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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Coal City becoming a gigabit community

“WE THINK IT WILL BE GREAT FOR THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL GROWTH IN THE CITY AND I THINK IT WILL ALSO PREPARE THE CITY FOR FUTURE EXPANSION AND AS THE CITY EXPANDS, LET’S SAY TO THE SOUTH, FOR INDUSTRIAL WE CAN BRING SERVICE THERE.”

CESARE BRATTA
CO-OWNER,
SURF BROADBAND

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Cesare Bratta is looking to partner with the village of Coal City on the creation of a gigabit community.

“We believe cities that have fiber service throughout will outperform cities that don’t,” said Bratta. He is proposing that fiber optic internet be spread throughout the community.

“What we are looking for are partnerships with communities that we can work together and actually create a community as a gigabit community, or gigabit city as we like to call them,” said Bratta.

Bratta has been providing internet services in the community since 2003. In 2018, Bratta merged his company, Cyber Broadcasting, with two others to create Surf Broadband Solutions, an internet service provider in the Great Lakes region. The focus of the company

has been providing fiber internet to commercial, educational and health-care customers that needed the bandwidth that comes with fiber.

As Bratta explains, fiber provides a bandwidth that doesn’t come with fixed wireless, and it became apparent that residential users needed that same level of wireless service it was providing to its commercial customers.

The company currently owns over 425 miles of fiber and leases more than 1,000 miles. It serves 250-plus commercial customers and 65 school districts on 400 locations.

On the residential side, Bratta reports the company has extended fiber service to 40 homes locally with 20 additional projects in the works.

Surf Broadband is looking to further build out its high speed fiber network through a partnership proposal—franchise agreement—with the village.

Surf Broadband isn’t asking the vil-

lage for funding, but it is asking town officials for a streamlined permit process, something Bratta said can slow down the process of getting fiber in the ground.

The company is also looking to partner with the village on construction projects that would include road work and new development, something they have already done in town.

During the recently completed South Broadway Reconstruction project, Surf Broadband installed conduit that runs north and south along Broadway.

“We are not asking the city for any money, we’re looking to fund the build out to every location,” Bratta told trustees. The partnership would further provide the village with no cost internet service.

The extension of fiber and becoming a gigabit community would allow the village to bill itself as such, and

Bratta said, “the communities that have done that in the United States have seen some very prosperous times, because as soon as you’re advertising you’re gigabit consumers—residential or commercial—know they can get high speed fiber services and they are actually going to move to that community.”

“We think it will be great for the residential and commercial growth in the city and I think it will also prepare the city for future expansion and as the city expands, let’s say to the south, for industrial we can bring service there,” Bratta added.

“Well certainly this is the way of the future, gigabit cities, and it’s coming and it’s going to be here quickly. I think it’s a strategic asset if you have it within your community,” Mayor Terry Halliday said.

SEE GIGABIT, PAGE 2

Athletics, activities back on

BY MARNEY SIMON
AND ANN GILL
STAFF EDITORS

Student athletes are ready to head back to their respective sporting events, now that the Illinois High School Association [IHSA] has cleared the way to bring sports back, even in a limited capacity.

The IHSA Board of Directors met for a special board meeting on Jan. 27, where the Board provided an updated sports schedule and other guidance for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions in the state have kept school sports sidelined for most of the year.

The schedule includes boys and girls basketball to start practices as soon as possible, with the season running through March 13. Boys soccer can begin practices on March 1 with the season running until April 17.

Football can start on March 3 for practices, with the first games set for March 19. The season is set to conclude on April 24 with no state series.

Baseball, softball, and girls soccer can start practices on April 5, with the season set to run until June 19.

Wrestling practices can start on April 19, with the season expiring on June 12.

“What we have said in our school district from day one of this is, whatever the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] and Illinois State Board of Education [ISBE] allows we’re going to do, and we’ve done that from the beginning,” Unit 1 School Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg said.

He reports the district is thrilled that its athletic and co-curricular programs, and clubs are starting to meet



Photos by Shawn Long

COAL CITY SOPHOMRE Kerigan Copes takes a shot at the basket while teammate Mia Ferrias defends during basketball drills on Monday.

again, and notes the announcement has uplifted the student body.

“There is a different bounce in our kids’ step right now because the weight room is open, because they got to perform in the auditorium, and clubs and activities are meeting in person. They just want to be together to socialize. While school is about academics, it’s also about so much more,” the superin-

tendent said.

When schools were mandated to shut down last March, Bugg said there was a lot of concern about the impact it would have on students’ academic growth. For him the concern very quickly came to be and remains the social and emotional health of kids.

According to Bugg, district principals and student service personnel are seeing

an increasing number of students and families dealing with social and emotional issues stemming from the pandemic, and they are doing what they can to help their students.

“A big part of the school experience is the social growth, the emotional growth that happens in the before and after school activities

SEE BACK, PAGE 2

Unit 1 preparing to return to full day instruction

Board of Education to take vote on March return date

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Unit 1 School District continues to discuss changes to its Return to School Plan, specifically changes to the school day.

Over several weeks various planning committees have met to draft a plan for students and staff to return to full day in-person instruction at each of the district’s five schools.

Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg said that when the committees began to meet the goal was to develop a plan for full day instruction. The district is ready to transition from its current hybrid model back to a full day schedule.

“Our committees are still meeting and we are still finalizing recommendations so we can get our plan finished so that we can publicize it and get it out to our parents,” Bugg said.

Bugg expects to provide the Board of Education with an update when it meets this evening—Feb. 3.

The superintendent said the work of the committees has been to develop a plan that best meets the needs of students, staff and district families.

So when can parents expect students to return full-time? Bugg said it’s a decision of the Board of Education based on local public health information and with guidance from public professionals.

Based on current public health data showing a steady reduction in COVID cases, with no transmission of the virus within the school setting, it looks as if the district will transition from half day to full day attendance next month.

Bugg is recommending the board approve a return to full day instruction beginning Thursday, March 11. Even if approved at tonight’s meeting, he said the date remains tentative.

The superintendent said Tuesday there are a lot of factors that went into selecting that date.

“Would I have liked to see that earlier to get our kids back? Absolutely. But, there are a lot of variables and like I try to tell people it’s not as easy as flipping a switch and saying we’re going back to the schedule we had before all of this started,” Bugg said.

According to Bugg, the district did not hire some positions at the start of the school year in August and other positions were changed to accommodate what was needed to support the education plan.

“So it’s not that simple when we do go back to full day,” he said.

Even though the district is preparing to move to full day instruction, the state still requires the district to offer full remote learning to anyone who prefers not to attend. That’s something the district still has to figure out.

Another topic that’s been looked at is consistency across the county as to when districts will be getting back to a full day

SEE RETURN, PAGE 2

Coal City contributing \$125,000 to O’Reilly project

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The terms of a redevelopment agreement have been finalized, and the village of Coal City has agreed to provide \$125,000 in economic incentives to the developer who is bringing an O’Reilly Auto Parts store to town.

Last week, village trustees entered into an agreement with Texas-based 6S Development to provide capital from the town’s tax increment financing fund [TIF] to help cover the overall costs of redeveloping 850 and 860 E. Division St.

The developer had indicated its intent to construct a

retail project last summer, but in order to comply with the town’s core area design guidelines it would require some incentives. The village tentatively agreed to provide TIF funds back in July.

It was announced last month that 6S Development was moving forward with its plan to bring the auto parts retailer to town and was in negotiations to purchase both a commercial and residential property along East Division Street for its project.

The current metal building at 860 E. Division that had housed a prior auto parts store, along with the single family home immediately to the west are slated to be demolished to make way for a new 7,225

square-foot retail building that complies with the design guidelines as far as its exterior design.

The plan presented last month to the village’s Planning and Zoning Board shows the commercial structure will be a full brick building, with off street parking and signage and that’s included within the terms of the redevelopment agreement.

Additionally, the developer will be required to relocate—at its own cost—a water main that currently runs through an alleyway between the existing structures. The new water main will be moved to the far west edge of the property and the alley vacated once the land sale is complete.

“The village’s obligation is pretty simple,” according to Mark Heinle, the village’s attorney, who said the village will pay the developer \$100,000 once it closes on the property and the remaining \$25,000 will be issued upon completion.

The village has two additional terms it must meet and that is approve a series of property variances—completed at its Jan. 27 meeting—and grant the alley vacation.

“The developer, for its part, purchases those properties, constructs the project consistent with the plans its presented to the village and sell O’Reilly Auto Parts a lease to occupy the future structure,” Heinle said.

That lease is to be long

term, at a minimum being five years.

Per the agreement, 6S has one year—from the date of its redevelopment agreement with the village—to purchase the properties and are to start construction within 60 days from the date of purchase. The developer then has a one year deadline to complete the project. What that means is the developer has until January 2023.

“I don’t think anyone anticipates it’s going to take that long, but those are the outside dates,” Heinle told trustees during the Jan. 27 meeting.

According to the attorney, if the developer doesn’t make it to closing the village makes

no pay out, and in the event something later goes wrong and the project is abandoned, the village recoups its investment.

Village officials say the economic incentive being provided will be recouped from an increase in tax increment.

“This improvement within this currently commercially zoned area is expected to generate enough increment to offset the incentive being provided to 6S Development within four years time,” Fritz said.





Photo by Ann Gill

THE VILLAGE OF Coal City installed a vinyl fence around the Chestnut Street lift station in November 2020, and it prompted calls concerning safety. The village relocated the stop signs from east/west to north/south, but it still wasn't enough for the neighborhood. So last week the village agreed to make the intersection a four-way stop. The second set of stop signs will replace the yield signs this month.

Stop signs answer to neighborhood concerns

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Shortly after the village of Coal City installed a vinyl fence at the corner of Chestnut and Kankakee streets, the neighbors had something to say. The chief of police received calls from the neighborhood about the screening that went up around the lift station on the northeast corner of the intersection. According to Village Administrator Mat Fritz, "the concern, which was verified by police was that traffic approaching the intersection has a new visual impairment that required the intersection to be switched from its current 2-way stop designation to the opposite approaches." Police chief Tom Best said the fencing, put in to beautify the structure, did create "a bit of a blind spot," at the intersection. The stop signs were switched from east/west to

north/south after a two-week notice was posted at the intersection. Yield signs went up where the stop signs had been, but that wasn't enough. A few neighborhood residents resumed their calls to police saying the two-way designation was not sufficient. The police department took some time to monitor the area and agreed the best way to ensure motorist safety is to make the intersection a four-way stop. "There's not a lot of traffic through there so we're not going to create a traffic jam with this four-way stop, but it will increase safety at that intersection for the people coming from the east," Best said. The department did look at some other solutions, but the chief said the four-way stop was the best option. Town trustees agreed to the plan and approved turning the intersection into a four-way stop. The north east/west stop signs will be going up this month. "I think this will keep the intersection safe," Mayor Terry Halliday said upon passage of the amended traffic plan.

Attorney Black files Cooper estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 12

In the Matter of the Estate of Ardith A. Cooper, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Ardith A. Cooper. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Larry B. Cooper, 302 Waverly St., 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.

LARRY B. COOPER
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

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

Published in the Coal City Courant on Feb. 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

Attorney Schmidt files Bonnavier estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2021-P-2

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary L. Bonnavier, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Mary L. Bonnavier. Letters of office were issued on January 11, 2021 to Rheta Bredeben 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, with the representative, through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed.

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

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

Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10, 2021.

Attorney Black files Matthews estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 13

In the Matter of the Estate of Jeffrey D. Matthews, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Jeffrey D. Matthews. Letters of office as Independent Co-Administrators were issued to Judith Winkel, 2860 N. Dwight Rd., Morris, IL 60450 and Denise Matthews, 110 E. Southmor Rd., Morris, IL 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

JUDITH WINKEL
DENISE MATTHEWS
INDEPENDENT CO-ADMINISTRATORS

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 Feb. 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

Attorney Black files Anderson estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 4

In the Matter of the Estate of Eleanor R. Anderson, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Eleanor R. Anderson. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Andrew E. Anderson, 1111 Waupee St., 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.

ANDREW E. ANDERSON
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. 20 and 27 and Feb. 3, 2021.

Coalers know their business

Coal City High School's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA] found success at the annual Central Northern Area Leadership and Skills Conference. The 2021 conference was held virtually with the Lincoln Way East chapter hosting. The winter event provided students with an opportunity to test their proficiency and skills prior to the state conference competition in the spring. With students unable to meet in person, all presentations were pre-recorded and submitted in advance. Testing events were administered from the contestants' home school through an online system, according to Harlan Kennel, Coal City's FBLA sponsor. "This year's CNA was a huge success considering all the new guidelines," Kennel said. Coal City had 10 members compete in various events consisting of tests, presentations and interviews. FBLA's 75 competitive events are based on various areas of business including 3-D animation, accounting, supply chain management and social media strategies.

Coalers placing first included Luke Hawkins, intro to parliamentary procedures; Carmella Barkley, business communication; and Josh Ritchie in introduction to FBLA. Earning second place were Hannah Krull, agribusiness; Emma Cook, business law; and Gavin Chernesky in introduction to business. Additional placers were Ava Huston, third place, business ethics; Collin Dames, third place, intro to business presentation; Logan Hawkins, third place, introduction to financial math; and Molly

Stiles fifth place in personal finance. Along with Coal City, the conference included students from the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA), Lemont, Bradley Bourbonnais, Kankakee, Evergreen Park, Chicago Tech Academy, South Shore International College Prep, Sullivan and Lincoln Way East, West and Central high schools. FBLA is a career and technical student organization that seeks to prepare students for careers in business and business education.

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Bugg, Manietta earn dean's list honors

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized the academic achievement of its students by naming them to the fall semester 2020-

2021 dean's list. Mackenzie Bugg and Luke Manietta, both of Coal City, are among those who made the honors list

Bugg, the daughter of Kent and Debbie Bugg, was named to the dean's list in the College of Letters and Science. Manietta, the son of Troy

and Jolene Manietta, was named to the high honors list in the School of Pharmacy.

Back

that these kids are in. For a lot of these kids that's their passion for getting to school every day and we took that away from them," Bugg said. So last week's announcement that activities could resume has been a bright spot from many district students. Not only have team practices resumed, plans are moving forward for the annual spring musical and high school's ping pong club had balls bouncing through the hallways last week. Students have their activities back and due to overlapping seasons, the Unit 1 Board of Education is expected to amend its athletic guidelines for the current season to allow middle and high school athletes to participate in two sports at the same time. In each of the sports the seasons have been condensed and there will be no state series for the athletics as in the past. "This [season] is more about participation than competition right now. This is more about social-emotional health than a win and it always is," Bugg said. While a victory is always a goal, the focus right now is being flexible with students' participation and simply being thankful these activities can resume. Due to limitations on the number of spectators at events the district is putting plans in place and preparing to live-stream its games. The guidelines provide that sporting

events can allow up to 50 spectators, indoors or outdoors. Grundy County is currently in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, and not under any additional restrictions. Still, with a 50 spectator limit, odds are fans from the visiting team won't be allowed. Reed-Custer has already said they will be allowing two spectators per player for home games. The state board is considering State Series competition for traditional IHSA spring sports only. Dance and cheerleading will be allowed to conduct virtual Sectional and State Final meets, where they will record their performances and submit them to be judged. "Ultimately, the Board adhered to its stated goals throughout the pandemic: Providing an opportunity for every IHSA student-athlete to compete safely this year and maximizing opportunities for traditional IHSA spring sports after they lost their entire season a year ago," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson after the decision was issued. "Our Board faced an impossible task with a litany of factors. They were conscientious in considering every possibility and I believe their decisions today are a positive step for the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our students. We are excited to channel our energy into creating as many positive experiences for Illinois high school students as we can between now and the end of this extraordinary school year." The guidelines require all student-athletes and game personnel to wear masks and adhere to social distancing.

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Gigabit

At Bratta's request and on the recommendation of the village administrator, village trustees authorized the mayor to sign onto an expression of interest to continue working towards a franchise agreement with Surf Broadband. The terms of the agreement would allow the company to utilize village rights of way to extend fiber to service the community. As part of the agreement, Bratta and his partners will also be looking to work with the village on joint press releases touting the available service and have a presence on the town's website. In talking with the administrator, Bratta said the company is also looking at the possibility of a program that would provide a level of free internet for new businesses and offering open wi-fi during community events. "We're very much looking forward to working with the city on this and believe it will help the city grow," Bratta said.

Return

approval, takes that and several other factors into consideration. Bugg said the March 11 date aligns within the time frame being considered by the majority of the county's schools, and tries to accommodate what he was hearing from the transition committees which was, "don't start on a Monday, it's too hard for the little ones." He further said that day falls in the final days of the third grading quarter which would allow the high school to start its fourth quarter with full day instruction. Additionally, it provides the district about five weeks to finalize its transition plan and gives families ample time to adjust their schedules. A March 11 return date also comes close to the one year mark since the pandemic forced schools to close last spring, and the last time Coal City kids attended a full class day.

close contact not one of those kids excluded for close contact ended up COVID positive, so we've not had transmission at school," Bugg said. He further noted as long as mitigation strategies are in place, schools are safe and Unit 1 has the data to support that. Committee's working on the transition plans are comprised of school staff and administration, the same people who worked to develop the original Return to School Plan last summer. "I've been proud of our staff from day one, because when way back in July almost everyone in the county was going full remote, and our staff said no we want our kids back somehow so let's figure this out," Bugg said. The staff has had the same spirit toward to return of full-day schooling. "As we went though the

transition process very, very few concerns came up about safety. They are concerned about the kids, they're concerned about how are we going to deal with our remote learners, how are we going to instruct five year olds if they can't move out of their desks all day long. Those are legitimate issues and we're trying to figure out some creative ways to deal with that," Bugg said. In the coming days the transition plan will be wrapped up and presented to the district's Citizens Advisory Committee for input. Once the plan has been finalized it will be published in order for families to have time to make decisions on in-person or remote instruction moving forward. "Our hope is that more and more kids come back for full day instruction," Bugg said.

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Walsh-Strnad petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Braelynn Chloe Jurinek to Braelynn Chloe Gignac. Case No. 2021 MR 5.

NOTICE Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself and Braelynn Chloe Jurinek, minor shall appear in the before the Grundy County Circuit Court at 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 at 9:00 a.m. on the 9th day of March, 2021 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then present a petition requesting the name of Braelynn Chloe Jurinek be changed to Braelynn Chloe Gignac.

Arica Ryann Walsh-Strnad, Petitioner
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and 10, 2021.

Attorney Black files Diederich estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 8

In the Matter of the Estate of Patricia A. Diederich, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Patricia A. Diederich. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Tricia A. Kramer, 2922 Grand Prairie Dr., Joliet, Illinois 60431, 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.

TRICIA A. KRAMER
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. 27 and Feb. 3 and 10, 2021.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Businesses still waiting on pandemic funds

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Last spring the village of Coal City helped a handful of local businesses gain access to emergency funds to help them through pandemic closures. Many months later, the majority of those businesses have yet to receive a dollar.

The state made \$20 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds available through Downstate Small Business Stabilization grants. Two Coal City businesses were among the first to apply and be awarded.

In June, X-Calibur Gymnastics and Broadway Dance Center were notified they would receive \$25,000 and \$21,600 respectively. This fall, the village received 25% of the total amount funded for each of the businesses. The funds were turned over to the businesses who were then required to submit some additional information.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz reported last week the state had recently remitted the remaining bal-

ance of the X-Calibur grant. Broadway Dance Center is still waiting for the rest of its pandemic funding, and the final paperwork is pending, according to the administrator.

Around the time the first awards were announced, two additional businesses—Broadway Family Dental and LaPiazza Ristorante—submitted their applications to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), those applications were approved in late November with the businesses being awarded \$25,000 each.

"We continue to work with DCEO on a daily basis to get Broadway Dental and LaPiazza their amounts. We're trying to get all of the grant agreements aligned and get them funded," Fritz said.

A public hearing to close out each of the grant awards will be held once 100% of funding is received, Fritz reported.

To date more than \$8.5 million in funding has been awarded to 422 businesses within 103 communities. Initially, funding was available to

private for-profit small retail and service businesses or businesses considered non-essential by the Governor's executive order.

DCEO announced in November that the program was being opened to include essential businesses that have lost more than 20% of sales in comparison to the same time period in 2019. The final date to apply for the downstate funding grants is Feb. 26.

In other matters from the Jan. 27 meeting of the Village Board:

- Village attorney Mark Heinle reported the village is looking to take possession of 95 E. Oak St., through the county's tax sale.
- The village had previously cleared a vacant home from the property and placed a lien on the land to recover the demolition cost of about \$12,000.
- Heinle told the board instead of foreclosing on the lien it was best to wait for the tax process and assume the land through the sale at a cost of about \$1,000.
- In turn the village would sell the property to recoup its costs and investment, and see the property

revitalized.

Heinle expects the process to be finalized in late summer.

- Mayor Terry Halliday announced Tammy Johnson had resigned her seat creating a vacancy on the Police Pension Board.
- Halliday is looking to fill the seat with an individual who is interested in serving a two-year term on the pension board that meets four times a year.
- The mayor further announced the village is looking to fill a seat on the town's Park Board, a post that will be appointed by the mayor in the next few months.
- Village clerk Pam Noffsinger reported the consolidated election ballot for the open positions on the Village Board have been certified. Seeking election are three incumbent trustees Tim Bradley, Sarah Beach and Dave Spesia.
- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$39,176.34. Included in the bills were a \$2,815.24 payment for fuel for the public works department, \$6,380.60 for water treatment plant salt and \$800 in animal control

fees for October-December 2020.

- The mayor and trustees expressed their condolences to the Sandeno Family and the employees of D Construction on the sudden loss of Todd Sandeno, co-owner of the Coal City-based construction company.
- "Todd was a great partner for the village of Coal City," Trustee Tim Bradley said.
- Halliday expressed his thoughts that the time has come for the village to move forward with re-opening Village Hall to the public, and resume in-person board meetings.
- Due to pandemic restrictions, Village Hall has been accessible by phone and meetings held remotely.
- "I'm certainly not opposed if someone who is still not comfortable to participate remotely, if that's something we have to continue that's fine, but I think we have to start moving back toward meetings in the Village Hall and our Village Hall starting to open," the mayor said.
- The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10.

Unit 1 Schools recognize Students of the Week



OWEN PETERSON
Middle School



LILLY FEISLEY
Middle School



PARKER MURPHEY
Intermediate School



JACOB MAJEWSKI
Intermediate School



AMYTHEIST YARSHEN
Intermediate School



ALYSON SHELTON
Intermediate School



CALEB KELLY
Elementary School



GRAYSON BAILEY
Elementary School



ALEXIS HENDERSON
Elementary School



NOAH MOSER
Elementary School



KAMDEN MARTINO
Elementary School



ANDREW BECKERS
Elementary School



CHANCE SPERO
Elementary School



ADDISON SKAGGS
Elementary School



BINSLEY STRAMAGLIA
Elementary School



BRYSON MALE
Elementary School



CARSON PICCHI
Elementary School



KYLIE CANNON
Early Childhood Center



BRAELYN WANTROBA
Early Childhood Center



WILLIAM ZIMMER
Early Childhood Center



MYLES MARKETI
Early Childhood Center



VICTORIA CONNOR
Early Childhood Center



AUBREY RHODES
Early Childhood Center



ADDISON RITTER
Early Childhood Center

Notice to handicapped and elderly voters

PUBLIC NOTICE
GRUNDY COUNTY ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED VOTERS

Please be advised that the following voting aids are available to assist elderly and handicapped voters in the Consolidated Election April 6, 2021
MAGNIFIERS and SIGNATURE TEMPLATES to assist voters who have visual problems.
HANDICAPPED VOTING BOOTHS for voters who must vote from a seated position.
BALLOT BUZZERS to allow voters to summon Election Judges to help them enter the polling place.
VOTING ASSISTANCE - Handicapped and elderly voters requiring help may be assisted by a friend, relative or by the Election Judges.
CURBSIDE VOTING - Available for voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place. Call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at 815-941-3222 for information.
VOTER REGISTRATION - Call the County Clerk's Office at 815-941-3222 for locations throughout the county, for the Registrar nearest you, or if special arrangements need to be made.
VOTE BY MAIL - Voters who wish to cast a Vote by Mail ballot may contact the County Clerk's Office to obtain the necessary forms if voting by mail or directions to the Early Voting location if voting in person.

Please note: Face masks required and cell phones are not allowed in the Grundy County Courthouse.

Kay T. Olson
Grundy County Clerk

Dated this 3rd day of February, 2021
Published in the Coal City Courant on Feb. 3, 2021.

Foreclosure sale of 1141 Indian Grass Court

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. Plaintiff, -v- ROBERT R. VENO et al Defendant, 2019CH22

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 17, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on March 10, 2021, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 147 IN THE PRAIRIE RIDGE SUBDIVISION, PHASE ONE, UNIT TWO A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN AS DELINEATED ON A PLAT OF SUBDIVISION RECORDED JULY 24, 2003 IN PLAT CABINET H, SLIDE 34 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 421160, AND CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION RECORDED JULY 9, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NO. 436308, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1141 INDIAN GRASS COURT, MINOOKA, IL 60447
Property Index No. 03-12-327-010
The real estate is improved with a residence.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300
E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-19-02633
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2019CH22
TJSC#: 41-105
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Case # 2019CH22
I3163580

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, February 3, 10, and 17, 2021.

Campos earns masters at Illinois State

Hillary Campos, has been awarded a master's degree from Illinois State University's School of Communication.

"I must say that my last semester as a graduate student has been quite the rollercoaster, as I am sure similar experiences have been had by other graduates. This year, the entire world has endured countless events that will go down in history, and by now, it is evident that we are all living through a major turning point in history, one that will be analyzed for years to come," Campos said.

She plans to work in corporate communications. Campos previously earned her bachelor's degree from the university in communication studies-organizational/leadership.

She is the daughter of Ray and Debbie Campos, of Diamond.

Photo courtesy of Tamana Tasmin
HILLARY CAMPOS

Notice of foreclosure of 340 Elizabeth Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for the Pooling and Servicing Agreement Dated as of April 1, 2005 Park Place Securities, Inc. Asset-Backed Pass-Through Certificates Series 2005-WHQ2; Plaintiff, Vs. Cheryl Suhling, St. Francis Mortgage Corporation, Midland Funding LLC, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants, 2020CH2

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: ST. FRANCIS MORTGAGE CORPORATION UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

LOT 7, EXCEPT THE NORTH 60.83 FEET THEREOF IN MAR-LEEN SUBDIVISION, FOURTH ADDITION AS PER PLAT THERE OF RECORDED AUGUST 15, 1991 IN PLAT CABINET F, SLIDE 187 AS DOCUMENT 310068, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS. COMMONLY KNOWN AS 340 ELIZABETH DR, COAL CITY, IL 60416. PIN # 09-03-176-054 and which said Mortgage was made by:

CHERYL SUHLING, A SINGLE WOMAN, the Mortgagee(s), to Argent Mortgage Company, LLC as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of GRUNDY COUNTY, IL, as Document No. 445219; and for other relief, that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, on or before March 5, 2021, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://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 [HYPERLINK "http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp"](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp) www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Potestivo & Associates, P.C. 223 W Jackson Blvd., Suite 610 Chicago, IL 60606

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act you are advised that this law firm is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Our File No.: 311537
I3163455

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

Helping you protect what matters most.

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

Dean Tambling, LUTCF
Financial Representative
65 E Church St
Coal City, IL 60416-1604
www.countryfinancial.com/dean.tambling
dean.tambling@countryfinancial.com
(815)634-3184

Auto and Home policies issued by COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company*, COUNTRY Casualty Insurance Company* or COUNTRY Preferred Insurance Company*. Life insurance policies issued by COUNTRY Life Insurance Company* and COUNTRY Investors Life Assurance Company*. All issuing companies located in Bloomington, IL.

0520-513HC_16272-11/30/2020

Free Press Newspapers readers

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

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

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

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

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

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

Frauding Illinois

WILMINGTON—Unemployment insurance fraud is growing in Illinois. From the onset of the Covid virus, fraudulent claims have been an issue as record number of Illinois residents filed for benefits and Congress provides additional jobless aid. Illinois has stopped more than 350,000 fraudulent claims since March 1, 2020. The FBI, IRS and several state agencies have launched a task force to tackle the problem. People complain someone else filed an unemployment claim in their name. Victims should immediately report the fraudulent claims to the states unemployment agency.

Brutally honest

WILMINGTON—In last week's Sound-off articles "The swamp is back", Margot Lane, Shadow Lakes then Essex, Wealthy politicians, Coal City, "When cities burned" then USA or California also "Exposing America" and Wilmington. Thank you whoever you are from the bottom of my heart for being so brutally honest, informative and caring enough to share your thoughts and feelings. Better than the nightly news!

Destruction of America

SHADOW LAKES—I guess people can burn, loot, hurt, maim, kill and cheat in elections because many states did not follow their own election rules and laws. So I guess just do whatever you want, when you want, the way you want and a Democrat will protect you.

So-called adults

WILMINGTON—I taught 8th grade for most of my teaching career. Many people often asked me how I could put up with 13 and 14 year olds. On their worst days, they were still nothing close to the behaviors of the so-called adults I saw on Jan. 6, 2021 in Washington D.C. T Lockwood

Ignoring our own

COAL CITY—The Democrat leadership wants to keep the National Guard in D.C. for their protection. But what about the protection for the American citizens? When they want to defund the police, shut down ICE and open borders while they let criminals out of jail. The Democrat leaders say that the rule of law is important and so is the constitution of the USA. So maybe they should go back and read the laws that they say they honor because they do not practice what they preach unless it's for their own protection or protection of their families while they toss aside the legal rights suppose to be guaranteed for every American citizen. They give money that belongs to the taxpayers to foreign countries and allow American citizens to live in the streets without food. Hypocrite does not even come close to a word that describes the Democrat party. The words power crazy and egomaniacs are better words to describe the Democrat party leaders.

Nuts in Washington

MORRIS—President Biden has signed an order involving gender discrimination which means that any male legally can claim he is female and can enter into any female restroom or locker room without being arrested. Female citizens should not be subjected to this type of crime. Maybe the politicians should go back to school to learn there is a difference between a male and a female gender in every form of animal life on the planet earth. Since apparently some of the politicians in Washington, D.C. and around the USA seem to believe that males and females are built exactly alike, so the politicians and every other White House individuals should take a closer look at photos of Adam and Eve. Would they know the difference or would some scientist have to explain it to them on a TelePrompTer? Call your fearless leaders and see if they are going to reject President Biden's new law or if they care about what you think about anything. There are plenty of psychiatric institutions throughout the USA that will make room for more individuals since all the nuts are not in the cake, they live and work in Washington, D.C.

Parking garage quarters

WILMINGTON—Who would believe the treatment of 25,000 National Guard soldiers by General Pelosi. They were put in the parking garage to sleep with few bathrooms, florescent lights and car ignition fumes to deal with during the inauguration of President Biden. The word is out and not good response. Many will be sent home to the states they came from yet 10,600 National Guard will be left behind. For what reason? When news broke President Trump offered rooms in his hotel in D.C. to the guardsmen for free all while the Democrats and a few Republicans plan on impeaching our President Trump. It's called unity.

Bringing down USA

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling about Biden's executive orders, so far. Seems to me that the Democrats want to bring down the American economy and force people out of jobs so they can depend on the government. That is the perfect way to bring in socialism/communism. They also want to disarm the Americans which we have had armament in this country since our founding fathers. Many of which were repeating rifles that could fire 15 rounds in 10.5 seconds. No different then the AR15. So tell me something,

do left wing liberal, Democrats and that includes my neighbor, why do you want to destroy the American economy and be dependent on foreign sources. If Biden is really for American independence he would continue Trump's progress. Dan Hill.

Good quotes

WILMINGTON—Thomas Jefferson once said, "a government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have." Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same."

Dependents

President Trump was called a xenophobic because he stopped people from traveling from Asia. Biden has stopped people from traveling from 24 different countries. How come he's not called xenophobic. You know it's always the double standard when it comes to the Democrats. They won't be happy until they bring this country down and every one of you are going to be dependent, with a capital D, on the government. That includes you too, Penny Lane.

Pace yourself Joe

SHADOW LAKES—Thank you China Joe: Pace yourself China Joe. You have 4 years. You don't have to destroy our country your first week. Always Margot Lane.

Threat of terrorists

BRAIDWOOD—Lock them in, turn on the gas. Ha ha ha! How many cubic feet of space is there in each chamber of Congress? With the barriers about 14 or 18 inches in diameter or more, the length of tubing would have to be extremely long. The number of cubic inch vehicles emissions also being many. Why? Because occupants in the chamber could smell. Not carbon monoxide though. Why? Congress persons have smart phones and might think to phone for help - 911. I'm aware of this because on the radio today was mentioned a group communicated with at least one other in its group; Lock them in and turn on the gas. A substantiation of a conspiracy or satire?

Buying up land

COAL CITY—Read Bill Gates is now the top private farmland owner in America with more than 242,000 acres across 18 states. Cable billionaire John Malone is still our country's biggest landowner with 2.2 million acres of ranches and forests. Amazon owner Jeff Bezos also invests in land and owns more than 420,000 acres, mostly in west Texas.

Liberal agenda

COAL CITY—President Biden is asking for unity in our country while he signs 27 executive orders the first week in office reversing many of President Trump's accomplishments. That is the most executive orders after being in office one week than any other president. His stimulus bill is a liberal agenda it's focused on pandemic relief also bail outs of the badly managed blue states, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles etc. and a 15 dollar minimum wage. That would push small businesses to the brink and erase over 3 million jobs. It's a massive expansion of the welfare state not pandemic relief. Canceling the Keystone XL pipeline that was going to carry oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico with 10,000 union jobs lost. It's called unity! 15 percent increase in food stamps.

Arming ourselves

COAL CITY—Read 40 million firearms background checks were processed in 2020, a 40 percent increase over 2019 and by far the most since the FBI began tracking such checks in 1998. Fears of political violence and pandemic anarchy, 5 million Americans bought their first gun last year.

Now there's proof

WILMINGTON—Marjorie Taylor Greene is proof that Sherman didn't do enough.

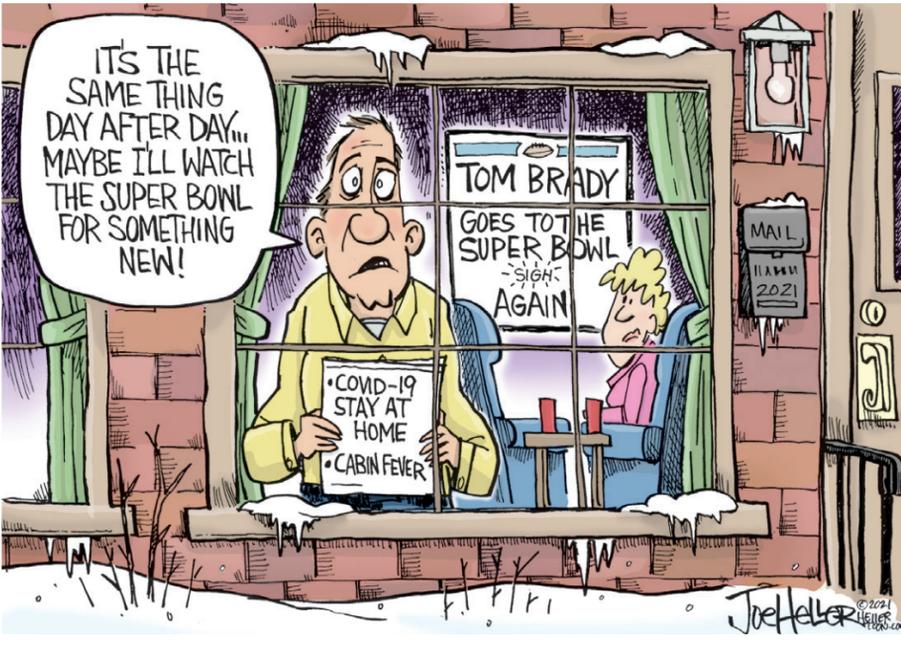
Wrong again

Here we go again, when I responded to Dan Hill's Sunday school lesson I used the word moot, defined as meaningless, not mute, which is defined as silenced. Although it's not a contest I still have a better vocabulary than the Sound-off editor.

Publisher's note: For experts of vocabulary, such as yourself, from now on submit your sound-offs in writing by email to courant@fpnusa.com. We're tired of flipping through the dictionary trying to figure what in the hell you're saying.

More harm to U.S.

SHADOW LAKES—We not only have big tech and the main stream media censoring news but there is a call to ban books by people on the left. While the new administration sits back and talks about how they are going to help Americans, with the stroke of a pen they are giving citizenship to foreign individuals who are in the USA illegally so they can collect the taxpayers funds. Raising taxes and opening borders creates havoc in the USA, subjecting citizens to more harm from criminals. The new administration seems to be using the same strategy that was used on the left in European history by using the idea to deprogram us so they become like a scarecrow before he had a brain.



Vote of dissent

SHADOW LAKES—Did you ever notice in sound-off that some people think Trump was a great president and some people think he was the worst? Now some people think Biden will be a terrible president but no one is saying Biden will be great or even good. He's just not Trump. I don't think anyone voted for Biden, they just voted against Trump. Eddie

So much anger

SHADOW LAKES—Just got done reading the sound-off section of the paper and I can almost see the fury and anger of Trump supporters with the election results. We have had many presidential elections in the past back and forth from democrats to republicans but I've never seen so much anger and hatred like we have now. And there is only one logical explanation. I can still remember when Trump said on national television that he could shoot a person on Fifth Avenue, New York and his supporters will still love him. I try and try but I just can't comprehend what kind of spell Trump has on these people. I honestly believe these people would run into a burning building if he told them to. The sad part is that it's going to take a very long time for all the hatred he created to go away.

Twisted

COAL CITY—In this country the Republican Party has taken up arms to beat democracy into the ground as they beat police to death. It turns out the GOP backs the men in blue only when convenient. Meanwhile Russia's people cry for democracy in the streets as tens of thousands gather in subzero temperatures demanding the release of their hero, Navalny, who Putin poisoned. What a twist. Democracy is growing in Russia while it is besieged in America. Regarding our own election, Trump filed 62 lawsuits in the states, appealed the election outcome in the Supreme Court and begged Georgia's Republicans to change 11,780 ballots in his favor. Despite Trump's attempts at voter fraud, Trump lost fair and square. And what's the result? QAnon continues to promote fairy tales and Trump's followers continue to hallucinate.

Kurt K.

Looney tunes time

COAL CITY—President Biden claims he wants unity in our country. Really his executive orders that he signed have infuriated conservatives. One of his first proposals is to bailout all the heavy in debt Democrat states to the tune of \$350 billion to be paid for by the Republicans in the red states. Taxes will be increased for everyone. Once again President Biden has us paying for abortions worldwide, something President Trump rejected. Forty executive orders in one week. Looney tune time folks.

Notice how Kamala, our vice president, stands close by as President Biden signs executive orders, ready to take over just in case.

Let's get packing

COAL CITY—Here's a solution to carjacking senior citizens in Chicago. All Chicago senior citizens should buy a hand gun. "No more carjacking. Grandma is packing." Look out.

Out of respect

WILMINGTON—This is for Margo Lane who lives in the notorious Shadow Lakes. When Trump was president I didn't agree with him but I always called him President Trump because he was our president. Now Joe Biden is our president and I think he should be referred to as President Joe Biden. So please stop with the stupid name calling and grow up.

Stupid people

WILMINGTON—Here's a fun quiz. Keep track of the statements you agree or disagree with. Stupid people believe in white supremacy. Stupid people fly confederate flags. Stupid people blame others for their failures. Stupid people believe violence is a means to an end. Stupid people don't wear masks. Stupid people think they are smarter than they are. Lastly, stupid people love to hate. They hate liberals, they hate education and they really hate being told they are stupid.

Penny Lane

Teach them to obey

MORRIS—I'm sick and tired of all these people blaming the police for all the unnecessary use of force. Why don't these politicians and these businessmen and pastors speaking out against this tell the parents to take care of their kids? Tell them to obey and do what the policemen say. Drop your stupid cell phone and whatever you have in your hand. Put your hands up and show some respect to the police. This is getting ridiculous. They do it because they know they can get away with it and the day after it happens they file a lawsuit and they collect. The Democrats want to give all the criminals their rights and have everything given to the illegal immigrants.

When Jesus comes

SHADOW LAKES—This is regarding the Democrats and all the people who want to save the earth from global warming which has been warm, a ball of tropic, a ball of ice and everything else long before humans were ever here. My question to the people who believe in global warming and climate change is who are they going to blame when Jesus comes back to earth to judge humanity? Who are they going to blame at that time when the catastrophes are printed in the Bible?

Dan Hill

1099-G Forms available for those who got unemployment benefits

The 1099-G tax forms are now available for claimants who received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in 2020, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced. Claimants who collected UI benefits last year need the 1099-G tax form from IDES to complete state and federal tax returns. The form is necessary for individuals who received state or federal UI benefits.

This includes claimants who received regular UI benefits and/or benefits under the new federal pandemic relief programs, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC),

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Lost Wages Assistance (LWA), and state Extended Benefits (EB). Claimants who opted to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically, which is an option available when claimants establish an IDES account, will receive an e-mail notification with instructions to access the document from the IDES website. Claimants who opted not to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically will receive a paper form via regular mail; these claimants may also access and print their 1099-G form online by visiting the IDES website (login required). Previous years' 1099-G information is also

available for claimants online for the prior seven years. Individuals who have questions about this form can contact the Department at 800-244-5631 and select the appropriate queue to speak with an expert.

Individuals who did not apply for or receive UI benefits in 2020 but receive a 1099-G tax form from IDES are asked to immediately contact the department at 800-244-5631. Receiving this form without having applied for or received unemployment benefits is an indication of identity theft and that a fraudulent claim was filed using the personally identifying information (PII) of an individual.

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Palmer vs. Daly on the golf course and cocktails

First came Arnold Palmer, then came John Daly. Yes, Palmer's mastery of the game predates Daly's career, but we're not talking about the players. We're talking about the cocktails.

Legions of fans have enjoyed an Arnold Palmer either on the course or at the 19th hole, and what's not to enjoy? Arnold's preferred mix of iced tea and lemonade is the perfect reward after a well-played round, or the perfect consolation prize following less than your best performance on the course.

Before we move to the John Daly, I would like to clarify a few widely held misconceptions about the Arnold Palmer. First, the drink is not a 50/50 mix of lemonade and iced tea. Mr. Palmer preferred a ratio of 3 parts unsweetened iced tea to 1 part lemonade. Second, he did not invent the drink. He commonly drank them on the course, and during a round in Palm Springs in the 1960s a patron entered the clubhouse bar and said "I'll have that Arnold Palmer drink".

On to the John Daly. If you're not familiar with John

Daly, know that he is an accomplished golfer with 5 tour wins to his credit including the PGA Championship in 1991 and The Open in 1995. However, he is also known for his off the course behavior. He's one of golf's most colorful characters, far from the "country club" stereotype that surrounds the sport. He hits the ball the hard (his drives earned him the nickname "Long John") and he lives hard. Smokes, drinks, gambles, and has the occasional meltdown on the course.

You never know which John Daly is going to show up, but when he's on his drives are absolutely legendary. He has an exceptionally long backswing which he uses for leverage, a swing which he taught himself. After winning The Open in 1995, he struggled a bit for the next five seasons. He was then voted comeback player of the year in 2004, and narrowly missed winning the Houston Open in 2005 (Vijay



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Singh) and the WGC-American Express Championship (Tiger Woods).

It was in 2005 that Daly played at Whiskey Creek in Fort Myers in the Dirty Gator Open and it was there that he met his namesake cocktail. Club bartender Daton Lewis added vodka to the Arnold Palmer during the tournament, and renamed the drink the "John Daly". Adding vodka or gin to the Arnold Palmer has been known in the golf world as the "Spiked Arnold Palmer", but Lewis decided to seize the moment and name it after a golfer that is perhaps the all time most deserving of a signature cocktail.

Daly enjoyed the drink, but did not approve of the name as he felt that naming the drink after him was trademark infringement. Daly is no stranger to business ventures outside of the game, so he formed the GIASI Beverage Company in 2010. By the way, "GIASI" is an acronym for "Grip It And Sip It", a play on his "Grip It And Rip It" mantra. GIASI Produced a few flavors of hard lemonades and Spiked Arnold Palmers for nearly a decade, but the pre-made cocktails were only available in select markets. The website promoting Daly's signature cocktails is up, but the product is difficult to find.

In 2018, Miller/Coors marketed a malt-based version of the drink under the name

"Arnold Palmer Spiked", same principle. Many refer to the Arnold Palmer Spiked as the John Daly, whatever you call it, you can make your very own by following the recipe below.

There are not many hacks as far as improving the quality of the Palmer or the Daly. The best advice that I can give is to use good ingredients. Use a quality, home brewed iced tea, and the kind of lemonade that your grandmother used to make.

Don't be afraid to push the envelope on your lemonade sweetness, especially if you are going to make the John Daly. Many golf club bars will add a splash of simple syrup to the Spiked Arnold Palmer/John Daly to ensure that the drink remains smooth.

For those following the PGA, we are in the middle of a super season which runs until Labor Day weekend, 2021. The scheduling of the 2021 majors will return to normalcy for the most part, one key change is the re-scheduled Ryder Cup which will be played in an odd numbered year for the first time since 1999. The 2001 Ryder Cup was moved to 2002 following cancellation as a result of the September 11 attacks, and The Cup has been played in even numbered years since.

Have an Arnold Palmer, or a John Daly ready for your watch party.

The Arnold Palmer is built and served in a tall, ice-filled glass.

Fill glass with ice, then add:

- 3 parts unsweetened iced tea
 - 1 part lemonade
- Stir and serve

The John Daly is built and served in a tall, ice-filled glass.

- 2 oz. iced tea
- 2 oz. lemonade
- 1.5 oz. vodka

- Optional garnish with lemon wheel

Stir and serve
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

District 209-U seeking bids for flooring work at Stevens Intermediate School

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF BIDS

Sealed bids for the 2021 Flooring Work, L.J. Stevens Intermediate School, Wilmington, Illinois for Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U will be received by the Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, Wilmington, Will County, Illinois, via email until 2:00 P.M. prevailing time on the 9th day of March, 2021. E-mailed bids should include fully executed copy of Section 00 30 00 - Bid Form, pages 00 30 00-1 through 00 30 00-8 and a copy of the required Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Draft for ten percent (10%) for the amount of the bid, payable to the order of Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Will County, Illinois.

Bids should be e-mailed to the Owner using lhpipes@209u.net and the Architect using jwoodley@healybender.com. Each bidder is fully responsible for the electronic delivery of the emailed bid. The Owner and Architect are not responsible for technology failures related to sending or receiving e-mailed bids. E-mailed bids received after the scheduled time and date will not be accepted.

The time and date when the e-mailed bid is received by the Owner using lhpipes@209u.net shall represent the official time and date when the e-mailed bid was received. E-mailed bids will not be opened and recorded until after the deadline for receipt of e-mailed bids.

Following the opening and recording of e-mailed bids, a tabulation of the e-mailed bids will be prepared and will be e-mailed to each bidder (using the e-mail address where the bid originated) and to others requesting a copy of the bid tabulation.

Materials that are required to be submitted with the bid as stated in Section 01 10 00 - Instructions to Bidders, Contractor Qualification Statement AIA A305 should be e-mailed in separate e-mail(s) from the e-mailed bid.

The work is to be performed in accordance with the proposed Contract Documents as prepared by Healy Bender Patton & Been Architects, 4040 Helene Avenue, Naperville, Illinois. The proposed Contract Documents may be obtained by request to the Architect.

Upon receipt of a completed Registered Plan Holder Record form and a Bidding Documents License Agreement, prospective bidders will become registered plan holders. During the bidding period, the office of the Architect will send project addenda, clarifications, and other project information to registered plan holders via the email address(es) listed on the Registered Plan Holder Record on file at the Architect's office.

These proposed Contract Documents may be studied at the office of the Architect or at the following locations:

Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties Plan Room
233 N. Springfield Avenue, Joliet, Illinois

These documents may also be viewed online at Dodge Data & Analytics internet site at www.construction.com.

Bids will be received for two (2) Base Bids. Base Bid A for asbestos abatement Work and Base Bid B for the flooring work, including all trades.

All bidders are invited to attend a pre-bid meeting which will be held at 3:30 P.M., prevailing time, on February 18, 2021, at L.J. Stevens Intermediate School, 221 Ryan Street, Wilmington, Illinois. Contractors will be required to take a temperature checks before entering the building and to wear masks during the site visit. Contractors are invited to tour the areas of work after the meeting.

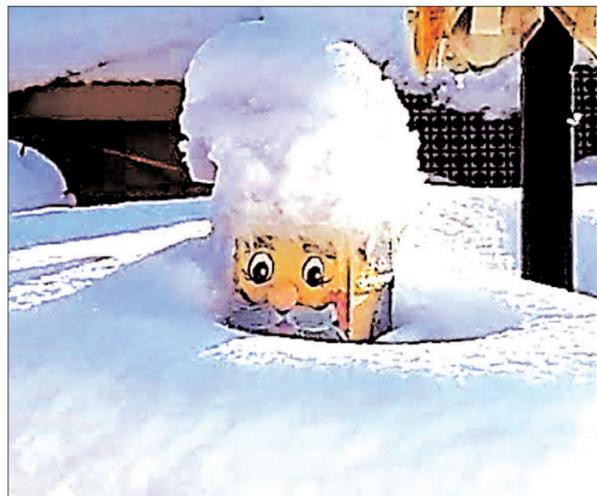
Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Draft in an amount equal to not less than ten percent (10%), of the bid and made payable to Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209 Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days after the bids opening date without the consent of the Owner. Checks or drafts of unsuccessful bidders will be returned as soon as practical after opening and checking the bids. Successful bidder must provide a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material Payment Bond in the full amount of the Contract, acceptable to the Owner. This Contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et seq.).

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding. The proposed project is subject to adequate school funding as determined solely in the discretion of the Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, and that if adequate funding in the Board of Education's sole determination is not available, that project may be postponed or cancelled by the Board of Education.

Contact Jim Habing, Director of Facilities at 815-514-7859 to make arrangements to visit the site.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 209-U
WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 3 and 10, 2021.



A GOOD CHUCKLE - Judy Wunderlich of Wilmington submitted this share-A-shot she took Monday morning after looking out deck window. What she found among nearly 8 inches of fresh snowfall were a pair of eyes looking back at her from a deck table. "It was a Santa Claus brick I put out back towards the end of November. It looked so comical because just its face was left uncovered from the snow," Wunderlich said. We had a good laugh." If you have an interesting photo to share, email us a jpeg at efisher@fpnusa.com or drop a print off at the Coal City or Wilmington Free Press Newspapers office.

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Kristina Davy
kristina@loribonarekrealty.com
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Debbie Durando
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Kim Engelhardt
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Jen Phillips
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Local Forest Preserves receive grant for restorations

A unique cluster of Braidwood-Wilmington area forest preserves will benefit from a \$92,000 grant awarded recently by the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program.

The funding announced Jan. 25 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be spent to restore habitat at the Forest Preserve District of Will County's <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Braidwood-Dunes-and-Savanna-Nature-Preserve> Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Kankakee-Sands> Kankakee Sands Preserve and <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Unimproved-Preserves/Sand-Ridge-Savanna> Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve along Highway 113 east of Braidwood.

"This grant helps the Forest Preserve District continue one of the greatest ecological restorations we have ever attempted," said Floyd Catchpole, the District's land management program coordinator.

The grant will be used to improve habitat for 20 species considered endangered or threatened in Illinois and 43 species in greatest conservation need, a state designation for species that are in serious trouble but not yet endangered.

The District's three pre-



Courtesy photo by Lonny Cain
SHORE ST. JOHN'S wort, a state-endangered plant found in a southern Will County forest preserve, is one of the many species that will benefit from a \$92,000 habitat restoration grant recently awarded to the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

the Braidwood Sands region by nearby state-owned Hitts Siding Prairie and Wilmington Shrub Prairie south of Strip Mine Road, are referred to as

ed by glaciers 19,000 years ago. When the moraine that held the water back broke, it created the largest known flood event in Illinois, the Kankakee Torrent. Eventually the water receded leaving behind sandy soils along with remnant prairies, wetlands and savannas, which make this area of Will County unlike any other.

"As a result, the Braidwood Sands area has far more rare species than any other area in Will County," Catchpole said of the unique mixture of soil and terrain.

Since the early 2000s, the Forest Preserve has been working to connect and restore these preserves.

"To date, we have converted over 400 acres of agricultural fields into prairie, greatly reduced invasive species and restored natural prairies and savannas," Catchpole said. "Braidwood Sands area is a work in progress, but with the help of Illinois Habitat Fund grants, we continue to make good progress restoring the rare prairie and savanna habitat that support so many rare and endangered species."

The state funding will be matched with \$110,000 of District funds to provide \$202,000 for the work. The Forest Preserve was one of seven entities that received a portion of \$958,096 in 2021 habitat grants. Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps that are required to hunt upland game.

Wrong way driver busted on I-80

Illinois State Police (ISP) District 5 arrested and charged Jazmine Chambers, 20-year-old female, of Chicago, with Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding (Class 4 Felony) and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

At approximately 2:27 a.m., on Jan. 29, 2021, Illinois State Police District 5 Troopers responded to the area of Interstate 80 eastbound near milepost 140 for a report of a wrong-way driver. Troopers located a Yellow Kia, traveling westbound in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 80 at milepost 149, a short time later.

The Kia, driven by Chambers, exited the interstate fleeing from Troopers on US-30 eastbound and struck a curb causing damage to one of the tires. Chambers refused to come to a complete stop but slowed. During the execution of the traffic stop at Haven Avenue and Gear Drive in New Lenox, Chambers struck one of the ISP squad cars with her vehicle, causing minor damage, but no injuries were reported.

The charges against Chambers were approved by the Will County State's Attorney's Office. Chambers was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility to await a bond hearing. There is no further information available at this time.

OBITUARY

Rev. Clark E. Llewellyn

CHANNAHON—Rev. Clark E. Llewellyn, (Pastor Clark or 'PC'), 74, of Channahon and formerly of Jacksonville, IL, entered eternity Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

He was born in Chicago on Feb. 2, 1946 to the late Adeline Josephine Blackabee (nee Clark) and John Earl Llewellyn. The family relocated to the Pittsburgh, PA area where Clark attended Bethel Park High School and forged a reputation as having a sharp mind and a talent as a wordsmith. These gifts led to numerous honors including national recognition for his accomplishments, both as an individual, and as a member of the high school debate team.

He attended LeHigh University for one year and then placed his education on hold to join the U.S. Navy where he served as a Sonarman 1st class. It was during his time stationed in Key West, FL that he began corresponding with his future wife of 48 years, Martha Lynn (nee Gedye) who passed on April 26, 2016. They married and he finished his education. Upon graduating from The Ohio State University with a BS in mechanical engineering he took a job with the Ford Motor Company and rose quickly as an administrator. Within two years he felt the call of God on his life and the Llewellyns moved to Louisville, KY where he would study at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to become a pastor.



2020. A faithful servant and steward of His gifts, he continued to exhort and uplift giving his final sermon one day before he passed. Pastor Clark leaves behind a legacy through men he mentored and his beloved family.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Llewellyn and her family who embraced him and who he came to love much in a short period of time. In addition to his wife, he leaves behind three sons from his 48 years with Martha, Pastor Randy Blan (Karen) and Moriah (who he loved like a daughter), of Channahon; Aaron Llewellyn (Hattie), of New Berlin and Benjamin Llewellyn (Maria), of Jacksonville; two siblings and numerous nieces and nephews survive him. His sister, Sue Curtis (and Matt), of Troy, OH, he loved very much. His brother, John Earl Llewellyn (and Carol), of Beverly, OH, he admired and held as one of his closest friends. His grandchildren: Isabella Grace "Scooter," Anna, J.R., Eden, Elliott and Emelia were a source of joy for him. But his connection with Isabella Grace, whose daily conversations sustained him through rough waters, created a deep love between them that will always remain. A faithful witness to Christ's love and redemption, Pastor Clark left an indelible mark as an example of sacrifice and servanthood on those with whom he came into contact.

Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 5 from 10 a.m.-1p.m. followed immediately by a memorial service at Families of Faith Church, 24466 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL 60410. Visitation will also be held at Island Grove United Methodist Church in New Berlin, IL on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Graveside services will immediately follow at Woodwreath Cemetery, New Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name to Families of Faith or FOFA (fofmin.org) would be appreciated.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Pastor Clark's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.Reeves-Baskerville.com/obituary/RevClark-Llewellyn

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

Garden Club to welcome guest speaker

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 17, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St. Special guest will be Sandy Ascot from Muddy Paws Nursery on Highway 113, in Custer Park. Ascot will be describing the cultivators of

Hydrangeas, she will be to her line up. She will also be discussing exciting perennials for butterfly gardens. Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend. For more information call Carol at 815-476- 2469, or Judy at 815-476-1875.

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Uninvited guests for breakfast



Photo by Kathleen Kennedy

WESLEY TOWNSHIP resident Kathleen Kennedy visited the South Island dam Jan. 26 with camera strapped on hoping to get a photo of a pair of bald eagles frequenting the area below the river dam. She spotted an eagle hunting on the far side of the river when it swooped down grab a large fish. Twice the bird, with the fish in its talons, struggled to take flight off the water. Finally it gained enough height to reach the trees in the park. Over land, the fish wiggled free of its grasp and hit the ground. That caught the attention of passing crows who investigated closely as the eagle swooped down, grabbed the fish and carried to a nearby tree branch. While the each made a breakfast out of the fish and crows pestered it from both sides, waiting for a morsel. "It was such a delight to watch," said Kennedy, an avid photographer. "It was Mother Nature at its best and shows how important the dam is for keeping the water open for wildlife during the winter."

Morris Hospital Fire Starter contributes to patient care in several ways

Lori Stevens is proof that when you love what you do and you're committed to the organization you work for, it's easy to shine. For 30 years, the Morris resident made a difference as a registered nurse on Morris Hospital's 2 East inpatient unit.

Today, she uses her nursing knowledge and computer expertise to enhance the quality of patient care as an IT Clinical Applications Specialist. Described as an extremely positive person who always has a smile on her face, Stevens was honored as Morris Hospital's Fire Starter of the Month for December.

Stevens began her career at Morris Hospital in 1987 as a CNA on midnights. After graduating from nursing school in 1990, she accepted an RN position at Morris Hospital just as the new 2 East wing was opening.

As the hospital started preparing for a brand new computer application called Meditech in the late 1990s, Stevens was asked to serve on the core team to help develop computerized nursing documentation for the very first time in the hospital's history.



LORI STEVENS

Her special niche in the Information Technology world never went away.

"I started training new nurses as they were hired, and as computerized documentation continued to evolve, my involvement just kind of kept going," says Stevens, who also served as a charge nurse when she was working on 2 East.

"I had a dual role of IT and nursing - really the best of

both worlds. Two years ago when we started preparing for the transition to our next electronic health record system, I decided it was time to turn my full time focus to the IT world."

While having the perspective of both an RN and IT Specialist has proven to be invaluable for the internal customers she serves, there's more to Stevens than her clinical and computer expertise.

John Biesen, IT Applications Manager at Morris Hospital, says Stevens is simply a joy to work with.

"Lori has an amazing work ethic and is always willing to step in and help out where ever needed," says Biesen. "She is very compassionate, and we are extremely lucky she is part of our team."

When asked what's most rewarding about her work, Stevens says: "I just love my job. I have literally grown up here (Morris Hospital), so this is my second home -- my second family. We are a small community hospital with employees who have big caring hearts and who do great things. I have a huge loyalty to Morris Hospital."

Aurora University dean's list

Aurora University has named the following local students to the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. The dean's list recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. Students recognized with high honors have earned a perfect 4.0.

Area students on the honors list are Kristyn Daigger, of Coal City and Claire Springer, of Wilmington.

Students on the high honors list include Lillian Goode, Michael Gunier, Dejah Hendrickson, Isabella Muscato and Joshua Runchey, all of Morris.

NIU graduates

Over 1,300 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates are local students Skyler Hibbard, of Coal City, bachelor of science in nursing and Hali Ivlow, of Wilmington, bachelor of arts in communication-media studies.

Illinois gas prices keep rising

Illinois gas prices have risen 5.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.54/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Gas prices in Illinois are 19.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 8.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.14/g while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of 75.0 cents per gallon.

The lowest price in the state is \$2.14/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of

75.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.42/g.

The national average is up 17.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"Gas price increases continue to slow down as oil prices fail to continue moving upward, even as gasoline demand continues to show new signs of improving recovery," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"According to Pay with

GasBuddy data, Friday gasoline demand was the highest since November, while Saturday gasoline demand was the strongest of any Saturday since the pandemic began. The rise in gasoline demand has certainly been behind oil's rally in the last few months, as COVID restrictions continue to ease and the economy slowly continues recovery. While the next few weeks may see gas prices rising slightly, the real pinch could come in March and lasting through summer, should demand continue on this path."

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OBITUARIES

Virginia Banham

COAL CITY—Virginia “Ginny” Banham, 97, of Coal City, passed away Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 at Regency Care of Morris.

Born May 7, 1923 in Delavan, IL, Virginia Noreen was a daughter of Neil and Helen (Baker) Neblock. She was raised and educated in McLean County, and most recently resided in Coal City before transitioning to Regency Care in Morris.

Ginny was a member of Ritchey United Methodist Church; was involved with T.O.P.S. for many years, and enjoyed belonging to the Red Hat Society. She golfed and bowled on leagues throughout years past, and took pleasure in walking, as well as dancing.

Surviving are two daughters, Alyce (James) Scheel, of Gardner and Suzan (Robert) Hendry, of Morris; favorite daughter-in-law, Vicky Terrell, of Morris; 16 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her special friend, Stacy Morales.



Ginny was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Charles Banham (1995); son, Donnie Terrell; grandson, Ronnie and five brothers and one sister.

Per Ginny's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and there will be no services.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ginny's memory to the Coal City Food Pantry.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the staff and caregivers at Regency Care of Morris for their extraordinary care over the past two years.

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

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

Todd M. Sandeno

MORRIS—Todd Michael Sandeno, 49, of Morris, passed away suddenly, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 in Nashville, TN. He was born Nov. 18, 1971 in Joliet, he was the son of Kenneth Paul and Diane M. (nee Lardi) Sandeno.

Todd graduated from Gardner-South Wilmington High School with the class of 1990. He was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Todd was a co-owner of “D” Construction in Coal City along with his two siblings, Ken and Tami. They are all proud to carry on the legacy their father created. He served on the board of directors for the Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties and was a member of the Local #150 Operators Union for over thirty years. Work was Todd's passion and he considered himself blessed to not only have the immediate family he had, but his work family was just as important.

Todd was a wonderful father, who made sure to set aside time to spend with each one of his children. He loved hunting, shooting, and four-wheeling, with the boys, but he also loved to take his little girl shopping, watching live performances like Dancing with Stars and Blue Man Group, and of course four-wheeling. The kids and their friends will never forget Todd's no phone Sunday rules that applied to everyone...except for him. He also had a love for traveling and enjoyed visiting the Cayman Islands with his family. His personality lit up any room and he was always known as a loyal man and the love he had for family will never be forgotten, but only to be passed down to generations to come.

He married his grade school sweetheart, Richelle Romanetto and eventually married Feb. 24, 1996 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. They have three beautiful children, Tyler, Trent, and Raegan Sandeno. Also surviv-



ing are his brother, Ken (Kristi) Sandeno of Morris; sister, Tami (Brian) Hansen of Gardner; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; mother-in-law, Ellen Romanetto of Gardner; father-in-law, Gary Romanetto of Cardiff, IL; sister-in-law, Missy (Chris) Lenzie of Gardner; brothers-in-law, Mike (Diane) Romanetto of Cardiff and Scott (Bev) Romanetto of Coal City; and his four-legged companions, Reese and Willow.

Preceding him in death were his father, Kenneth P. Sandeno on June 17, 2011 and his mother, Diane M. (nee Lardi) Sandeno on Dec. 1, 1980.

Visitation for Todd will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 from 3-8 p.m. All attendees are required to wear face coverings, follow social distancing guidelines, due to the capacity requirements please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects. Mass of Christian burial will be private at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. A link will be posted shortly to be able to log on and watch the funeral mass. For those who would like to witness his funeral procession please line up at the “D” Construction headquarters around 11:15 on Saturday, Jan. 30. The family will then continue to the private committal service at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

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

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

Michael J. Jett

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Michael J. Jett, 75, of South Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born May 27, 1945 in Baltimore, MD, he was the son of Dick M. and Cecelia Rita (nee Ryan) Jett. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force serving from 1964-1968. Mike was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church, South Wilmington Fire Department, and he also served on the board of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. He retired from Electra Motors in LaGrange on July 1, 1993 after 30 years of employment. Mike enjoyed fishing, gambling trips, and he especially enjoyed spending time with his family.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Rosemary (nee Kroll) Jett, of South Wilmington, who he married May 21, 1966 in South Wilmington; three children: Michele (Troy) Scholes, Melissa Jensen and Christopher (Jenny) Jett; six grandchildren: Justin Jett, Lucas (Paige) Jett, Samantha Schneider, Brett Jensen, Megan Jett and Cheyenne Jett; two great-grandchildren, Zoey Jett and Kaysen Schneider; two brothers, Dick (Penny) Jett and Edward (Cathy) Jett; one sister, Donna Payne and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.



Preceding him in death were his parents, two sisters, Charolette (Duane) Brown and Karen Story and one brother, Robert Jett.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be from the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m.

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

Private interment will follow at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood has been entrusted with arrangements.

Joseph M. Corneglio

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Joseph M. Corneglio, 72, of South Wilmington, passed away peacefully at his residence on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

He was born on Oct. 5, 1948 in Joliet to Joseph J. and Milly (Andrewscavage) Corneglio. He was a long time resident of South Wilmington. Joseph enjoyed his spare time hunting and trap shooting. He belonged to many clubs including the Illinois Rifle Association of which he was a longtime member. Joseph had been known by his nickname “Tokyo.” He was a laborer for 50 years with Local #75. He was very special and once meeting him you would remember him.

Joseph was loved by many, including his daughter, Kimberly (Mark) Pavlis and his



cousins: John (Nicole) Corneglio and their son, Joey and John (Jenna) and Chuck (Heather) Harvey. Also included are longtime friends that helped with his daily needs including Marion Ferrari, Nichole Koerner and Jon Meder.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of his funeral service at 11 a.m. at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City with Deacon William Dunn officiating. Burial will follow at Round Grove Cemetery in Reddick.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Joanne Ulivi

COAL CITY—Joanne Ulivi, 81, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born April 2, 1939 in Morris, Joanne Louise was a daughter of Frank and Irene (Emanuelson) Kratochvil. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1957. On Nov. 1, 1958, Joanne married Gary Ulivi in the United Methodist Church in Coal City, and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City. Joanne worked for her brother-in-law, Dr. Joseph Laughlin in his Naproathic office and most recently as a Chiropractic Assistant with Dr. Joe at Diamond Therapy Center until her retirement.

Throughout the years, Joanne took great pleasure working in the yard, tending to her flowers and plants, cooking and baking. She also enjoyed watching the birds, and cherished spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her two daughters, Lisa (Allen) Martis and Sherrie (Frank) Wyss, and one son, Kyle (Trisha) Ulivi, all of Coal City; her daughter-in-law, Caroline Ulivi, of Tucson, AZ; grandchildren: Jaime (Mike) Frazier, of Diamond; Devon (Ryan) Albin, of Braidwood; Dustin Wyss and Delaney Wyss, both of Coal City; Amanda (Christopher) Smiley, of Tucson, AZ; Marissa Ulivi, of Coal City; Kirsty Ulivi, Brandy (Nick) Beedy and Paige Ulivi (Fabian Villarreal), all of Tucson, AZ and Kain Ulivi, Drake Eaton and Danika Eaton, all of Coal City; great-grandchildren: Fitz Frazier, Kinley, Reese



and Rowan Albin, Lincoln-Pierce Smiley, Caden Shipman, Aiden Beedy, Spencer Beedy, Weilynd Beedy, Gracelyn Villarreal and Evianna Villarreal; one brother, Lynn Kratochvil, of Coal City; one sister, Kathy (Henry) Kuchenbacker, of Wilmington; her sister-in-law, Yolanda Laughlin, of Diamond and brother-in-law, Bill (Janet) Ulivi of Columbia, IL, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Joanne was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Gary; one son, Craig Ulivi; her grandson, Gavin Ulivi and one sister-in-law, Cathy Kratochvil.

A private family visitation and funeral service will be held at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City. Pastor Brad Shumaker will officiate, and Joanne will be laid to rest in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery with her late husband, Gary.

Those wishing to participate in Joanne's services virtually are welcome to join the live stream service beginning at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. A link for the event is available on Joanne's website.

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

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

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

Charles Stratz

MORRIS—Charles “Chuck” W. Stratz, 67, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, at Regency Care of Morris.

Born April 5, 1953 in Joliet, Charles William was a son of Henry and Anna Marie (Moran) Stratz. He was raised and educated in Minooka and graduated from Minooka High School with the Class of 1971. On June 19, 1976, Chuck married Gail Ann Mize at Immaculate Conception Church in Morris.

He worked for the Diamond International Paper Mill for 30 years and volunteered with the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency in Grundy County. Chuck was a past member of First Baptist Church in Coal City where he was an active member and was in charge of running the sound equipment for many years. He studied agriculture at Joliet Junior College, and was passionate about farming and tending his garden. Chuck enjoyed going to downtown Morris for the Lions Club car shows, as well as attending the dulcimer festivals and watching the fireworks every year at Corn Fest. He also liked spending time at home watching movies and television, but most important was spending time with his family, especially his granddaughters who were special to him.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Gail Stratz of Morris, his son, Timothy (Julie) Stratz of Mazon, two granddaughters: Amethyst and Lillian Stratz; two brothers and four sisters: Mary Ann Graf of Tempe, AZ, Karen (Frank) Castiello of Tustin, CA, Susan Sankins of Ashmore, IL, James Stratz of Tustin, CA, Joseph Stratz of Cottonwood, AZ, and Theresa (Steve) Cortese of Mount Prospect, IL; brother-in-law



and sister-in-law: Katherine Chesser of The Woodlands, TX, and Wayne (Dawn) Mize of Dwight; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Chuck was preceded in death by his parents, one brother-in-law, Tom Chesser, and his nephew, Matthew Chesser.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 East Washington Street (one block East of Illinois Route 47), in Morris between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Facemasks will be required for those attending and social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family in maintaining current guidelines.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the funeral home with Pastor David Gilleland officiating.

Those that wish to participate in funeral services virtually are welcome to join the live stream beginning on Thursday at 10:00. A link for the event will be made available on Chuck's memorial page.

Burial will follow at Sample Cemetery. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Chuck's memory to the Morris Fire Department.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Chuck's memorial page by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com

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

Donna Gordon

COAL CITY—Donna Gordon, 71, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Born Oct. 2, 1949 in Kankakee, Donna Kay was a daughter of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967. Donna worked at First National Bank of Joliet for many years as a secretary. She then worked as a clerk at the Exelon Production Training Center, in addition to working at Don's Beer Store in Coal City.

Donna was a member of Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, and loved to travel all over the county and internationally. She enjoyed playing card games and dominoes, and loved her cats and cat memorabilia. Most of all, Donna loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her son, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two granddaughters, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one grandson, Dominic Hahn, and her aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends, including William Gordon, of Coal City.



Donna was preceded in death by her parents, as well as her brother and sister, John Vacca and Carla Vacca.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and the family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m., at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City. Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021. A link will be made available on Donna's memorial page.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donna's memory to: Just Animals Shelter, 505 Depot St., Mazon, IL 60444.

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

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

Brian A. Barcella

WILMINGTON—Brian A. Barcella, 57, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 at Franciscan Health in Dyer, IN.

Born Oct. 14, 1963 in Roseland, IL, he was the son of Bruno and Mildred (nee Vermeulen) Barcella. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and former police officer for the Glenwood Police Department. Brian was a proud veteran and always offered a helping hand to any veteran in need. He enjoyed volunteering for the Secret Food Pantry that was held at the Top Fuel Saloon in Braidwood. Brian had a knack for being able to turn anything into art, his most recent known craft was making homemade pens.

Surviving are four daughters: Chloe Barcella, of Manhattan; Shauna (Michael) Schmalz and Brooke Barcella, all of Homewood and Olivia (Mason) McGowan, of Twentynine Palms, CA; one sister, Barbara (Clarence) Sturwold, of New Lenox and her children, Andrea (John) Sturwold Turrissi, Nicholas (Kelly) Sturhold and Alyssa Sturwold; best friend and cousin, Bruce “Ty” (Colleen) Keller, of Braidwood and many other nieces and

nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Visitation for Brian will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 from 5-8 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation. Memorial services will also be at the funeral home on Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 at 11 a.m. All attendees are required to wear face coverings, follow social distancing guidelines, due to the capacity requirements please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects.

Private inurnment will be at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Wounded Warrior Project: <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/> would be appreciated.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood have been entrusted with arrangements.

Illinois Silver Search brings people home

During 2020 there were 125 Silver Search advisories which resulted in 123 recoveries. By comparison, during 2019 there were only 74 advisories.

Silver Search is a coordinated effort to bring awareness and resources to help find and safely return people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia that go missing.

The Silver Search program brings to light the increasing incidences of people with

Alzheimer's or dementia who get lost and ways in which the public can help law enforcement return them home safely.

Silver Search has become a vital tool for law enforcement agencies to use when a loved one with dementia goes missing. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 230,000 Illinois residents are currently living with Alzheimer's. Sixty percent of those with Alzheimer's will wander at some point during

their diagnosis.

Once an alert is issued, Illinois State Police activate the Endangered Missing Person Advisory. This advisory will alert the public through notifications to media, Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT] digital highway signs, Illinois Lottery terminals, in addition to the Silver Search website and social media channels.

New House Speaker so far doing what Madigan didn't

Just a couple of weeks into a job that most people couldn't imagine being held by anyone other than the guy who had it for decades, Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch is putting together a House that looks both familiar and different at the same time.

Welch's first week included a rollout of his new leadership team, with a Black woman as Speaker Pro Tempore and fresh faces throughout. By the third week, we'll see committee membership rosters and vice chairs. The following week will be the new rules.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin told reporters he was "pleased" that Welch was allowing his party some input on the rules. Durkin told the Chicago Sun-Times' Rachel Hinton that Welch suggested the two get together regularly for coffee or breakfast. I seriously doubt Durkin ever received such an invite from former House Speaker Michael Madigan.

All of Welch's new appropriations committee chairs are people of color. I asked Welch if there was any particular reason for this.

"First of all, let me say that I think my list is full of people that are super talented," Welch said. "I'm really proud of the diversity of our caucus. I think that's the strength of our caucus, the strength of our state. But also I think you can't not

recognize the fact that those people are high in seniority."

Welch said that when you look at the new chair list, "you're gonna find that there's a lot of consistency," meaning several Reps. retained their committee posts. Rep. Mike Zalewski, for instance, is still chairing Revenue. "I think people were doing a good job. And they should be allowed to continue doing a good job. Again I tried to recognize peoples' requests and many of them wanted to continue doing the same thing that they were doing. And I think I was able to accommodate that."

Up until his ascension, Welch had chaired the Executive Committee, which handles much of the bigtime heater legislation. Rep. Bob Rita will take over that important helm. "He's someone that I know and trust with the tough issues that are going to come through that committee."

The new House Speaker also wanted to point out some new special committees he's created, including Ethics & Elections, which will be chaired by Rep. Kelly Burke. Immigration & Human Rights



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

will be helmed by Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz. The new Police & Fire special committee will be chaired by Rep. Fran Hurley.

Welch didn't mention this, but considering the law enforcement uproar over the recently approved criminal justice reform bill, putting a Mount Greenwood resident - who has a ton of cops in her district and who voted against the Black Caucus bill - in charge of that special committee should help rebuild some bridges.

"Those new committees should be a signal of where we're headed," Welch said. "Ethics reform is very important to me," he said. "We need to rebuild trust in the legislature, we need to rebuild trust in our process."

Some of Welch's members want Gov. JB Pritzker to move legislators into the 1B vaccination phase so they can immediately receive their COVID-19 shots. Pritzker has said they need to wait their turn.

"I understand what the governor's issues are on that, and I respect his position. I'm going to take the vaccine when it's my turn. Other members have their personal thoughts on that, and I'll defer to them."

Welch said he expects the new House rules will be "similar" to the Senate's, which allow for remote committee hearings. The issue of remote floor votes is being researched by lawyers, Welch said. But, he said, he'd like to "put that in the rules so that we have that flexibility."

Last year, Welch publicly pressured the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to disclose data on the use of Black-owned businesses for Medicaid-related professional services, primarily through managed care organizations. After finally prying the information loose, Welch then called on HFS to penalize MCOs for not meeting contract goals, and demanded that Attorney General Kwame Raoul step in. I asked Welch whether he intended to keep up the pressure.

"Anyone who knows me knows that I know my voice," Welch said. "I'm looking forward to using my new voice to continue to highlight the issues that are important to me and to the communities that I serve and the core constituencies that our caucus represents, so I want to continue to find a way," to continue pushing those issues, he said.

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

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William R. Conte
Portfolio Management Director
Senior Vice President
Wealth Advisor
1150 Essington Road, Joliet, IL 60435
815-729-8040
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Bill Kurtis, celebrity chef will be part of Midewin celebration

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Silver Anniversary celebrations on February 10 will feature journalist Bill Kurtis and James Beard Award-winning Executive Chef Sarah Stegner.

In a keynote speech, Kurtis will address the importance of prairie restoration. Chef Stegner, with special guest Kenya Vera-Sample, DuSable City Botanical Farms, will highlight the importance of identifying local providers that can help you bring healthful prairie ingredients into your life every day.

The program will be sponsored by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and presented virtually at 6 p.m. central time.

Chef Stegner will share her recipe for wild rice cakes with local black beans, roasted garlic, and mushrooms with drizzled honey and elderberry tincture, which she applies to the wild rice cake like a sauce. Stegner wants people to understand the importance of sourcing healthy ingredients by identifying local providers.

"I want people to understand where their food comes from," Stegner said. "Wherever



ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST and prairie restoration advocate Bill Kurtis stands in tall grass on the prairie. On February 10, the National Forest Foundation will sponsor Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie silver anniversary celebrations featuring Kurtis and Stegner.

you live, it is so important to build relationships with local producers of healthful ingredients. The more we can support local farms, the greater our access will be to locally grown food for future generations."

Special guest Kenya Vera-Sample will talk about the elderberries that she grows in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. She will share her ideas for how you can bring elderberries into your diet for greater health and wellness.

NFF President and Chief Executive Officer Mary Mitsos will emcee in the culinary-focused program. The NFF has worked in partnership with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to restore tallgrass prairie since 2012.

REGISTER: To register for the program on February 10, click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8159350010>

Prepare a prairie-inspired plate of wellness to enjoy during the program. Chef Stegner's recipe for the Wild Rice, Beans, and Squash Patties with Local Honey and Elderberry Tincture is below.

Wild Rice- Beans-Squash Patties with Local Honey & Elderberry Tincture

From Prairie Grass Cafe
by Chef Sarah Stegner
Serves 4 - 6 people

Ingredients:
2 cups cooked wild rice and 2 cups cooked beans, drained well (pinto)
1/2 cup roasted squash
1 head roasted garlic
Sea salt
1 tablespoon Olive oil and 1 tablespoon of honey
2.5 - 3 droppers of elderberry tincture
Microgreens

Method:
In a food processor, mix the rice until it becomes sticky and begins to form a ball. Remove from the food processor and add the beans. Roughly purée them. Combine all ingredients and form into a patty.

Sauté in a nonstick medium-sized pan with olive oil over medium heat or roast in the oven in a pan drizzled with olive oil at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cook until a crisp crust forms on both sides of the outside of the patty.

Mix the honey and tincture together and drizzle over the patty. Garnish with microgreens.



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Biden plans to clean up Trump's messes for the environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are some of the last minute changes the Trump administration has wrought that are hurting the environment and efforts to battle global warming? And will the Biden administration be able to undo them?

- Tim Jeffries, Sarasota, FL

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

President Joe Biden has ambitious plans to make up for lost time with climate remediation and encouragement of the clean energy sector-including rejoining the Paris Climate Accord that Trump withdrew the U.S from in 2017. Biden will also be looking to clean up some shorter-term environmental messes left by the Trump White House in its final days.

One of the more egregious of Trump's last minute anti-environment moves is the "Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information Rule," a mouthful, for sure and innocent-sounding, perhaps: It stipulates that publicly released scientific data should take preference over studies

that keep their data confidential.

But, according to The Washington Post, many researchers and academic organizations say that the criteria "will actually restrict the EPA from using some of the most consequential research on human subjects because it often includes confidential medical records and other proprietary data that cannot be released because of privacy concerns." Says Chris Zarba, former director of the EPA's Science Advisory Board, in the same Post article: "It sounds good on the surface. But this is a bold attempt to get science out of the way so special interests can do what they want."

Another change pushed through by Trump at the last minute is a significant reduction in environmental and safety requirements for Arctic oil exploration. Native tribes there are especially incensed by this move, and have taken to social media in droves to win support against it. Given the sheer volume of public opposition, it will likely take many weeks before any auctions for these drilling rights leases could be finalized, thus giving the Biden admin-



SOME OF THE 11th hour environmental rule changes are easier to undo than others, but Joe Biden will take them one at a time.

which would destroy native ecosystems and conservation lands. California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein has already pledged to "work with the new administration to immediately block this rule change" which jeopardizes a bi-partisan desert conservation plan years in the making that carefully balances recreational use, energy production and preservation.

On the bright side, President Biden has already issued executive orders for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, to direct federal agencies to consider revising vehicle fuel economy and emissions standards, and to cancel permits for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. After cleaning up Trump's mess, which could take anywhere from weeks to years, Biden also aims to implement his own omnibus climate package similar to the proposed Green New Deal. Biden's plan calls for increasing electric vehicle usage, expanding wind and solar energy markets, creating millions of new jobs in sustainable energy, and paving the path to 100 percent clean energy by 2050.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Century 21 finishes year-long fundraiser for Easter Seals

Agents of Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby recently presented a check for \$7,518 to Easter Seals as a result of a year-long fundraiser. The agents donated \$21 from each of their closings in 2020 and then the company matched the agents' donations. Some of the agents who participated were in attendance for the presentation, although nearly 100% participated in the fundraiser.

According to Shawn Hornsby, Broker-Owner, "I am so proud of our agents who are always involved in and support organizations that serve our communities. This year, while the Covid pandemic was going on, we were able to make our largest Easter Seals donation to date. That is because our agents continued

to work hard serving buyers and sellers while using necessary precautions." Hornsby continued, "Covid did not slow our agents down at all. They are very motivated people who love to serve their clients!"

Deb Strahanoski, Easter Seals Regional Development Manager, attended the check presentation and stated, "We are so very grateful to the Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby team of agents that have continued to support us for many years." She continued, "This year was especially important, because of Covid which placed restrictions on many of our activities. We have had to find creative solutions to those restrictions. For example, Telehealth has been vital to us in maintaining contact with

our clients. The generosity of people like those at Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby has been so important to us in continuing these programs. Thank you so much."

Easter Seals provides services and support to help people with physical and mental challenges reach their full potential. Century 21 Franchisees and agents have supported Easter Seals since 1979, and are one of their largest corporate sponsors, raising over \$126 million to date.

Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby is located at 1802 N. Division St., Morris. They specialize in residential, commercial, industrial, land and farm properties.



AGENTS FROM CENTURY 21 Coleman-Hornsby recently presented a check for \$7,518 to Easter Seals. Presenting the check are some of the agents who took part in the fundraiser (from left): JoEllyn Johnson, Tom Wawczak, Cody Krug, Shawn Hornsby, Betty Piotrowski, ES Regional Dev. Manager Deb Strahanoski, Rod Baudino, Theresa Lamb, Lorrie Toler and Sheri Simms.

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NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 17, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on March 10, 2021, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1141 INDIAN GRASS COURT, MINOOKA, IL 60447 Property Index No. 03-12-327-010 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of

REAL ESTATE

a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-19-02633 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2019CH22 TJSC#: 41-105 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2019CH22 13163580 Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., February 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

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COALER SPORTS

Lady Coalers upbeat despite shortened season

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

It will be a short season but the Coal City girls basketball team intends to make the most of it as they open Monday at Streator.

The alternative could have been having no season at all.

The Lady Coalers welcome two tall post players and a handful of others capable of shooting well from behind the arc.

A year ago Coal City went 6-22 overall and finished seventh in the Illinois Central Eight Conference with a 3-11 mark.

"We were fairly inexperienced last year," said CCHS coach Brad Schmitt. "We had a lot of girls playing that didn't have a lot of varsity experience and we were competitive towards the end of the year and that's what I enjoyed about that group is they didn't give up. They kept trying to persevere and overcome their weaknesses and towards the end we beat some teams that beat us earlier in the year and that was a huge goal. We won a first round regional game and that was something we hadn't done in a couple years."

Schmitt says they will be competitive in every game they play and have fun doing it.

"We have to compete, we have to play hard and we have to enjoy it. You have to have fun. Our practices are upbeat. We're just enjoying the fact that we get to be with each other and we get to joke around with each other and make fun of each other a little bit.

"We are just coming together as a team and working hard. Feeding off of each other's energy. Those are things you missed that you took for granted all the time. The season with wins and losses, we're going to let that take care of itself. Are there some winnable games on the schedule? Yeah. Are there games where we're going to have to play really well? Of course. That's kind of what we want. We want to make sure our girls are ready and that's our job as a coaching staff."

Schmitt, in his 18th season, knows the conference will be tough but is confident his team win some games with younger talent to work with, along with four seniors who played quite a bit last season.

"We lost some great kids," added Schmitt. "Those were kids I speak highly of on a daily basis. The kids we've got coming back, our four seniors, hopefully they gain some experience and lead us in those same areas that we expect them to. I'm just glad we're able to give them something whether it be 10 games or 12 games, whatever it may be. They put in the time for the individual skill stuff. They have no expectation of what was going to happen and they were still there for these drills so that says a lot about who they are as people."

Seniors include guards Colleen Feeney, Hayleigh Roach and Meghan Onsen, along with forward Abby Payton.

Feeney (5'-10") and Roach (5'-8") bring height so the rebounding game is going to

be strong for the Lady Coalers.

"They are both returning starters. Feeney is a post player for us. She's a naturally gifted. She can run and jump, and do those kinds of things. I think she got a little bit stronger this year so hopefully she's going to be a player we can rely on for post play offense and defense."

Roach was a regular scorers on last year's team.

"Roach averaged seven points per game," commented Schmitt. "She needs to get into the double digits for us and those are things we're looking for from those two."

Onsen and Payton were bench players last year. Schmitt expects they will play every game.

"They played a role last year," explained Schmitt. "That is something they're going to have to skip this year and work on more of a scoring role to be someone we can rely on rather than the role playing role where we just want you to do your part. Now, they've got to lead us."

"They've got to try to score more points offensively and more importantly play better defense for us. They're both hard workers. They're both good kids and we've just got to depend on them."

Sophomore Audrey Cooper will start at point guard. Schmitt said she showcased her talent last season when she logged a lot of minutes on the court. Schmitt likes the way she goes after points.

"After Christmas break, she came back from an ankle injury earlier on in the year. Last year with her defense, she was good so she's going to cre-

ate fits for people and then offensively, she's going to score on the transition, she's going to score driving to the hoop, she's going to score getting fouled and she's more of an attack type of player versus sit out there and shoot threes on them so I like that about her. I like that she starts her offense with defense so we're looking for that as well," added Schmitt.

The Lady Coalers have always been about good outside shooters and with sophomore Kerigan Copes, Schmitt notes they're not missing that aspect this year. Copes played on varsity as a freshman periodically throughout the year and has gotten better at shooting the three. Schmitt says her three point shots are looking good in practice.

"She's one of those that will be out there and shooting the threes for us," continued Schmitt. "Shoot the three consistently for us, making the offense flow, keep some continuity going and then when we can drive, and kick to her, we're going to try to do that. We've relied on outside shooters for a long time around her so hopefully she's going to be able to carry us as well. She's shooting it with more confidence than she was last year so she's looking good and hopefully she can keep that going in the games."

Junior Molly Stiles will fill a forward spot.

"She played and started a few games for me last year," commented Schmitt. "She should help us offensively."

Along with those key players, the CCHS girls basketball roster includes: juniors Magen Planeta, Kayla Peters, Lauren Ferrari, Courtney Meyer and Grace Norris.

Schmitt feels Peotone and Lisle pose the biggest challenge in the ICE Conference.

"Peotone is going to be tough. They bring in a nice freshmen group. And they had a sophomore and junior group last year that were pretty solid so they're going to have a nice squad. You look at Lisle who were all juniors last year, they're all coming back. And I hate to single teams out



Photos by Shawn Long

COAL CITY POINT GUARD Audrey Cooper puts up two points while practicing on Monday.

because everybody's gunning for you. There's a number of teams on our schedule last year that beat us so we're looking to turn that around. The teams that we beat last year, we're looking to try to maintain that."

The Lady Coalers begin their season on Monday at Streator. Their home opener will be against Gardner-South Wilmington on Tuesday.

They'll travel to Peotone on Thursday, will see Wilmington on Monday, Feb. 22, Lisle on Thursday, Feb. 25 and Reed-Custer at home on Monday, March 4 before welcoming in Streator for the last game of the season.

Schmitt will be assisted by Joel Micetich (varsity assistant coach), Melissa George (F/S coach) and Brad Borens (Freshmen coach).

CCHS basketball schedules

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Feb. 9	.....@Streator	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 12	.....host Peotone	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 16	.....@Herscher	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 19	.....host Manteno	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 23	.....host Wilmington	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 26	.....@Lisle High School	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 27	.....@Wilmington	.....11:30 a.m.
March 2	.....@Reed-Custer	.....7 p.m.
March 5	.....host Streator	.....7 p.m.

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Feb. 8	.....@Streator	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 9	.....host GSW	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 11	.....@Peotone	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 16	.....host Herscher	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 18	.....@Manteno	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 22	.....@Wilmington	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 25	.....host Lisle	.....7 p.m.
Feb. 27	.....host Wilmington	.....11 a.m.
March 1	.....host Reed-Custer	.....7 p.m.
March 4	.....host Streator	.....7 p.m.

Young Coalers ready to compete

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

In six days the wait will be over for the Coal City boys basketball team.

After a near three-month delay and the uncertainty of even not having a season, the Coalers will take the court for their first game in Streator on Tuesday.

The Coalers will have to fill gaps left by a talented group of seniors who graduated.

Last season the Coalers were co-champions of the Illinois Central Eight Conference under first year coach Glenn Pacek. They finished 11-3 in the conference and 20-12 overall on their way to a regional championship over Pontiac.

"It was a great year," said Pacek. "We had a senior leading class with great competitors. We had some great games in the season against Pontiac in tough fought wins. We were

a little sluggish at the start because they were all coming off of football. We struggled early but really came on strong at the end. We had a gritty group of competitors.

This season there are three senior lettermen—Riley Ponio, Thomas Park and Kyle Burch—on the roster.

Out of those three, Burch has the most playing time.

"Kyle is my only senior coming back that has some real varsity experience and he came during the second half of the season and really gave us another scorer which made us hard to guard because we had so many scorers in the lineup between Payton at guard, Jack Buntun at two guard and Pullara at three. Kyle Burch would fit in at four. It was nice to have so many scorers."

Pacek said Burch was big and could move.

"Kyle has good size. He handles the ball and he's quick too. He's big enough to play inside but he has the skills to

step out away from the basket as well. He has a great upside in basketball. I wish I would have had the ability to coach him more but he is just very athletic. He's got quick feet so he can be very good defensively but he can also score inside. He shoots from the arc well enough and he can put it on the floor and drive it as well so he's definitely an all-around complete basketball player."

Pacek said Ponio showed promise at guard last season.

"He's capable of shooting from the arc. He's very strong and quick. Very good defensive player."

The only other senior is Griffin Johnson.

"He's got good size and he's at a point guard spot which is one of our needs. We're lucky he decided to play basketball again. He's smart and he'd fill in at the point guard spot."

Colin Hart and Josh Mikel are juniors who will get some playing time.

"He's improved his shooting and so has Josh Mikel."

Nolan Berger is another junior who might play.

Sophomore Cason Headley is one of the younger players Pacek will ask to step up. Headley is talented but it's still raw talent.

"We're hoping that Cason can develop and move up. He's got a very quick first step, he's got a very good shot and we're hoping that—losing so many seniors we're probably going to move him up to varsity."

Carter Garrelts, Kaelan Natyshok and Carson Shepard are more sophomores with potential.

"Garrelts' got some pretty good size. That's Jarod's younger brother. We might look at moving him up. He could be moving up. Kaelan Natyshok is another sophomore with good size. He could shoot from the arc and he's another possibility of moving up and then there's also Carson Shepard so we're really looking at four sophomores to play. We're going to be young."

Despite a shortened season, Pacek has a positive outlook.

"I'm just happy the kids get a chance to play, especially for Kyle Burch, who had a good year last year and I'm just glad he'll have a chance to get in the gym and play some this year. Our goal is just to be competitive. We're going to be young but what we want to do is improve defensively. We weren't the best defensive team last year so hopefully we'll be a little scrappier and tougher on defense. I think we'll have to be because we lost so much scoring off of last year's team," commented Pacek.

Reed-Custer, Lisle, Streator and Wilmington will be games the Coalers will circle on the calendar.

"Reed-Custer had a good sophomore team so they're definitely a team to watch out for. Lisle had a really good sophomore team and they have some really good size coming up. Mark Lascala does a great job there, as does Mark Porter at Reed-Custer, so both of those teams are teams to watch in conference. Streator had two sophomores that really played well. They're going to

be juniors and they're going to be even better so I think Streator will be a team to beat in conference as well. And then Wilmington they were young last year and they have a really nice nucleus returning."

The Coaler coach added to not sleep on Herscher.

"Ron Oloffson does a good job with his boys over there at Herscher so they'll be competitive too. It's going to be a tough conference just like last year. I think it will be a dog fight. It's a very impressive conference. It has great balance, great parity as last year's conference race proved to be."

Pacek has Kirk Walker (varsity assistant), Joe Micetich (sophomore) and Matt Terry (freshman coach) to help him out.

"He (Kirk) just does a great job. He's so positive and enthusiastic. He's a great guy and we work well together," concluded Pacek. "Joe's brother Nick got a full time job at Minooka so I hate losing Nick but Matt is

going to do a good job and Joe is a young coach but he's very mature and very knowledgeable just does a great job. I was blessed to have a great staff."

Pacek is grateful that the state has given the athletes a chance to play.

"It was a medical miracle," concluded Pacek. "One Friday we were only allowed to have individual workouts and over the weekend we went from Tier 3 to Tier 1 and the next thing you know we're having a season. Everything is rushed and chaotic but I would rather be rushed and have chaos rather than have no season at all."

After battling Streator on the road Tuesday they'll host Peotone on Friday, Feb. 12. The Coalers will visit Herscher on Tuesday, Feb. 16, will host Wilmington on the following Tuesday, Feb. 23, travel to Lisle on Friday, Feb. 26 and take a road trip to Reed-Custer in the second to last game of the season.

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