

Has your property been reassessed?

Did you forget to pay your tax bill?

SEE THE LISTS IN THIS WEEK'S EDITION

COALER SPORTS

Lady Coalers will have sectionals



\$1.00 Vol. 119, Issue 42 2 section • 30 pages Not over 75% advertising www.coalcitycourant.com

COAL CITY COURANT .com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Two paths to travel

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

As superintendent of schools, Dr. Kent Bugg is working with local leaders who have joined together with a common goal: Protecting the community from the unexpected closure of Dresden Nuclear Generating Station. Exelon Nuclear announced late in August its intent to close the generating station in November 2021, one of two plants they say will shut down next year absent wide-ranging energy legislation. Despite being among the most efficient and reliable units in Exelon's nuclear fleet, the company reports the two generating stations — the other the Byron Nuclear Station in Ogle County — face revenue shortfalls resulting from declining energy prices and rules that allow fossil fuel plants to underbid clean energy resources in the capacity auction. Dresden's closure would result in a

\$16 million hit to the school district's budget, \$24 million overall that is distributed to the seven taxing bodies receiving revenues from the plan, and that's just the loss of property tax. A plant closure here would have rippling effects, as it will in Byron. It is further exasperated by the company's position that the Braidwood and LaSalle stations are also at risk of early closure. Exelon employs 804 people at Dresden, and every 100 jobs supports another 107 jobs in other industries including maintenance and construction, real estate, retail and healthcare to name a few. In a study prepared by Northern Illinois University's Center for Government Studies, it notes the station's direct contribution to the Grundy County economy to be over \$286 million or 9.2% of the total GDP. For every \$1 million in compensation paid to Dresden employee, that

supports an additional \$331,000 in compensation to employees in related business sectors, the report states. Additionally, the station and its employees contribute to community events and organizations such as United Way. A premature closure of the LaSalle Station would result in the loss of 798 jobs and \$103 million in employee compensation and 734 jobs and \$100 million in compensation should the Braidwood Station be closed. Employees working at each of the three plants live in the community. Thus, the affect of closure would result in additional impacts to the retail, service and healthcare industries. Along with the direct impacts of Dresden being shut down, Bugg and his counterparts see a much larger problem on the horizon should the nuclear fleet fail. As Bugg told the Unit 1 Board of Education when the announcement

came in August, there are parallel paths the district and board need to move down. "One of those paths is doing everything we can to keep the plant open and the other path is how do we prepare for life after Dresden, and what does that look like. I think its important we travel those paths at the same time, because right now we don't know what's going to happen," Bugg said. Let's start with what is happening to keep the plant open. Over the past week and a half, Bugg said he's received some pretty good news in terms of making this more a statewide issue. Organized labor is now involved and established an initiative it's calling Climate Jobs Illinois. The initiative is being driven by the AFL-CIO and IBEW, and local leaders working through FAIRCOM — a

"ONE OF THOSE PATHS IS DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO KEEP THE PLANT OPEN AND THE OTHER PATH IS HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR LIFE AFTER DRESDEN, AND WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE. I THINK ITS IMPORTANT WE TRAVEL THOSE PATHS AT THE SAME TIME, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN."

DR. KENT BUGG UNIT 1 SUPERINTENDENT

SEE PATHS, PAGE 2



Photos by Ann Gill

THE PATRIOTS, GOD and Country Tour made a stop in Coal City on Monday. The 5,000 mile journey across the country is being held to spread a message of love, understanding and unity. The 36 day tour started in Arizona on Sept. 29 and is set to conclude in Washington, D.C. on election day, Nov. 3.

5,000 miles in 36 days

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A group of volunteer patriots are traversing the country to inspire and unite the nation under the founding concepts life, liberty, justice, freedom and opportunity. Under the direction of Arizona resident Dave Graybill, Patriots, God and Country was established and its message is being shared by a company of volunteers who are on a 5,000 mile journey across the country to spread a message of love, understanding and unity. "Our nation is in crisis. Our country needs to rally being something positive, inspiring and uniting," Graybill said. "We need to strip away the language that categorically divides us and come together to celebrate



COAL CITY FIRE Chief James Seerup listens as Gary Cochoran [front] talks about the Patriots, God and Country Tour that is traveling across the United States this month.

all that this country stands for." The cross country tour started Sept. 29 in Phoenix, AZ. The 36 day venture will take volunteers to 16 states

and the District of Columbia where they will make 26 scheduled stops and dozens more in between. A planned stop in Joliet resulted in the group making a short visit to Coal City Fire Station 2 on Monday afternoon. It was through a partnership with Pink Heals that the volunteers — firefighters, law enforcement officers, veterans, and a mechanic — made the detour into Coal City with their patriotic vehicles. Like the drivers who freely give their time to the tour, the vehicles were all provided at no cost to the effort. Each of the retired fire vehicles are specially wrapped and feature a theme — American Flag and Constitution, military first

SEE TOUR, PAGE 2

A roll over of the rankings

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

Exemplary is the designation given by the Illinois State Board of Education to the states' top performing schools, and this year the rankings are a rollover from 2019. Statewide 334 elementary schools and 68 high schools earned the mark of exemplary and that includes Coal City's Early Childhood Center, Elementary School and Intermediate School. Exemplary schools are those performing in the 10% of schools statewide. None of the school's subgroups, including those with special needs, racial and ethnic groups, or student from low income families, can be under performing and achieve a graduation rate higher than 67%. Coal City Middle School and High School were among those earning commendable status, simply meaning they did not perform in the top 10%. The designations for 2020 are a carryover from the prior year due to the lack of state testing in the spring. In response to the pandemic, Illinois and states across the nation received a waiver for certain assessment and accountability requirements for the 2019-2020 school year. The waiver required the same summative designations to be issued and will be noted on the 2020 Illinois Report Card. The annual document is traditionally issued by ISBE in October, and among other things reports on a school's performance. "We should be proud of the fact that our early childhood center, elementary

school and intermediate school all received exemplary ratings which is the highest rating you can get, and the middle school and high school both received commendable ratings and we are very pleased with that," said Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg. School ratings — exemplary, commendable, underperforming and lowest performing — are based on a variety of student variables that weigh heavily on how student performance on standardized testing improves from year to year. School success is measured on indicators such as standardized testing, success on college entrance exams and student attendance to name a few. Tammy Elledge, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, said this year's report card will be released this month, and without state testing taking place last spring, there's not much to report. In releasing the annual reports, ISBE has made it clear the suspension of in-person instruction has likely impacted the results of data involving student and teacher attendance, teacher evaluation, and graduation rates. As well, career and technical education enrollment and the average days of physical education each week, and of course the lack of state testing data. "Even though there is no new data, we should celebrate the fact we have the ratings we have. Congratulations to the principals, schools and all teachers for making that happen," Bugg said.



START DELIVERING SMILES



Make someone's every day near you. Immediate hourly roles available at amazon.com/apply

Amazon is an equal opportunity employer.

Grundy County voters making their choices early

STAFF REPORT

The general election is just three weeks away and the votes are already rolling in at the Grundy County Clerk's Office.

As of last week, over 1,500 votes had been cast since early voting began on Sept. 24. Grundy County Clerk Kay Olson reported voters have been coming in at a steady pace to cast their ballots.

Early voting is available to all registered voters up until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2. Early voting is available Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris.

The clerk's office has extended early voting hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 7 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sunday Oct.

18 and 24 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A number of voters have also indicated an intent to vote by mail. In response to the on-going pandemic, any one can request to vote by mail and the last day to request a vote by mail ballot from the clerk's office is Thursday, Oct. 29, however due to expected high volume voters are encouraged to place their request by Thursday, Oct. 22.

Nearly 24% or 8,000 of the county's 33,656 registered voters submitted a vote by mail application and the clerk began sending those ballots last month.

At last week's meeting of the county's Elections, Tax and Technology Committee, Olson reported over 2,700 completed ballots have been received.

Mail-in ballots can be sent back to the county clerk's office, hand delivered to Olson's

office or placed in the secured drop-box located on the west side of the county courthouse at the entrance to the county jail.

Olson said her staff routinely empties the drop box throughout the day. The returned ballots are then secured by the clerk's staff.

Mail in ballots must be post marked by election day to be counted or placed in the drop box prior to 7 p.m. on Nov. 3.

All polling locations will be open on Election Day from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polling locations can be found on the front of the voters card or by visiting the county website at www.grundyco.org.

Those opting to vote in-person will be required to wear a face covering inside the polling location for the health and safety of election staff and fellow voters.

In her most recent report to the county

board, Olson announced her office had submitted a request and was approved to receive a Center for Tech and Civic Life grant that will be used to cover additional pay for all election workers.

In this election, Grundy County voters are casting ballots for representation at the federal, state and county level, as well as the judicial candidates.

There are also binding and non-binding referendums including three advisory questions placed by the county board on the topics of fair maps, immigration and the Second Amendment.

Unofficial votes totals can be viewed as they are tabulated on the county's website. Official election results will be finalized upon the retabulation and canvas scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Ag students making a difference during COVID19

In January 2020, agriculture students started making their mark at T-Branch Farm in Coal City. The Grundy Area Vocational Center and T-Branch Farm have an agreement which allows agriculture students and FFA members to use the space located next to the Coal City Middle School for their projects.

Ag students attend classes at the farm three days a week and have a traditional classroom experience two days a week. "I think it's a great opportunity to work with our hands, and leave our own mark at the farm. I always look forward to ag class because it's always something new, and usually hands on. I don't think Ms. Hackett has presented more than 10 powerpoints in the two years I've been in the program which is refreshing. We mainly have discussion about what we're learning that day, Ms. Hackett tells a story relating to the topic and her experiences, then we get to work applying it to the real world" states AJ Rodriguez, CCHS '21.

Students in the program were just hitting their stride when COVID19 shut down schools in March. "Our spring semester is basically about job interviews and college applications for the seniors and crop science for the juniors" states Elise Hackett, agriculture teacher. "So when COVID shut us down we had ordered garden seeds for the students to practice growing their own plants. I asked them if they wanted to save them or if they wanted me to plant them and their instant response was to plant them. Then, they asked me if we could donate the produce to the local food banks because they knew COVID was affecting people in their community. It was an awesome feeling of community and service. I was extremely proud of them. So, I got to work, planted the garden, harvested it and took



GRUNDY AREA VOCATIONAL ag students planted fruit trees at T-Branch Farm in Coal City.

trips to local food banks delivering fresh produce."

Students were able to work at the farm when restrictions were lifted. Several came to help put up fencing, paint gates and tend to the garden. When summer was coming to a close, several more projects started up. "Ms. Hackett grew up raising crops and showing livestock with her family. She brought up two of her old show heifers and their babies to let us watch them grow, study animal behavior and nutrition" states Abby Payton, FFA President, CCHS '21. "My Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project is dairy cattle production. I receive newborn dairy calves from a farmer in Wisconsin. I take care of them until a certain age and then take them back. I will receive payment to cover feed costs as well as some left over. I worked out an agreement with the FFA and I will house the calves at the farm to allow the members to work with them, however, I will be their primary caretaker. I think this is a great opportunity for myself

and for other students to be able to watch my project. Without being in agriculture or FFA I wouldn't have this opportunity."

Things haven't slowed down at all since school started in August. "We harvested over 300 pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn that was sold to Berkots in Coal City. Next year we plan to sell them as a fundraiser for our chapter" states Bridget Enger, Morris '22. "Being able to work in the garden this fall has been a lot of fun. Ms. Hackett lets us make decisions about what we plant, how much and how to sell it. It's a lot of work, but I am so excited for spring to start the garden again. We also planted fruit trees by the farm that we will harvest from in the future" states Enger.

Enger, Amelia Walsh (CCHS '22), Jake Batson (Wilmington '22), Leah Talley (Wilmington '22) and Andrew Berrong (CCHS '22) have been a great help in the garden cleaning it up and preparing it for the winter. They are already looking forward to producing a bountiful garden again.

FFA may look very different this year, but members are making leaps and bounds for the chapter by being elected to higher leadership roles. Abby Payton is serving as the Section 7 Vice President. In the spring, Section 7 FFA elected their new section officers. FFA members from surrounding schools including Streator, Seneca, Ottawa, Yorkville and several others are eligible to run. "Abby had to come up with a campaign video that was shown to the delegates from each school. I am pretty sure we had more than 40 takes of the video just to get the perfect one. Then she was on a live Zoom when the results came in. I was on the same Zoom and as soon as it was announced I was on the phone with her. This is a very special honor for Abby, and her hard work paid off. She told me the first couple weeks I met her that she wanted to go far, just to prove to students that they can. With being a new chapter, there are a lot of firsts for us, and Abby is our first section officer. It's just a great feeling" states Hackett.

Upcoming events for the FFA chapter include the October meeting that will occur at the farm. "We are planning on presenting the new members with their FFA jackets at the October meeting. So that is always a fun time. The Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau are a platinum sponsor for us and they have donated several jackets for students. FFA jackets are \$55 each, which is a lot for some high school students. The fact that we can help them out, give them a boost, and somewhere that they belong is great" states Payton. "We are also participating in the Ag Sales contest on Oct. 19. I was on the team last year and we advanced all the way to the state contest. This year may be different, but I am aiming for state again."

Another week being in the blue

Positivity rate drops to 6%

STAFF REPORT

Grundy County is experiencing overall stable COVID-19 metrics for a second consecutive week.

The county's test positivity rate for the week beginning Sept. 27 was down to 6% from 7.1% a week earlier. According to the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH], there were 631 tests performed during the weekly reporting period that ended Oct. 3, with a total of 96 new cases per 100,000 in that time frame.

The state's COVID-19 warning list is published each Friday based on data from the prior week and those placed on the list warning list have exceeded the targets for two or more risk indicators that measure increases in COVID-19.

Grundy County remains at a warning level for new cases per 100,000, which occurs if there are more than 50 new cases in a week. The average number of new cases in the past four weeks is 84 persons.

On Oct. 9, the Grundy County Health Department [GCHD] reported 56 new cases since Oct. 2, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases in the county to 749 people.

As of Monday, IDPH reported 149 individuals in the 60416 zip code have tested positive for the virus since it was first detected in the community, 334 persons within the 60450 zip code, an additional 24 from Gardner's 60424 zip and 14 from the 60444 zip code that is centered in Mazon.

The virus has contributed to an additional death as a

man in his 60s who lived with underlying health conditions passed away in the past week.

The county health department is currently following 64 individuals who are ill and in isolation, as well as their close contacts. The number of people in quarantine was down almost 32% from the prior week.

Per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, close contacts of positive cases should quarantine for 14 days since the last encounter with a COVID positive person.

On a regional level, the positivity rate for the North Central Region, that includes Grundy County, was a 5.2%.

According to health administrator Michelle Prui, the lowest published rate for the North-Central Region was 2.5% on June 26 and the highest rate was 7.7% on Sept. 2.

"This rate is important because if the region reaches 8% for three consecutive days, additional restrictions will be imposed upon our region through the state of Illinois," Prui said.

Among the 26 counties current on the state's COVID-19 warning list, three Henderson, Knox and Warren — are located in the North Central Region.

Testing is available throughout the county through local hospital systems, and protocol at each location is subject to change based on availability of resources.

Mobile testing units are organized by IDPH are also available throughout the region and an updated list of locations can be found on the IDPH website at dph.illinois.gov/testing and local testing sites are announced by the county and posted on its Facebook page at Grundy County Health Department.

Carbon Hill all in for Halloween

The trio of towns that make up the 60416 zip code are all in for Halloween trick-or-treating.

At its monthly meeting last week, the Carbon Hill Village Board was in agreement the coronavirus pandemic shouldn't stand in the way of kids going door-to-door for treats on Halloween night, so they set trick-or-treat hours for 4-6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31.

The date and times are consistent with their neighboring communities of Diamond and Coal City. The board also supported trick-or-treat guidelines the other two communities set last month.

As previously reported, it was Carbon Hill Mayor Rich Jurzak who had originally reached out to the mayor of Diamond about its Halloween plans and thus a path was formulated to ensure the tradition of trick-or-treating could proceed in a safe way for both trick-or-treaters and treat givers.

The guidelines agreed to by the three communities state:

- All participants — those giving and receiving treats — must wear a face covering/mask that completely covers their nose and mouth.
- A parent accompanies their own children in their own small group.
- Homes with lights on welcome trick-or-treaters and homes with no lights on do not wish to participate in trick-or-treaters.
- Only one group goes to the door at a time.
- Groups maintain a 10-foot separation from other groups.
- Parents disinfect treat packaging prior to letting children eat their treats.
- Parents have hand sanitizer with them to regularly clean their children's hands during trick-or-treat.
- Parents should take child's temperature and check for COVID symptoms prior to allowing child to participate. Anyone experiencing a fever or COVID symptoms should not participate.

The Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] has also issued recommendations for trick-or-treating including utilizing face coverings, staying within household groups and maintaining a six foot distance, thus they suggest leaving individually wrapped candy on a table in driveways or in front of walkways to allow for social distancing.

The state has also made remarks regarding mask use during Halloween events.

"For anyone wearing a costume — whether a child or adult — a costume mask is not a substitute for face covering," said Dr. Ngozi Ezike, IDPH director.

Unit 1 designates Title IX duties

STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 Board of Education approved revisions to 25 policies and almost all of them revolve around new federal Title IX guidelines.

Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities, and the U.S. Department of Education has released a series of new guidelines.

In order to comply with the act, the school district must appoint a non-discrimination manager and a complaint manager. In the past, one person has held both roles with an assistance from a second complaint manager.

Jason Smith, the district's chief school business official, has held the duties for years, however it has been recommended those duties be separated, according to the superintendent.

The separation of duties will find Smith continuing as the district's non-discrimination manager with the duties of compliance officer being assigned to high school assistant principal Luke Kripple and Amanda Herrera, district administrative assistant.

Key provisions in revised Title IX guidelines define sexual harassment to include sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking, as unlawful dis-

crimination on the basis of sex and requires schools to offer clear, accessible options for any person to report sexual harassment.

In other matters:

- The board entered into a managed service agreement with RTI to provide technology support at a cost of \$1,000 per month.
- Smith reported the services are needed due to current demands on technology, combined with difficulty in finding quality candidates for openings in the district's technology department.
- The vendor will monitor core systems — network switches, servers, etc. — and respond to correct issues.
- The board accepted the resignations of part-time elementary school reading aide Kim Perdomo, early childhood center lunchroom aide Jessica David, and Rita Evans, full-time one on one special education aid at the high school.
- Sara Helland was transferred from elementary school lunchroom aide to one on one special education aide at the high school.
- Leave requests were granted to elementary school cafeteria server Gail Endrst, speech language pathologist Cassie Spicer and special education teacher Jordan Alberico from April 14 through the end

of the school year.

- Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg publicly commend the district's athletic coaches for doing what they can to keep student athletes engaged in district programs through the pandemic.
- A donation of 17 small engines for use in the high school industrial arts class was accepted from the Kohler Company. The donation

includes 11 new vertical shafts, four new horizontal shafts and two vertical cylinder engines. Small engines account for 90% of the labs in the class.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 4 with a board study session slated for Wednesday, Oct. 28. Both meetings are open to the public beginning at 6 p.m. in the district's administrative center.

		1		4	5	
					9	
		2	5	1		7
9						
	3	7		1		
		4		5		2
6		3				
			6		2	
1			8	9	7	

NEED EVENT PUBLICITY?
CONTACT US AT
courant@fpnusa.com or call 815-634-0315

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

FAMILY

Kerulis, Schmucker united in marriage



Mr. and Mrs. John Schmucker

Amy M. Kerullis and John P. Schmucker, of Estero, FL were united in marriage on Oct. 3, 2020. Parents of the bride are John F. and Mary A. Kerulis, of Wilmington. Parents of the groom are J. Patrick and Kathleen F. Schmucker, of Wilmington.

The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. in Saint Rose Church. Organist/vocalist was Tom Labanauskas. The bride wore a ballgown satin dress with a lace top designed by Justin Alexander from Wolsfelt's Bridal. Her bouquet was created by Donna Figora, of Shorewood.

Maid of honor was Jackie Goulding and matron of honor was Mallory Vancura. Bridesmaids were Kali Nordeen, Megan Kerulis, Madison Lathum, Mary Gallagher, Tara Spell, Kelly Holem, Yana Gavalick, Karleigh Cherveney and Leanne Torte. They wore burnt orange floor-length chiffon dresses with eucalyptus and white rose bouquets. Flower girl was Maggie May Schmucker, bride and groom's Cockapoo; she was wearing a white and eucalyptus flower collar.

Best men were Ryan Ruzich and Neil Ruzich. Groomsmen and usher were David Wallen, John Kerulis, Joe Kerulis, Richard Heintz, Jason Wilhelmi, Doug Lopez, Stan Czajkowski, Alex Hoffer, Matt Talley and Nick Gavalick. Ring bearer was Tam Kerulis, bride and groom's Cocker Spaniel, He was wearing a burnt orange bow-tie collar.

A reception was held at the home of John Kerulis, brother of the bride. A large wedding tent and accessories were rented from Castle Party Rental in Saint Charles, IL.

Amy has her PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY. She currently is the director of an Industrial-Organizational Master's program at Touro College in New York, NY.

John obtained his B.S. in Political Science from Illinois State University. He is currently enrolled in a M.S. in Secondary Education program at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, FL.

The couple are on their first honeymoon to Key West, FL and then in 2021 they will travel to Turks and Caicos.

FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 17 & 18th, 2020
9am-5pm 11am-4pm

In Store Savings on Fall & Halloween Decor and More!

REGISTER TO WIN A GIFT BASKET VALUED AT \$125

Pop Up Market on Saturday ONLY 9am-2pm

Specialty Food Vendors
Local Farmers
30+ All Handmade Artisans & Crafters
Wine Samplings

CDC guidelines will be followed. No Pets.

COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE
1540 N. Division • Braidwood, IL • 815-458-2191
15 miles south of Joliet on I-55 & Rt. 113. Exit 236
countrysidevillagegifts.com

8M-CL-1822673

Mobile food pantry to be held Oct. 19

On Monday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m., Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road in South Wilmington, in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

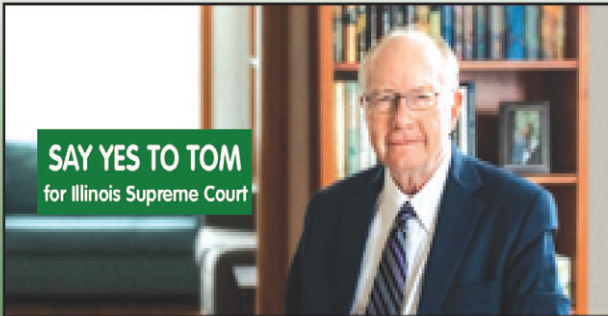
Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food, meat, produce and nonperishable items, to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Please join me in supporting Justice Tom Kilbride for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court. Tom is a fair judge, a kind man, independent and a leader on the Supreme Court!



SAY YES TO TOM for Illinois Supreme Court

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY GRUNDY COUNTY JUDGE, SHELDON SOBOL

Paid for by Judge Sheldon Sobol

Scheduling your mammogram is just as important as EVER.



One thing the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped or postponed is cancer.

That's why you can't stop getting routine cancer screenings, including mammography.

For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American College of Radiology recommends an annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

Mammography really does save lives.

We are pleased to offer three-dimensional mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) in Channahon, Diamond-Coal City, and Morris!

Call 815-942-4105 to schedule your appointment.

Self-referral without a physician's order is accepted.



HOW CONVENIENT!

Your debit card doubles as an ATM Card!



- Mastercard® Debit Card
- TeleBank 24
- Free Online Banking & Bill Pay*
- Mobile Banking



Bank of Pontiac

Pontiac • Odell • Dwight • Forrest • Fairbury • Coal City
Toll FREE 855-844-6151
www.bankofpontiac.com



Member FDIC

*Must pay at least one bill online each month to qualify for free bill pay. Inactive accounts will be charged \$4.95 per month.

New Will County Courthouse up and running

Will County officials on Friday, Oct. 9 cut the ribbon on the new state-of-the-art courthouse and justice center, which replaces the smaller and outdated facility on Jefferson Street in Joliet. The courthouse will be open to the public starting in early November.

"With this courthouse, we have invested in the future of Will County," said Will County Board Speaker Mimi Cowan. "This LEED certified building will give visitors, employees, and jurors a safer, more efficient path to justice and public

safety. With 38 courtrooms, in 10 stories, our courthouse provides space into which our growing county can expand."

In August 2013 the Will County Board first approved a comprehensive plan for major capital improvement projects throughout the county. This plan included the construction of the new courthouse following the new Public Safety Complex, which was completed earlier this year.

"We began planning for this courthouse years ago and now we see the results of those

plans," said Capital Improvements Committee Vice Chair Ray Tuminello. "It's our job as county board members to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure a stable future for the next generation. I'm confident that we've done that with this building."

The new justice center was built on the former First Midwest Bank site, on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Jefferson streets in downtown Joliet. The county purchased the property in 2014. In October 2018, the county held a topping off ceremony when the final piece of steel was placed atop the building.

"Every detail was gone over during planning to ensure that future generations will continue to be served well by this courthouse," said Capital Improvements Committee Chair Herb Brooks Jr. "In addition to being on time and on budget, I'd also like to thank all of the men and women who built this building with no injuries or accidents."

The new 370,000 sq. ft. building cost \$215 million and was designed by architecture firm Wight & Co and is a LEED certified building. In addition to the courtrooms, the courthouse will house offices for the state's attorney, the circuit clerk, and more.

"This new courthouse is part of the county's largest capital campaign in our history," said Will County Executive Denise Winfrey. "In recent years, we've opened our new Public Safety Complex, Animal



Photo by Marney Simon

THE NEW WILL COUNTY Courthouse will house 38 courtrooms on 10 floors. The \$215 million courthouse took three years to complete. The late Larry Walsh, who served as Will County Executive throughout most of the construction, said the building was part of "the rebirth" of downtown Joliet.

Control Center, Emergency Management Center, and just this year, a new state-of-the-art Health Department."

"This new courthouse will serve the people of Will County very well for decades to come. It will ensure that justice matters are handled smoothly and efficiently inside state-of-the-art facilities," Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt said.

Circuit Court Clerk Andrea Lynn Chasteen added, "As the primary recorder of all legal proceedings and court filings

in Will County, my office handles and extraordinary amount of information which will now be streamlined and more easily created and maintained thanks to our new courthouse."

As they enter the building, jurors will be greeted by a two-story lobby filled with natural light from large windows. The first floor will also have a larger jury commission room to accommodate residents called to perform their civic duty. Lower level floors will contain

offices and courtrooms for high-volume courts, such as criminal misdemeanor, civil small claims, and adult probation courts.

The fourth and fifth floor will hold criminal felony courts, the public defender's office, and a small cafe. Floors six and seven include high-volume family courts, the eighth and ninth floors include additional courts, and the tenth floor will hold a grand jury.

We have homegrown pumpkins!

Jim Gourman's MICHIGAN APPLES

ALWAYS CALL for available apple varieties and days open.

Route 53 and New River Rd — Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 6PM

Closed Mondays 815-476-7514

Thanks!

Route 53 and New River Rd — Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 6PM

QUALITY

Follow us on Facebook

BIKES WELCOME

GOOD FOOD COLD DRINKS GREAT FRIENDS

ROUTE 66 BAR AND GRILL

113 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington IL 60481 815-476-6000

- Mark Your Calendars -

10-17-20, 10-24-20, 10-31-20

OKTOBERFEST SPECIALS ✓

Warm Pretzels, Juicy Brats, Cold Beers!

10-17-20

"GRISTMILL NOMADS" ✓

Let's welcome them to their first show ever in Wilmington, IL!

10-31-20

"THUNDER ROAD BAND" ✓

A Wilmington Favorite.

10-31-20 PULLED PORK, AND WENDELL'S BIRTHDAY

Chef Jerry's famous Pulled Pork, If you live in Wilmington, you know who Wendell is!

Halloween Masks and More Styles

4 layer cotton for all seasons

"We love Halloween all year!"

Stay Safe and Healthy

Odds N Ends

Downstairs/Booth 1414 815-579-6802

121 N. Water St., Wilmington

COAL CITY DENTAL CENTER

Our priority for over 25 years has been to provide top-quality dental care in the most comfortable, friendly way possible!

Back Row: Debbie RDH ★ Esme ★ Robin Trevison, DMD ★ Lisa
Front Row: Tracy ★ Natalie ★ ChyAnne, EFDA

Evening and Weekend Appointments

Whitening/Cosmetic Procedures

Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas) Relaxant

815.634.4999

645 E. Division St. (Rte. 113), Coal City ★ www.CoalCityDentalCenter.com

Sound-off, continued from page 4

unemployment benefits. Would he extend free tuition if there's no money in the budget to pay for it? Plus the cost of room, board and fees is not free. On average that costs is \$15,000 per year. Plus, colleges have no problem raising those fees every year. This is just another "feel good" campaign promise for a government program we cannot afford unless governor raises taxes. It will kill all of our wonderful private colleges in the state. For a student that wants a small college experience, want to stay close to home, or dreams of playing a college sport, you don't get the free money. Trade-offs are a fact of life, and higher education is no exception. Illinois cannot afford free tuition, we need a better grant program to help students achieve higher degrees.

A few facts

BRAIDWOOD—Responding to Margot's "Weather changes." Weather varies daily and climate refers to overall weather during an extended time period. But climate is changing faster than earth's ecosystems can adapt making earth barely habitable for humans and symbiotic life forms. The term global warming was used initially because increasing warmth throughout the earth caught the attention of experts, but now scientists see more complexity. Global warming causes weakening of the Gulf Stream which makes some areas colder, examples of which are the polar vortex winters we experienced several years ago. Right now the weatherman reminds us about the record-breaking number of tropical storms we've had in recent years due to ocean warming. We're literally cooking in a stew of acidic waters that kill the fish we eat. But these few facts merely scratch the surface. Sadly, young people worry about climate change whereas the elderly scoff because they'll be dead when catastrophe hits. Please, if you care about future generations, the denials of climate change aren't appreciated.

FOIAs cost time, money

BRAIDWOOD—To the newer Braidwood resident who has been filing FOIA request, after FOIA request. How much are your requests costing the taxpayers? The city administrator has been very vocal about how much money and time it has cost the city to fulfill the FOIA requests submitted by the former city clerk. How about he do the same with everyone else? Why do we, the taxpayers, have to foot the bill for this lady's desire for information to quench her troublemaking thirst?

Another insult

WILMINGTON—The men and women who serve our country have been insulted and used as scapegoats by President Trump over and over again. Trump calls the military "scoundrels" and "losers" and has refused to address the bounties on the heads of American soldiers. Now Trump claims Gold Star families infected him at a special ceremony at the White House. Another insult and another day in America.

Kidnapping plot

WILMINGTON—Many sound-off letters complain about law and order violations by blaming the left. But armed right-wing militias threaten civil war throughout the country and 13 men in the Wolverine Watchmen of Michigan were recently apprehended with six arrested and seven arraigned for conspiracy to kidnap Michigan Governor Whitmer, a Democrat. President Trump's tweets, including "Liberate Michigan" encouraged these vigilantes by criticizing Whitmer. Some of these men are the same who threatened the safety of Michigan state legislators in the state capitol in May to such an extent that government business was shut down. The Wolverine Watchmen has ties to the same militia group advocating white power, anti-government sentiments which resulted in the Oklahoma City tragedy in 1995 where 168 died at the hands of Timothy McVeigh. The past several years include an extreme level of nationwide violent white nationalist activity which could be attributable to Trump's words, including "stand back, stand by" which the Proud Boys consider to be an endorsement.

Success

WILMINGTON—Responding to "Open up Illinois." You have some valid points. You seem to be saying that the elderly are the only ones at risk (5.4 percent death rate) and we don't mind losing them. But you are forgetting that many middle-age people have serious health problems such as my husband whose survival would be questionable. Should we go the way of Sweden? But their GDP fell 8.6 percent in the second quarter, more sharply than their neighboring countries which imposed restrictions. You can argue this until the cows come home. But then you look at New Zealand or Japan or South Korea who've had great results fighting the pandemic and realize that success depends on hard work, efficiency and good leadership.

What we need

BRAIDWOOD—When we hear news that the Navy is planning to increase its force to 500 ships, the people ask the question, can we, the people, have good health care, please, instead of more big ships? We already have the greatest military force in the world and our Navy currently has 293 ships. Do we really need 500? We definitely need a better health care system as other countries already have throughout the world. Twenty million Americans will lose their health insurance if the Supreme Court strikes down Obamacare and approximately half the country, over 100 million people, will lose preexisting condition coverage through their private insurance as well. And then we'll be back to where we were 10 years ago when we stood in line for hours for medical service through charity.

The cure

COAL CITY—Pro-life advocates have said no to stem cell research throughout the years despite the pleas from those struggling to stay alive who would benefit. Since entering politics President Trump has strangely adopted whatever evangelicals think and repeats whatever they say. Lo and behold. Suddenly evangelicals don't mind that Trump's recovery is based on Regeneration which was developed from cells used in abortion. I'm Christian but not of 'evangelical' denomination because evangelical leaders have traded their conscience for political power derived from their association with Trump. And now the hypocrisy of evangelical leaders has revealed itself once more by their acceptance of Trump's use of Regeneration. Power corrupts.

Stuck with the bill

BRAIDWOOD—In response to the theory that Democrats raise taxes. I'm happy to have taxes raised on the wealthy so they pay their fair share, Joe Biden included, who didn't do right using that tax loophole. If I admit to Biden's mistake, will you, Dan Hill, admit to President Trump's tax mistakes and massive tax fraud, his 20,000 lies, the pandemic debacle, his abuse of our military and the admission by Senate Republicans that Trump is guilty about impeachment charges but preferring to forgive him? Of course not. Even before the pandemic, our national debt was at \$23 trillion due to President Trump's tax cuts for the benefit of the wealthy and for the benefit of corporations who pay no taxes at all. Somebody has to foot the bill and when the wealthy don't pay the middle class gets stuck with the bill.

Surf Broadband Solutions

Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive **FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!**

(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

Exact measurements required for The Fog Cutter

There are a few cocktails by which every tiki bar or Polynesian restaurant is measured, and three of them were created by "Trader" Vic Bergeron in the 1940s. His most famous creation was the Mai Tai, followed by the Scorpion, and don't forget the curiously strong and complex Fog Cutter.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

The flavor of the Fog Cutter is unlike anything else in the realm of Polynesian drinks. It is a large volume drink served in an oversized tiki mug, and is meant to be sipped slowly. Think of the Fog Cutter as the "Long Island Iced Tea" of the tiki bar. A little bit of everything into a large, high octane drink. How strong is the Fog Cutter? The Fog Cutter is so strong that Trader Vic enforced a strict two drink limit per customer.

About 10 years into service of the Fog Cutter, Trader Vic took pity on his customers and developed a lighter version of the cocktail which he called the Samoan Fog Cutter. The "Samoan" version was less potent, and was also more approachable due to the dilution that came from blending with crushed ice.

The Fog Cutter concept spread throughout the Polynesian bar scene, and by the 1970s most of the established tiki bars were serving their own version of the Fog Cutter. Perhaps the most popular variant of the original was the Fog Cutter from iconic New Orleans tiki bar, Bali Hai at the Beach. Bali Hai added an extra "g" to the name to differentiate the drink from the Trader Vic original.

What is the difference between the Bali Hai version and the original Fog Cutter? For starters, both the original Fog Cutter and the Samoan Fog Cutter were topped with a float of cream sherry, a dessert wine that declined in popularity after the end of the 1950s. Also, the crucial almond notes in the Bali Hai version are from almond extract whereas the almond in the WWII-era version uses an almond-based orgeat syrup.

The Fog Cutter is an 8-ingredient cocktail (not counting the ice). Be sure to use exact proportions when preparing this drink to maintain balance and complexity. You may "eyeball" your Gin and Tonic portions, but you will want more exact measurement when small amounts of some of the ingredients are used.

Speaking of small amounts, even if the recipe below is halved you will still have a delightful drink in the glass.

Despite the blending of four types of spirits, the drink comes together quite well. The fact the drink has been served in one form or another for nearly 80 years is a testament to

its reputation as a tiki bar standard.

Let's fire up the blender and make our very own Fog Cutter.

Some cocktails benefit from expensive, top shelf spirits. This is not one of those cocktails. Do not break the bank on spirits for this one, there is so much going on in this drink that shelling out extra money for higher quality spirits will not produce a better drink.

The Fog Cutter calls for two types of rum: light Puerto Rican rum and dark Jamaican rum. For the light rum, Bacardi, Cruzan, or Flor de Cana will get the job done. When it comes to dark Jamaican rum, stick with Myer's, Appleton 12, or Coruba.

Use your favorite gin, and if you don't have a favorite gin, use Beefeater.

You should keep a bottle of brandy in your home bar, even if you only use it as a mixer. Korbels is always a popular choice as it is also used in the Brandy Old Fashioned, but standard Christian Brothers and E&J will also perform well as mixers.

The almond extract used in the Fog Cutter is the same stuff that you will find in the cooking section of your local grocery store. Be careful with almond extract, this is some strong stuff! A little goes a long way, you will literally need only a few drops if you are cutting the recipe below in half.

The simple syrup used in the Fog Cutter is the standard 1:1 cane sugar/water simple syrup, but if you prefer your drinks on the sweet side you can certainly make your sugar syrup a bit richer.

Always use crushed ice in your blended drinks. It's easier on your blender and the end result will be a smooth drink, free of large chunks of ice.

This is a short blend, five seconds at most.

If you happen to have a bottle of cream sherry laying around and would like to taste something closer to the original version, pour a 1/2 to 1-ounce float on top of the drink after you pour the blended drink into the glass.

By the way, a "fog cutter" is a type of dive knife used in scuba applications. I am not sure exactly how that ties in to the name of the drink, we can only hope that the nobody was handling sharp objects when this drink was created.

The New Orleans Fog Cutter is built in a blender and served in a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass.

- Combine in blender:
- 2 oz. orange juice
 - 1 1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
 - 1 1/2 oz simple syrup
 - 1 oz. light Puerto Rican rum
 - 1 oz. dark Jamaican Rum
 - 1 oz. brandy
 - 1 oz. gin
 - 1/2 tsp. almond extract
 - 8 oz. (1 cup) crushed ice
- Blend for 5 seconds
Pour unstrained into a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass, garnish with mint sprig
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

FUNNEL YOUR DEBT & SAVE

PERSONAL LOANS

MEDICAL BILLS

CREDIT CARDS

TITLE LOANS

5.99%^{APR*} ON

VISA BALANCE TRANSFERS

FOR THE LIFE OF THE TRANSFER

+ No Transfer Fees
+ No Annual Fees

*All Visas subject to credit approval. The 5.99% APR promo rate will be in effect for the life of the balance transfer. Limited time offer. Promotions cannot be combined. SOCU is federally insured by the NCUA.

SOCU
SOCU.ORG
815.416.1170
1544 CREEK DR
MORRIS, IL 60450



Call now to schedule your free consultation.

Trust and Estate Planning for your family's future

If the unthinkable happened, would your loved ones be left financially secure? Talk to us today about a plan that will protect your assets and ensure your tax planning is still sensible given the changes to law.



FISHER BERARDI LAW

Call 815-476-7635

207 S. Water St., Wilmington • www.fisherberardilaw.com



The merchants of Winchester Green Shopping Center welcome the Valle Family and the Valle's Produce Market Corp. as new owners of Belletini Foods.



Based on the reputation of excellent produce & top-quality meats at your three other stores, we are excited to have you as our new neighbor and wish you the best of luck



Belletini Foods

1085 S. Water St., Wilmington
815-476-7966

OBITUARIES

Charles J. Butcher

WILMINGTON—Charles J. Butcher, 69, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly and alongside his canine companion, Sammy, as the result of a motor vehicle accident on Oct. 12, 2020.

Born Oct. 28, 1950 in Joliet, Charles James was a son of James and Thelma (Plager) Butcher. He was raised and educated in Wilmington, and went on to honorably serve in the United States Navy. On June 12, 1982, Charles married Catherine "Cathy" Hooper, and together they made their family and raised their three daughters in Wilmington.

Charlie was employed with ComEd, and worked as a Troubleman out of the Joliet and Bradley facilities before retiring after 30 years of service. He loved to power parachute, and took pleasure in the outdoors, animals of all kinds, and spending time at the family Circle B Farm. Charlie enjoyed traveling, especially to Arizona, and will be remembered for his love of family, his children, and not to forget his eclectic style.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy; three daughters: Desiree (Matthew) Burris, of Batavia;

Jessie Butcher (fiance' Colin Shepley), of Bourbonnais and Olivia (Chad) Bumpous, of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Huntley and Monte Burris, Castiel Lemke, Landyn Shepley and Parker and Brayden Bumpous; one brother, Harry (Evyonne) Butcher, of Wilmington and one sister, Susan (Louis) Matusiak, of Arizona.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents.

A private family visitation and funeral will be held. Charlie will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Charlie's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the

guest book, upload photographs and share Charles' memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Charles-Butcher

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



Garden Club to meet Oct. 21

The Wilmington Garden Club's next meeting is planned for Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.

New members are always welcome. For more information call Carol at 815-476-2469, or Judy at 815-476-1875.

Dispose of prescription drugs safely

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to noon in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St. Wilmington

Items to be accepted include outdated and/or left-over prescription drugs.

Prison movie night

The Rialto Square Theatre and Joliet Area Historical Museum are teaming up for a supernaturally spectacular outdoor movie night fundraiser, Fall Flicks in the Yard featuring two spooky classics from the 1980s. Beetlejuice (1988) will be shown on Friday, Oct. 23, followed by Ghostbusters (1984) on Saturday, Oct. 24. Films will be shown on large outdoor screen inside the walls of the museum's Old Joliet Prison historic site.

The event will include opportunities for self-guided tours throughout the prison, local food vendors, special merchandise, beverage bar, and photo ops and more. In adherence with Phase Four Guidelines of the State's Restore Illinois Plan, event seating is a numbered, demarcated circle in the grass. Each circle comes with two admissions, and up to 4 additional tickets per circle may be purchased. Circles will be spaced at a minimum of eight-foot intervals to provide for social distancing.

Admission is \$50 for a two-person, 8 foot circle. Additional admissions are \$20 per person with a max of four additional admissions per circle. Masks are required and must be worn at all times when outside of your circle. To register go to www.joliet-prison.org or www.jolietmuseum.org or call 312- 978-1282

- ALL vegetables are locally grown on our farm -

PERKINS FARM

37048 Zilm Road, Custer Park
815-714-4913

Vegetables for Sale

New-Fresh Honey, Butternut, Buttercup, Spaghetti & Acorn Squash, Bell Peppers & Corn Stalks (Corn Stalks are free)

INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL TODAY TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, St. Louis, MO
6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
036441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 8549312

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

Robert Rader

WILMINGTON—Robert "Bob" Rader, 65, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family.

Born Oct. 12, 1955 in Joliet, Robert Delanee was the son of Robert and Deloris (nee Fridde) Rader. He was raised and educated in Wilmington. Bob was a former volunteer and a trustee at the Wilmington Fire Department and was an active member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge. On July 28, 1979 Bob married Elizabeth Boyd in the Ritchey United Methodist Church. Bob was always extraordinarily proud of his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, Elvis Presley, and old country music.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Beth; three children: Nicholas (Kathleen) Rader and Jacqueline (Craig) Mark, all of Wilmington and Candace (Russell) Toler, of Braidwood; 10 grandchildren: Jacob Rader, Ashlei Rader, Austin Rader, Jordan Rader, Braydon Mark, Landon Mark, Adrianna Mark, Taylor Toler, Morgan Toler, and Ryland Toler; brothers, Donald (Debbie) Shewmake and Richard Shewmake; sister, Judith (Red) Hall; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his canine companion, Sassy.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents,



brother, James Shewmake and sisters: Delores Shewmake, Patricia Welter and Dorsalee Miley.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 3 p.m. At the family's request, face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bob's name to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431, Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates Ltd., 2614 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60435, or to the Wilmington Fire Protection District, 501 N. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

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

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

Patricia A. Schmetter

WISCONSIN—Patricia A. Schmetter, 84, of Elkhorn, WI, and formerly of Wilmington passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 at Ridgestone Gardens of Elkhorn, WI.

Patricia was born on May 28, 1936, daughter of Francis and Rita (Kennedy) Bell. She married Dr. Roger Louis Schmetter on Oct. 15, 1960. He has since past in 1985.

Patricia worked at many different places in her younger years, where for a time she was a dental hygienist for her husband and also a bookkeeper. She was an amateur interior designer, and was skilled with the ability of taking on home projects, such as drywalling her entire garage by herself. She also took joy in participating for many years with the Lakeland

Players.

Patricia is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Eric (Michelle) Schmetter, of Elkhorn, WI, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents and step-mother, Frances.

A private memorial service will take place to honor Patricia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Patricia's name to a charity of the donor's choice.

Haase-Lockwood & Associates Funeral Home and Crematory of Elkhorn is assisting the family. An online guest registry can be found at www.haaselockwoodffhs.com.

Grace Lutheran offers three ways to worship

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is now offering three ways to worship each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Inside the Sanctuary: The church has put together careful protocols that must be followed, which include: wearing masks at all times when in the building; taking temperatures as people enter; entering and exiting through certain doors and sitting in specific places as directed by the ushers, and others.

A special disinfectant machine has been purchased for cleaning the sanctuary between services. One issue might be available seating: this will be very limited because of

the need to sit at least six feet apart (spots are marked, please follow them). Please do not choose this worshipping option if you are part of a high-risk population.

In cars: Simply park in the church parking lot, and tune your FM radio to 91.7. You can then listen to the whole service. This worship option would be good for those who cannot watch online because they do not have internet access, but are also in a high-risk group and cannot risk worshipping inside (or, if we have overflow from limited seating inside).

Communion will be taken out to each car, and ushers will collect offerings if you turn

your hazard lights on!

Live online: If you are unable to attend worship inperson, you can still view and participate in the service live online. Remember that everything you need for Sunday worship is on the front page of the church's website, including a link to find the video ("Worship with us!") and a link to the worship bulletin for you to download and print beforehand ("Bulletin PDF").

Grace Lutheran Church's website is www.gracellwilm.org. Be sure to have a little bread and wine/grape juice ready.

IL State Police involved in fatal shooting

An investigation is ongoing into the shooting of a Harvey man who pulled a gun during a traffic stop by Illinois State Police on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at approximately 12:28 a.m.

An Illinois State Police (ISP) District 15 Trooper conducted a traffic stop at 147th Street and Halsted Avenue in Harvey, IL for an ILCS equipment violation, no headlights.

At the request of the trooper, the female driver, 21, of Chicago, stepped out of the vehicle for further investigation. A second trooper who was also on scene was positioned on the passenger side door of the vehicle. At this time, the front seat male passenger, Darren Green Jr, 30, of Harvey, IL moved into the driver's seat.

The Trooper, who was located near the driver's side

door of the vehicle, announced that he observed a firearm and a brief struggle ensued to gain control over the firearm. As the trooper was attempting to secure the firearm, Green began driving the vehicle. Two additional rear female passengers, a 29-year-old of Dolton, IL and an 8-year-old juvenile of Matteson, IL, were able to exit the vehicle.

The vehicle was driven forward by Green while dragging both troopers before striking a bus shelter and coming to a stop. During this time, the firearm discharged, and Green was struck. Neither trooper was struck by gun fire nor did any trooper discharge their duty weapon. The other passengers were not injured. Both troopers were transported to a local area hospital where they were treated and released. Green was transport-

ed to another local area hospital and was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:25 a.m.

Green did not have a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID) or Conceal Carry License (CCL).

The trooper on the driver's side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 years. The trooper on the passenger side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 months.

In accordance with the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) and the Department of State Police Law (20 ILCS 2605), Special Agents of the Division of Internal Investigation are investigating these events.

WE KEEP OUR PATIENTS SMILING WITH TRUSTED FAMILY DENTAL CARE



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

DR. GARRETT B. SMITH D.D.S.
220 S. Main St. • Wilmington
815-476-9715

- Crowns
- Bridges
- Exams
- Cleaning
- Fillings/Sealants
- Cosmetic Work
- Implant Restoration
- Zoom 2 Whitening

WE ACCEPT CARE CREDIT

Most Insurance & All Credit Cards accepted

- 27 years of gentle family dentistry -

Forest preserve board takes action leading to dam removal

Action taken Thursday, Oct. 8, by the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Board of Commissioners will lead to the removal of the Hammel Woods Dam in Shorewood.

Semper Fi Land Services Inc. was hired to remove the dam, WBK Engineering LLC will oversee the work and the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition has agreed to pay for the removal.

The removal process cannot begin until permits for the work have been approved by all necessary regulatory agencies.

The work will take place in two stages with half the river water at the project site being drained during each phase using water storage cofferdams, said Andrew Hawkins, the Forest Preserve District's director of planning.

If the permits are in place this fall, the work could take around a month because water levels are lower, Hawkins said. If the permits are delayed and work begins in the spring, the project could take longer due to higher water levels, he explained. Other factors also could affect the timeline.

The portion of the stone dam that rises above the river bottom will be removed, but the stone footings below the river bottom will remain. After the dam is taken out of the river, natural river rocks will be added near the banks to create "riffles" that will oxygenate the water. In spring 2021, native vegetation will be planted to stabilize the riverbank.

The work will return the river to a more natural, healthier state, and it will make the river safer for paddlers because they will no longer have to portage around the dam, Hawkins said. While there were objections in the past to removal of the dam for



THE LOWHEAD DAM at Hammel Woods will be removed under safety concerns by the Will County Forest Preserve.

sentimental reasons, that no longer is the case, he explained.

"Now people seem to recognize the environmental, health and safety benefits of removing the dam," he said.

While the dam is being removed, a new canoe/kayak launch will be built downstream of the current launch on the DuPage River. The old launch will then be removed.

The Hammel Woods Dam was built in the 1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps workers. The 4-foot-high concrete and limestone dam was built to create a pool of water for recreational purposes during a time when the DuPage River had a much lower volume of water than it does now.

In 2003, The Conservation Foundation studied five dams along the river, including the Hammel Woods Dam, looking

for ways to improve the ecology of the river. The study concluded that removal of the Hammel Woods Dam would allow aquatic species to move upstream and improve safety. In 2011, the foundation completed a two-year watershed-based plan for the DuPage River, which led to the creation of The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition in 2012.

The coalition's goal is to preserve and enhance water quality in the river and its tributaries. The coalition also looks for ways to help communities along the river comply with more stringent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements related to wastewater treatment plants discharging into the river. The Forest Preserve District joined the coalition, which is made up mostly of municipalities that discharge into the river,

ranging from Bolingbrook in the north to Channahon in the south.

In 2017, the coalition paid for a study of the pros and cons of either modifying or removing the Hammel Woods Dam. Dam removal was recommended, but the amount of funding needed was not yet available to move forward with the plan.

In February 2019, the city of Naperville received a new wastewater discharge permit from the EPA and as part of that process, it had to pay fees to the coalition for river-related enhancements. That money was earmarked for the Hammel Woods Dam removal and the planning process began in spring 2019.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit www.reconnectwithnature.org.

Learn about the essential role of snakes on Oct. 22

How are snakes involved in the world's food chain and in restoring prairie? Find out on Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m. during a virtual interpretive program that will be presented by Grace Wu, biological science technician at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Wu is in her final year in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Master's program in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. For two years, she collected data for her thesis, which focused on tallgrass prairie restoration effects on snake communities. On Oct. 22, she will talk about the differences in snake communities in Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie restoration areas. She will tell about prairie restoration effects on those communities.

"I wrote my thesis hoping to shed some fascinating and surprising light on snakes, which don't always so readily get the credit that they deserve," Wu said. "What a lot of people don't know is that

snakes are special and vital animals in the food chain. They are a mid-level predator, meaning they eat prey, but also can become prey. This special role means they could be good indicators of land health and may be able to shed light on prairie restoration success."

At Midewin NTP, Wu is involved in a variety of restoration activities, including prescribed burning, which is an essential restorative tool.

For two weeks this past summer Wu was on a wildfire assignment in Colorado. She was part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources-sponsored inter-agency wildland fire crew that helped fight the Pine Gulch Fire in Grand Junction, Colorado. The team included other USDA Forest Service employees and staff with The Nature Conservancy and IDNR.

To register for Grace Wu's virtual presentation on Oct. 22, email: SM.FS.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call: (815) 423-6370.



Courtesy Photo by Nick Budde

USDA FOREST SERVICE'S Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Biological Science Technician holds a fox snake on the west side of Midewin NTP. Wu will talk about the importance of snakes to the world's food supply and to prairie restoration in a virtual program on Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m.

Donate blood to help those fighting breast cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to band together to provide hope and healing to patients fighting cancer by giving blood or platelets.

In appreciation, those who come to give Oct. 15-Nov. 11 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane.

Donors are asked to make appointments by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Donors of all blood types are urged to help ensure a stable supply for cancer patients and others this fall. To thank those who come to give in October, the Red Cross is also offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners.

Blood donations play a crucial role in

cancer treatment

Cancer patients undergoing surgery and chemotherapy may require red blood cell or platelet transfusions. In fact, patients fighting cancer need more blood than those with any other disease, using nearly one-quarter of the nation's blood supply.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions.

Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff - have been implemented. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include

Bourbonnais
Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, noon - 6 p.m. at the Annex, 1690 Newtowne Dr

Oct. 30, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Bourbonnais Fire Department, 1080 Armour Rd.

Oct. 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Riverside Medical Center, 350 N. Wall

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-733-2767.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

When: **October 24th from 10 A.M. to NOON**

Where: **CVS Parking Lot, 1101 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL**

!! PITCH THOSE PILLS SAFELY !!

DON'T BE THE DEALER



Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.



www.wilmington-coalition.org
815-476-1660

Funded by O.N.D.G.P. and SAMHSA.

Thank you to WPD & CVS for partnering with WCHC for Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Come take a seat



The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce believes it's the little things that can make a difference. That's why we recently completed a campaign to bring benches to the downtown shopping district. It's an investment we believe will make for a more friendly shopping experience, especially for those poor husbands with aching feet waiting for their spouse to come out of a store.

Look for our benches and take a seat. We're proud of the project and want you to know there is more beautification to come.



P.O. Box 724, Wilmington • 815.476.5991

Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

Thursday, October 15

• 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington

Friday, October 16

• 4 to 5 p.m., Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood, held on the first and third Friday of each month

Saturday, October 17

• noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Historical Society Museum open to the public, 111 N Center St., Braidwood.

Monday, October 19

• 4 p.m. Mobile food pantry distributing food to those in need, St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington.
 • 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Vincent's Table offering carryout meals to anyone in need at Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st St., Braidwood

Tuesday, October 20

• 10:30 a.m., Crafts and Conversation at Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington. Open to public, wear a mask.
 • 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
 • 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
 • 7 p.m., Coal City Park Board meeting at the Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

Wednesday, October 21

• 1 p.m., Wilmington Garden Club meeting at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.
 • 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
 • 6 p.m., Custer Fire Protection District Board meeting, Camelot Education cafeteria, 35445 S. Washington St., Custer Park, third Wednesday of each month

• 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer School District Administration Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

Thursday, October 22

• noon to 1 p.m., Grace Wu talk on snakes, virtual presentation, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Register by email to sm.fs.midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call 815-423-6370

7 p.m., Wilmington Island Park District board meeting, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Friday, October 23

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Godley Ghost Ride, ages 2-12, enter south entrance off Smith Road for drive through Halloween event.
 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Saturday, October 24

• 10 a.m. to noon, Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Sunday, October 25

• 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, Essex Community Hall, 217 Paris St., Essex

Tuesday, October 27

7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, city hall, 141 W. Main St.,

Wednesday, October 28

6 p.m., Coal City School Board study session at the administration center.

6 p.m., Wilmington Area Historical Society meeting, updates in museum, 114 N. Main St.

7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

StateFarm



"Over 27 years of Hometown Service"

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond

(815) 634-2222

jerry@jerryhallahan.com

Warren's
Collision Center
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

- ✓ Rentals available
- ✓ Certified technicians
- ✓ All insurance accepted
- ✓ Completed in a timely fashion
- ✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair



Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome
- Cosmetic veneers

All forms of insurance accepted



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
 Call (815) 634-8844

Utilities extend shutoff moratorium to winter 2021

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Several state-regulated utilities have voluntarily extended a moratorium on disconnections into next year after requests from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The ICC announced that Nicor Gas and Liberty Utilities have agreed to halt shutoffs due to missed or late payments for all residential customers until March 31, 2021.

Ameren Illinois, Aqua Illinois, Illinois American Water, Commonwealth Edison, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Utility Services of Illinois have agreed to delay disconnections to the same date for residential customers who qualify for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and those financially

impacted by COVID-19.

MidAmerican has extended its moratorium on shutoffs for LIHEAP-qualified residential customers until March 31, 2021 as well, and is considering other options, according to ICC.

To qualify for LIHEAP, residential customers' combined household income for the 30 days prior to submitting an application must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for their family size. A spokesperson for the ICC said it is strongly encouraging all residential customers of the participating utilities to call their utility to check their eligibility. The LIHEAP application period runs from July of this year to June 30, 2021, or until funding set aside for the program is exhausted.

According to the ICC release, residential customers

who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot pay their utility bill do not need to fill out any forms or provide paperwork to qualify for the moratorium. They just need to "make the phone call and verbalize" their situation to receive a delay on shutoffs if their state-regulated utility is participating in COVID-19 related moratoriums.


"This action will ensure a continuation of utility service. Deferred payment arrangements are also available for both residential and small business customers needing help managing their utility bill obligation during these difficult times," according to the release.

On June 18, the ICC approved a COVID-19 utility agreement with state-regulated utilities that included the

first moratorium on shutoffs that some utilities have since voluntarily extended. The agreement also included consumer protections aimed at protecting utility customers during the coronavirus pandemic, such as deferred payment agreements, temporary waivers for reconnection fees and new deposit requirements.

"Illinois citizens are facing extraordinary challenges due to the pandemic. Low income families and those impacted by COVID-19 should not have to fear losing basic services like electricity, heat, or fresh water," Carrie Zalewski, ICC Chairman, said in a news release. "The voluntary actions by these utilities will provide our most vulnerable citizens with some peace of mind, especially as cold weather approaches."

In Loving Memory



Jennifer M. Cowie
 10-06-81 - 12-25-19

We miss you and think of you every day.

Love, Mom and Dad



Crafts and Conversation at the church

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Wilmington invites the public to join in Tuesday morning Crafts and Conversation. From left, Diane Creed, Pastor Kyle Johnson, Cindy Filas, and Margaret Bungo talk over how to make a tied fleece throw. If you want to get out to a safe place to chat and work on your craft, stop in at Grace any Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM. Coffee's on!



Deadline Wednesday, Oct. 28

Saluting Our Veterans

and those currently serving!

We need your photos of Veterans and Soldiers

We invite you to share a photo and name of local Veterans and Soldiers in honor of Veteran's Day!

We will be remembering the brave men and women from this area who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We will be featuring soldiers past and present including those on active duty.

Please note:
If you have submitted a photo and name in previous years you do not need to submit it again unless something has changed.

Published on Wednesday, November 11th
Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 28

If your veteran or soldier was included last year, you do not need to re-submit the photo. Those featured last year will be automatically included.

Your Name _____	Send photo and form by email to the following:
Your Phone _____	news@fpnusa.com
Veterans Name _____	or deliver to:
Years Served _____	Coal City Courant
Branch of Service _____	271 S. Broadway
*Town _____	Coal City, IL 60416
	Free Press Newspapers
	111 S. Water Street
	Wilmington, IL 60481

*Not required.

For more info call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315

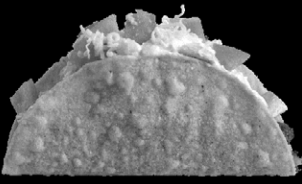
Wilmington Moose Family Center

32050 S. West River Rd • 815-476-6472

- OCTOBER EVENTS -

Fri., Oct. 16	5-8 p.m.	Fish Fry
Sun., Oct. 18	Noon	Moose Riders

Carryout Orders & Limited Indoor Dining
Call ahead for a table please.
815-476-6472



EVERY WEDNESDAY
5:00-8:00 p.m.
TACOS & NACHOS

Come and Play Our Machines!

Members & qualified guests

— WI-FI Available —

Madigan created this environment, yet refuses to cooperate

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin is a former prosecutor, and that outlook on life has never really left him.

He's not big on a lot of criminal justice reforms, even standing up to his party's president to oppose the early prison release of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He was staunchly opposed to legalizing cannabis. I'm sure that House Speaker Michael Madigan's highly public legal troubles grate on Durkin to no end, as they would on almost any former prosecutor.

So, even though Durkin's petition which triggered the creation of the House Special Investigating Committee to look into the allegations against Madigan is steeped in the politics of the moment (for the obvious campaign reasons, but also to satisfy the demands of some of his members and some major GOP campaign donors who want him to get much tougher on Madigan, Gov. Pritzker and other Democrats), I would argue that his main thrust is legitimate from his own perspective.

Even if Madigan didn't directly engage in "conduct unbecoming a legislator," as

the petition alleges, people under his control most certainly did say and do some things that, if not all illegal, are certainly distasteful and disreputable.

Madigan created this environment and yet says he cannot and should not be held responsible for those acting within the confines of that environment; and refuses to cooperate with a committee that is enshrined in the very same rules that Madigan insists must be approved by his members every two years.

Leader Durkin held a press conference last week to express his outrage that the investigatory committee's chairman, Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside), had delayed all future hearings until after the November election.

"Citizens of Illinois must know what the single most powerful person in the state's role is in this scandal, this ever-growing scandal," Durkin said.

"Illinois residents deserve so



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

much better and they deserve the truth."

"He needs to stand up and answer those questions," Durkin quoted Gov. JB Pritzker as saying about fellow Democrat Madigan, then called on Pritzker to "immediately demand those answers he has been requesting from Speaker Madigan or demand that he resign immediately."

But Durkin's answer to the press conference's very first question demonstrated how the demand for Madigan's testimony is far more about putting Madigan in a bad spot than it is about an actual investigation.

Durkin was asked: "What would the speaker say that he has not already said in writing?" a question which referred to Madigan's long, single-spaced letter denying all allegations and explaining why he would not cooperate with the committee, which he said was nothing more than a political

stunt. "Well, based on what I know," Durkin replied, "I think the speaker at this point, the only thing you can say is that 'I take the Fifth Amendment.'" "This isn't politics," Durkin insisted later. But the Leader's answer gave up the ghost. He essentially admitted that this demand for testimony is about political advantage and not a search for truth. Yes, I know, it's all so very shocking. Politics in a legislative committee during an election year? My goodness, that's simply unprecedented.

"Remember," Durkin told reporters, "the committee's name is the Special Investigative Committee. The committee has a duty and an obligation to investigate."

OK, but forcing a televised spectacle where almost everyone including Durkin himself believe that Speaker Madigan will take the Fifth would be more akin to a show trial than an actual investigative hearing. Yes, such a thing would undoubtedly be immensely satisfying for everyone who despises Madigan (and that's a very long list), but that's about it. Durkin is doing a good job of

keeping Madigan's name out there and putting the Democrats on defense, but don't hose down my shoes and tell me it's raining.

The committee's Republicans have requested documents from ComEd specifically related to testimony by the company's compliance officer during its last hearing. Fulfilling that request should be simple and relatively quick.

Chairman Welch, on the other hand, has requested what could be thousands of documents containing correspondence between the company and just about everybody

under the Illinois political sun going back years. That's the ostensible reason for the hearing's delay, along with the claim that Republicans are playing politics. Welch says it shouldn't take long to fulfill his request, but I still have my doubts.

Hopefully, the Republican request can be fulfilled and the ComEd documents released soon. Maybe we can get some actual substance out of this process going forward.

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

Illinois gas prices falling

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.20/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 1.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 49.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.81/g today while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g. The lowest

price in the state Monday is \$1.81/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.16/g. The national average is down 1.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 47.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Peoria- \$2.33/g, down 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.34/g. St. Louis- \$1.95/g,

down 1.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.96/g, Champaign- \$2.17/g, down 1.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.18/g.

"Average gasoline prices largely remain rangebound as the tug of war between market forces continues to keep prices confined near current levels," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"On one side, the coronavirus situation would be pulling prices down as year-to-date gasoline demand stands

some 13% lower than last year, but on the positive side is the possibility of economic stimulus that could boost households ahead of the election if the two parties can manage to agree. For now, with little action on either issue, oil markets are seeing a good amount of speculation and seesawing, and that will continue until we have a clear answer on whether Washington will deliver more economic aid to hard hit Americans."

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

- BOB BOLSER

815-476-2884
201 N. Main St., Wilmington

Insurance offerings include auto and recreational, renters and personal property, farm and crop, life and health, business and specialty products. Bob lives and works in the community where he does business. Call or visit the website for a quote.

<https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/robert.bolser>

Remember to SHOP LOCAL

www.wilmingtonilchamber.org

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

JOHNKE TREE SERVICE

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

- Power line clearance certified
- Free Estimates
- 18 years experience

Veterans, Military & Senior Discount

Fully Bonded & Insured

815-791-5146

We Have

More Fabric

Spins & Needles

Sewing Machine Cleaning & Repair

Custom Wind Spinners

614 Davy Ln., Wilmington
815-592-1183

LAWN WORKS

- Yard/Leaf Cleanup
- Snow Removal/ Salting
- Hedge Trimming
- Mowing

815-278-0626

Cullenlawnworks@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL PRO REAL ESTATE

JUDY SUNDINE
 BROKER

Direct: (815) 405-6758
 815-476-7916

FAX: 815-476-7566
 Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net

506 S. WATER ST.,
 WILMINGTON, IL 60481

PROTECT-YOUR-DECK

DECK BUILDER

Deck, fence maintenance & house painting

- Ext. wood restoration
- Power washing vinyl siding & concrete

Free Estimates

Insured & Bonded

815-935-9949

- Driveway stone
- Pulverized topsoil
- Pool & play sand
- Hardwood mulch
- Decorative stone
- Bobcat Service

We Deliver!

www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

SHORKEY PAINTING

(815) 546-1321

Interior/Exterior
Est. 1989

VIKING ROOFING

Specializing in Tear Offs
 Fully Insured
 State Lic# 104002993

10 FREE vents & 100 sq. ft of lumber

815-476-6010
 Over 40 Years Experience

Mini Storage

CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS

515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

This space could be yours!

Call 815-476-7966

MIDWEST BETTER BUILT CONSTRUCTION

**EXTERIOR/INTERIOR REMODELS
 NEW CONSTRUCTION
 CARPENTER CONTRACTOR**

(815) 530-0630 *Free Estimates Fully Insured*

Brandon

FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY NEEDS

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS

from the Free Press Newspapers
 Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE

**Pumping - Repairs New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties**

Ed Bonnavier
 Goal City • **634-4691**

SISTEK RENTALS

We **SELL, REPAIR,** and **RENT**
 Outdoor Power Equipment

YOUR NEXT MOWER®

815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

AJ's

Promotional Products and Apparel

Adidas®
Oakley®
Champion®

Koozies®
Bic® Pens
Sharpie®

815-263-5990

Janet Fisher-Schatz

EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net
 WEB: ajsprint.esppwebsite.com

TIRE ZONE

Tires & Alignment

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-5; Saturday, 8-12

Shocks/Struts • Batteries • Wheel Alignments
 Tire Balancing • Oil & Lube

24 Hour Towing - 815-353-8511
 85 N. 1st Ave., Coal City • **634-3000**

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 724 • (815) 476-5991

COALER SPORTS

Coaler golfers fall in regionals, a look back on great season

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coal City golf team competed in the Class 2A Golf Regional at Lisle (Benet Academy) on Wednesday.

The Coalers finished seventh in the standings for the tournament with a score of 409.

New Lenox (Providence Catholic) won the competition with a score of 321.

Individual stats were unavailable from the IHSAA website but the Coal City golfers finished the season 3-4 with a 3-3 record inside the Illinois Central Eight conference.

Their top golfer was senior Tyler Johnson, who averaged a score of 44 for the season. As mentioned in a previous issue of The Coal City

Courant, he earned Illinois Central Eight All-Conference for the season.

Sophomore Ryne Phelan and junior Aiden Hansen both averaged a score of 53.

Senior Connor Gass started on Junior Varsity for the first match, scoring a 48. After that, he was moved directly to varsity after golf coach Harlan Kennell saw what kind of talent Gass possessed.

During his first match on varsity, he scored a 46. After that, he remained the number two golfer, finishing with an average of 53.

As a first time golfer, sophomore Derek Carlson averaged a 54 in the five varsity matches he competed in.

Sophomore Nolan Eddy had a fine year, averaging a 56.



Photos by Shawn Long

TEERING OFF for Coal City is Aiden Hansen. The Coalers competed in the Lisle (Benet Academy) Golf Regional in West Chicago at Joe Jemsek Course which is located inside the St. Andrews Golf and Country Club.

See more game photos at freepressphotos.smugmug.com



Photos by Shawn Long

CHIP SHOT—Coal City's Ryne Phelan chips the ball on the green during Thursday's match with Reed-Custer.

For the Record: Coal City's best at boys basketball

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coalers have had several successful teams to say the least. They've had 1,319 career wins with a winning percentage of .532 with nine regional titles, dating back to their first

The Coal City boys basketball program has been around for 99 seasons.

regional championship in 1936.

Over the decades there have been top scorers and top rebounders that have helped make the program into what it is today.

This week, The Courant combs through the record books at Coal City High School, to highlight the program's record holders.

Despite the longevity the player with most points in a season for the Coalers is last year's forward Austin Pullara. He scored an impressive 478 points during his senior season to inch closer on the all-time list for scoring.

Pullara is the newest member of the 1,000-point club. He joins Doug Wills, Jay VanDuyne, Joel Micetich, Mike Overby, girls basketball coach Brad Schmitt and Nick Peters, who scored his 1,000 point on Dec. 30, 2013 against Newark.

Pullara has 1,302 career points at Coal City. During the 2000s, that is the mark to beat.

His best tally was a 40-point game his junior season against Reed-Custer. He was just four points behind the record holder, Joel Micetich, who scored 44 points in one game.

Peters, who scored 462 points his senior season, surpassed 1,000 points to finish his Coal City career with 1,220 points.

Behind him on the list was teammate Brennan Shetina, who finished his career with 778. Shetina contributed 342 points as a senior, good for fourth best during a season.

The third best points tally in a season was achieved by Sean Micetich, who registered 416 points during the 2017-18 campaign to finish his Coal City career with 483 points.

Fourth on the points list was Matt Halloran, who played with both Shetina and Peters. He would score 307 points his senior year to end his career 20 points behind Shetina with 758.

Rounding out the top five points career scorers at Coal City is Payton Hutchings, who scored 559 points. Payton put up 228 in his junior season to get to that point.

Just outside the top five is Payton's teammate, Jack Bunton, who poured in 554 career points and 274 in one season.

Other standouts include Austin McDowell (480), Jory Darling (437) and Brett Smith (360).

Pull it down
Who leads the Coalers in career rebounds? Peters has the top mark, corraling 552 boards.

Austin Pullara holds the top mark for a season with 201 rebounds his senior year and trails Peters by 32 boards on the all-time list as Pullara snagged 520 boards from 2017-19.

The next closest is Blake Harseim, who grabbed 282 rebounds from 2016-18.

Shetina snagged 161 boards from 2011-13. Following him was Micetich with 154 rebounds and Matt Halloran with 152.

Quickest Hands
The most steals in a season at Coal City is a tie between Pullara and Garrelts who each had 95 in 2019.

Pullara compiled 185 career steals while Garrelts is just over the century-mark with 105 steals.

Behind them are Shetina and Peters, who stole 84 and 75 steals, respectively.

Hutchings swiped 52 steals during his final two seasons.

King of the threes
Who is the best three-point shooter?

If you're talking about in a season, that would be Micetich, who buried 55 treys during the 2017-18 season. He ended up with 63 three balls while a Coal City.

Pullara drained 45 threes, including a game where he hit four. Pullara finished with 99 three-point shots.

Bunton is right behind Pullara as he drilled 30 during a season.

Kyle Hammen hit 28 in a season during the early 2000's.

Hutchings and Jared Garrelts round out the three point list with 26 and 22 makes during season.

Unselfish players win

Unselfish players don't always get a lot of credit so credit is due for Shetina who ended up first on the Coal City career assists list.

Shetina not only set up a lot of big baskets, his teammates returned the favor for him, allowing him to be a member of both lists.

Shetina recorded 154 assists, the most ever. He had the most during a season with 89 of them.

Behind him is Brad Boresi, who set up 87 baskets in 2004.

Following them is Peters, who dished off 139 assists as he was a do-it-all player.

Hutchings rounds out the list for the most assists, dishing out 61 assists



File Photo

FORMER COALER Nick Peters is second on the all-time scoring list after compiling 1,220 from 2012-14.



File Photo

COAL CITY 2018 GRADUATE Sean Micetich is the leader in three-pointers made during a single season as he buried 55 during his senior season.

Fresh Hot Delivery

The Coal City
Courant

Benson Insurance
Agency, Inc.

ALLEGRA
Printing

Coal City Coalers Team Pride
#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

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

Must redeem by Oct. 19, 2020

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 34 years!"

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

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 34 years!"

34TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double
Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a
FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$27.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 10/31/20.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

634-8858
715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Lady Coalers prepare for tennis sectionals after loss

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coal City girls tennis team attempted to bounce back from their loss the night before but just ran into some

tough competition as Ottawa was ready, stunning them with a 6-1 win.

Molly Stiles tried to get it started in No. 1 singles but fell victim to last year's state qualifier, Ella Marvel, who raced

past Stiles with the 6-0 shutout in both sets.

Trinity Barrus was next up and kept her match a little closer but Ottawa's Sara Meyer edged out two close sets, 6-3, 6-4.

It was up to No. 3 singles Ana Flores to get them back on track but Mary Rivas was not going to allow it as Flores kept it close during her first set, losing 6-2 but ran out of gas as Rivas finished off, shutting her out in the second set.

Coal City went into doubles down 3-0 and were hopeful Skyler Wickiser-Abby Stiles would reverse the swing of momentum and get them back into the match with a win.

That was just as they did. Wickiser-Abby Stiles beat Kyleigh Olszewski-Rebekah Fetty by one point in a sudden death first set, 7-6 (9) in No. 1 doubles.

The Lady Coaler duo came back to finish them off with the knockout punch, taking the final set 6-2 to secure Coal City's first win.

Next up was Emma Hir-Kylie Jackson, who kept it competitive with Ottawa's duo of Grace Satterfield-Avery Landers but came up just a little bit short, dropping both sets, 6-2, 6-3.

Alexis Curtis-Ava Solis had trouble with Madison Lineback-Tessy Thiry in the first set as the Ottawa pair came to play, shutting them out 6-0.

The Coal City No. 3 doubles squad dug deep, making the last set a little closer but came up just short of a win in a 6-4 finish.

Shana Kelly-Erica Esparza came out strong, firing a first set win over Savannah Nelson-Lex Taylor in No. 4 doubles.

The Ottawa duo reversed Coal City's fortunes, tying things up at a set apiece with a 6-4 win and finished them off 10-1 in the third, and final set.

Coal City 2

LaSalle Peru 5

On Monday, the Lady Coalers were unable to get past LaSalle Peru, falling by three sets.

Molly Stiles was strong during the first singles match as she dropped the first set 6-1 but quickly regained her composure to set down her opponent Catherine Engels 6-2, 10-3.

Barrus also brought her match into a third set as she won the first set, 7-5, fell by the same score during the second set and was unable to finish off Bri Strehl, who ended up with a 10-6 win over her in the final set.

Flores came out firing shots but was unable to stay with her No. 3 singles opponent Brooke Schiffbauer, falling 6-1 in both sets.

In doubles, Wickiser-Abby Stiles captured a win over Karissa Etenbach-Olivia Woods. After falling behind with a 6-2 loss in the first set, the Coaler duo dug deep, pulling a 6-4 and 11-9 victory in the final two sets.

Hir-Jackson fell to Lauren Klein-Lauren Phillips 6-1 in both sets.

Solis-Curtis dropped two 6-1 sets to Kenzie DeFosse-Avery Brovelli in No. 3 doubles.

And Kelley-Esparza fell behind Carlie Miller-Alexia Michael and were unable to get back in it, falling 6-0, 6-1 in No. 4 doubles.

The Lady Coalers begin their sectional play on Friday at Ottawa against LaSalle Peru, Mendota, Morris, Ottawa (Marquette), Ottawa, Peru (St. Bede), Pontiac, Princeton and Streator.

They've already battled with all of these teams except for Ottawa (Marquette) and St. Bede. They have a 2-5 record going into the sectional, after capturing a 4-1 win over Mendota and a 3-2 win over Streator in early September.



Photos by Shawn Long

SERVING THE BALL for the Lady Coalers is Emma Hir.



Photos by Shawn Long

SERVING THE BALL is No. 2 singles Trinity Barrus during Thursday's tennis match with Morris.



Stefany Gumm (center) and the employees of Grundy Bank welcome you to bank with them.

If Your Bank Is Closing, We Would Love To Be Your New Bank!

While many larger banks are closing some branches in smaller communities, Grundy Bank continues to stay committed to the communities we serve in and around the Wilmington area.

If your bank is closing in the near future, we want to welcome you to the friendly local Grundy Bank where we have been serving communities in the Grundy-Will County areas since 1864.

Come by and get to know us and our friendly, professional staff...and when you call us, there's no 800 number nor automated answering machine to greet you...one of our employees will be there to answer your questions and direct your call.

Member
FDIC



GRUNDY BANK



120 S. Main St., Wilmington • 815-476-7460
201 Liberty St., Morris • 444 Bedford Rd., Morris

www.grundybank.com



Sports with masks are better than none at all

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois High School Association sports medicine advisory told the Chicago Tribune Thursday that it's possible that basketball players will have to wear masks in order to have a 2020-2021 season.

The reaction from local coaches is that if masks have to be worn in order to get the season rolling, then so be it.

Reed-Custer girls basketball coach Shelby Zwolinski said her players are strong-willed and have been wearing masks every day during school.

"Our girls have been working hard with masks on after school," said Zwolinski. "They have done a great job and put in a lot of effort. It will definitely be difficult playing in a game with a mask but it's doable. If that's what it is going to take to let our student athletes participate in athletic contests, then they will commit and play their hardest."

Coal City boys basketball coach Glenn Pacek said he won't be surprised if there is a mask mandate.

"If they're forced to wear masks all day, I can't imagine them saying, 'take off the mask to play the game,'" said Pacek.

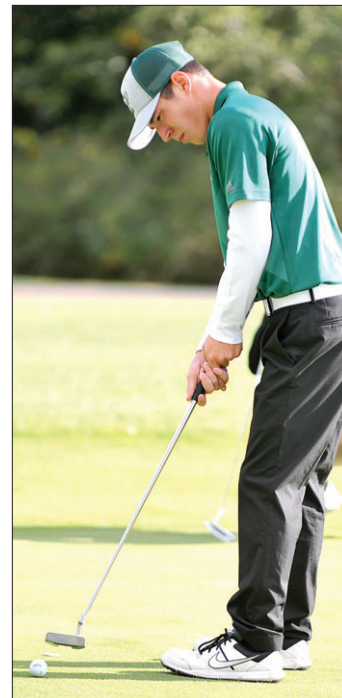
Pacek notes that games played while wearing a mask will end up different than under normal conditions.

"You've got to be in really good shape to play the game. If you have to wear a mask, it becomes even more challenging on you as an athlete," Pacek said. "But wearing a mask is better than not having a season at all. Even if I have to substitute players more often, which is probably what it's going to take, I'd like to have a season and so would the kids," the coach said.

"I can understand the discomfort for kids in wearing masks that are only going for an hour. Basketball is not an easy sport to play cardiovascular-wise even without having to wear a mask."

Wilmington girls basketball coach Eric Dillon says his players are getting used masks just by attending school. Still, he's not worried of them going too far.

"I'm not really worried about that," said Dillon. "The girls know their bodies and if they feel like they're at that



Photos by Shawn Long

COAL CITY'S Connor Gass makes a putt during Thursday's match at High Point Golf Club in Essex.

not really worried about them running themselves into the ground."

In the Tribune article Dr. Prestin Wolin said the idea is currently being considered by the Illinois Department of Health, who still has restrictions on high school and youth sports.

Basketball is considered as a medium risk for virus transmission which means schools can compete against one another but competitions against other teams is currently prohibited.

This poses a problem for the basketball season set to start Nov. 16.

In four neighboring states, fall high school sports were allowed with reduced schedules. Illinois bumped fall sports, with the exception of golf, tennis and cross country to spring. So far there has not been a ruling for how winter sports will be handled.

Illinois High School Association Executive Director Craig Anderson told the Tribune he prefers that masks be optional for players.

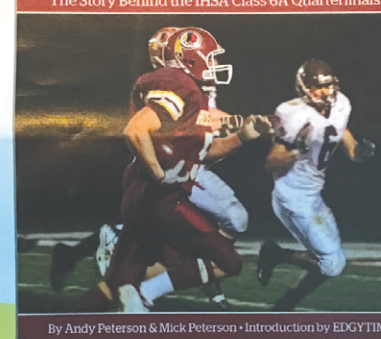
A decision may be known within a couple of weeks.

BOOK COMING THIS OCTOBER!

THE DERG-OH! GAME

Joliet Catholic @ Morris | November 11, 2005

The Story Behind the IHSA Class 6A Quarterfinals



By Andy Peterson & Mick Peterson • Introduction by EDGYTIM

Get Behind The Scenes Accounts From Players & Coaches

For Pre-Orders Contact Andy Peterson Via Facebook

Or

Send Email To: TheDergOhGame@gmail.com

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO GRUNDY COUNTY TAXPAYERS: ASSESSED VALUES FOR 2020

Valuation date (35 ILCS 200/9-95): January 1, 2020
Required level of assessment (35 ILCS 200/9-145): 33.33%
Valuation based on sales from (35 ILCS 200/1-155): 2017, 2018 & 2019
Publication is hereby made for equalized assessed valuations for real property in this township in accordance with 35 ILCS 200/12-10. As required by 35 ILCS 200/9-210 and 35 ILCS 200/10-115, the following equalization factors have been applied to bring the assessments to the statutorily required three-year median level of 33.33%.

Table with 4 columns: TOWNSHIP, RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL, FARM HOME & HOMESITE, INDUSTRIAL. Lists various townships and their corresponding assessed values.

Questions about these valuations should be directed to: Deborah Ritke, Supervisor of Assessments, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450. Phone: 815-941-3269. http://www.grundyco.org/assessor/

Office hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Property in this township, other than farmland and coal, is to be assessed at a 33.33% median level of assessment, based on the fair cash value of the property. You may check the accuracy of your assessment by dividing your assessment by the median level of assessment. The resulting value should equal the estimated fair cash value of your property.

- 1. Contact your township assessor's office to review the assessment.
2. If not satisfied with the assessor review, owners may file an appeal with the Grundy County Board of Review. For complaint forms, instructions, and the Rules and Procedures of the Board of Review, call 815-941-3269 or visit http://www.grundyco.org/assessor/ for more information.
3. The final filing deadline for your township is generally 30 days from this publication date.

Final Equalized Assessed Value - Exemptions = Taxable Assessment; Taxable Assessment x Current Tax Rate = Total Tax Bill.

All equalized assessed valuations are subject to further equalization and revision by the Grundy County Board of Review as well as equalization by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

A complete list of assessments for this township for the current assessment year, except those assessments that were changed solely by equalization factor in a non-quadrennial year, as noted above, is as follows:

BRACEVILLE TOWNSHIP

Main assessment list table for Braceville Township with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Total Assd. Value. Lists numerous property owners and their assessed values.

Continuation of the assessment list table, listing property owners and their assessed values.

Continuation of the assessment list table, listing property owners and their assessed values.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: Parcel ID, Assessor Name, Assessed Value, and Assessor Address. The table lists numerous parcels across various locations including Braceville TWP and Brandon Road Properties LLC.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns for BRACEVILLE TWP, property address, owner name, and assessment value. The table lists numerous properties across the township, including owners like BRANDON ROAD PROPERTIES LLC, BAKER MICHAEL J, and RUTH SONJA K %RUDOLPH JACKLICH.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: Parcel ID, Owner Name, Address, and Assessment Value. The table lists numerous property owners and their corresponding parcel information for the 2020 assessment year.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns for Parcel Number, Assessor Name, and Assessed Value. Lists property owners and their corresponding parcel numbers and values across various townships.

Table titled 'FELIX TWP' with columns for Parcel Number, Name, and Total Assessed Value. Lists property owners in Felix Township and their assessed values.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table listing property assessments for 2020. Columns include parcel ID, owner name, and assessed value. The table is organized into three main sections: FELIX TWP (left), PRAIRIE OAK SEWER & WATER ASC (middle), and GCNB TR #1392 (right).

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns for FELIX TWP, property owner names, and assessment values. The table lists numerous property owners and their corresponding assessment amounts for the year 2020.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: Parcel ID, Owner Name, Assessed Value, and Parcel ID. Lists property owners and their assessed values for 2020 in Grundy County, West Virginia.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Total Assd. Value. Includes sections for GARFIELD TWP and GOOSE LAKE TWP. Lists numerous property owners and their assessed values.

GOODFARM TWP

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Total Assd. Value. Lists property owners and their assessed values for Goodfarm Twp.

GOOSE LAKE TWP

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Total Assd. Value. Lists property owners and their assessed values for Goose Lake Twp.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with 4 columns: Assessment ID, Property Owner/Address, Assessed Value, and Assessed Value. The table lists numerous properties across various addresses in Grundy County, including locations like Wildfeather Property Owners Association, Exelon Generation Co LLC, and many individual residential addresses.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with 5 columns: Parcel Number, Name, Total Assd. Value, Parcel Count, and Assessment Value. It lists property owners and their corresponding parcel information for the year 2020.

Grundy County Assessment List for 2020

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns for Parcel Number, Name, and Total Assessed Value. It lists property owners and their assessed values for the year 2020, organized into sections for GREENFIELD TWP and MAINE TWP.

AARP, senior groups stump for graduated tax, address retirement income

Opposition led by Illinois Chamber announces new alliances

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - A group of retirees organized through the senior advocacy group AARP held a virtual news conference Wednesday to express support for a graduated tax constitutional amendment and opposition to a tax on retirement income - two things that they note are mutually exclusive.

Many of the speakers, which included a former state director of the Department on Aging, took direct aim at recent claims by opponents of the tax amendment. Illinois is one of 12 states that do not tax retirement income. Of those 12, nine do not levy income taxes at all.

"The fair tax amendment would also protect our retirement income," Chicagoan Carmen Betances, a member of the Jane Addams Seniors in Action, said at the news conference. "Illinois is one of the few states that does not tax retirement income. The fair tax will not change that. In order to protect retirement income in Illinois, we need more revenue to keep us afloat."

The "fair tax" is a name proponents, including Gov. JB Pritzker, have given to the graduated tax constitutional amendment proposal. That measure, which will appear on the Nov. 3 ballot, would amend the state's constitution to remove the requirement that any income tax be levied at a flat rate equally across all levels of income. If approved by voters, the amendment would allow lawmakers to impose different tax rates on varying levels of income.

Should the amendment pass, a rate structure that has already been approved by lawmakers would take effect in January. It would scrap the current 4.95% flat tax, creating six tax brackets for varying levels of income ranging from 4.75% under \$10,000 to 7.99% above \$750,000 for single filers.

Those earning more than \$250,000 annually would see rates increased under the structure, while those earning less than that amount would pay slightly less or the same under the new tax system compared to the current flat tax structure.

In estimates released prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pritzker's office said it expects the approved graduated tax rate structure to bring in about \$3.4 billion in state revenue once it is in place for a full fiscal year.

Speakers at the Oct. 7 news conference said state government has ongoing budget deficits in the billions of dollars, especially as revenues plummet amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and the graduated tax rates approved by lawmakers are one way to raise revenues without taxing middle income earners or retirement incomes.

Pritzker has estimated the budget shortfall for the current fiscal year at \$6.2 billion dollars. Without the graduated tax, which would only be in effect for half of the fiscal year, the shortfall could reach \$7.4 billion, he said in April.

"If Illinois doesn't find a way to fix this budget crisis with steps in the right direction, such as passing the graduated income tax, that's when state lawmakers may be forced to consider adding a retirement income tax or more drastic spending cuts," Charles Johnson, AARP Illinois volunteer and former Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, said at the news conference.

Opponents of the amendment have seized on a June comment by Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat, who said at a local chamber of commerce event, "One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income...And, I think that's something that's worth discussion."

Frerichs called a news conference this week to address the statement, but abruptly canceled it, instead issuing a release saying he is against taxing retirement income.

While opponents have argued that allowing different tax rates on different levels of income would open the door for a future tax on high-dollar amount retirement incomes, the actual wording of the amendment does not create a retirement tax and does not make it any easier for the state to levy one.

Pritzker said in a separate Oct. 7 news conference he was opposed to taxing retirement income.

"I want to preserve the ban on retirement taxes, and I stand with all democrats opposed to raising retirement taxes," he said. "But the people who are opposed to the fair tax want to put the burden on people who can't afford it. I want to put the burden on the people who can most afford it. And that's our millionaires and billionaires in Illinois."

Opponents, however, have argued that even the \$3.4 billion from the graduated tax would not fill the state's budget holes, meaning further increases would be needed in the future and rates could be adjusted. Opponents argue more structural spending and pension reforms are needed before taxpayers are tapped for more revenue.

The amendment does not change the simple majority vote threshold needed from lawmakers to raise taxes in Illinois, but opponents argue by allowing lawmakers to set tax rates for smaller sectors of the population at any one time, it makes it a politically easier move for future General Assemblies.

On Sept. 24, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said lawmakers "will be forced to consider raising income taxes on all Illinois residents by at least 20 percent, regardless of their level of income" if the graduated income tax fails. That would push the current tax rate to about 6 percent.

The Illinois Republican party quickly issued a statement following those remarks, calling them a "scare tactic" that will not sway Illinois voters.

A coalition led by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, the Illinois Farm Bureau and National Federation of Independent Business has been growing in opposition to the amendment since the beginning of the year, and on Wednesday they announced 40 new members opposing the tax, including 27 local chambers of commerce.

The approved rates also raise the corporate tax rate from 7 to 7.99%, and the Vote No on the Progressive Tax Constitutional Amendment coalition argues that, amid the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic restrictions, now is not the time to raise corporate taxes.

"Like the rest of small businesses, our auto dealers are struggling to recover from major losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic," Illinois Automobile Dealers Association Director of Government Affairs Joe McMahon said in a news release. "Now is the worst possible time to increase taxes on our businesses that are fighting to keep their doors open and their teams employed."

Proponents, however, point out that small businesses earning less than \$250,000 per year will see taxes lowered if they are pass-through entities such as S-corporations or sole proprietorships.

The graduated income tax will need support from 60% of those voting on the ballot question or a majority vote of the total votes casts in the election in order to pass.

Grundy County Delinquent Tax List for 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

DELINQUENT TAX LIST FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR 2019 GRUNDY COUNTY

(Note: Due to the fact that tax payments have been received by this office after the copy was forwarded to the newspapers, names of certain people who have paid their taxes will appear on this list.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS) COUNTY OF GRUNDY) Public notice is hereby given that I, LORI WERDEN, Treasurer and Ex-Officio County Collector of GRUNDY COUNTY, in the State of Illinois, will apply to the Circuit Court of said county at 8:30 A.M. on November 02, 2020, for Judgement against the lands and lots described in the foregoing for the taxes, interest, and costs due and unpaid thereon for the year 2019 (And previous years) or any part thereof. Said lands and lots being situated in the county of GRUNDY COUNTY, in the State of Illinois, as set forth in the foregoing list. Simultaneously, I will apply for an order to sell the taxes on the same lands and lots for the satisfaction of thereof, and for judgement fixing the correct amount of any tax paid under protest.

AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the first Wednesday succeeding application for judgement, said date being November 04, 2020, the taxes on all lands and lots in the foregoing list against which judgement shall have been pronounced and for sale of which an order shall have been made will be exposed for public sale at and in the office of County Treasurer, 111 E. WASHINGTON ST., MORRIS, IL. The amount of sale being taxes, interest, and fees thereon. Said sale will commence at 09:00 AM on November 04, 2020.

Any persons wishing to purchase delinquent taxes at the tax sale must register with the County Collector ten (10) business days prior to the sale And submit a \$250.00 registration fee to be used toward the purchases at the sale. A written registration is required. A copy of the delinquent parcels to be sold is available from the Collector for \$75.00. For more information call the GRUNDY COUNTY Collector at 815-941-3215.

Lori Werden Grundy County Treasurer and Ex-Officio County Collector

DELINQUENT TAX SALE

Situated In the Township(s) of BRACEVILLE TWP, FELIX TWP, GARFIELD TWP, GOODFARM TWP, GOOSE LAKE TWP, GREENFIELD TWP, MAINE TWP in the County Of GRUNDY COUNTY, State Of Illinois, upon which taxes, special assessments, and special taxes for the year 2019 remain due and unpaid, and are now payable at the County Collector's office in the 111 E. WASHINGTON ST., GRUNDY COUNTY, MORRIS, IL. Amounts shown are for the current tax plus interest and fees to date. In some instances, mortgage companies are responsible for payment of real estate taxes. Delinquent listings will be in the following order: Parcel Number, Name, and Amount.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for BRACEVILLE TWP, GARFIELD TWP, and MAINE TWP.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for FELIX TWP and GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for BRACEVILLE TWP, GARFIELD TWP, and MAINE TWP.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for BRACEVILLE TWP, GARFIELD TWP, and MAINE TWP.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for GOOSE LAKE TWP, GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for GREENFIELD TWP, GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Table with columns: Parcel Number, Name, Amount. Lists delinquent taxes for GRUNDY COUNTY, Illinois.

Support Your Local Newspaper. Call 815.634.0315. Subscribers. Large graphic advertisement for the Coal City Courant.

Crucial information about your community comes from your local newspaper. During times of crisis access to local information is essential. We work hard every week to bring you the latest local developments... news that's important to all of us.

But due to the coronavirus and resulting business shutdown we have taken a hit in advertising dollars. Our page count may be down but our content is still informative in a more compressed format.

We need subscribers to help fill the void. Please subscribe now so we can continue to be the watchdogs of local government, the provider of breaking news, the promoters of local organizations and cheerleaders of local sports teams.

WE NEED AND APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

THE COAL CITY COURANT 271 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL 60416. Logo and address for the newspaper.

Coupon SAVE \$5.00 off the price of a one-year subscription to your community newspaper. YES, I want to subscribe to: The Coal City Courant Digital subscription (includes all 3) OFFER GOOD ON NEW SUBSCRIPTION IN WILL OR GRUNDY COUNTIES ONLY. EXPIRES OCT. 31, 2020. Form with fields for Name, Address, City, State, Zip, and Phone.