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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## Unit 1 stakeholders outline traits sought in next superintendent

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Over 400 individuals completed an on-line survey seeking community input to aid the Unit 1 Board of Education in its search for a new superintendent.

The Illinois Association of School Boards [IASB] administrated the survey that provided the Board of Education with a community and staff perspective of the qualities they want to see in the district's next leader.

The survey was open for about three weeks in the month of December, and 414 individuals—320 community members, 92 district staffers and two board members—submitted on-line responses to various questions, as well

as provided open feedback.

"We actually got a very good response given it was the holiday break," said Alan Molby, who has been assigned by the IASB to work with the district.

"It's not a scientific survey as I had indicated right up front, but it basically gives stakeholders a chance for some input into the process at the beginning and it gives you as a board a kind of reading of what stakeholders are thinking," Molby said in presenting the survey results at the board's Jan. 6 meeting.

He added, people like being asked for some input into this process.

The feedback, Molby said, can be helpful when it comes to developing a candidate profile and drafting questions to be posed to potential candi-

dates.

What the survey found is that community and staff members are on the same page when it comes to the characteristics they seek in a school leader.

The survey presented 15 characteristics and respondents were asked to select their top five, and those five were the traits/skills both groups say the next superintendent should have.

Molby reported the majority of respondents say the educational leaders should be one who, "promotes the success of every student by facilitating the development, articulation, and implementation and stewardship of a vision of learning that is shared by all stakeholders."

As well as one, who advocates, nurtures and sustains a school culture

and instructional program conducive to student learning and staff professional growth. Someone who insures the management of the organization, operation and resources for a safe efficient learning environment. A person who collaborates with faculty and community members, responds to diverse community interest and need, and mobilizes community resources.

And, what is likely the most important trait, an educational leader who acts with integrity, fairness and in an ethical manner.

"I have to tell you that fifth one is usually one of the top, because that is our expectation. You want someone who acts with integrity, fairness and in

SEE SUPERINTENDENT, PAGE 2

"IT'S NOT A SCIENTIFIC SURVEY AS I HAD INDICATED RIGHT UP FRONT, BUT IT BASICALLY GIVES STAKEHOLDERS A CHANCE FOR SOME INPUT INTO THE PROCESS AT THE BEGINNING AND IT GIVES YOU AS A BOARD A KIND OF READING OF WHAT STAKEHOLDERS ARE THINKING."

ALAN MOLBY  
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION  
OF SCHOOL BOARDS

## Coal City signs on to new crime fighting unit

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

In just under six weeks, Grundy County will implement its Pro Act Unit, a group focused on combating crime throughout the county.

The Pro Act Unit, led by the Grundy County Sheriff's Department, will comprise six police units from across Grundy County with assistance from the state's attorney's office.

The unit was conceived by Sheriff Ken Briley to combat the multi-jurisdictional trafficking of illegal narcotics, controlled substances, dangerous drugs, guns, illegal street gang activity and other crimes.

It was in response to crimes that crossed jurisdictional boundaries—burglaries, robberies and drug crimes—that brought the sheriff to develop the unit, according to Coal City Police Sgt. Chris Harseim.

The purpose of the unit, Harseim reports, will be to coordinate the enforcement of drug, gun and gang related laws without regard to jurisdictional boundaries within Grundy County and to cooperate with local, state, and federal enforcement agencies in cooperation with the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad [MANS].

Harseim said the unit will perform law enforcement operations on a county-wide level to combat crime, and assist member agencies on major crimes, routine assistance and special duties as assigned.

The unit will focus on investigating drug-related offenses and undercover work.

Members of the Pro Act Unit could handle the execution of warrants and surveillance as necessary.

Coal City has signed onto the new crime fighting unit along with Morris, Minooka, Seneca and Channahon police departments.

The team will be commanded by the sheriff's department with the chief deputy administering the Pro Act Unit with advice from the group's Board of Directors. A representative from each participating agency will be on the board.

A sergeant from the sheriff's office will conduct and coordinate investigations and assign duties to officers with manpower to the unit.

Harseim and Police Chief Tom Best first approached the Village Board in November 2020 with a request for the department to participate.

The mayor and trustees addressed several topics including liability, performance indicators, scheduling and contributions and benefits provided by non-police communities.

Any funds from items seized and forfeited under the Drug Asset Forfeiture Act will be distributed equally among the member agencies.

Officers assigned to work within the unit will use their department-issued equipment when participating in an investigation.

In December, with the questions answered, the Village Board was among the first to agree to participate.

Best told town trustees the unit is something that has been needed for a long time and he fully supports its establishment.

Harseim said the unit will begin operations March 1.



THE UNIT 1 School District is preparing a plan to address a return to full day instruction. Since the start of the 2020-2021 school year, the district has been operating a hybrid learning model that provides families with the option for in-person or remote learning with students in class four hours per day with everyone engaged in one hour of remote learning in the afternoon. It's unclear when the district will transition from the current half day schedule to full day instruction, so until then students like seventh grader Hunter Gill will continue to learn both at school and home.

## Unit 1 making a plan for full day instruction

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

By the end of the month, the Unit 1 School District will have a plan in place for the return to full day instruction. But the exact date as to when the district will transition from the current half day schedule to full is still unknown.

The transition is being developed for inclusion in the district's Return to School Plan and will outline the steps necessary to move back to full day instruction when the time comes.

"Just as with the full remote aspect of the plan, implementation of the transition to a full day instructional model will be based on local data and or the direction of public health professionals," said Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg.

District officials previously intended to revise the Return to School Plan to include an extended school day.

The plan currently in development will likely look at several options that

"EVENTUALLY WE ARE COMING BACK TO SCHOOL FULL DAY, THAT'S COMING. WE ARE NOT IN THIS SCHEDULE FOREVER."

DR. KENT BUGG  
UNIT 1 SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

would provide school staff with a smooth transition to a full class day.

Bugg reports the building level transition teams are expected to finalize and submit their reports to building principals this week.

Building level principals will then forward the reports to the superintendent for review and submission to the district level transitions committees—teaching and learning, health and wellness and facilities and operations—that will meet to consider the comments and recommendations.

As the superintendent has said on multiple occasions, the time will come when students and staff will be required to resume a normal school schedule.

"We don't know when that is going to happen, so we are not just going to sit back and wait, we are going to be ready," Bugg said.

Just as schools were forced to hastily move to remote learning last spring, the superintendent has said the transition to a full school day could come just as quickly.

Bugg and the Board of Education want to be ready for a smooth transition when the time comes.

Currently, students attending in-person or remotely, are in class four hours per day with everyone engaged in one hour of remote learning in the afternoon.

The hybrid learning model the district is currently operating under allows, by permission of the state, students to

SEE PLAN, PAGE 2



THE OATH OF office was administered to Dan Engelhardt [seated] during the Jan. 6 meeting of the Unit 1 Board of Education. Board president Ken P. Miller administered the oath moments after the board selected Engelhardt to fill the seat vacated in November 2020 by long-term member Jeff Emerson. Engelhardt will serve through the consolidated election in April.

## Unit 1 seats new board member

STAFF REPORT

Dan Engelhardt has been appointed as the newest member of the Unit 1 Board of Education.

Engelhardt, of Diamond, was seated by the board on Jan. 6 to fill the vacancy left by long-term member Jeff Emerson, who resigned November 2020.

Emerson recommended that his replacement be selected from those seeking a position in the April 6 election.

On the advice of Emerson, the Board extended an invitation to each person who had obtained a candidate petition to be interviewed for the appointment.

At a special meeting on Dec. 16, board members interviewed—during open session—Steve Rogers, Adam Brncich and Engelhardt.

"The Board appreciated the passion and commitment all three candidates displayed during the interviews," stated a release issued by the Board.

It was after significant discussion in two closed door talks that the Board chose Engelhardt.

Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg pointed out it was during those discussions, the Board expressed a desire to seat the candidate who best filled the role Emerson served for the Board.

"Mr. Engelhardt has mul-

multiple years of service as a law enforcement officer and serves on the school district's School Safety Committee. These experiences made him a logical choice to fulfill Mr. Emerson's role on the school district's Discipline Committee," Bugg said.

Engelhardt has also been involved in community youth athletics and has a son involved in high school athletics, which the board indicated made him a natural fit to assume the post Emerson had as the Board's representative on the District's Athletic Committee. He has also recently served as a community representative on the school district's COVID

Planning Citizens Advisory Committee.

The board had 60 days to fill the seat. Engelhardt will serve until the election in April.

His name will appear on the ballot along with those of Rogers, Brncich and incumbent members Shawn Hamilton, vice president and board secretary Mary Gill.

Three individuals will be elected to the board this spring and seated in May for a four-year term.



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# Region 2 on target for reduced mitigations

## STAFF REPORT

After nearly two months of enhanced COVID-19 mitigations, any region meeting the state's requirements can begin moving out of Tier 3 restrictions this week.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced last week that as of Jan. 15, regions will proceed to Tier 2 upon meeting the requirements.

"I'm cautiously optimistic as there are some early signs indicating that some regions have made real progress and won't reverse that progress this week or next," Pritzker said.

In order to transition from Tier 3 to Tier 2, a region must experience a positivity rate below 12% for three consecutive days. It must also have greater than 20% available intensive care unit and hospital bed availability and declining COVID hospitalizations for 7 of the 10 days.

Region 2—the North Central

Region that includes Grundy County—and Region 7 comprised of Will and Kankakee counties are on track to meet the requirements to make the transition to Tier 2.

Under Tier 2, the region's restaurants and bars would still be prohibited from indoor service. Occupancy for meetings and social events such as weddings, funerals and potlucks is limited to 10, while organized group activities are limited to 25 persons or 25% of overall capacity. And, casino and gaming facilities could reopen at 25% capacity and a closing time of 11 p.m.

The entire state has been under Tier 3 mitigations since Nov. 20 in an effort to combat a potential surge in cases around the holidays.

As of Monday, Region 2 had seen 11 consecutive days with a positivity rate under 12% [9.1% as of Jan. 8], 11 consecutive days with ICU and hospital bed availability over 20% and nine days of COVID patient hospitalization decreases.

Locally, Grundy County's seven-day rolling test positivity rate as of Jan. 8 was at 12.6%.

The Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] reported on Monday the state's current case count had reached 1,033,536 with 17,637 COVID-19 related deaths.

In Grundy County, the case count had reached 4,184 as of Jan. 11 with 33,740 total COVID tests administered since the start of the pandemic.

The county's death total reached 50 this week. Five deaths were reported in the past week—two females in their 70s, one male in this 70s and one male and one female in their 80s.

Grundy County public health administrator Michelle Pruim reports the health department is currently following 288 people who had recently tested positive and are in isolation.

The county remains on the state's COVID-19 warning list as it reached warning level in three of eight metrics—number of new cases, test posi-

tivity and tests performed—for the week of Dec. 27-Jan. 2.

Grundy remains in phase 1A of vaccination administration and that includes healthcare personnel and long-term care facilities. Pruim said it's unknown how long the county will remain in the first phase as it depends on quantity of vaccines received each week.

The health department learns from IDPH the maximum number of vaccines allocated for the county. Pruim said the county has requested the maximum number of doses and all have been administered within that week.

A vaccine interest survey is now available for persons that would qualify for the vaccine in phases 1A and 1B which includes residents age 65 years and older and essential workers. The survey can be accessed on the health department website at [www.grundyhealth.com](http://www.grundyhealth.com).

Health officials encourage residents to continue to wear a mask,

maintain distance and frequent hand washing.

Testing is available through local hospital systems based on available resources. Mobile testing units organized by IDPH are also available to residents regardless of symptoms and at no cost.

Mobile testing is available each day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd, Joliet and Kankakee County Health Department, 2390 W. Station St., Kankakee.

Also at Plainfield South High School, 7800 Caton Farm Rd., Plainfield from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan. 17 at Plainfield East High School, 1200 Naperville Rd., Plainfield and Lewis University, One University Parkway, Romeoville from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Results of IDPH testing is available 4-7 days after specimen collection.

*Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report.*



ALAN MOLBY, of the Illinois Association of School Boards, addressed the Unit 1 Board of Education last week to pass along the results of a community survey that sought public input on the search for a new school superintendent.

## Superintendent

an ethical manner," Molby said

Respondents indicated they are also seeking an individual with a willingness to innovate and encourage others to work on long and short terms goals, and maximize financial and human resources.

"I think a lot of those strengths are based on current leadership. The survey tells us, whether that's staff or community, they are looking for somebody with a lot of the same strengths that our current superintendent has," said board vice president Shawn Hamilton.

It was further noted, that only about 1/3 of the respondents were looking for an individual with prior superintendent experience, but 2/3 want the school's leaders to live within the district's boundaries.

"Someone in the comment section said it perfectly, 'when I get hit by a tornado, I want the superintendent to get by a tornado as well. We experienced that in our community and that's an outstanding representation of how we're all in this together,'" Hamilton said.

Molby added the comment is a good explanation what stakeholders what to see and that's someone who is going to go through the good and bad along with them.

He further noted the survey responses, "were very supportive of you as a board and the process ahead, and they were very supportive of Dr. Bugg and the challenge you have as far as the superintendent process and financial ramification that you might be dealing with."

Now that the survey has been completed and the results tabulated, Molby said the board needs to determine its next steps.

Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg is set to retire in 17 months, his departure from the district set for the close of the 2021-2022 school year.

The IASB's process is take the information obtained through the survey and board member input to develop a applicant brochure. The document developed in a way to provide potential candidates with an overview of the district and community, as well as the expectations of a new school leader. The brochure would further outline the documents necessary for submitting a application, such as resume, letters of recommendation and licensing documents.

Molby left the meeting with some questions that were to be addressed by the board during a closed session discussion at the end of the public meeting. The board did enter into closed session, but did not take any action upon its return.

At this point, it is unclear when the board will move forward to formally announce the pending vacancy, accept applications and select Bugg successor.

# Unit 1 intervenes in tax objections

## STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 Board of Education has directed the school district attorney to intervene on its behalf in a series of property tax objection cases.

Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg reported that the district received word from the Grundy County Assessor's Office of three property tax objections filed with the county's Board of Review, each seeking a reduction in assessment of \$100,000 or more.

Whitt Law will intervene in the objections seeking a fair and accurate assessment of the properties.

According to Bugg the objections were filed by the owners of a commercial property and two apartment complexes.

The Board of Review is currently reviewing the 2020 assessment complaints.

In other matters from the board's Jan. 6 meeting:

- Employee transfers were approved, moving temporary custodian Donna Guinn from the intermediate school to the early childhood center and temporary custodian Jeremy Wolles from the early childhood center to the intermediate school.

- Leave requests were approved for kindergarten special education teacher Aimee Wren, eighth grade language arts teacher Melanie Urquiza, special education teacher Angela Phillips, special edu-

cation aide Lisa Hootselle, seventh grade language arts teacher Michelle Sobieck, special education teacher Jordan Alberico, high school math teacher Cathy Lyons, and pre-kindergarten teacher Britt Harseim.

- At the recommendation of high school principal Chris Spencer, the board approved Colin Keppner and Elise Hackett as assistant speech coaches.

- The board held a second reading on 39 revised board policies including facility management, the school calendar, curriculum development and student records. The board is slated to have its third and final reading on the policies, with approval, during the February meeting.

- In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, it was announced the superintendent has been in conversations with the Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] and union officials on a proposed calendar for consideration by the board.

- Prior to February 1 of each year, the district is required to post a certified employee and educational support staff seniority list. The list indicated the length of employment in the district as of June of that year, and the areas those educators are certified to teach. The list has been posted for review.

- Jason Smith, the district chief school business official, was once again appointed as the district's Freedom of Information Act [FOIA] and Open Meetings Act [OMA] officer for calendar

year 2021.

- Renewed membership in the Three Rivers Education Partnership was approved with an annual dues payment of \$650. The organization provides the district with programs that address critical issues facing education.

- A \$6,000 donation from the Thomas P. Jeschke Memorial was accepted by the board. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the early childhood center physical education program.

- Board members approved a \$3,760.73 school site donation from Grundy County.

- It was announced the annual Grundy County summer internship program will provide 22 positions within 14 local companies. The internships are open to high school students/graduates in a variety of fields such as human resources, marketing and engineering among others.

"Considering the COVID issue right now we are very, very pleased that these businesses are coming through with opportunities," Bugg said.

"It's a great way to get our kids out and get them into businesses. It's great for the kids," board president Ken P. Miller said.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 3, with a study session slated for Jan. 27. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in the district's administration center.

# Representative Haas to host new bill roundtable

State Representative Jackie Haas [R—Kankakee] invites constituents to participate in a roundtable forum before the General Assembly convenes for the spring session.

"As a new representative, it is important to me that the people of the 79th District have a voice in their state capitol. The bills I draft should be relevant to the interests and well-being of my constituents," Haas stated. "I am looking forward to hearing their suggestions."

The roundtable will be Wednesday, Jan. 20 starting at 4:30 p.m. at Haas' District Office, 370 E. Court St. in Kankakee and will be by appointment only. Constituents can make appointments at [RepHaas.com](http://RepHaas.com).

Haas will be available to listen to constituent ideas to introduce new legislation benefiting the 79th District and Illinois for the spring legislative session. There will be an online suggestion box open to constituents who cannot attend the event.

The 79th District includes portions of Coal City and Diamond, along with Braceville, Gardner and South Wilmington.

## Plan

attend remotely. However, Bugg expected that once the state moves to Phase 5 of the Restore Illinois Plan the state will no longer recognize remote learning and the option will no longer be available to families.

Thus, all students will be

required to attend in-person, and that will result in changes to the daily operations of the district.

"Eventually we are coming back to school full day, that's coming. We are not in this schedule forever," the superintendent said.

Again, it is unclear when a transition will be made back to full-day instruction.

"Right now, we do not have a date set for a return to full day instruction, and there is a chance that we won't even get a chance to set our own date as it could be set by the state, just like it was when we

# Coal City Library host winter reading program

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), Mad Sanitizers (K-5th grade) and Quarant-Teens (6th-12th grade) 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.

Adult Winter Reading Challenge. Calling all Adult CCPLD library cardholders to "Quarantine and Chill" with us this winter. From Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 log your reading and complete activities through the Beanstack app and you will automatically be entered into the grand prize drawing. Prize basket includes Quarantine Essentials and a \$25 gift card to a local business of your choice. Complete the program by earning 4 badges to receive a CCPLD Roll-up Blanket. Earn more chances for a grand prize by earning more badges.

School document by Feb. 1.

The district has also addressed the possibility of adding instructional time to the plan, but stopped short of moving forward with its plan when a resurgence of the COVID-19 virus hit in the fall.

"What we have to consider locally is prior to Phase 5, does our [COVID] data get us to a point where we can think about getting our kids back for a longer period of time," Bugg said, noting when the time comes the district will be ready.

## Coal Bin to dispose of property

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, a sale or other disposition of property COAL BIN STORAGE, INC. will be held online at [www.BID13.com](http://www.BID13.com), auction ending on January 27, 2021, 1 p.m. to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, KAREN MONTTOYA, 8060 E. Reed Rd., Coal City, IL 60416, Unit F14, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$239.85, plus attorney fees and costs.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 13 and 20, 2021.

## Hometown Storage to dispose of property

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Notice of Lien**  
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.  
Tenant: Alyssa Boyer, 450 W. Anndon Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408., Unit 316.  
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Jan. 30, 2021 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 13 and 20, 2021.

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Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.  
Tenant: J Crawford, 408 S. East St., Gardner, IL 60424., Unit G-47.  
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Jan. 30, 2021 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 13 and 20, 2021.

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

## 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.

## 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.



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E-mail: News & News Photos: [news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)  
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor



# Unit 1 Students of the Week



LOGAN HOUSMAN  
Middle School



MADISON MCGRATH  
Middle School



JJ RIVERA  
Middle School



MORGAN SCHNUCKEL  
Intermediate School



JAKE MUNSTERMAN  
Intermediate School



AUDRINA NUGENT  
Intermediate School



EMMA D'ORAZIO  
Intermediate School



TRENT RUSSELL  
Elementary School



REAGAN JESCHKE  
Elementary School



KENNEDY MURPHEY  
Elementary School



CHARLES EDEN  
Elementary School



CAROLINE CHAPMAN  
Elementary School



BRAYDEN BRNCICH  
Elementary School



GRACE FERENZI  
Elementary School



EMMA NADING  
Elementary School



TUCKER NOWICKI  
Elementary School



LAYNE MOTZNY  
Elementary School



LILA MALLOY  
Elementary School



KENNEDY LOUGHRAN  
Elementary School

# Majority of students are back in class

## STAFF REPORT

Unit 1 School District students began the second semester with in-person learning last week with over 80% in attendance.

In his weekly COVID-19 report to parents and guardians issued Jan. 8, Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg reported a majority of student had returned to the classroom following the two-week winter break.

"Prior to the winter break, we experienced a rapid increase in the number of students registered for full remote learning. But when we started school again this week, we saw those numbers decrease rapidly," Bugg said.

Of the 2,132 students enrolled in the district, 14.49% have selected full remote learning. The other 1,823 students are attending in-person.

"Although we respect and understand the individual situations of the families, we are always excited to have our students learning in front of their teachers," Bugg said.

At the start of the semester, the early childhood center's enrollment was 402 with 86.8% attending in-person and 13.2% participating remotely.

Among the elementary school's 281 students, 89.3% are in-person learners and 10.7% remote, and 85.4% of the intermediate school's 323 students are in-person with the remaining 14.6% engaging remotely.

The middle and high schools have the largest number of remote learners at 16.6% and 15.4%, respectively. At the middle school 83.4% or 396 of the 475 enrolled are attending class in-person and of the 651 high schoolers, 551 are in-person learners.

The information was included in the report that provides weekly data on the number of COVID-19 cases, including the number of stu-

dents and staff quarantined but not having tested positive for the virus.

In the 14 days prior to the winter break—Dec. 10-23—the district had four reported student cases and three [certified] staff cases. In the 14-day period between Dec. 26 and Jan. 8 the district reported four student cases—one each at the elementary and high schools and two at the middle school—and two [support] staff cases both at the early childhood center.

As for those quarantined the two days prior to the break the daily average was 102.5 students and six staff members across the district. Last week, the student average was 47.4 and staff was four.

"Our local data continues to show that the implemented COVID mitigation strategies in our Return to School Plan have proven effective. Although the COVID data across the county is improving, our school district data consistently shows a much lower percentage of positive cases among our students and staff," Bugg said.

The superintendent noted the district continues to ask for parent assistance in symptom checking their children each day before school and keeping them home if they experience any COVID-19 related symptoms.

"Your diligence in symptom checks is vital to our ability to continue offering valuable in-person instruction for our students," Bugg stated in the correspondence, adding, "As we begin the second semester, please keep reinforcing to your children the importance of face-masks outside of school, washing their hands, and social distancing. By reinforcing proper mitigation strategies outside of school, we enhance our ability to continue offering the face-to-face instructional opportunities that we believe are invaluable to the academic and social/emotional health of our students."

## Borgstrom named to dean's list

Daniel Borgstrom, of Morris, has been named to the dean's list at the University of Evansville for the fall 2020 semester. Borgstrom is majoring in logistics and supply chain management at the Indiana university.

To merit the honor of being placed on the dean's list each semester, a student must have carried a full academic load of 12 hours or more and have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

### 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 efile, 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](mailto:grundylaw@gmail.com)  
Published in the Coal City Courant  
on Jan. 6, 13 and 20, 2021.

### Attorney Black files Martin estate claim notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021P1

In the Matter of the Estate of  
William V. Martin,  
Deceased

#### CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of William V. Martin. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Mary O'Connor, 1715 Little Willow, Morris, Illinois 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.

MARY O'CONNOR  
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

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 Jan. 13, 20 and 27, 2021.

### Attorney Black files Craig estate claim notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 3

In the Matter of the Estate of  
Samuel F. Craig,  
Deceased

#### CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Samuel F. Craig. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Stephen Craig, 13579 Howison, DeKalb, Illinois 60415, whose attorney is DONALD F. 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 CRAIG  
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Donald F. Black  
Black & Black Lawyers  
201 Liberty Street  
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Morris, IL 60450  
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant  
on Jan. 13, 20 and 27, 2021..



Courtesy photos by Bill Bomba  
ST. JUVIN POST 1336 junior vice commander Jim Richards presented Berkot's Super Foods customer service manager Elizabeth Lovell with their fifth Buddy Poppy Partner Award. Lovell organizes and oversees the Coal City store's Buddy Poppy events on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. On hand for the presentation were [back, from left]: post commander James "Hoppy" Phillips, adjutant/quartermaster Keith Roseland, and life member Jack Micetich.

## VFW honors Buddy Poppy partners

Members of St. Juvn Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars of Coal City, conducted the annual Veteran's Day poppy event on Nov. 14 in cooperation with their Buddy Poppy partners—MinitMarts, Whitmore Ace Hardware and new partner Coal City Pharmacy, along with Casey's and Dollar General in Diamond.

Berkot's Super Foods conducts Buddy Poppy events Memorial Day week and Veteran's Day week where poppies are offered to customers in store.

Without the cooperation of local businesses, fundraising for veterans services and programs such as Patriot's Pen and Voice of

Democracy offered in Coal City's middle and high schools would not be possible.

Donations from the poppy events can only be used for direct services to veterans or patriotic programs.

St. Juvn utilizes the funds it collects for its premiere program—Blankets for Vets. The program provides personalized, service logo tapestry throws to local veterans. The program started in 2013 and Post 1336 has distributed nearly 500 of these symbols of the veteran's service to a grateful nation representing about \$27,500 raised from the generous donation from the community.



IN RECOGNITION OF support for the Buddy Poppy program, an award was presented to Dollar General by St. Juvn Post 1336 life member Jack Micetich to store lead manager Abby Hess.

## Virtual storytime with Chicago Wolves mascot, Skates

Skates, the Chicago Wolves mascot and a representative of the hockey organization will be reading the book "The Magic Hockey Stick" with the Coal City Public Library on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. There will be a question and answer session afterwards with Skates.

Registration through the Coal City Public Library District is required to receive the Zoom link. Go to the website at [ccpld.org](http://ccpld.org) and register through events or stop in or call the library at 815-634-4552.

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# Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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## Vaccine will flow

SHADOW LAKES— Vaccine, Vaccine...where is the vaccine! Not to worry, on Jan. 20, China Joe will step out on the portico of the White House, and if he knows where he is; raise his arm, and announce to the people of this county, "Let the vaccine flow!" and the vaccine will flow. Always, Margot Lane

## Signs of TDS

SHADOW LAKES— Nice rant Guy Jones but you forgot that Trump shot JFK, faked the moon landing and was behind 9 11. I now understand Trump Derangement Syndrome. Eddie

## Rescuing the arts

COAL CITY—Read for many hard-hit arts institutions, 2020 ended on a hopeful note when Congress passed a \$900 billion stimulus bill that included \$15 billion in aid for theaters, movie houses, live music venues and museums. Hundreds of venues have closed for good and caused \$33 billion decline in live music industry alone. Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress responded by authorizing the largest government rescue of the arts in U.S. history. Our tax dollars at work.

## Time to move on

SHADOW LAKES—Jan. 6, 2021 will go down in history as one of the saddest days in our country. In my lifetime, this is the closest I have ever seen this country come to a coup, something that only happens in countries run by dictatorships. Our constitution has legal avenues that allows to legally challenge the results of an election. Trump had and took advantage of every possible way to challenge the results of the election, even the Supreme Court, where six out of the nine judges are Republicans (three appointed by Trump) rejected Trump's claims of fraud. I'm sorry to say to Trump supporters that the election is over and that it's time to move on.

## Domestic terrorism

CUSTER PARK—The terrorists committing deadly insurrection at the Capitol were handled with kid gloves. They would have been blown away instantly if they were black or brown. Let's call what happened in Washington for what it is, deadly white domestic terrorism. Gary W.

## Prosecute each one

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching on TV the insurgents marching into our U.S. Capitol breaking down doors and windows, desecrating the most important symbol of democracy in our country. Even though they were enticed by a Republican president, I refuse to believe that those people represent the Republican Party. I refuse to believe that Republicans are okay with that. Every American should be demanding that every one of those participants are found, arrested and prosecuted.

## What really matters

COAL CITY—2020 was a bad year but not the worst. It's not even a contender. 1919 after World War I killed 20 million and devastated Europe. When the death toll of the Spanish flu epidemic reached 50 million or 1968 when Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were gunned down. A losing war in Vietnam divided our nation. The Hong Kong flu killed a million. Or any year of the Civil War or the deadliest months of the Holocaust. When it comes down to suffering over the ages we haven't seen nothing! Maybe we're learning to value what really matters.

## Total embarrassment

WILMINGTON—The riot in D.C. on Jan. 6 is an embarrassment to our country. This was not instigated by George Soros but by our self-ish president. All he cares about is himself and his golf game. President Bush and President Obama are saints compared to him.

## Honoring his oath

SHADOW LAKES—Adam Kinzinger stated that he was a Republican Congressman and a Air Force officer. But he does not appear to be honoring any oath he took either as an officer or a Congressman. The oath he took in both places were clear but his memory seems to be conveniently lost since all he does is go along with everything the Democrat party wants to do with this country. He will still collect his salary like all public servants. Maybe we should put him into the Democrat party in the same category as a General that wanted to turn over West Point into England during the American Revolution. So what should we call these people with no scruples, and are more willing to destroy American citizens' lives by rejecting the very oath that they took to protect the sovereignty of this nation so they can fill their wallets at the taxpayers' expense?

## A deathly toll

COAL CITY—Read 90,000 Americans died of drug overdoses between, June 2019 and May 2020, the highest 12- month total in history. Isolation, stress and depression caused by the pandemic have hit those with substance use disorder very hard. According to the CDC director, our state legalized marijuana use. "SAD" watch those numbers go up.

## Feeling older

SHADOW LAKES—Next time you go into a bar the sign over the bar will say you must be born in 2000 or earlier to drink here. That make you feel old? Eddie

## Mob rule

WILMINGTON—What is Trumpism? It's mob rule patterned after dictatorships throughout the world. It's property damage to the house of the people and it's death wrought by Trump's minions. Sound-off writers who complained last summer about property damage from protesters of George Floyd's horrific death must now eat their words. Sound-off writers who falsely accuse others of being communists and socialists must wear the label of fascists and anarchists. When Trump insulted third-world countries as 'blankety-blank', we didn't realize our country itself would soon earn the 'blankety-blank' title thanks to Trump's acts of sedition. Trump considers himself above the law and through insurrection

turned our democracy into chaotic autocracy, inciting riots that killed at least 4 people at Capitol Hill. Trumpism is the total humiliation of our nation. Irene D.

## Lame duck losers

WILMINGTON—It is the morning of Jan. 7, and I am flipping around the various news channels and C-Span watching how the events at the Capitol are being covered. The right is equating this terrorist attack with Black Lives Matter protests. Let's be clear the BLM protests were about the murder of unarmed black people by police and racism. This assault on our Capitol was a tantrum rooted on white privilege and fomented by the lame duck loser in the white house. These people chant about taking their country back but that is a false construct. Trump has never gotten near 50 percent approval ratings so the majority of this country can claim ownership, not these terrorist that don't understand the constitution or how democracy works. The right are also blaming Antifa but not the Proud Boys. Antifa is short for anti fascist so I guess that makes me Antifa though I don't have a membership card. This attack on Congress was planned in advance so when Trump told the Proud Boys to stand by they started getting ready for insurrection. And with no sense of irony they flew hundreds of American flags. Willful ignorance and stupidity are dangerous to our Democracy. Penny Lane

## Bunch of nonsense

COAL CITY—The Democrats have passed a new law to have gender neutral language in Congress. This type of waist of taxpayer funds shows that the Democrat control finds that correcting someone's speech is more important than using the finances to help the homeless and people who have lost their businesses and homes because of the lock downs by the Democrat politicians. You are no longer allowed to say: Husband or wife, but spouse; Mother in law and father in law, but parent in law; and you can't say brother or sister, rather sibling. The list goes on. Someone please explain why these people in congress do not have to have psychological examinations since they would rather prefer to discuss stupidity rather than to perform their duties as public servants that work for the American citizens. Why do they get paid for this type of nonsense?

## No TVs looted

SHADOW LAKES—Watching these protests in Washington D.C., I find it very interesting that they're reporting violent protests by Trump supporters. But yet when Antifa and BLM protested, the news reporters with burning buildings standing in the background reported this as peaceful protests. At least the Trump supporters weren't seen stealing TVs, gym shoes, clothing and anything else they could get their hands on like BLM and Antifa. I would have to say that the media is by all means very biased. And with BLM and Antifa more than one person died and the police were ordered to stand down. This time the police were there. Is this a little hypocritical? Dan Hill

## Goon squad

COAL CITY—It's no surprise that President Trump incited his supporters to riot, promising them he was leading the march to Capitol Hill only to disappear like the coward that he is. The next day Trump further betrayed his followers by announcing a lame apology written by his staff showing that the only thing more befuddled than Trump are his loony-tune followers who are plug-ugly punks. Watching footage of Trump's Neanderthals storming through the Capitol exposes Trump for the thug that he is as leader of a goon squad. Give Trump enough rope, he hangs himself every time. One week remains of Trump's presidency and that is a week too long.

Kurt K.

## The world laughs

BRAIDWOOD—After viewing the vicious, grunting marauders that pillaged our nation's Capitol, I feel nothing but disgust for the depraved blackguards, perverse miscreants, murderous villains and degenerate scoundrels who committed acts of insurrection against our nation. My question is, how do white people have the unmitigated gall to criticize the Black Lives Matter movement when white supremacist groups have persistently planned acts of violence such as the kidnapping of the Michigan governor and now followed through with desecration of the sacred house of the people? Black people have been brought to this country against their will shortly after the first colonists arrived and labored to build this country only to suffer exploitation, degradation and disenfranchisement from that day to this at the hands of the white establishment. But Trump and his sycophants are living in the past as this practice has long been universally rejected. The rest of the world is way ahead of us and laughing their heads off.

Renee K.

## Still closed to public

BRAIDWOOD—I'd like to know the reason why the lobby at city hall has been closed since March of last year. We can go to big box stores, we can go to the gym, we can go to grocery stores, we can go to church and we can even attend city council meetings. I see no good reason why we cannot go into our own city hall during regular business hours to not only conduct business, but to also look at the table of useful information that, in the past, has been available there. It's not like there are 50 people a day that filter through there. When things are put on display for the public to view like contracts, budgets and the levy, we have to go to the window and ask to see them and hope that someone doesn't pull up behind you before you're done looking. My guess is that the city administrator likes it this way so that he doesn't have to deal with the public. And while we're at it, why hasn't he or the mayor resumed the Pace Bus service? I understand that when they shut down the service everything was on lock-down and there was nowhere to go, but that certainly isn't the case anymore. Again, another amenity that they would rather not deal with.

## The build up

WILMINGTON—The undermining of

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

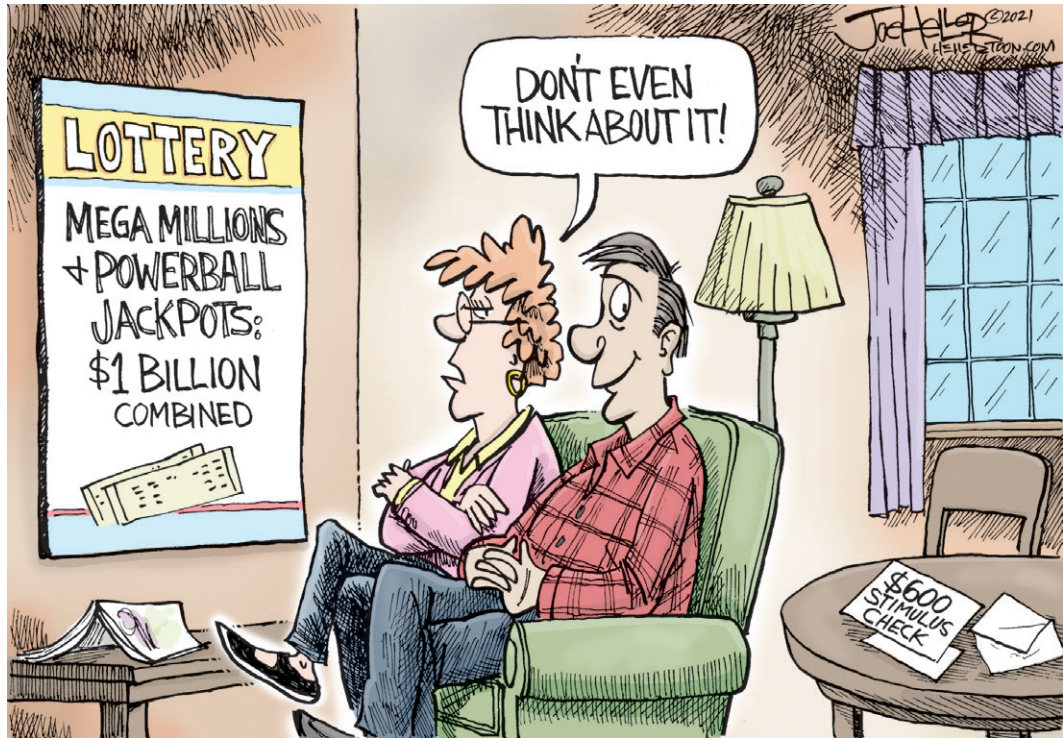
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election integrity did not start with President Trump. After Trump's victory in 2016, Democrats spent four years loudly claiming Russian President Putin had installed a puppet (Trump) in the oval office. Then there were three years of attempting to impeach our president. Unending warfare in Washington, D.C. finally erupted into a real terror when Congress sought to certify the presidential Biden win. Both Republicans and Democrats, as well as the national media, were ranting for months about the election results. Why should anyone be surprised or shocked about what went on in Washington, D.C.? Welcome to the new normal, 74 million of us supported President Trump and still do.

## Thugs

WILMINGTON—The bloody shock of insurrection is as severe as 9/11 because the deadly white enemy from within is more despicable than the foreign brown enemy from without which struck our nation on that infamous day in 2001. The white offenders live down the street, within our families and among our friends but nevertheless are not to be tolerated. These are thugs who are willing to shed blood for the sake of a pathological liar with no moral compass who, by some freak of politics, happens to be our president. They are members of the cult of hatred and ignorance that values race and privilege alone. Every rider on the Trump bus accepts the deception from their craven leader, a sick and dangerous man, a coward who cares only about power, who is incapable of absorbing knowledge, who has blood on his hands and who cares only about his own precious hide. Revolutionary? Trump's empty head offers nothing, his greedy heart devours his followers. Brad F.

## An extra week

BRAIDWOOD—Could someone at city hall give an update as to when Ultimate Rides will have their building in place? The finance commissioner was crucified when he asked to have an extra week to look into the finances of this company before voting yes on this matter. He specifically said that he thought bringing this business to town was a good idea. But he requested a week to get some things straightened out and everyone threw a fit. The business owner said he needed to know immediately because his building was coming and he already had his loan and he needed to get everything done as soon as possible. Well, here we are in 2021 and still no building. Looks like the finance commissioner should have been given the extra week he asked for. So, could the city give us an update?

## Six months

WILMINGTON—President Donald Trump is by far the most popular, as well as the most unpopular, political leader in the country and the only one for whom many thousands would stand for hours in the cold and rain for an opportunity to hear him in person. Give it six months of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and working class America will wish Donald Trump was back.

## Never admit it

WILMINGTON—Some minions have learned their lessons well from their fearless leader. Never admit mistakes, shift blame and take no responsibility for your crimes. Part of being a conservative is hypocrisy and Bizarro spoken. Bizarro was an enemy of Superman who spoke in opposites. An example would be when they claimed to love America they would hate more than half of us. Remember, Trump may have won the popular vote twice but the liberals are playing the victim card but turn around and blame the media, Hollywood, the universities and now Big Tech for their failure to win hearts and minds. First, Fox News claims they are number one in news, Rush Limbaugh is number one in Talk Radio. In fact the top 10 radio talkers are conservatives except for Tom Hartman at number 10. He's a progressive but can be heard locally on WCPT out of Chicago. Other than the New York Times and the Washington Post, most media is conservative. I canceled the Kankakee Journal years ago over their editorial policies in columnists like Michelle Malkin and others. Same with the Joliet Herald. They hate universities because young people are exposed to new ideas and tend to conflict with old beliefs and as a rule conservatives resist change. Their ideas and policies are like religion to them never to be questioned or replaced. As far as Hollywood goes, whatever that means, why don't rich conservatives create their own movies and TV shows and let the market decide? No, it's easier and cheaper to scream censorship and all that applies to Big Tech too so they continue to claim people are out to silence them instead of admitting they have been heard and rejected. And the song says Go eat some worms. Penny Lane

## Undo America

WILMINGTON—President Joe Biden was

first elected to public office at age 27. He's spent all but four of the last 48 years on the public payroll. He has already told us he will undo all the changes the Trump administration has made to US immigration policy and cease building the border wall on day one. He'll be taking in 125,000 refugees a year and changing the asylum process. His plan is to please the left wing base of the Democrat Party, the Elizabeth Warrens, Bernie Sanders, Rep. Acasio Cortez. He will rejoin Paris climate change accord, rejoin World Health organization, end the Keystone XL pipeline which would send Canadian oil from Alberta to Texas. He promises a new ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines as well as stiff federal tax on guns and ammunition and on and on. Happy New Year.

## More than one

WILMINGTON—Apparently we are going to need more than one basket for the deplorable.

## Starts with censorship

BRAIDWOOD—I thought Adolph Hitler was dead, but from what I can see, he's not. Conservatives are now banned from Twitter and Facebook. President Trump is banned from both as well. They do not want any Conservatives to have any rights. And now Pelosi wants to impeach Trump so he can never come back again? I'll tell you, this is exactly like Nazi Germany started. Believe me, I have watched and read the history. You people better be careful because I never thought I would see this in my lifetime. But I knew it was coming and unfortunately it's here.

## Reading deeper

COAL CITY—This is regarding textualism and originalism. Why do people have to read deeper than what the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights read? Why do they try to confuse it? It reminds me of a police officer that stopped a man and the officer walked up to the car, asked for the man's license and the man asked "what did I do?" The officer told him he didn't stop for the stop sign. So the officer asked the man to step out of the car and the man said "well, I almost came to a complete stop." So the officer took out his Billy club and started beating on the man. When the man was on the ground he started yelling stop, stop, stop and the officer said "shall I stop or just slow down?" What is the problem with people not understanding the English language?

## Send him your check

WILMINGTON—Hey Dan, you can send your check to the Trump legal defense fund.

## Made millions

WILMINGTON—Trump supporters brag that he didn't take a salary but ignore the millions he made violating the emoluments clause.

## After four years

WILMINGTON—After four years of Trump pitting Americans against each other the Republicans want the Dems and Biden to get over it and unite the country. To quote the Dixie Chicks, "I'm not ready to make nice."

## Trump blew it

BRAIDWOOD—I would like to throw my two cents in about our illustrious president. Let me just say Trump should have a new name, Tritler, a combination of Trump/Hitler. He knew about the pandemic but yet sat on it. Want to know why? Because he wanted to swoop in on his white horse and save the day to clinch his re-election, but guess what? It blew up in his face. Any good that he did do has come unraveled at the seam. Case in point, what happened at the Capital fiasco where people died needlessly. The man is the Anti-Christ. He is a malignant, narcissistic tumor on this country and he needs to be removed. GBA

## Show some pride

WILMINGTON—Hey Proud Boys, quit blaming Black Lives Matter and Antifa for your handiwork. Show some pride boys.

## Washington frenzy

WILMINGTON—There is a false equivalency being promoted on Fox News and other conservative media comparing the Black Lives Matter protests to the Right Wing terrorism last week. Yes, there was rioting and looting that happened but Black Lives Matter was protesting being murdered by police. Trumps edition and insurrection mob was attempting to murder. If you think that is not true explain that guy in the Capitol with a belt full of zip ties. Explain the Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs and guns. They set up a gallows and screamed hang Mike Pence. Trump, Trump Jr. and Rudy worked this angry mob into a frenzy and turned them loose on the capitol. They killed a cop. Putin must be so proud boys. So much for the law and order president.



# Madigan suspends speaker campaign

Challenges opponents to find 60 votes to lead Dems in 102nd General Assembly

BY JERRY NOWICKI  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – House Speaker Michael Madigan announced Monday he would suspend his campaign for House Speaker of the 102nd General Assembly, but his statement made clear he was not withdrawing from the race.

“This is not a withdrawal. I have suspended my campaign for speaker,” Madigan said in a statement. “As I have said many times in the past, I have always put the best interest of the House Democratic Caucus and our members first. The House Democratic Caucus can work to find someone, other than me, to get 60 votes for Speaker.”

The last sentence of the brief statement is indicative of the uphill battle Madigan’s challengers will have to climb – they will need 60 votes, or 42 more than any challenger appeared to have Sunday night.

The House speaker is chosen by House members, and can receive both Republican and Democratic votes. There are 73 Democrats and 45 Republicans who will be seated in the 102nd General Assembly.

Traditionally, however, a majority party speaker receives votes from members of their own party.

In the first closed-door unofficial ballot conducted between Democrats in a private room at the Bank of Springfield Center on Sunday night, Madigan received 51 votes, according to several reports confirmed by Capitol News Illinois.

The speaker also has the endorsement of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus – two key voting blocs that make up the majority of his support, although some individual members of those caucuses have said they would not vote for Madigan.

The second leading vote-getter in the closed-door meeting was Representative Ann Williams, D-Chicago, who had just 18 votes. Representative Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, had three votes. Representative Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, dropped out of the race before the vote, giving her support to

Williams.

The official vote does not happen until Wednesday, when the 102nd General Assembly is scheduled to convene, seating new and reelected members.

Until then, lawmakers are set to consider a flurry of transformative legislation backed by the Black Caucus during the final two days of the 101st General Assembly – measures that have also received Madigan’s blessing.

Over the first three days of session, the discussions of who will be the next speaker have punctuated long days of policy-oriented discussion.

Capitol News Illinois was awaiting callbacks from several lawmakers Monday afternoon to discuss the impact of Madigan’s announcement, but committee hearings were ongoing at the Bank of Springfield Center which is hosting the House session amid the pandemic.

A House source said there would likely be another vote for speaker Monday evening.

“With 36 hours left before the swearing-in of a new General Assembly, Michael Madigan continues to create uncertainty and misdirection,” House Minority Leader Jim

Durkin, R-Western Springs, said. “His latest statement about suspending his bid for speaker, but not withdrawing, is typical of his style and appears to be another ploy or a head fake. For the sake of the institution, his caucus must demand that he be direct and honest about his intentions – in or out.”

Madigan’s announcement could also pave the way for more Democratic members to announce their bids for the speakership.

Representative Kelly Cassidy, a Chicago Democrat who voted present in the first round of voting and has pledged not to support Madigan, issued a statement Monday as well.

“This is truly a historic moment for our caucus and our state. Speaker Madigan’s decision to suspend his campaign is an opportunity for us to come together as Democrats and carve a new path forward,” Cassidy said. “Our caucus’ growing diversity is our strength, and we need to respect that as we decide what our leadership team looks like going forward. I anticipate that this debate will be robust and impassioned, but in the end, we are all Democrats, and we will come together to turn the page and fight for new solutions for the people of Illinois.”

She added the news “came as a shock to a lot of the caucus,” noting she expects the race “will change dramatically as a result,” but she stopped short of announcing a candidacy of her own.

“This is a time to hear what all of our colleagues have to say about their visions for a new leadership team. I have nothing to announce right now, but will keep everyone apprised if that should change,” Cassidy said.

Gov. JB Pritzker addressed Madigan’s statement during an unrelated news conference Monday afternoon in his office at the Capitol.

“As I have said many times, I will work with whoever the members of the House of Representatives elect as their speaker,” he said. “Choosing the speaker is the sole responsibility of those representatives, and it is clear that the members are taking their choices seriously.”

He said the last time he spoke to Madigan was “a couple days ago,” discussing a measure to decouple the state’s tax code from federal tax code in regard to a measure passed in a federal COVID-19 response bill.

“He is still the speaker now, we’re trying to get the decoupling done during this lame duck,” Pritzker said.

## Masonic Lodge installs new officers



WILMINGTON LODGE No. 208, A. F. & A. M., held its annual installation ceremony Saturday, Jan. 2. Officers installed (from left, front) Michael Salato, Senior Steward; Jeff Cromer, Secretary; Richard Leach II, Senior Deacon; RWB William Swope, Installing Officer; RWB David Lynch, Installing Officer; Frank Kiper, Marshal; Anthony Milton, Junior Deacon; and Marvin Dew, Tiler. In the back row are: Michael Towe, Senior Warden; George Roesel, Worshipful Master; and James Strong, Junior Warden. Not present for the picture were: Allen Pflibsen, Chaplain; David Carino, Treasurer; and Luke Gehris, Junior Steward.

## Forest Preserve holds ‘Sculpting WILD’ art contest

Now is the time to channel your inner Michelangelo by submitting photos of your 3D nature-themed artwork to the Forest Preserve District of Will County’s “Sculpting WILD” juried art show.

Photo submissions are being accepted online through Jan. 29. All kinds of sculpting mediums can be used including wood, ceramics, rock, metal and upcycled materials, to name a few. Artists could build habitats, carve wild animals or mold beautiful wildflowers.

For contest rules and a submission link, visit <<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/sculpting-wild-juried-art-show-application>> reconnectwithnature.org/sculpting-wild-juried-art-show-application.

Once the artwork is chosen for the show, it will be displayed at the Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township from March 2-April 2. Winners will receive \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$200 for third place and \$100 for a people’s choice award. The contest is sponsored by <<http://www.will-countynature.org/>>



JAN. 29 IS the deadline to submit photos of your nature-themed sculptures to the Forest Preserve District of Will County’s “Sculpting WILD” juried art show. Artists can use all types of sculpting mediums including wood, ceramics, rock, metal or upcycled materials.

countynature.org/>The Nature Foundation of Will County.

Artists who submit their work for consideration will be notified on Feb. 9 if it has been chosen for the show. Sculptures can be sold during the show, but the artwork must

remain on display through April 2.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit <<https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>> ReconnectWithNature.org.

## He treats customers with respect



THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER recently presented the Employee of the Month trophy to Richie Mroz (right) who works at CVS pharmacy. Presenting the trophy is chamber ambassador Stefany Gumm, branch manager at Grundy Bank. Mroz started working at Doc’s Drugs in 2015 as a delivery driver and has advanced to cashier/photo department since it became CVS in 2017. “All the customers love him and he treats them all with respect and good manners,” said Mike Bess of CVS. “We are very glad to have him here and we will be sad when he graduates from college and has to move onto his career path.” Mroz said it is the best first job he could have asked for. “I have been fortunate to be able to work here all through high school and college with a great group of people. It is truly a family here and I am glad I had the opportunity,” Mroz commented.

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# Rep. Kinzinger's punches may come back to haunt him

"This isn't their Republican Party anymore!" Donald Trump Jr. declared January 6th during a fiery speech near the US Capitol. "This is Donald Trump's Republican Party," the President's son insisted. "Today, Republicans, you get to pick a side for the future of this party. I suggest you choose wisely."

And then, later in the day, all hell broke loose. A large number of furious cretins stormed the United States Capitol in an attempt to stop a legitimate presidential election from being certified. Five people died in the resulting melee, including one member of the US Capitol police force.

Freshman Illinois U.S. Rep. Mary Miller (R-15) spoke at a rally that same day and made a bizarre comment about how Adolph Hitler was right about kids being the future.

Both Miller and U.S. Rep. Mike Bost (R-12) represent

southern Illinois, and after Congress reconvened that evening, they voted against certifying the presidential election results.

Bost and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood (R-18) signed on last month to a doomed attempt to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the election results.

While U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis (R-13) did not go as far as his three GOP colleagues, he has been an ardent President Trump supporter for the past four years.

Those are not the public faces the party needs in the Chicago suburbs. And you simply can't win statewide in Illinois without carrying that region.

U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-16), on the other hand, has made a national name for himself by occasionally, yet forcefully, criticizing the president, and he has stepped up his game ever since it became clear that Trump lost the elec-

tion. He took it to a much higher level on the day of the insurrection, however.

"I outright condemn this garbage," Kinzinger said of Rep. Miller's speech. He called the storming of the U.S. Capitol a "coup attempt." He slammed fellow Republicans for refusing to certify the results. And he said the President is a "weak self-absorbed man" who was attempting to "overthrow the will of the people."

"He is no longer the leader of our party," Kinzinger said of Trump. "And our party must reject these treasonous acts."

Back when then-Congressman Ray LaHood (Darin's father) was thinking about running against Gov. Rod Blagojevich, I wrote that "moderate" Washington, D.C.



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

Republicans usually have voting records which don't look at all moderate when they run statewide here. Kinzinger has voted with Trump 92 percent of the time and definitely has a conservative record.

But, man, those statements could erase a whole lot of whatever can be thrown at him if he decides to run for governor or U.S. Senate, especially in a state that Trump twice lost by 17 points.

One should never make predictions during times of massive upheaval and change, so let's not anoint him yet. Plus, we've all seen politicians rise like rockets only to fall like meteors. And I've seen plenty of very solid, hard-working candidates fail simply because

they lived in the "wrong" district or state.

With that being said, Kinzinger has a sharp wit and obviously knows how to land a hard punch.

Kinzinger won a McLean County board seat when he was just 20 years old and then joined the Air Force after college and went on to fly missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. He won his first congressional race against an incumbent Democrat and then soundly defeated a longtime Republican incumbent in a post-remap primary. The dude has serious chops.

I was impressed with the way he rhetorically knocked Gov. Pritzker back on his heels last month over the LaSalle Veterans' Home debacle, where 35 residents died of COVID-19. Then again, Kinzinger has not exactly been out front about warning his constituents to take precautions during the pandemic. The virus was raging through

the surrounding community when it found its way into the facility.

The money to fund the Republican Party is in the Chicago area, where most corporate types tend to shun the far-right's views. Those folks are definitely not going to want to reside in Donald Trump's GOP going forward, no matter what the President's son says. So they may be eager to embrace someone like Kinzinger.

But Kinzinger went so far out on a limb on Trump (even calling for his removal from office) that he may have seriously damaged his chances of winning a statewide primary. And even if he does win that round, a significant chunk of his party's base might angrily choose to skip over him in a general election.

Keep watching.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

## Lunch this week

**Mon., Jan. 18:** no school  
**Tues., Jan. 19:** chicken alfredo, romaine salad, roll and butter, craisins and choice of milk

**Wed., Jan. 20:** french toast sticks, sausage, hash browns, orange slices and choice of milk

**Thurs., Jan. 21:** home-made chicken noodle soup, Ceasar salad, bosco sticks, grapes and choice of milk

**Fri., Jan. 22:** taco wedges, black bean salad, salsa, mixed fruit and choice of milk

Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

## Elwood School names honor students

### BOARD SCHOLAR

#### 6th Grade

Logan Baker, Nathaniel Gabriel, Ruby Gasaway, Andrew Kemp, Gabriela Pinon-Urrego, Lela Stasiak, Kaydi Tallon, Lincoln Tomalewicz and Luke Trujillo.

#### 7th Grade

Fynn Bernhard, Emily Duering, Karly Kruchten and Delany Moran.

#### 8th Grade

Aaliyah Castillo, Jersey Hauert, Ariana Lawson, Nathan Tallon and Brody Walsh.

### HIGH HONOR ROLL

#### 6th Grade

Mia Buss, Lindsey Flood, Cameron Olsen, Irlanda Rivas Mireles, Christopher Roche and Colson Ruettiger.

#### 7th Grade

Anthony Cimino, Da'Niya Foster, Lillian Ingram, Bradley

Pich, Leo Smith and Christian Winters.

#### 8th Grade

Nathan Butt, Madison Mader, Cody McLaren, Vai Stulga and David Wright.

### HONOR ROLL

#### 6th Grade

Laney Bernard, Anthony Castillo, Ayanna Jackson, Jacob Keuch, Andrew Leeth, Kiara Schneider and Tiffini Thompson.

#### 7th Grade

Aron Chimmy, Caleb Christos, Alyssa Flood, Connor Gualandi, Garrett Johnson, Ryan Lipke, Tyler Long, Payton Parks, Lianna Stipanovich, Sydney Tacchia and Amiraah Warner.

#### 8th Grade

Rusten Deihs, Christopher Sommerfeld, Liam Walsh and Kathrine Wasatis.

## Register to get COVID-19 vaccine

While it will be a while into the new year before COVID-19 vaccine is being given to the general public, the Will County Health Department has established a survey registration link that is accessible on their website.

By going to the WCHD website COVID-19 vaccine information page at willcountyhealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine/ and clicking on the survey, Will County residents will be able to provide important information; such as their age, occupation, and medical condition.

This will allow WCHD to prioritize their registration list and contact residents on which vaccination phase they

qualify to participate in. Eligible participant categories will be posted and updated as necessary on WCHD's website and social media.

"We are very excited to begin this vaccination registration process," said WCHD Executive Director Sue Olenek. "We ask everyone to be patient as we move through the different phases. Please educate yourselves and be prepared when it is your turn. In addition, we ask everyone to remember that even after vaccination you are required to practice the 3Ws: washing hands, wearing face coverings properly and watching your distance."

## Crude oil is at its highest level in nearly a year

Illinois gas prices have risen 7.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.41/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 24.5 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 20.6 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 \$2.89/g, a difference of 81.0 cents per gallon.

The lowest price in the state is \$2.08/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of 81.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has

risen 4.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.31/g. The national average is up 14.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 27.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The cheapest gas in Wilmington is \$2.39/g at the Circle K on Baltimore St., while Braidwood has all gas stations at \$2.49/g. Coal City's cheapest gas is at both Shells on Division St. at \$2.39/g. The lowest gas price you can find off the highway is at Mohsen, 24001 Lorenzo Rd, at \$2.19/g.

"With oil's meteoric rally continuing, motorists continue to face gas prices that continue to advance. With a barrel of

crude oil now at its highest level in nearly a year, there's no where for gas prices to go but up," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"In a normal year, this is the time we tend to see gas prices struggle, and according to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand is indeed seeing seasonal struggles, but that has not tempered the appetite of the market as many remain bullish over the continued rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine. How long we may be on this road relies on continued reduction in new COVID cases, but we may for the coming weeks seeing gas prices continuing their climb."

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## What caregivers should know about medicare

Dear Savvy Senior,

*I am the caregiver for my 81-year-old mother, who recently fell and broke her hip, and have a lot of questions about how original Medicare works and what it covers. Where can I get some help understanding this program? Overwhelmed Caregiver*

Dear Caregiver,

Excellent question! Having a working knowledge of Medicare can help you take full advantage of the coverage and services it provides to ensure your mom receives the best care possible. Here's what you should know.

### Medicare Assistance

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the official "Medicare & You" handbook that overviews the program. It's mailed to all beneficiaries every fall and provides an up-to-date description of all services and benefits. You can also see it online at Medicare.gov/medicare-and-you.

If you have a particular question, you can call and visit with a Medicare customer service representative at 800-633-4227. Medicare also works closely with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) to provide free health insurance counseling. To find a SHIP counselor in your area visit ShiptaCenter.org or call 877-839-2675.

Caregivers also find Medicare's secure website < MyMedicare.gov > especially useful. After setting up a personal account for your mom, you can view the details of her coverage, track recent health care claims and keep up to date on the preventive services she qualifies for.

### Compare Tools

Medicare can also help you locate the right health care providers for your mother. At Medicare.gov/care-compare

you can find and compare doctors, hospitals, home health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals and nursing homes in your mom's area.

### What Medicare Covers

Medicare can reduce many out-of-pocket medical expenses your mom incurs, but it doesn't cover everything. Understanding what Medicare does and doesn't cover can save you time and spare you frustration when navigating the caregiving maze.

Here are some key points for caregivers: Besides basic hospital and physician services (which includes telehealth services) and optional prescription drug benefits, Medicare covers home health care too. To qualify, your mom must be homebound, under a physician's care and in need of part-time skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services like physical therapy.

Medicare also helps pay for oxygen, catheters and other medical supplies that a doctor prescribes for home use. The same is true for medically necessary equipment like oxygen machines, wheelchairs and walkers.

In addition, Medicare covers skilled care in a nursing home for limited periods < up to 100 days > following hospital stays. But it doesn't cover long-term stays. Patients who need custodial care (room and board) must pay out of pocket unless they're eligible for Medicaid or have private long-term care insurance.

Medicare pays for hospice care too, for someone with a terminal illness whose doctor expects to live six months or less. The hospice benefit also includes brief



SAVVY SENIOR

Jim Miller

periods of respite care at a hospice facility, hospital or nursing home to give the patient's caregivers an occasional rest.

Besides long-term nursing home stays, original Medicare typically doesn't cover regular dental care or dentures, regular eye exams or eyeglasses, and hearing exams and hearing aids. Likewise, it won't pay for nonemergency ambulance trips unless a doctor certifies they're medically necessary.

To find out what Medicare covers, visit Medicare.gov/coverage and type in the test, item or service you have questions about, or download the Medicare "What's covered"

app in either the App Store or Google Play.

### Financial Assistance

If your mom lives on a limited income, you should check whether she qualifies for help with prescription drug costs or with other Medicare-related premiums, deductibles and co-payments.

For help with drug costs, visit SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp or contact Social Security at 800-772-1213 and ask about the "Extra Help Program." For help with other Medicare costs, go to Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227 and ask about the "Medicare Savings Programs."

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

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# Get a taste of 80's with a Madras cocktail

Once upon a time, the Madras was "must know" drink that was taught in every bartending school. The drink is still taught, but thanks to the resurgence of pre-prohibition cocktails it is not a drink that is widely ordered. The peak for Madras popularity was in the 1980s into the early 1990s, this week we re-live the magic!

The Madras is one of the many spinoffs in the vodka/cranberry family, and one of the most influential as this is the drink that is regarded as the predecessor to the iconic Cosmopolitan. The vodka/cranberry, also known as the Cape Codder originated in the Northeast around 1945 and has been the launching pad for countless spinoff recipes, a few of which we will discuss below.

We know what the drink is, a little about where it came from, but what is a "madras", anyway?

For those two young to remember, "madras" was a lightweight cotton fabric from India used in lightweight summer clothing. Madras clothing was most often plaid, and these plaid pattern cotton garments became popular in the 1960s with the "preppy" baby boomers of the post-World War II generation.

Decades earlier during the Great Depression, madras clothing was literally a status symbol. The only way to obtain madras clothing in the 1930s was to take an exotic vacation, typically to Caribbean destinations. Not many Americans were taking lavish vacations during the Depression, but if you were able to land a madras plaid shirt during your travels it was seen as a sign of affluence when worn.

Fast forward to the late 1960s or 1970s, and the Madras cocktail was named. I have to believe that orange juice has been added to Cape Codders since the 1940s, but the contrast in the brightly colored ingredients gave the drink the name. Every iconic cocktail needs a name, and perhaps the red cranberry and bright orange juice made someone think of the plaid cotton shorts worn in the summer of '65.

This is a light, refreshing drink. The tart of cranberry paired with the sweetness of orange, held together by vodka. It is a Highball, and as is the case with most Highballs



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL  
Brian Rung

the Madras is mostly mix. Vodka has a way of taking on the flavor or flavors of whatever ingredients happen to be in the drink, this is no exception.

On that note, avoid the temptation to use a "cheap" vodka. Most vodka is cheap compared to other quality spirits, but spend a few extra bucks and at least pick up a quality vodka. Smirnoff is a great all around vodka, as is Tito's, and Ketel One. If you want a higher quality (usually one that has been distilled more than three times), reach for Grey Goose, Absolut, or Belvedere.

Other than pouring a quality vodka, you will need quality mixers to round out your Madras. Ocean Spray cranberry can be found behind nearly every commercial bar on the planet, it remains the gold standard among cranberry mixers. If you have a favorite orange juice, use your favorite, but if you are going shopping reach for Tropicana as it mixes well.

The Madras, and others in

the vodka/cranberry family are excellent party drinks that are as approachable as they are easy to prepare.

Madras preparation is straightforward, no special tools or mixology know how required. If you have never mixed a drink before, you can do this. Fill glass with ice, add ingredients, stir, and serve.

Speaking of easy to make vodka drinks, substitute grapefruit juice for the orange juice and you will have a Sea Breeze. Substitute pineapple for the orange juice and you will have a Bay Breeze.

Do you have a vintage madras shirt in your closet? If so, wash separately as the early garments were notoriously not colorfast and bled easily when washed. At some point the issues were resolved and the madras plaid shirts have come in and out style a few times since their heyday in the 1960s.

The Madras is built and served in an ice-filled Highball glass.

Fill glass with ice, then add:

- 1 1/2 oz. vodka
- 4 oz. orange juice
- 1 1/2 oz. cranberry juice
- Stir, garnish with orange slice

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

# Rezin launches Valentine's for seniors program

To help uplift the spirits of long-term care facility residents, State Senator Sue Rezin (R-Morris) is collecting Valentine's Day cards for her newly introduced Valentine's For Seniors Program.

"This past year has been an extremely difficult time for everyone, but it has been especially difficult for those who live in our local senior homes," Rezin said. "For their own safety, the residents of these homes have had very little contact with their families and friends which has unfortunately left many of them feeling isolated and alone."

Rezin is encouraging churches, schools and community members of the 38th Senate District to write Valentine's Day cards that can be dropped off or mailed to her district offices. Once all the cards have been collected, they will be delivered to the various long-term care facilities that make up the district.

"Delivering these cards to the residents of these facilities is the least that we can do considering everything that they have had to go through because of COVID-19," said Rezin. "I just want to ensure that they know that people care and are thinking about them, and that they are not alone."

The collection of Valentine's Day cards will run through Wednesday, Feb. 10. Those wishing to participate will have the option to either mail their card or drop it off. For those choosing in-person deliver, please remember to maintain social distancing and to wear a mask when entering the office.

Mail-in or drop-off at her Peru office, 350 5th St., Ste. 264, Peru, IL 61354, or mail [only] to the senator's Morris office, 1802 N. Division St., Ste. 314, Morris, IL 60450

For more information or to arrange a separate drop-off time call 815-220-8720.

# Bill would allow liquor to be delivered to your door

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—In a committee hearing Friday, Jan. 8, on the Bank of Springfield Center floor, Illinois lawmakers advanced Senate Bill 54, which allows for the home delivery of liquor throughout the state.

The bill allows retailers to use third-party groups via phone applications or internet service while removing liability for retailers if those services violate age verification laws.

In what came as a surprise to some members, the committee allowed testimony through videoconference—a first for the Illinois House. No one aside from lawmakers or staff is otherwise allowed on the BOS Center's floor to testify.

The Illinois Craft Brewers Guild testified to ask for an amendment to allow for small brewers and distillers to deliver their own products, which the bill does not allow for, despite wineries having those abilities.

# Pritzker says widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccine, treatments needed before state can lift restrictions

BY GREG BISHOP  
THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's plan to reopen Illinois with no restrictions, or Phase 5, is having a vaccine or therapeutic for COVID-19 "widely available." The governor still can't say exactly when that'll be.

A 12-member state legislative panel Tuesday could take up a new emergency rule in place until June requiring masks and social distancing, but some want the entire 176-member state legislature to be more involved in managing the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the economy.

Outside of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules process with only a fraction of state lawmakers involved, Pritzker's administration has largely managed the pandemic by itself.

After more than two months of stay-home orders last Spring, Pritzker revealed his five-phased plan to reopen the state.

Phase 5 he said would come about with vaccines or therapeutics. Illinois is currently in Phase 3, Tier 3 restrictions with no indoor service for bars and

restaurants allowed, but even in the capital city, officials are allowing for 25 percent capacity.

Starting Jan. 15, regions of the state the governor unilaterally drew can begin phasing to fewer restrictions if the regions meet certain metrics.

As for therapeutics for COVID-19, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Ngozi Ezike said things like Remdesivir or monoclonal antibodies are available.

"In some cases, they may be helpful, in some cases they may be not," Ezike said Monday. "I think if you look at the World Health Organization, they're not giving it a veritable thumbs up."

Even with the vaccine going out, Pritzker still couldn't say exactly when to consider it "widely available" as the state works through phases of distribution for certain populations over others.

"You can do your own math to determine when we'll get to a number that people can really be safe," Pritzker said.

The governor didn't say what that number would be to enter Phase 5.

State Rep. Avery Bourne, R-

Morrisonville, said since the goalposts moved, and no clear indication of if things will change, it's beyond time for lawmakers to get involved.

"You can kind of expect to see that the governor might change his opinion," Bourne said. "So that's why it should be a legislative action as we've discussed so we know exactly what these parameters are and we can count on them being followed."

It's not just downstate that's frustrated, state Rep. LaShawn Ford, D-Chicago, said it's beyond time for the legislature to get involved. He faults legislative leaders for being hands-off.

"I don't like it," Ford said of the governor's unilateral actions. "I've always been ready to come back and deal with the pandemic, and the impact that the pandemic is having on poor impoverished communities and businesses."

It's been nearly a year since the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in Illinois.

Pritzker says widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccine, treatments needed before state can lift restrictions.

# Deadline nears to apply for housing, student loans

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation wants Illinois consumers to be aware of COVID-19 relief options that are available to them.

The IDFPR released an educational outline for consumers to learn about federal relief options when it comes to evictions, mortgages and student loans.

"At this unprecedented time of financial hardship, it is essential that consumers know and understand their options. Through our agency's outreach, we hope to ensure that every Illinois resident takes advantage of the relief they qualify for," said IDFPR Secretary Deborah Hagan.

Federal deadlines are fast approaching. It is imperative

that consumers take action quickly.

## Mortgage deadlines

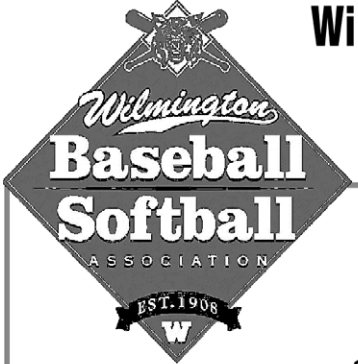
- FHFA forbearance must be requested by 1/31/21.
- HUD loan forbearance has been extended to 2/28/21.
- FHFA foreclosure moratorium ends 1/31/21.
- VA foreclosure moratorium ends 2/28/21.

- HUD foreclosure moratorium ends 2/28/21.

## Student Loan Deadlines

- Relief has been extended until 1/31/21. This includes interest being waived on all loans, collections on defaulted loans is halted, and loan payments are suspended.

## 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:

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# OBITUARIES

## Mary Bonnivier

BRACEVILLE—Mary L. Bonnivier, 73, of Braceville passed away Jan. 8, 2021 at Heritage Health Center in Dwight.

She was born Jan. 7, 1948 in McLeansboro, IL, the daughter of George Lewis and Minnie (Good) Millenbine. Mary was a graduate of Coal City High School and earned her associate degree in nursing at Joliet Junior College. Mary had been a nurse for several area hospitals. She was an animal lover, greatly enjoying her dogs and cats. She enjoyed boating and camping with her family.

Mary is survived by her children, Rheta Bredesen, of Chicago and Edward A. Bonnivier, of Braceville; grandchildren: Allysha Bredesen, Corrina Bredesen and Olivia Bonnivier; sisters, Nancy Rader, of Braceville and Ruth Hagen, of



Murphysboro, TN and her former husband, Edward S. Bonnivier, of Coal City.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Prayers will be said for Mary at First Baptist Church, Pontiac and a memorial gathering will be held at Lake Sara in Effingham, IL later this summer. Cremation rites will be accorded.

Memorials can be made to the Grundy County Animal Shelter, 310 E. DuPont Rd., Morris, IL 60450.

Online condolences may be made to the family at [calvertmemorial.com](http://calvertmemorial.com).

Hager Memorial Home in Pontiac is in charge of arrangements.

## Carol Higgins

GODLEY—Carol Ann Higgins, 71, of Godley, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, surrounded by family.

Born Aug. 29, 1949 in Chicago, Carol Ann was a daughter of Eugene and Dorothy Marie (Peine) Higgins, and was raised and educated in the Burbank area. Carol worked most her life in hospitality, which included waitressing and bartending throughout the years. She was a mom to all, and absolutely cherished her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include nine daughters: Sherrie, Jolene, Candy, Beth, Nikki, Jenny, Krissy, Ashley and Sarah; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one brother, Bobby (Kelly) Higgins; two sisters, Jeanette (Jim) Finnen and Vickie Knapp, and her dear longtime friends: Tina Palmer, Lynn Pinson and Alice Tkachik, as



well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Joey Martingello and Eugene Higgins; sister, Nancy Godell and brother, Johnny Higgins.

Per Carol's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a celebration of her life will be planned for a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Carol's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www. ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Carol-Higgins](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Carol-Higgins)

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

## Eleanor Jackson

MANTENO— Eleanor Jackson, 91, of Manteno, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Amita St. Mary's Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Jan. 31, 1929 in Morris, Eleanor was a daughter of John and Catherine (Broderick) Bols. She was raised in Morris; graduated from Morris High School, and later went on to attend the Gallagher Business College in Kankakee. Toward the end of World War II, Eleanor gained employment with the Joliet Arsenal before marrying Nobel "Keith" Jackson. Together Keith and Eleanor in addition to making their home in Rockville Township, farmed together and raised their family. She worked aside Keith both in the fields and with the cattle. Later in years, she held employment at Marshall Field's in Louis Joliet Mall, where she was a manager and worked for over 30 years until her retirement.

Eleanor was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, and belonged to the Wilmington Recreation Club. She served as a 4-H Leader for many years, and took great pleasure in both flower gardening and vegetable gardening.

Survivors include her children: Judi Jennings, of Foristell, MO and Jerry (Barb) Jackson, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Stefanie (Greg) Behme, of Carlinville, IL; Matt Jackson (Jennifer Doss) and Kathi (Mark) DePoister,



both of Manteno and Scott (Janet) Jennings, of Boise, ID; great-grandchildren: Alex Behme, Ellie Behme, Izzy DePoister, Lincoln Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Jayla Nitsche, Blake Nitsche and Maryanne Jennings; and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Ruth Bols, of Morris; Eloise (Kenny) Bertrand, of Manteno and Bobby (Janice) Gordon, of Bourbonnais, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Keith (2004); son-in-law, Charlie Jennings (2020), and siblings: Frances (Howard) Clennon, Leonard (Winona) Bols, Kathleen (Robert) Lawrence and Edwin Bols.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and Eleanor and Keith will be laid to rest together at a later date.

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

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Eleanor's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Eleanor-Jackson](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Eleanor-Jackson)

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

## Patricia Kucera

FAIRFIELD—Patricia Lynn Kucera, 32, of Fairfield, formerly of Joliet and Dwight, passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 at her home.

Born Jan. 19, 1988 in Joliet, Patricia was a daughter of David Kucera and Barbara (Edburg) Kucera. She was raised and educated in Dwight, and graduated from Dwight High School with the class of 2006. As a teen, she had a paper route that she worked for many years to be able to spoil her loved ones with gifts around the holidays and their birthdays. Patricia enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing and camping, and looked forward to any opportunity to go for a long walk with friends or her sisters to talk about anything and everything. She found great joy in watching movies, singing, or going for long car rides. Patricia never needed an excuse to bake brownies and always made sure she got to have some of the extra brownie batter for herself. She loved spending time with her boyfriend and her children.

Survivors include her parents, Barbara Kucera, of Fairfield and David (Kathleen)



Kucera, of Newark; her boyfriend, Timothy Snyder, of Fairfield; five children: Owen Moreno, of Ohio and Ethan, Slater, Sophia and Emmalia Snyder, all of Fairfield; three brothers and five sisters: Allison (Richard) Bianchi, Cristopher Kucera, Joshua (Tiana) Kucera, Nicole (Matthew) Gehris, Katie Kucera, Kevin (Alyssa) Kucera, Mallory (Andrew) Davidson and Emma Kucera (James Gaspard); 26 nieces and nephews, many aunts and uncles, and numerous cousins.

Patricia was preceded in death by her grandparents.

Private funeral services will be held, and cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Patricia's memorial page by logging onto: [www.baskervillefuneral.com](http://www.baskervillefuneral.com)

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



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## Eugene F. Housman



BRAIDWOOD— Eugene Francis Housman, 78, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Franciscan Health Hospital in Dyer, IN. He was born July 22, 1942 in Braceville.

Eugene was a Veteran of the United States Navy. He enjoyed yard work and had a knack for gardening. He also loved to study history, specifically religious history.

Surviving are two children, Jesse (Kristi) Housman, of Essex, and Barbara Housman Cline Engel Galarza, of Bloomington, IL; four grandchildren: Madison Christensen, Olivia Housman, Dennis Engel, and Michael (Melissa)

Engel; three great-grandchildren: Bently White, Sophia and Wil Engel; and one brother, Gerald (Sue) Housman in Joliet.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Dortha Housman.

Cremation rites will be accorded and private services will be held at a later date. For more information and to visit his online guest-book, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com)

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

## Mary Micetich

MORRIS—Mary Teresa Micetich, 79, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Morris.

Born May 28, 1941 in Morris, Mary Teresa was a daughter of James William and Marie Gloria (Papach) Barr. She was raised in Morris, attended St. Angela Academy until its closing, and graduated from Morris Community High School with the Class 1959. Mary then went on to attend both Joliet Junior College, as well as Saint Xavier University.

Mary worked in real estate, and was an agent for Century 21 in Morris from 1978-2001. In addition, she gained employment with Morris Hospital, where she worked as a financial counselor and patient representative from June of 1998 until her retirement. Mary was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris and the National Realtors Association.

One who will be remembered as a very kind and charitable individual, Mary in her free time took great pleasure in cooking, baking, candy making and reading.

Survivors include her children: Dr. Kara Lynn Micetich, of Fort Collins, CO and James



(Dawn) Micetich, of Morris; grandsons, Grant Sisson and Troy Sisson; one sister, JoAnn (Henry) Rosemont, of Jamestown, RI and numerous cousins.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Noreen Barr.

Family graveside services were held on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris. Honorary pallbearers were Grant Sisson and Troy Sisson.

A celebration of Mary's life and Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be planned for a later date.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Mary's memory to the Morris Fire Protection District, 2301 Ashton Road, Morris, IL 60450 or to a charity of the donors choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Mary's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www. ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Mary-Micetich](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Mary-Micetich)

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

## Katy H. Dunn

WILMINGTON—Katy H. Dunn, 98, of Wilmington, and formerly of Berwyn, passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Oct. 8, 1922 in Clinton, KY, Katy Helen was a daughter of Johnny Carl and Sally (Hollingsworth) Jackson. She was raised in Cairo, IL, where she went on to graduate from high school. It was in 1961 that Katy married William Dunn, and together they made their home in Berwyn. Katy worked as a ticket agent for the Chicago Transit Authority for 38 years, until her retirement in 1985. She wintered in Holmes Beach, FL, and was fortunate to spend decades as a snowbird making countless friends.

She was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach and enjoyed volunteering for the Island Players Community Theater on Anna Maria Island. Katy traveled extensively over the years, domestic and abroad, as well as at sea. She took pleasure in playing bingo, cards and visiting the casino, and when at home could be found vegetable and flower gardening. She will be remembered as a true social butterfly, who just enjoyed being in the company of others.

Survivors include nieces and nephews: Ken (Pat) Wise, Michael (Shirley) Jackson, Jay (Sharon) Jackson, Sarah (Ed) Armbruster, Tammy (Brian) Cook, Mary Kasch (fiance' -John Tahlrier), Amy Wise, Taylor Cook, Jarrett Cook and Samantha Armbruster, as well as cousins: Betty Mitchell, Lindy Henley, Virginia Bryant,



Nancy Henley, Ruth Harmon and Grant Mitchell.

Katy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, William (1991) and siblings, Mary Louise (Kenneth) Wise and Carl (Jeannie) Jackson.

A private family funeral service will be held at Baskerville Funeral Home. Reverend Harriette Cross from the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington will officiate

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-stream service beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. A link for this event will be available on Katy's memorial page.

Burial will follow in Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Hillside, where Katy will be laid to rest with her late husband.

A public celebration of Katy's life will be planned for a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Katy's memory to the Island Players, Inc. Community Theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, FL 34216

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Katy's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Katy-Dunn](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Katy-Dunn)

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

## Traci Tyler

BRACEVILLE—Traci Lynn Tyler (nee Winchell), 60, of Braceville, passed away suddenly, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee with family by her side.

She was born July 26, 1960 in Morris and grew up in South Wilmington. She was a lifelong resident of the South Wilmington, Gardner, Braceville area. Traci married Dale Tyler on Aug. 8, 1998 at the Braceville United Methodist Church. They lived in Gardner for a few years with their two sons, Patrick Winchell and Kevin Winchell. The family then moved to Braceville, where they lived for the last 15 years.

Traci held many jobs through the years, and became sort of a jack-of-all-trades. Her passions were poker, where she could hold her own at any table, especially Texas Hold-Em, and pool leagues. Many a laugh and wonderful times were had with "her girls" on Thursday night BCA and ACS and those of you who knew her will vouch for her heart of gold, and if you were in need, she would be the first one by your side. Her infectious laugh will forever be missed



by all.

Traci is survived by her husband, Dale Tyler; son, Patrick (Megan) Winchell and their two daughters, who were the light of her life, Vanna Winchell and Emme Winchell; son, Kevin Winchell; sisters, Terri (Jim) Schultz and Tommi (Robert) Sorensen; brothers, Joe (Cindy) Winchell and Dan (Lynnette) Winchell and many special aunts and uncles. Also surviving are brother-in-law, Karl (Karla) Tyler; sister-in-law, Lynn (Lindy) Hahn; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Janis Winchell.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021. Funeral services were private. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com).

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

## Dora Wilson

BRAIDWOOD—Dora (Heck) Wilson, 80, of Braidwood, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 at her home.

Born Jan. 19, 1940 in Wilmington, Dora Ellen was a daughter of Arthur J. and Alpha (Sitter) Heck. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and attended the Wilmington schools. Dora worked for many years as a school bus driver for the Gardner South Wilmington School District. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and enjoyed quilting and crocheting. In her free time, Dora took pleasure in tending to her vegetable garden, canning and fishing.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel Wilson, of Braidwood; four children: Tina Hendrex, of Coal City; Terry (the late Gerald) Champion, of Paducah, KY; Duane Hendrex, of Braidwood and Bryan (Lori) Hendrex, of Morris; seven grandchildren: Lee Heafner, Stacy Burt, Michael Esparza, Jeremy Esparza, Nathan Esparza, Renae Champion Mariner, and Brandon Hendrex; numerous



great-grandchildren, two brothers, Arthur (Carol) Heck, of Lafayette, IN and Larry Heck, of Wilmington; three sisters: Mary Ruth (the late Charles "Bud") Bullock and Betty Marlene (the late Herbert) Akins, both of Wilmington and Joanna (Glen) Schwartz, of Hiawatha, IA and sister-in-law, Sandy Heck, of Joliet, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Dora was preceded in death by her parents, son, Orman Heafner; sister, Anna Heck and brother, John Heck.

Cremation rites have been accorded and Dora will be laid to rest at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington with her parents.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dora's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Dora-Wilson](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Dora-Wilson)

Green flameless cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.



# OBITUARIES

## Stanley Olewinski



BRAIDWOOD—Stanley Olewinski, 84, of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at his home.

Born June 29, 1936 in Chicago, IL, he was a son of Stanley and Josephine (nee Jakic) Olewinski. He was a Veteran of the United States Army. In 1998, Stan retired from the Sheet Metal Workers' Local #73 Union in Hillside, IL. He was the best handyman and was known for always tinkering around with something.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 57 years, LaMora Grace (nee Abney) Olewinski, who he married May 4, 1963 in Oaklawn, IL; four children: Mike (Leta) Olewinski, of Morris; Steve (Laura) Olewinski, of Mesa, AZ; Michele Salustro, of Worth, IL and Tina (Greg) Seiler, of



Wilmington; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one sister, Helen (the late Robert) Capodice, of Antigo, WI and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother, Walter (Janice) Olewinski. Cremation rites have been accorded. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, memorial services for Stan will be held at later date with an inurnment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to [www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com).

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

## Rose Marie Wright

WARSAW—Rose Marie Wright, 85, of Warsaw, formerly of Bourbonnais, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 surrounded by her family and friends.

Rose was born in Evansville, IN on Aug. 27, 1936 to Jesse and Louise (Kelly) Barnett.

She attended church in Wilmington where she played the drums and sang her songs. She was employed at Armstrong as the Captain of Security and retired in May of 2016.

Rose is survived by her 11 children: Tom Durham, MaryJean Rowland, Joyce Schlegel, Karen Harter, Kenny Durham, Cindy Germano,



Darrel Pitman, Scot Pitman, Rex Pitman, Tina Grell and Jesse Cox. In addition, she is survived by several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Jesse and Louise Barnett and four sisters: Ruby Hayden, Mary Vencent, Margie Lockyear and Vera Johnson, and three brothers: Herbert Barnett, Clarence "Butch" Barnett and Jesse T. Barnett Jr.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 at the Christian Faith Center, 1800 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Joan A. Bailey

WILMINGTON—Joan A. Bailey, 70, of Wilmington, formerly of Bourbonnais, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 at Silver Cross Hospital in New Lenox.

Born Jan. 14, 1950 in Joliet, Joan Arlene was a daughter of George Austin and Arlene (Richmond) Puckett. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1968. While in high school, Joan was proud to be named the 1967 Honored Queen by Job's Daughters. On Oct. 17, 1970, she married the love of her life, Donald Roger Bailey, in Symerton. Joan worked for CIGNA in Bourbonnais as a Medical Claims Adjuster and retired in 2018 after 20 years of service.

Joan was a past member of Bethel Baptist Church in Bourbonnais, and was well known for being an avid reader. She enjoyed books immensely and was always looking for the next one to begin. Joan also loved to do puzzles and handicrafting such as knitting and crochet.

Survivors include two children, Andrew (Theresa) Bailey, of Braidwood and Donna Jo Weigel, of Coal City; seven grandchildren: Austin Weigel, of Coal City; Brandy (Morgan) Wood, of Bradley; Andria (Jeremiah) Denoyer, of Paxton; Garret Welsh, of Elwood; Gabrielle Welsh, of San Antonio, TX; Stephanie Frederick, of Carlinville and Bradley Clark, of Bourbonnais; nine great-grandchildren: Xavier,



Jude, Marley, Rain, Autumn, Lincoln, Zayden, Odin, and Harper; one sister, Mary (James) Walcher, of Wilmington; one brother-in-law, Robert (Mary Anne) Bailey, of Orland Park and several nieces and nephews including special nieces, Rachel Walcher (fiancé Bryen Zimmerman) and Jessica (Benjamin) Dietz.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother in infancy, Richard Austin, and her father-in-law and mother-in-law: Charles and Flossie Bailey.

A COVID observant and walk through visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. A private funeral service will follow the visitation, and burial will follow at Wesley Cemetery in rural Wilmington.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. A link is available on Joan's memorial page.

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Joan's memorial page by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com).

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

## Gayle Graham

WILMINGTON—Gayle Marie Graham, 48, of Wilmington, passed away on Dec. 19, 2020 at Riverside Hospital. Gayle was the third of five girls born to John and Phyllis (nee Ariel) Graham.

She was born at Mercy Hospital in Chicago on Dec. 5, 1972 and grew up in her beloved Bridgeport neighborhood. She graduated from Gordon S. Hubbard High School and continued on to receive an Electrical Engineering degree from Illinois Institute of Technology University.

She was a friend and surrogate mother to all and was always there for those that needed an ear to bend, a place to crash or food to eat. She always made time for everyone else. She was the keeper of the family stories and history. If you needed to know something just ask



Gayle, a great conversationalist. Intelligent, crafty and a big heart she will be truly missed by all.

Gayle is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Kenny) David Garcia Jr and Matthew Allen Tamburich; sisters: Angela Graham AhSue, Kathleen (Keith) Skoryi, Julia Graham, Laura Graham and Victoria Olivia. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles and a bunch of close cousins.

Gayle was preceded in death by her father and mother, John and Phyllis (nee Ariel) Graham and her brother, John Phillip Graham.

In lieu of a funeral service at this time, the family will hold a celebration of life service in the summer of 2021. All arrangements were handled by Jensen Funeral home of Kankakee.

## Western IL University dean's list

A total of 1,313 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2020 dean's list.

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point

average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

Area students named on

the list are Joseph Svododa, of Braceville; Makayla Flickinger, of Mazon; Kylie Winsor, of Verona; Kalli Markle, of Braidwood and Jacquelyn Damien and Carlene Vanduyne, of Wilmington.

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**MLS** 506 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481







# CLASSIFIEDS

## CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

### Deadlines

#### Classified Display

The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.  
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.  
**Classified Word Ads**  
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.  
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

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- The Prairie Shopper
- The Braidwood Journal
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- The Free Press Advocate

### Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)  
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3 wks.- \$28; 4 wks.-\$30  
\$1.20 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.



### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood, 2 BR, stove and refrigerator, w/d hookup, C/A, garbage included, \$850/mo. plus security, no pets, call 815-458-6208. ca1a-4b

### FOR RENT

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### HELP WANTED

Applications are being taken for one, full-time (eight hours per day) Custodial/Maintenance position. Please contact Jim Habing at jhabing@209u.net or phone 815-926-1725. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Jim Habing, Wilmington High School 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481. Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which District 209U receives federal assistance. ch1b-3a

Van Duyn Motel Part-time housekeeper needed 2 or 3 days a week. Part-time maintenance person needed 10 plus hours a week. Call 815-476-2801. ca52a-2b

### HELP WANTED

Experienced legal secretary sought for real estate and estate planning law firm. Candidate must be dependable and motivated. No phone calls please. Send qualifications and resume to lawoffice60481@gmail.com fr2a-4b

Part-time bartender position available. Wilmington Moose. Call 815-258-2911, leave your name and phone number. ch1b-5a

Personal Assistant needed immediately, well organized, detail oriented, knowledge of Microsoft Office. Excellent communication & time management skills. Will train the right person. Pay will be based on experience. Please send resume to herman@apexforest.com cc2a-5b

### HOMES FOR RENT

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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We take color photographs for gun owners' cards (FOID) for \$10 and help you complete the application online. Illinois State Police won't answer the FOID hotline but you can complete your application with our computer. Call for an appointment most days (but Tuesdays) 9a.m. to 4p.m. Do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966. The Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Please wear a mask.

**Hall Rental** - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

### MISCELLANEOUS

Marcy dual functioning upper & lower weight bench body exercise system. Pull up weights, 2 bars, leg weights, \$250; 3 pc. BR set, 2 dressers & night stand, \$600; Amish pantry, beautiful dark stain, \$800; Amish tall bookcase, dark stain, \$500; Queen remote Tempur-Pedic bed, \$600; oak tall file cabinet, \$80; large wood office desk, \$300. Call 815-210-3513.

### MISCELLANEOUS

NEW DISCOVERY ELIMINATES COMMON SEXUAL PROBLEMS! All Natural Male Enhancement Product Increases Staying Power, Performance, & Pleasure. Risk FREE 60 Day Guarantee + FREE SHIPPING 15% Discount with Coupon perform03 Visit: TryProZyde.com

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### SERVICE & REPAIRS

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**Mandy Eaton**  
815-791-2913

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

Bradley Pest Control Termite/Pest Specialist. Real estate inspection Rodent Control and Exclusion Call Phil at 815-405-5020 cc42a-42a

Gas Fireplace Repair. 38 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. cc49b-22a

Hendron Construction Interior Carpentry, Cabinet Sales & Installation, Granite & Quartz Countertop Sales, Hardwood & Laminate Flooring, 10 yard dump trailer rental for cleanouts and construction debris, prices start at \$250 per load. 815-790-1235 for more information or schedule free estimate. cc53a-7b

**Julie's Remodeling**  
Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, welding repairs, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., call 815-791-5731. cc28b

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

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Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc40a-2b

Will do general house cleaning weekly or bi-weekly in the Coal City, Diamond, Carbon Hill area. Free estimates, 815-388-7743.

### SITUATIONS WANTED

Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966.

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**PUBLIC STORAGE**  
*Clementine's Closets*  
**815-530-0200**  
- No Deposit -  
Starting at \$50  
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- Appliances
- Anything Metal

**Free pickup 7 days**  
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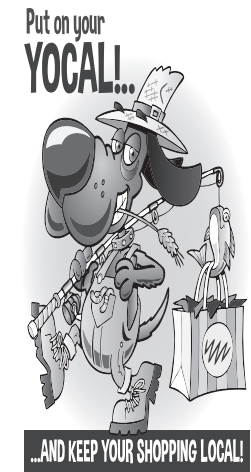
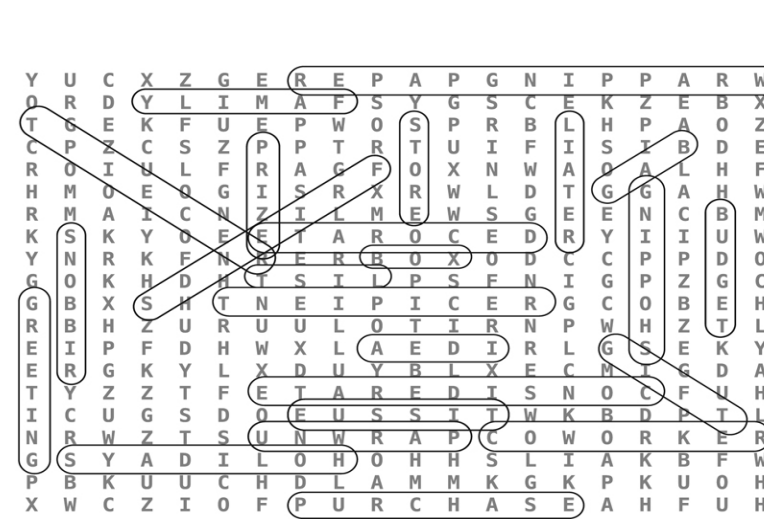
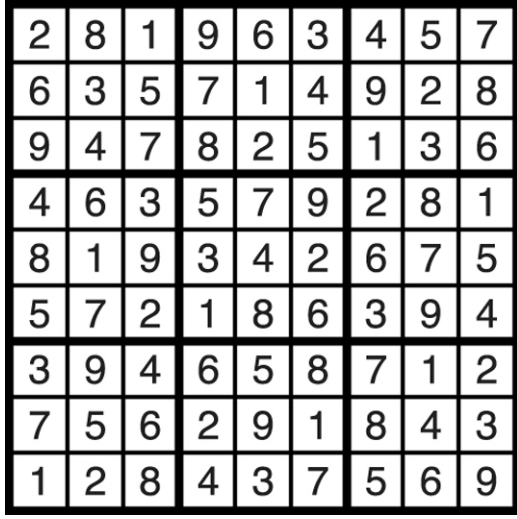
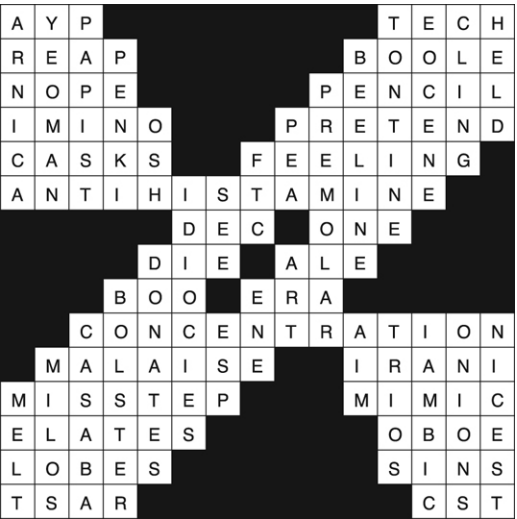
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### Results from Coal City, Reed-Custer, Wilmington Boys Dream Team track meet

Scoring is 5-3-1 for all events										Team scoring					Scoring is 5-3-1 for all events										Team scoring					1600 RELAY										
100 METER										CC	RC	W	100 METER										CC	RC	W	1600 RELAY										CC	RC	W		
CATHY SHORKEY	RC	12.75	1990	1	5	3	ALYSSA SHROBA	RC	4:12.93	2015	3	5	1	VANCE TEMPLET	CC	10.70	2004	5	1	3	JIM WEST						RC	3:23.96	1998	5	3	1								
DARCIE BARR	W	12.78	1997				ALYSSA MARRS						DAMIEN ANDERSON	W	10.90	1997						NATHAN DURBIN																		
CORINNE BENSON	CC	12.80	2008				MADDIE CHRISTENSEN						B.J. BAILEY	RC	11.05	2015						BILLY CHAPMAN																		
100 HIGH HURDLES										100 HIGH HURDLES										100 HIGH HURDLES										100 HIGH HURDLES										
MICHELLE OWENS	W	15.25	1998	3	1	5	CASSIE ALDRIDGE	CC	4:17.50	2012						RICK LUNA	RC	14.77	1987	3	5	1	MATT PIVONKA						RC	3:30.22	2006									
LISA RASMUSSEN	CC	15.40	1987				EMILY HALLIDAY						STEVE NICOLETTI	CC	15.01	1984						BLAINE NICHOLS																		
JENNY MANDAC	RC	15.45	2002				CHEYENNE JESSEN						TRAVIS QUIGLEY	W	15.04	2004						TOM DESONIA																		
200 METER										200 METER										200 METER										200 METER										
DARCIE BARR	W	26.17	1997	1	3	5	CLAIRE LANDERS						MIKE ELLER	RC	22.03	2008	1	5	3	MATT PIVONKA																				
JERILYN MANDAC	RC	26.24	2008				RUNA WEIDLING	W	4:33.15	2019						KEVIN BOCK	W	22.27	1972						CLARENCE BROCK						W	3:36.24	1969							
BECKY GERVASE	CC	26.60	1978				HALLE HAGA						VANCE TEMPLET	CC	22.30	2004						BILL WATLING																		
300 HURDLES										300 HURDLES										300 HURDLES										300 HURDLES										
LISA RASMUSSEN	CC	46.30	1989	5	3	1	ALYSSA OHLUND						JIM WEST	CC	39.30	1998	5	3	1	STEVE CHRISTENSEN						STEVE LOCKWOOD														
JENNY MANDAC	RC	46.33	2001				CLAIRE RINK						DYLAN ROFF	RC	39.44	2007						DAVID BITTERMAN																		
ANNA STRONG	W	46.87	2005				JACKIE MARQUARDT						TRAVIS QUIGLEY	W	39.68	2004						STEVE LOCKWOOD																		
400 METER										400 METER										400 METER										400 METER										
MORGAN ZACHARIAS	RC	1:01.51	2014	3	5	1	JENNY MANDAC	RC	10:05.70	2002	3	5	1	STEVEN DAVIS	RC	49.19	2010	3	5	1	JOE CHRISTENSEN						CC	8:03.10	1993	5	3	1								
SANDY BALDERAS	CC	1:01.80	1978				LESLIE MCCUE						STEVE NICOLETTI	CC	50.00	1984						KEITH SMITH																		
DARTHY BARR	W	1:03.22	1996				DINA NACEY						ROLAND NIGHTENGALE	W	51.20	2000						RYAN MEECE						SHAWN HAMILTON												
800 METER										800 METER										800 METER										800 METER										
STACIE HALL	RC	2:19.33	2012	3	5	1	BEV VARGO	CC	10:20.00	1991						CLARENCE BROCK	W	1:57.02	1969	3	1	5	CESAR POPOCA						RC	8:23.56	2014									
MEGAN PETTY	CC	2:25.40	2009				JOANNA HANLEY						SHAWN HAMILTON	CC	1:57.60	1993						ANDREW MORRISON																		
DIANE LOVE	W	2:31.42	1978				STACEY DEPODESTA						JUDAH WESSMAN	RC	1:57.85	2008						JORDAN NEU																		
1600 METER										1600 METER										1600 METER										1600 METER										
RYAN EICHELBERGER	RC	5:07.33	2007	3	5	1	MEGAN BERGMAN	W	11:19.22	2014						RYAN MEECE	CC	4:28.40	1993	5	3	1	BOBBY DINKINS						W	8:38.00	2004									
CHRIS OLSON	CC	5:17.30	1981				TERA SMITH						BRAD GRAHAM	RC	4:30.60	2002						JOSH CRUTCHFIELD																		
CHLOE PROFFIT	W	5:43.60	2019				LEXI PLESE						ED KEMPES	W	4:42.35	1973						ERIC CRUTCHFIELD																		
3200 METER										3200 METER										3200 METER										3200 METER										
RYAN EICHELBERGER	RC	11:03.90	2007	3	5	1	CALIN WOLCOTT						BRAD GRAHAM	RC	9:38.40	2002	3	5	1	CHRIS ANDERSON																				
CHRIS OLSON	CC	11:45.60	1983				JADEN CHRISTIAN	RC	37'09.5	2018	3	5	1	RUSSELL SANTERELLI	CC	9:46.30	1994																							
KARA BROCK	W	12:00.39	2014				NICKI MARCZEWSKI	CC	36'01.5	2000						ED KEMPES	W	10:02.00	1973																					
SCHEREE ANDERSON	W	49.84	1997	3	1	5	AUTUMN SWITZER	W	36'00	2019																														
400 RELAY										400 RELAY										400 RELAY										400 RELAY										
DARTHY BARR	W	49.84	1997	3	1	5						VANCE TEMPLET	CC	43.50	2004	5	3	1	RAY BURROUGHS						CC	43'09	1983	5	3	1										
MICHELLE OWENS						JADEN CHRISTIAN	RC	18'01	2017	1	5	3	NICK SHEPKOWSKI						BOBBY HEDENSCHOUG	RC	43'04.75	2004						W	42'05.5	1974										
DARCIE BARR						KATE MCCANN	W	17'00	2019						JOSH LARDI						JOHN PLESE																			
NICKI MARCZEWSKI										NICKI MARCZEWSKI										NICKI MARCZEWSKI										NICKI MARCZEWSKI										
DANA TROTTER	CC	50.52	2003				NICKI MARCZEWSKI	CC	16'11.5	2003						DAVID VERONDA						MIKE ELLER						RC	22'10	2008	1	5	3							
BETH ZELINKO						MORGAN ZACHARIAS	RC	13'03	2015	2	5	2	CODY KEMPF	RC	43.95	2015						RON HILLIARD						W	22'00	1958										
KIM VANDERWALL						TERA SMITH	W	6'06	2012						DON VERCELOTE						ASA COOPER						CC	21'05.5	2019											
KAY CANNON	RC	50.87	1990				BREANNA WHITTUM	CC	6'06	2003						B.J. BAILEY						MIKE ELLER						RC	15'01	2008	3	5	1							
DIANA BARNHART																										SCOTT NORRIS						RC	13'03	1993						
CATHY SHORKEY						JENNY MANDAC	RC	5'05	2001	2	5	2	DAMIEN ANDERSON	W	44.70	1997						MIKE MATLOCK						W	12'00	1970										
CHRIS MASON						EMILY CHRISTIAN	RC	5'05	2011						RUDD ALLRED																									
800 RELAY										800 RELAY										800 RELAY										800 RELAY										
SCHEREE ANDERSON	W	1:46.32	1998	1	3	5	ERIN RULAND	W	5'04	1997						BRADY WILKINS						SCOTT BECK						RC	6'06.25	1994	3	5	1							
DARTHY BARR						BECKY GERVASE	CC	5'04	1978											MATT PIVONKA						BILLY WILLS						CC	6'06	1992						
MICHELLE OWENS																										JUSTIN KULPA						W	6'00	2014						
DARCIE BARR																																								
JACKLYN STROUSE										JACKLYN STROUSE										JACKLYN STROUSE										JACKLYN STROUSE										
ELLEN VANDERHYDEN	RC	1:47.43	2008				TRACY MURPHY	CC	127'06	1988	5	3	1	STEVEN DAVIS						LARRY READMAN						W	176'00	1969	3	1	5									
STEPHANIE JAMES						LISA SCHEER	RC	126'05	1994						DYLAN ROFF						CHRIS SHIRKEY						CC	154'02	1993											
JERILYN MANDAC						SARA GANS	W	121'02	2009						MIKE ELLER						JASON BAKER						RC	153'03	2010											
BRITTANY HALLIDAY										BRITTANY HALLIDAY										BRITTANY HALLIDAY										BRITTANY HALLIDAY										
JILL YOUNGQUIST	CC	1:48.40	2011				KELSI MCMAHAN	RC	38'02	2009	1	5	3	SCOTT MCCLUCKIE	CC	1:31.80	2008						KEEGAN GRANT						CC	57'10	2006	5	3	1						
BREA LEWIS						JACKIE RADER	W	37'09	1998						DAN MARTIN						JASON BAKER						RC	57'03	2010											
EMILY HALLIDAY						MANDY GALBREATH	CC	35'11.5	1996						JEFF KRAUSE						LARRY READMAN						W	56'01.5	1970											
TEAM SCORES: REED-CUSTER=74, COAL CITY= 4 6 ; WILMINGTON=42										TEAM SCORES: REED-CUSTER=74, COAL CITY= 4 6 ; WILMINGTON=42										TEAM SCORES: REED-CUSTER=74, COAL CITY= 4 6 ; WILMINGTON=42										TEAM SCORES: REED-CUSTER=74, COAL CITY= 4 6 ; WILMINGTON=42										
BOB ADAMS										BOB ADAMS										BOB ADAMS										BOB ADAMS										
JIM AAGESEN										JIM AAGESEN										JIM AAGESEN										JIM AAGESEN										
MARK BENGE										MARK BENGE										MARK BENGE										MARK BENGE										
JOHN PLESE										JOHN PLESE										JOHN PLESE										JOHN PLESE										

**BY SHAWN LONG**  
SPORTS WRITER

For weeks The Coal City Courant has been publishing dream team articles that brought up the question: What if those athletes were pitted against one another in competition?

That question became a reality when Wilmington track coaches Larry Readman and Todd Lockwood came up with the idea of the 'Ultimate Track Meet'.

Lockwood, the organizer, broke the chart down into the 14 different track-and-field events boys and girls. He then predicted the winners based on the school record holder in the event.

One thing discovered was high school athletes from Coal City, Wilmington and Reed-Custer have gotten faster and records have become more difficult to achieve.

This was best represented with Coal City's Vance Templet and Wilmington's Damien Anderson's times during the state tournament in their respective seasons. Templet placed third in 2004 state track finals while Anderson was eighth overall running over his record time in the 1997 state finals. If he had run right at his time of 10.9 seconds, he would have been in a deadlock tie for the state championship. Times change as Templet was in a similar situation in 2004.

The point unfolds as Templet placed third with a time two-tenths of a second faster than that of Anderson's time. The funny thing about that was if Templet had run his record time of 10.70 seconds, he'd only have a shot at second place whereas if he ran that

same time in 1997, he'd be the winner.

Another instance is when Nick Shepkowski, Josh Lardi David Veronda and Templett ran a 43.50 for the Coalers in the 400 meter relay to place first in the Ultimate track meet. They bowed out early in the 2004 preliminary rounds. If they had finished in their record time in the finals, they would have earned fourth place.

Wilmington's 1997 track 400 meter relay team ran a 44.70 that year. They didn't place. If they had finished in 44.70 in 2004, they would have been beaten but if the Coalers had run their record time in 1997, they'd be the champions.

Incredible records withstand the test of time.

It is best illustrated with Ron D. Hilliard's long jump that stood in the area for the last 72 years until Mike Eller from Reed-Custer broke the record in 2008. The only person to approach that range since Eller set it was Coal City's Asa Cooper, who eclipsed 21'05.5. Cooper has his senior year to set a new standard if there is a summer season.

Cooper says he's working hard towards breaking Eller's record.

"The goal is definitely around there," said Cooper. "I haven't been out in a while but I've had a lot of time to get stronger/faster during this break. I can't wait to get back on the track."

On the girls side, Lady Comet Ryan Eichelberger (Pivonka) has held a record since 2008 with a 1600 meter run of 5:07.33 that is currently 10 seconds better than that of Coal City's Chris Olson in second place. In a race like that,



File Photo

**FORMER LADY COALER** Megan Petty finished second place in the 800 meter run against Wilmington and Reed-Custer in the 'Ultimate Track Meet'.

10-seconds is a wide margin. That record may never be broken. Eichelberger not only holds the school record but also garnered state consideration too.

For instance, the pole vault record first started with Mike Madlock at Wilmington, who cleared 12'00. Then, there was Scott Norris from Coal City that was over 13'00 (13'03). Finally, Eller launched himself over the crossbar at 15'01. That record made three changes in a matter of 50 years.

Wilmington and City don't offer pole vaulting so the only other possibility would be the Reed-Custer pole vaulters.

Evan Pickard has been the closest clearing 14-09 during the shortened season so there may be a chance Evan sets the new benchmark if there is a summer season.

In girls pole vaulting, this same situation applies. Morgan Zacharias from Reed-Custer is the pole vault champion in the Ultimate track meet with her school record distance where she cleared 13-03 in 2013. That set her apart from her counterparts Tera Smith and Breanna Whittum at Coal City, who both eclipsed 6-6.

It will be left up to Reed-Custer girls pole vaulters and Shaelin Ruzich was the closest one to it, clearing 8-6 in the 2018 state finals so that's still a wide gap.

Zacharias is fourth on the state list all-time for pole vault

and she also went to Louisville, a Division 1 school, where she racked up nine top five finishes during her junior year, including a first place during the Lenny Lyles/Clark Wood Invitational (13-06.50) and a






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**1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza**  
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
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**634-8858**


715 S. Broadway • Coal City




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**Benson Insurance Agency, Inc.**

*Independent Insurance Agent*



## Maria Zobel

**Winner of a large 2-item  
Pizza, carry-out only**

Must redeem by Jan. 18, 2021

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for the past 34 years!"***

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

***"Support Coal City High School Athletes"***