, and making her house a home. She went on three mission trips for First Christian Church. She taught Haitians how to fix and make clothes for



themselves.

Nancy is survived by her loving husband, Larry; a son, Carl (Karen) Shoemaker, of Manteno; daughters, Christen (Dave) Longfellow, of Portage, IN and Amy Shoemaker, of Steubenville, OH; a brother, Don Harsh, of Columbus, OH; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents and a daughter, Jo El Shoemaker.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Services are private.

Brown-Jensen Funeral Home in Manteno is handling the arrangements.

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Riverside welcomes two IM practitioners

Riverside Healthcare is pleased to welcome two immediate care nurse practitioners. Kathryn Locke, FNP-

BC; and Caitlin McCarthy, FNP-BC are seeing patients in Coal City, Bradley, Monee and Watseka.

Locke believes in holistic patient care that involves the patient, family, caregivers and community. She graduated with an Associate's degree of Science in Nursing at Kankakee Community College in Kankakee. She then completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner at Chamberlain University in Downer's Grove, IL.

Locke is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

McCarthy, who is passionate about serving each patient she encounters, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Addison, IL. She then completed a Master's of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais.

McCarthy is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Riverside Immediate Care provides treatment for non-life-threatening illnesses and injuries when and where you need it most. Open seven days a week including weekends with locations in Coal City, Bradley, Monee, and Watseka.

Beginning Jan. 2, 2021, Immediate Care in Bradley will be relocating to the Riverside Atrium, at 400 S. Kennedy Drive, Suite 700. Learn more about Riverside Immediate Care at riversidehealthcare.org.

Seniors can apply for conservation scholarship

Applications are being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) for the 2021 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program.

The ICF awards the annual Conservation Achievement Scholarships to encourage the next generation of leaders to preserve and enhance a sustainable outdoor environment.

Up to four one-time scholarships of \$2,000 are given to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who have demonstrated effective, voluntary and long-term dedication to the preservation, protection, enhancement and/or promotion of Illinois' natural resources.

Applicants must be Illinois residents and a senior in an Illinois high school during the year of the scholarship award. One of the scholarships is earmarked for a qualified applicant who is a dependent of a current employee of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Conservation Achievement Scholarship is March 1, 2021.

Detailed instructions and the 2021 application form can be accessed through the ICF website at <https://ilconservation.org/What-We-Do/Scholarships>.

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FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

To graduate, new state law requires seniors to fill out FAFSA

Illinois currently #1 in FAFSA completions

While students are struggling nationwide with remote education and college plans seem to be more up in the air than ever, there is some good news in Illinois.

The state closed out the year ranking No. 1 for completions of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), the form most students use to apply for federal and state financial aid for post-secondary education.

Helping to ensure that more Illinois students have the funds to follow a path to college has become increasingly difficult in the midst of a pandemic that is challenging every aspect of our daily lives.

To address some of the pandemic-related challenges facing high schools and graduating seniors in completing financial aid applications for next fall, the Illinois Student

Assistance Commission (ISAC) is adding new initiatives to its college outreach programs.

From targeted outreach and one-on-one assistance to students and families, to online financial aid modules that teachers can use with their students, the state's college access and financial aid agency is committed to providing free statewide supports for students and schools.

"With many students and families facing illness and loss of loved ones, financial distress, and all the challenges of remote learning, it can be hard to handle the now, much less consider the future," said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of ISAC. "But as we look to better days ahead for next fall, we want to make sure our high school seniors and adult students have applied for and can receive the financial aid for which they are eligible. Knowing what funding you have available for postsecondary education is an important milestone in making that education happen."

A new law, which took effect with the 2020-2021 school year, requires public high school seniors to complete the FAFSA or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. A waiver provision allows a parent, guardian, or the student - if 18 or emancipated - to opt out of the requirement.

Requiring high school seniors to complete FAFSA will increase the number of students who are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school. It may also influence some students to attend college when they might not otherwise have done so. It also may help some students limit student loan debt and take a fuller course load to more quickly complete a degree or credential.

While ISAC already provides free college planning and financial aid workshops and one-on-one assistance for students during the annual

College Changes Everything (CCE) fall campaign, the agency is extending its support to students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to meet the state's new FAFSA mandate.

ISAC has hosted over 750 online financial aid workshops with school partners, as well as 13 statewide virtual financial aid completion workshops since September 2020. As high schools focus their efforts on remote learning and keeping connected with students, ISAC is reaching out directly to schools that previously participated in the CCE campaign and is offering the following free supports statewide:

- Online financial aid completion workshops for students and parents. See studentportal.isac.org/events for statewide virtual events.
- Individual assistance to students and parents in completing financial aid applications, via web conferencing, phone, text, or email. Contact your local ISACorps member for free assistance: studentportal.isac.org/isacorps. Sign up

for ISAC's free text messaging app to get college/financial aid questions answered via text: isac.org/collegetqa.

- ISAC's FAFSA Completion Initiative offers Illinois school districts a way to identify students who have not submitted either a FAFSA or Alternative Application. The application completion information - updated on a weekly basis - can be used by district counselors to help reach students who may need assistance or encouragement to complete an application. The ISAC can directly reach out to and assist students who have not completed a FAFSA. Find out more at <https://www.isac.org/home/fafsa/index.html>
- ISAC is developing an online learning module for schools to use as part of their remote learning curriculum, which includes a video and a learning packet.
- To improve outreach to students and families during the pandemic, ISAC will be introducing a QR code that links to simple and accessible

information for students and families about how to get free assistance with financial aid applications. ISAC is partnering with several schools to pilot a program that will affix stickers with this QR code to free and reduced meal boxes and printed learning materials. Students and families will be able to scan the QR code with their phones to access the information.

"We want to make sure every high school senior and adult student in Illinois knows that completing a financial aid application is a critical step for their future," said Jacqueline Moreno, ISAC's director of College Access and Outreach. "We can help make the application process fairly quick and easy for most students."

ISACorps members throughout the state offer free assistance to help students and families complete and submit an application. Find a ISACorps member at studentportal.isac.org/isacorps.

Funds available to those behind on rent, mortgage

Will County residents behind on rent or mortgage because of the impact of COVID-19 can get payment assistance through four Will County agencies.

Martha Sojka, administrator for the Community Development Division of the Will County Land Use Department, said the county is coordinating these agencies to help disperse federal funds to help families stay housed during the pandemic.

The four agencies are: Will County Center for Community Concerns, 815-722-0722; Spanish Community Center 815-727-3683; Catholic Charities, 815-774-4663 and Community Service Council 815-886-5000.

Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant said, "Between them, these four agencies have been awarded more than a \$1 million of CARES Act relief funds to help those who are behind on rent, mortgage

and utilities because the pandemic has caused them to lose their jobs, have a reduction in hours or created other hardships."

Funds are available to those at least one month behind on rent. Utility assistance is also available for those who qualify.

"Renters behind on rent should not wait to apply for funds," said Sojka. Once the eviction moratorium is lifted, renters will be liable for all the months which are unpaid. If families don't seek assistance now, "they're just prolonging the inevitable."

Sojka added, "It's much more difficult for a family to find housing after an eviction filing and really important that renters are actively working with their landlords to stay housed."

Renters having difficulty working with their landlords and facing eviction are encouraged to contact Prairie State Legal, another HUD CARES funded program, 815-727-5123.

Owners behind on their mortgages are encouraged to work with their mortgage companies on forbearance options. If those options are not available or exhausted, assistance is available for families behind on mortgage payments as well. Certified housing counselors are available at Will County Center for Community Concerns and Community Service Council.

Sojka recommended those needing help should call one of the agencies to determine eligibility. Each agency has different criteria and requires different supporting documents, depending upon the federal funds it has received. All agencies are taking in applications over the phone and most of the process can be handled electronically.

Part of the process is making sure the landlord, mortgage holder or utility company will accept third-party payment. "The funds are given directly to the

provider," she said.

If all the required documents are submitted in a timely fashion, in some instances, it can take as little as two weeks for funds to be disbursed.

Agencies also differ in the amount of time they can help households catch up depending upon the funding source, Sojka said. It can be one to three months of help.

Sojka said households only need to call one of the participating agencies to apply. If there are additional resources that another participating agency can provide, a referral will be given.

"The most important thing," said Bertino-Tarrant, "is to take that first step and call one of these participating agencies if you are one or more months behind on your rent, mortgage or utilities. These are unprecedented times and these funds are there to help."

For additional information go to www.willcountylanduse.com.

Illinois gas prices take a dip

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.33/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 14.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 27.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.08/g while the most expensive is \$2.69/g, a difference of 61.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state is \$2.08/g while the highest is \$2.69/g, a difference of 61.0 cents per gallon.

The Coal City Shell on Division St., shows the lowest price at \$2.32/g, while Wilmington's cheapest gas was at Mohsen and Shell, both on Lorenzo Rd., at \$2.09/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week, aver-

aging \$2.24/g. The national average is up 8.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 34.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"After several weeks seeing the national average make healthy gains, last week saw a significant slowdown and most states saw prices change little as we head into the New Year," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"I'm hopeful 2021's theme will be recovery in the COVID-19 pandemic, which is unfortunately likely to drive gas prices higher. How much higher? GasBuddy will be revealing its 2021 Fuel Price Outlook tomorrow answering that question, giving motorists some insight into the trends expected in the coming 365 days. Short-term, expect prices to see overall less fluctuation in the week ahead as they saw to end 2020, with prices more likely to see small gains or stability than decreases."

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Biden's plans for a greener climate

Dear EarthTalk: What will President-elect Joe Biden's top environmental priorities be once he assumes office-and who is he tapping to head up key environmental positions in his administration?
J. Woodbine, Saddlebrook, NJ

The world collectively faces the threat of climate change driven by human-made pollutants and environmental degradation. President-elect Joe Biden has made it clear that he intends to work to address and mitigate the climate crisis as the U.S. president.

The President-elect has set a goal to reach net-zero emissions within the U.S. by 2050, promises to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord immediately upon entering office, and aims to create 10 million new jobs within the clean energy economy.

The Biden Plan outlines his strategy to address climate

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change while securing environmental justice and equitable economic opportunity. One thing that the Biden Plan prioritizes and engrains into every aspect of its proposal is the importance of creating jobs and workers' unions throughout the transition to a more sustainable economy.

The Biden Plan will cost around \$2 trillion. This covers investments in infrastructure, an American-based energy efficient automobile industry, increased public transportation options, a sustainable power sector, weatherized

buildings and housing, scientific innovations, climate-smart agriculture and conservation, and efforts to promote environmental justice.

Despite his lack of clarity on whether or not he supports the Green New Deal (GND), Biden has worked together with several key players such as Bernie Sanders and the youth-driven Sunrise Movement to develop his own climate plan.

After these collaborations, the main differences that still stand between the GND and the Biden Plan are how much would be spent (\$10 trillion in the GND versus \$2 trillion in the Biden Plan), their goals for carbon neutrality (GND aims for carbon neutrality in 10 years, while the Biden Plan aims for 2050), and their outlook on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract oil and gas.

In addition to his climate plan, Biden's cabinet will also

play a large role in pushing through his environmental agenda. Deb Haaland, Biden's pick to run the Interior Department, would be the first Native American to hold a cabinet secretary position.

Biden also nominated Michael Regan as Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator and Brenda Mallory as Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality. They would be the first Black man and woman to hold these positions. Some of Biden's Obama-era nominees include former EPA head Gina McCarthy as national climate adviser, John Kerry as the international presidential envoy on climate change, and Tom Vilsack as agriculture secretary.

Overall, there has never been a cabinet with so much focus on climate. One of the biggest ways we can help as individuals is to urge our Senators to confirm Biden's cabinet choices.



IF HE CAN deliver on his climate and environment promises, Joe Biden could go down as the greenest U.S. president in history.

How much of Biden's climate and environmental hopes and dreams come true depends on many factors, but one thing that's for certain, he will likely go down in history as one of the greenest presidents

ever. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://lemagazine.com>. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org

The Forest Preserve schedules 2021 'Eagle Watch'

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will celebrate the beauty and bounty of bald eagles during its 2021 "Eagle Watch" program set for Saturday, Jan. 9, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

The free, all-ages event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four Rivers is located in McKinley Woods at 25055 W. Walnut Lane, off of Blackberry Lane south of Bridge Street.

Bald eagles are spotted regularly at Four Rivers because of its location near where the Des Plaines, DuPage and Kankakee Rivers meet to form the Illinois River. So, odds are you might see

some of these regal raptors flying about on a cold January weekend.

Four small guided hikes will be offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Register for one the hikes by Jan. 8 on the Event Calendar at <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/> >ReconnectWithNature.org. Or take an independent hike after asking a naturalist where the eagles like to perch along the river.

No indoor activities will be offered this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and masks are required for outdoor program participants, except for those younger than 2 years old and those with

a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing one, per state guidelines.

Will County is one of 27 Illinois counties where bald eagles have been spotted in recent years as their numbers increase in the wild. In addition to McKinley Woods, eagles have been spotted in the north at Isle a la Cache in Romeoville, Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve in Plainfield and Whalon Lake in Naperville and out east at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Crete Township and Monee Reservoir in Monee Township.



Courtesy photo by Paul Dacko

THE FOREST PRESERVE District of Will County's 2021 "Eagle Watch" is set for Jan. 9 at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. No indoor activities are planned due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, but visitors can register for small guided hikes in advance, or take independent hikes through McKinley Woods preserve.

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COALER SPORTS

Johnson getting her kicks with Oxford City soccer

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Former Lady Coaler standout Alisha Johnson is excelling overseas as she just completed her first full club season on the Oxford City Club Soccer team in Oxford City, England.

"It's exciting to play for on a completely different side of the universe," said Johnson. "They live and breathe futbol over there."

Johnson, a 2013 graduate, was back in the U.S. for the holidays. In order to travel home she had go through a regiment a COVID-19 testing. Luckily, the University of Oxford, where is working on a master's degree in Medical Genetics and Genomics, was administering them.

"I did that testing before I came here (home)," added Johnson. "Somehow the U.S. has not banned U.K. flights but some of the other countries have. Since I'm a U.S. citizen I could come home."

Johnson was playing soccer for the university when a connection with the Oxford City Club team came along.

"Their university teams aren't like ours over here they aren't as good so you want to sign to play for a club team."

She found out from a young age that soccer was her sport and it was actually on a whim.

"I was six and I don't fully remember how it happened. I guess I just walked up to my parents one day and said I wanted to try soccer. After that, I just never stopped playing. I just loved it so much."

Johnson enjoyed soccer but was also a runner and excelled at both through high school so both sports stayed with her through college.

She set records at Coal City High School in soccer that still stand today, including career goals scored (37) and career assists (32), and was a solid runner on the track, she decided to do both at Concordia University.

She helped the 4x400 relay team break the old school record with a time of 4:02.11. Her javelin toss of 115'5" bettered a record set 18 years ago.

Johnson also holds records in soccer at Concordia, currently leading in career

assists (27) and season assists (12), fifth in career points (63) and 10th in career goals (18).

It's obvious she was a special athlete, excelling at both sports but soccer is more exciting to her so she continued on playing at the University of Oxford.

"I have always been a runner and I like running but I just find it really boring and I like the physicality behind playing soccer. You've got to get a little aggression out. Soccer is a sport people watch on TV and say, 'this is boring'. I watch it and see that it is constantly going. It's 45 minutes straight play and no stopping so it's exciting to me."

After playing a full club soccer season, Alisha says there are differences from playing on a university team and club team, the biggest being the quality of play and disparity of age.

"It's just a higher quality of expectations and it's nice to see more of the country. That's what I really like about it. Since it's a women's team, I'm playing with people who are 18-30 and have been doing this longer than I have."

On the women's team, Johnson plays winger and is doing well, scoring her first career goal during her debut.

They've had a full season but it has been far from normal.

"It's been really hard with COVID because if someone has been in contact with someone with COVID they have to isolate so it's been a lot of missing people but we've been doing okay."

Alisha said the thought of playing club soccer in a different country never crossed her mind. She thought by now she'd be starting her career, and she will some day, but for now she's bent on enjoying the years she has left with soccer.

"Oh I never thought I would go international that's for sure," Johnson commented. "I thought I was just play for a university, do my four years and get a grown-up job. I can't imagine that I'll be playing competitively for a whole lot longer. I want to get my career going but I'll hope to still play in recreational leagues and adult leagues until I can't walk. I want to be that 40-year-old running around ballin'."



File Photo

FORMER LADY COALER soccer player Alisha Johnson scores her first goal in her Oxford City Club soccer team debut during the 2020 women's soccer season in Oxford City, England.

Soccer dream team features top Lady Coalers

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City girls soccer program is the youngest program in the district with 13 years in existence when it was started by coach Mike Kostbade.

Kostbade coached from 2006-17, leading the Coalers to two regional titles (2012, 2013).

With input from readers and past players we've created a roster of Lady Coalers who would make up a potential dream team.

Alisha Johnson

Johnson was a four-year starter at wing for Kostbade who leads the Coalers all-time in career goals scored.

Alisha, who was the daughter of former soccer coach Beverly Johnson, is the top scorer in Lady Coaler history, putting up 37 goals. Johnson also led the team in assists with 32.

Johnson went on to compete in track and field at Concordia University in Chicago where she helped in setting a couple new school records.

She was on the 4x400 relay team that broke the old school record with a time of 4:02.11. Her javelin toss bettered a record set 18 years earlier at 115'5" which was 13 feet better than the previous record.

Johnson also played soccer at Concordia all four seasons.

Johnson scored 18 goals in her college career at Concordia and actually led her team in points and goals in her sophomore season. She netted eight goals, picked up her first career hat trick and led the team in points with 28. She also had 22 career assists.

Alisha earned the 'Golden Boot' award at Coal City one time when she scored 12 goals in the 2012 season.

The Golden Boot award was given to the top scorer per season.

Brynna Borgra

Borgra is second in school history with 32 goals. She also dished out nine career assists. She'd be one of the top defenders as she was in high school.

Borgra was on that list twice, knocking through seven goals in 2010 and 11 in 2011 to capture two 'Golden Boots'.

Borgra went on to play college ball at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, IA where she started eight games as a defender/midfielder.

Donjeta Shabani

Shabani, a 2013 graduate, was a leading scorer on the team with Johnson. Shabani scored 25 goals from 2011-13.

Shabani was also high on the assists list, setting up 13 other goals. Shabani was also a 'Golden Boot' winner in 2013, scoring 15 goals that season. That is the most ever and she is currently tied for the most in a season.

She would be right up there with Johnson starting in a forward role.

Teammate Sarah Sirovy said Johnson, Borgra, Shabani were very valuable to the regional championship team, especially for her as the team's goal keeper.

"All three of these girls made it easier on me because it's definitely easier defending a lead rather than trying to catch up," noted Sirovy.

All three had something that made them special that

"All three of them had very powerful legs. Alisha typically played wing so she had these crosses from outside the box that you could watch for days. Donjeta was more of a finisher. She was the one coming in to chip those crosses from Alisha and she would do just about anything she could to score. Both Donjeta and Brynna were very scrappy in the box which is a keeper's worst nightmare. Practicing against those girls only made me better. Alisha also had stamina like I've never seen before so she was kind of

all over the place. If she saw the defense needed help, she would swing back before you could blink."

But what made this team's bond even more special was the fact they had played soccer since they were young.

"Our class (2013) was really close on and off the field," added Sirovy. "Me, Alisha Johnson, Megan Jessen, Donjeta Shabani and Brynna Borgra, we had awesome chemistry playing together which I think is the biggest factor that contributed to our success."

Bridget Kauzlaric

Kauzlaric was a standout midfielder from 2014-18. Kauzlaric is third in scoring at Coal City, notching 31 career goals, 15 of which during the 2018 season that tied Shabani's single season record.

Kauzlaric would fit nicely behind Johnson and Shabani as all three were vicious attackers. Kauzlaric is tied with Missy Muser having the most goals in a game with four.

Bridget earned the 'Golden Boot' three consecutive seasons, scoring six goals in 2016, five in 2017 and 15 in 2018.

Kauzlaric went on to play college soccer at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point where she has compiled three goals and five assists in 30 career starts heading into her junior year.

Brittany Jezik

Jezik was another top pick. Jezik was a defender who could also score. She has the second most goals scored in Lady Coaler history with 28. The 2014 graduate scored 14 her senior year that helped the Coalers capture their second straight regional title (12-4).

Jezik took 120 career shots on goal and dished out 10 career assists. She'd be another great defender.

Sirovy, said Brittany Jezik was one of their top defenders. "She was an amazing defender," said Sirovy. "She was also a great attacker too so she wasn't always back with me."

Helen Onsen

Onsen would be another dream team player at forward. Onsen was in the tops in scoring during the 2019 season, capturing her first 'Golden Boot' with 11 goals and 19 overall.

Onsen also dished out three career assists so she did a little bit of everything.

Hannah Flint

Flint was one of the better midfielders. She'd be great depth. Flint scored nine career goals while also setting up another nine.

Lauren Phillips

A teammate of Flint and Onsen's was Phillips, who was another top scoring, notching

11 career goals. She'd also be much needed depth at the forward spot.

Phillips handed out eight career assists as well.

Ashley Jezik

Jezik, who played defender with the Coalers in 2016, would be a mainstay in Coal City's back four.

Jezik attended Saint Mary-of-the Woods College, where she was an All-Academic All-Conference athlete during the 2017-18 season.

Jezik scored four goals as a sophomore.

Meg Marlin

Marlin, who played for Kostbade in 2010 was an excellent defender, who only scored one goal in her career but didn't need to score because she was so strong defending the goal.

"Even though I only got two seasons with Meg Marlin, she was a defensive powerhouse," commented Sirovy. "Having a sweeper like her can truly change games, and I knew we had each other's backs."

Missy Muser

Muser was a forward and top goal scorer who played for the Coalers from 2007-09 under coach Kostbade. She would be another forward behind Johnson.

Muser scored the most goals in a game, shooting four through on May 11, 2009.

Muser scored 15 goals while at Coal City High School.

Toni Salazar

Salazar was an electrifying threat on the offensive side of the ball. She would be great in a forward or a midfield role. She was the team's career leader in assists with 10. She actually was the first to score a goal ever at Coal City.

Salazar went to Heartland Community College to play her college ball.

Ali Matusiak

Matusiak was a very good goal scorer for the Coalers in 2015 when she turned it on,

winning the 'Golden Boot' award during her senior season with 11 goals.

Matusiak scored 13 goals at Coal City, taking 81 career shots at goal. She also dished out eight career assists.

She would be a great midfielder as that's what she played at Coal City.

Megan Jessen

Jessen played with the big three during that 2013 regional championship season where the Coalers scored 49 goals. Jessen had seven of those and 11 lifetime with 10 career assists.

Sarah Sirovy

Now, that we have talked about the forwards and the defenders, it's time to mention goalies.

The first goalie that comes to mind is probably one of the best goalies in the area not just during her time but in the history of Interstate Eight soccer. That was the 2013 graduate Sarah Sirovy, who is the leader in goals saved.

Sirovy was the goalie on that regional championship soccer team in 2013. She was arguably the best Coal City goalie ever. She'd be the Mike Noffsinger on the girls dream team.

Sirovy saved the 12th most in state history with 609 saves from 2010-13 as she was a four year starter as well.

She also leads in career shutouts, securing 24 in her four years. She allowed the least most averaged goals per game throughout her career, allowing less than two (1.68). On the flip side of that, Sirovy knocked away over eight would-be goals per game during 73 career games.

Sarah had her best season her senior year when she saved 163 goals to lead the Coalers to their second straight regional championship in a 3-2 victory over Herscher. The Coalers made it to the sectional championship where they got bumped out by a Manteno

team that won state in Class 1A.

Britta Spelde

Spelde was another very good goalie for the Lady Coalers and actually holds a couple of her own records, including goals allowed per game and shutouts. Just her consistency alone would make her a great second option in goal.

In 2014, Spelde was the savior more times than not for a Lady Coaler team that won six games, letting up less than one goal per game (0.77) while securing 11 shutouts, both of which are still school records.

Spelde saved 123 goals in 2014, corraling almost eight per game.

Karissa Kaiser

Kaiser was the goalie for Kostbade during the 2007 season, leading them to an 8-8-1 season during their second official season. She'd be a nice third option in the goal. Kaiser snagged 246 would-be goals.

Kaiser was clutch in the goal, coming up big on May 1, 2007 during a game in which she grabbed 24 saves, still a record.

Kaiser was also a member of the Heartland Hawks soccer team with Salazar.

Brittney White

White only played in goal one year of varsity last season when the Coalers were on a good run, going 9-6-2. They were in the Herscher Regional pitted against a good Beecher team and fell 1-0 during the Regional Semifinal game.

It's a shame White only played one year as goalie on varsity because she saved 143 goals in her first and only season. She'd be great for depth in goal.

White played her college ball at St. Ambrose University, where she compiled 63 saves in her first and only season. She was named to the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic All-Conference team that year.

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