

Festival of Trees goes on-line



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Tornado tax

Coal City set to levy for tornado debt

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

In 2015, just weeks after a powerful EF-3 tornado struck the village of Coal City town officials issued bonds to cover the unexpected costs of the storm, and the burden of that debt is being passed along to taxpayers.

As Village Administrator Matt Fritz explains, the village utilized its existing debt issuance capability and

pledged alternative revenue bonds to raise the funds necessary to begin and continue recovery immediately after the storm.

The village put the storm's cost at nearly \$13.1 million, and Fritz shared that over \$10 million of that damage assessment was due to the shortened life cycle and deterioration of public streets and alleys due to the amount of heavy machinery and equipment that rolled in and out of the community in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

Those damage assessments were reviewed by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency [IEMA] and reduced down to just over \$3 million for inclusion in the state's aggregation

of the storm event, which failed to exceed the \$18.3 million threshold to meet federal funding formula.

Therefore, the village received no direct federal support to cover storm costs, and the state was working without a budget at the time and had no funds to give.

So the village issued \$3 million in general obligation bonds to secure the dollars necessary for debris removal, security, renovate impacted neighborhoods and restore impacted infrastructure.

To cover the semi-annual debt payments the village board pledged revenues to cover a portion of the payments, the rest coming from a tax levied against all taxable property

within the village.

The pledged revenues coming from a combination of sales taxes, revenue sharing receipts, disaster related proceeds and certain utility taxes.

According to the administrator the pledged revenues were forecast to be not less than 1.25 times the aggregate annual debt service in each year.

In calendar year 2021 \$359,500 is due in principal and interest—principal paid in December and interest in June and December.

During a Nov. 24 public hearing to address the debt payment, town officials reported the pledged revenues received this calendar year were lower than projected and have

been deemed necessary to maintain essential village services, operations and capital. Therefore, the pledged funds are insufficient to cover both the debt and programmed expenses that include police protection, emergency management and streets and alleys.

What that means for the taxpayer is that the entirety of the 2021 bond payment will come from property taxes.

The amount will be included within the annual property tax levy that is scheduled to be further discussed and adopted by town trustees when the village board meets Wednesday, Dec. 9.

The stop sign swap

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Complaints from residents finding it hard to see around a newly installed fence prompted the village of Coal City to agree to a stop sign swap.

Upon receiving the complaints from residents in the neighborhood around the intersection of South Kankakee and East Chestnut streets, Mayor Terry Halliday called on Trustee Dave Spesia to look into the grievance with assistance from the police chief.

Chief Tom Best said the issue was with visibility coming from the north, a direct effect coming from the installation of a PVC fence around a village owned lift station located on the northeast corner of the intersection.

"Although the fencing is not higher than the total height of the equipment, its total area exceeds the screening on this corner for traffic traveling west on Chestnut approaching South Kankakee," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

After taking a look at the intersection with the town's public works supervisor, Best suggested a simple solution...switching the stop signs.

The chief said this would not only provide better visibility, but more time for motorists to react if someone was at the intersection. As the mayor noted there is a blind spot for those traveling north to south.

"Moving the stop sign is going to be the answer for that location," the chief said.

So the stop signs located on the north and south sides of the intersection will be moved to face east and west.

"This will remove any impairment that could exist for westbound Chestnut traffic as they approach the intersection; the stop sign requires vehicular speed to slow and plenty of time to ensure the intersection is safe for entry," Fritz said.

An ordinance reflecting the recommendation was presented for the board's review and approve by town trustees last week.

Best said the public works department will flag and post notice regarding the change to advise residents.

"THIS WILL REMOVE ANY IMPAIRMENT THAT COULD EXIST FOR WESTBOUND CHESTNUT TRAFFIC AS THEY APPROACH THE INTERSECTION; THE STOP SIGN REQUIRES VEHICULAR SPEED TO SLOW AND PLENTY OF TIME TO ENSURE THE INTERSECTION IS SAFE FOR ENTRY."

MATT FRITZ
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR



Photo by Ann Gill

IT'S BEGINNING TO look like Christmas in downtown Coal City. Donna Ragain, owner of Garden Creations Landscaping Company, was selected by the Village Board to transform the new downtown planters from fall to winter with the addition of fragrant greens and festive fillers. The Coal City landscaper also planted bulbs that will be the centerpiece of a spring theme that will take shape in the months ahead.

A festive look for Broadway

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Those planters everyone has been talking about have been transformed for the winter season, creating a warm and welcoming feel to Coal City's main street.

In the dark of night, Donna Ragain began the transformation from fall to winter as she and her trailer full of evergreens made its way down South Broadway filling the planters—tall and small—with fragrant greens and festive fillers.

Ragain, owner of Garden Creations, was selected by the village to oversee the seasonal plantings of the new decorative planters that line the east and west sides of South Broadway—all 50-plus of them.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz

informed the Village Board last week that public works supervisor Darrell Olson has been talking with Ragain about a regular planting program based on the four seasons of the year.

With a winter theme in place, trustees approved the winter plan at a cost of \$6,225.

Trustee Dave Spesia, who oversees the town's Streets and Alleys Committee, questioned what was included in the price.

To which Fritz replied, 19 live trees, 15 bundles of magnolia leaves, 10 bundles of river birch, 10 bundles of dogwood branches, 21 spruce tops, 50 bundles of mixed greens and 58 rings of mixed greens.

"That almost sounds like a Christmas

song in itself," Spesia replied.

In addition to all of that, Ragain added in boxwood branches, some additional mixed greens to fill out each of the pots and even purchased some solar lights that have been added to a few of the planters.

Before filling the planters with evergreens, Ragain removed the fall flowers, prepped the soil and planted bulbs that will pop through the soil in the spring.

The evergreens are slated to be in place through the winter season, and the individual trees that have been included in the design are ones that can be removed and replanted for future use.

Moving forward, Ragain and her

SEE BROADWAY, PAGE 2

Bidding good-bye to Bob the Builder



BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

For a moment, not a word was said, heads hung in silent tribute to a man dedicated to building up the village of Coal City.

Known to most in the community as Bob the Builder, Richard "Bob" Malone died Nov. 19 after a hard fought battle with cancer. He was 66.

Malone was the village of Coal City's building and zoning official, a position that found him being both friend and foe to residents and developers, as held tight to the policies and procedures set forth to ensure

the highest level of quality and safety in building design and construction.

Under his watchful eye, hundreds of new homes were built, numerous renovations and rebuilds were completed and thousands of fences, porches, garages and swimming pools were added to residential properties.

Town officials specifically recall the important role Malone assumed following the November 2013 and June 2015 tornados.

"Bob was instrumental in getting us through the June 22, 2015 tornado. I know he was working like everyone else, but

his job was extremely stressful given all of the property damage we had and the rebuilding. And, the fact that we were moving people through the system as quickly as possible mostly so they could get back in their homes," Mayor Terry Halliday said.

Among those who worked closely with Malone during the days, weeks and months that followed the 2015 tornado was village attorney Mark Heinle.

"I worked with Bob on a number of damages regarding houses and while the subject matter of our interactions was never ideal, I found Bob to be tremendous to work with,"

said Heinle, one of many town officials to offer their condolences to the Malone Family.

As a colleague, Village Administrator Matt Fritz has a number of stories that center around Malone, but his favorite is an example of the building officials dedication to his community.

It was during the November 2013 tornado—a storm that blew in from the southwest and as it moved to the northeast, struck a small portion of the village and much larger residential and commercial section of the village of Diamond.

Malone and Fritz were

among local, county and state officials gathered at Coal City Fire Station on the night of the storm.

"It was one of the most major traumatic events we'd ever tried to concentrate on, Fritz recalled, noting since the storm passed through two neighboring communities there was some question as to who was going to take charge of the event.

SEE BOB, PAGE 2



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Despite improvement, Tier 3 coronavirus mitigations continue

STAFF REPORT

Even with slight improvements in the state's COVID-19 metrics, Gov. JB Pritzker has no immediate plans to downgrade current mitigations.

"We're still very much in a precarious place and must take time to evaluate any Thanksgiving effect before we make any premature adjustments," Pritzker stated on Monday. His comment came as he announced Tier 3 mitigations would remain for the next few weeks even if a region is on track to meet required metrics.

Region 2—the North Central Region—has experienced a decrease in its test positivity rate after a couple of weeks of increases. On Nov. 10 the positive rate was 15.6%, a week later it was up to 16.6% and as of Nov. 24 the rate was

down to 13.7%. The posted rate as of Nov. 27 was 13.1%

In the past week, Grundy County's seven day rolling test positivity rate has remained steady at around 21% down from 22.5% a week earlier when the number of intensive care admissions entered warning level with 21.

As of Tuesday morning, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported 2,813 cases in the county since the pandemic began. The number represents an increase of 324 cases since Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Based on data available through Nov. 30, the Grundy County Health Department individuals ages 40-59 accounted for the highest number of positive cases reported last month, followed by those 20-39 years of age. Around 200 cases were reported

among those ages 60-79 and roughly 175 cases involving children under the age of 20.

In a report issued Tuesday afternoon, the county health department reported 1,407 positive tests in the month of November with 703 of those positive cases being reported within Morris. The data further shows 311 of the cases were reported within the 60416 zip code [Coal City, Diamond and Carbon Hill], 186 and 48 from the Grundy County portions of Minooka and Channahon respectively and 159 cases reported from the county's remaining communities including Gardner, Mazon and Braceville.

The data presented is subject to change as data bases are reconciled.

In its weekly release issued on Nov. 27, the county health department reported it was

following 426 people who had recently tested positive and were in isolation, and their close contacts.

Local health officials reiterated that per guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), persons awaiting test results should isolate and close contacts of positive cases should quarantine for 14 days since the last encounter with the sick individual.

The state and county health departments are reporting the number of COVID related deaths in the county had reached 17—six of those deaths were reported last week.

In its daily report, IDPH reports a male in his 60's died on Nov. 25 and a day earlier it reported two females in their 80's had died, as well as three males—one each in their 60s,

IDPH to conduct COVID testing in Coal City

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), in conjunction with the Grundy County Health Department, will host a COVID-19 mobile testing site on Sunday, Dec. 6 in the parking lot of Coal City High School, 655 W. Division St., Coal City.

The site will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or while testing supplies last.

IDPH is also conducting testing this week in Joliet and Kankakee. Testing is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd, Joliet. A mobile site will be available at the Kankakee County Health Department, 2390 W. Station St., Kankakee, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3.

80s and 90s.

Health officials remind residents they can help slow the spread of the virus by staying home when possible, wear-

ing a mask and maintaining a six foot or more distance when out in public and frequent hand washing and sanitizing.

Broadway

landscaping team will work with the town's public works supervisor and employees to maintain the planters through each season of the year.

The winter design has generated a number of positive comments from community members.

Ragain said she is grateful for being selected to be a part of the beautification of the project for her community.

Public works employees did their part of the holiday decorating over the past couple of weeks also, putting up lights, garlands and the town tree in Campbell Memorial Park.

The town's lighted decorations were also mounted on light poles along Division Street and on South Broadway south of the Burlington Northern Railroad crossing.

Bob

Knowing hundreds of volunteers were slated to come in the next day to assist residents and business owners with cleanup, Fritz felt the volunteers needed a map to guide them, so he asked the county's director of emergency management Jim Lutz—who has also since passed away—if the GIS system could be utilized to create a map and while it could be done, he estimated it would take several days for a map to be generated.

That wasn't going to work, the map needed to be created in a matter of hours. So Malone got to work on developing a map highlighting response areas.

"I met him at the door to the village hall about 5:45 the next morning to make sure we had all we needed, he'd worked all night tirelessly to make sure everything that was needed for the next day was done. We used those maps and it was something he took a lot of pride in and had no problem going that. You guys know he was always willing to help if it was something he could lend a hand to," Fritz

said. "It's one of my favorite Bob Malone stories, it shows his dedication."

Malone was dedicated to his position as the town's building official and he even served for a time with the city of Braidwood.

As dedicated as he was to his profession, Malone's devotion was to his family and friends and cherished times spent with them.

He was always among the first to offer his assistance for whatever one needed, and would go out of his way to make sure special occasions were celebrated and everyone around him felt welcome and accepted.

Trustee Sarah Beach recalled how welcoming Malone was when she began her service on the village board.

Like many others, Beach noted just how much Malone will be missed.

In his time away from his professional duties, Malone enjoyed spending time outdoors camping and tossing a line the water. He was an accomplished billiards player who traveled to tournaments and collected his share of trophies.

And, Malone was loyal military veteran having served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam era.

"Bob was very proud he served his country, he was a good family man, a friend of our department and he's going to be missed," said Coal City Police Chief Tom Best.

The mayor, trustees and appointed officials each expressed their condolences to Malone's wife, Christine and their two children, Amanda and Steven and their families.

Malone was laid to rest at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

From the sentiments share, one thing is clear, Malone will be missed and remembered.

The trees are decorated for virtual debut

Festival of Trees goes on-line

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

It's a holiday tradition that with a bit of ingenuity will continue this Christmas season.

Coal City's Festival of Trees is going virtual with a host of decorated trees, holiday decorations and a few special items that can be wrapped up for someone special, or even just for you to open on Christmas morning.

Organized by parents and friends of the junior class at Coal City High School, the Promfest Committee works throughout the school year to raise the funds necessary to host a post-prom celebration for the school's junior and senior classes.

The concept for a substance-free post prom event was started in the 1990s by a group of parents. It has evolved over the years from a themed event with games and activities at the school to off-site locations with activities like bumper cars and laser tag.

Funds raised from this year's festival will help offset the costs associated with a post-prom party set for spring 2021.

To comply with pandemic guidelines, organizers came up with a unique way to place all 35 raffle items on-line for viewing with a link to purchase chances.

As of today [Wednesday, Dec. 2] individuals interested in purchasing chances can access a Google form available on each of the group's social media pages—Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The form will contain a photo and short video of each tree, decoration and gift item up for raffle, along with a description of what is included with the package and the item's sponsor.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY'S FESTIVAL OF Trees is going virtual this year with a variety of trees, holiday decorations and few special items including a Blackstone Grill up for raffle. Proceeds from the annual event will support the 2021 post-prom celebration for Coal City High School's juniors and seniors.

There will also be photo albums posted on social media showcasing each item in detail.

Using the form, individuals can select the items they want to enter in the raffle. Once the completed form is submitted Promfest volunteers will tally the amount owed and send out an invoice.

Chances are \$1 each or 20 for \$25. Payments can be made via PayPal at ccpromfest@gmail.com [use friends and family option], Venmo @coalcity-promfest or in person with cash inside the Coal City High School Events Entry, 655 W. Division St., between

the hours of 9-11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5.

Once the invoice is paid the raffle tickets will be entered into the drawing for the items of choice.

The festival comes to a close Sunday evening, Dec. 6 and the winners will be drawn beginning at 6 p.m. and will be shown on Facebook live.

Winners are asked to be available to collect their items that evening from Cardinal Transport located on Reed Road in Coal City.

Toni Durham, a Promfest volunteer, reports the number of items up for raffle were scaled back due to the new

concept. Organizers had initially set a goal of having 25 items and due to the generosity of over 70 donors they were able to assemble 35 displays.

Keeping with tradition, the festival offers something for everyone including a few old favorites including a Coaler tree, candy tree and farmhouse themed tree.

New themed trees this year include a Starbucks tree decorated with gift cards and cups, a snack food tree that comes with gift cards to various restaurants, bags of chips and a basket of treats, and a wine tree for the 21 and older crowd and it comes with the popular Coopers Hawk Winery 12 Days of Christmas wine box.

There is also a Nerf tree, Star Wars tree, and a 36" Blackstone griddle up for raffle.

Organizers have some entertainment planned for the festival with performances shown on social media featuring Major School of Dance, On Broadway Dancers, Coal City High School Footnotes, the cast of Coal City Middle School's production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" and a few performances from Small Town Theatrics.

Organizers are hoping to raise \$10,000.

Durham reports early plans are to bring the post-prom celebration back to the high school, and offer more prizes and giveaways to the students attending.

In the event they are unable to host an in-person event, Durham said the funds will be utilized to provide a gift to the senior class. Any additional funds would be rolled over with the hope the current junior class will get a senior prom and festival the following spring.

Festival information and a link to the raffle form can be found on Facebook at Coal City Festival of Trees, ccpromfest on Instagram and @CCPromfest on Twitter.

Library candidate petitions available

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-FILING NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given that the office of the Coal City Public Library District Secretary will be open Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. beginning December 14, 2020 through December 21 2020 (filing closes at 5:00 p.m. on December 21) for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions or certificates for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 6, 2021 for the following offices:

2 Trustee-6 Year Terms
1 Trustee-4 Year Un-expired Term
Carol Crawford, Secretary
Coal City Public Library District
Board of Trustees
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 2, 2020.

Attorney Black files Bolin estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 108
In the Matter of the Estate of James E. Bolin, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of James E. Bolin. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Donald E. Bolin, 7 Valley View Place NE, Iowa City, IA 52240, whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

The designated resident agent for the Executor is Attorney Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty St., Suite 211, Morris, IL 60450.

DONALD E. BOLIN
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Donald F. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and 9, 2020.

Attorney Black files Reyes estate claim notice

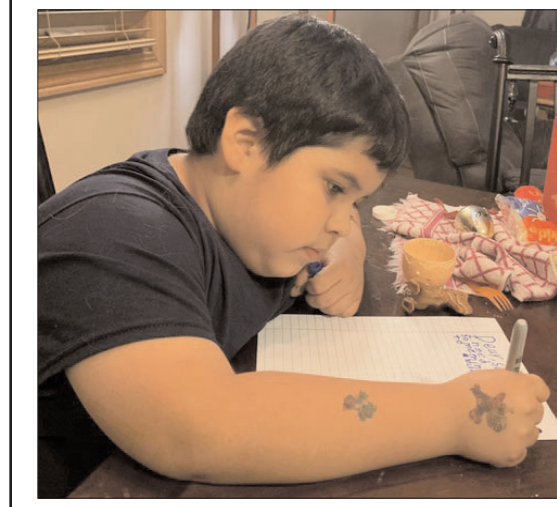
PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2020 P 107
In the Matter of the Estate of Alexander Reyes, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Alexander Reyes. Letters of office as Independent Administrator were issued to Steven Reyes, 22319 S. Eastcliff Dr., Joliet, IL 60404, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

STEVEN REYES
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 25 and Dec. 2, 9, 2020.



Santa's mailbox is now accepting letters

Courtesy photo

A LETTERS TO Santa mailbox has been placed at Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park and the North Pole reports it will remain there through Friday, Dec. 18. Xavier Ramierz, of Coal City, has his letter drafted and is eagerly awaiting to place the envelope in the mailbox on Monday. Santa's elves will collect all of the letters and forward them to Santa Claus, who will reply back to the children. Parents are asked to enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to assist Santa in getting a response letter. Santa's mailbox has been a project of the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club for more than 30 years.

Village of Coal City to accept candidate positions

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-FILING NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the office of Pamela M. Noffsinger, local election official in and for the Village of Coal City at 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois, will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning December 14, 2020 through December 21, 2020 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions for the consolidated election to be held April 6, 2021 for the following offices:

Three (3) 4-year terms for Trustee
In the event that the Village Hall is closed due to public health restrictions concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, please contact the Village Clerk/Local Election Official at 815-634-8608 to make an appointment to file your candidate petitions during the regular business hours beginning on December 14, 2020 through December 21, 2020.
Pamela M. Noffsinger
Village Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 2, 2020.

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Classified & Public Notices: Thursday 5 p.m.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: ads@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Coal City trustees approve variance request

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

An ordinance allowing the construction of a metal storage building was before the Coal City Village Board last week, and it wasn't the first request.

According to village officials the owners of 150 N. Railroad St., requested and were granted a variance to the setback requirements that would allow them to construct a metal building on the property. That approval was back in 2007.

In the 13 years that have passed the property has remained vacant, and a new owner is set to take over the site. Like the previous owner the individual plans to put up a metal building with a possible lean-to that will be used as a, "personal storage unit, man cave."

Even though the original owners were given the go ahead to build, it did not mean a new owner would assume the same right.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz said, "the current owners were surprised to find out that the ordinance adopted in 2007 did not necessarily apply to allowing new persons in 2020 to construct the same concept, ie: a metal building for personal storage upon the property."

Due to design guidelines having been adopted and the last notice to adjacent property owners having taken place so long ago, Fritz said the legal recommendation was to provide public notice and hear of the variance request from the new petitioner, identified in village documents as Tim Norton.

The proposal presented to the village's Planning and Zoning Board requested approval to construct a 100-foot by 50-foot structure with a five foot setback from the south, west and north lot lines.

No one other than the petitioner appeared before the board, and the request was forwarded to the Village Board with a yes recommendation.

Trustees agreed with the recommendation of planning commissioners and authorize the variance that will allow Norton to move forward with his planned purchase of the land and construction of his storage facility.

In other matters:
• At the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board, trustees granted a variance request submitted by James Peddicord to install a 6-foot fence at 796 Quail Run.

The variance was necessary to comply with the corner side yard setback requirements.

• In advance of a new calendar year, trustees approved the 2021 meeting schedule for the Village Board, Planning and Zoning Board, Park Board, and Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

• Village engineer Ryan Hansen, of Chamlin & Associates, reported the 2020 projects have been wrapped up and scheduled construction is complete for this year.

• Trustees and appointed officials offered

their condolences to Fritz on the passing of his younger brother, Mike, who died Nov. 20.

"Thank you all, it's been a very tough week. I really do appreciate some of the choices I've made in life and that includes being here in Coal City," Fritz said, noting that with the support of the board he was able to spend significant time with his brother in his final days.

"It's really something I appreciate," the administrator added.

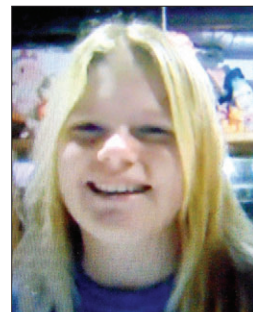
• Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$43,669.95. Included in the bills were a \$5,585 payment to the Grundy Economic Development Council (GEDC) representing the village's annual investment, \$327.95 to cover the cost of badges for the police department's new patrol officer and \$735 to Spring Grove Nursery for the purchase of trees.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 9. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. with a Truth in Taxation hearing for the town's proposed tax levy.

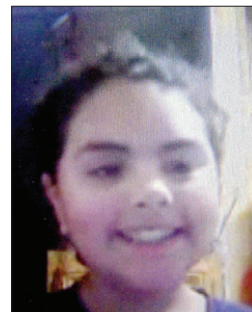
Unit 1 recognizes its Students of the Week



BRADEN WALKER
Middle School



KAYLA KOWALSKI
Intermediate School



JASMIN ROBLES SERNA
Intermediate School



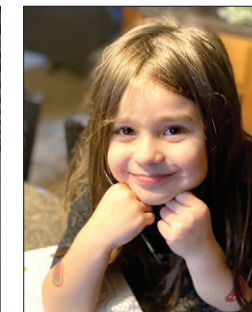
FELOCITY FURLAN
Intermediate School



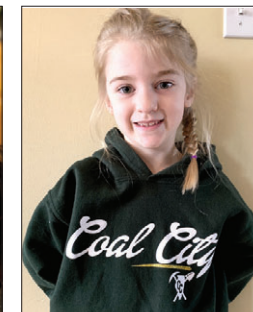
PAUL WILCZAK
Intermediate School



ALAN CALDERON
Intermediate School



PRISCILLA ROMO HARTLEY
Early Childhood Center



JACKLYN RESZEL
Early Childhood Center



BELLA WILLIAMS
Early Childhood Center



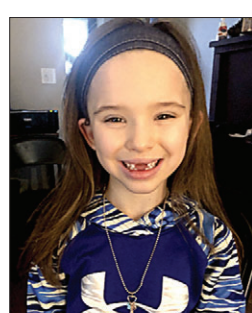
ANILA BAKII
Early Childhood Center



ANTHONY KING
Early Childhood Center



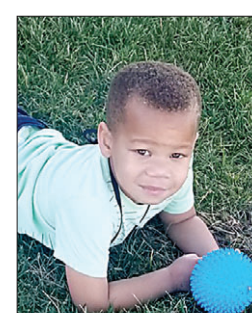
ADDILYN JANCZAK
Early Childhood Center



ROSARIA MUGNOLO
Early Childhood Center



GIA BIANCHETTA
Early Childhood Center



ELIJAH KOPERNIAK
Early Childhood Center



NOLAN KOCHENBURG
Early Childhood Center

Chamber sponsors Hometown Holiday giveaway

As consumers shop local this holiday season, the Grundy County Chamber and the Channahon Minooka Chamber want to know about it.

To encourage local buying, the Chamber is sponsoring a Holiday Hometown Shopping giveaway now through Dec. 14. The rules are simple — just let the Chamber know about your purchases and your name will be entered into a drawing where participants can win more than a dozen local prizes all bought by the Chamber from its members around Grundy County.

You can let the Chamber

know in whatever way works for you, tag the Chamber on Facebook or Instagram with a picture of your find, send an email, or even just call the Chamber office and tell us about your shop small experience.

"Maybe you're catering your Christmas dinner from a local restaurant, bought a spa package for your wife, or purchased some growlers of locally-brewed beer for your husband - whatever it is if it's bought in Grundy County tell us about it," said Christina Van Yperen, Grundy Chamber president & CEO.

Sometimes finding the

perfect gift can be difficult for certain people on your list, so if you purchase a Grundy Chamber Gift Certificate, the Chamber will also enter your name into the giveaway raffle.

Follow the Grundy Chamber and Channahon Minooka Chamber on Facebook and Instagram to see videos and photos of the prizes.

"We all know shopping, ordering food, and getting services from right here in Grundy County is more imperative than ever as our local business community battles the impacts of COVID-19. The community has really come

out in force to support our area businesses and the Chamber wants to say thank you, while keeping it going. So please, help us spread the word by sharing our posts, telling your friends about the Holiday Hometown Shopping Giveaway, and participating. Most importantly, remember to shop your hometown this holiday season," Van Yperen said.

The Chamber will enter names into the giveaway through Dec. 14 and will pull the winners on Dec. 15. Winners will be notified by the Chamber. Prizes have to be picked up from the Chamber's

Morris office at 909 Liberty St.

For more information visit grundychamber.com, follow the Grundy Chamber on Facebook, and Instagram, or call 815-942-0113.

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Pandemic puts a pause on annual vigil

STAFF REPORT

Each year on Dec. 6, Angels of Hope, Inc. invites the community to gather in Campbell Memorial Park to reflect, remember and celebrate the memory of child.

Unfortunately, the annual candlelight vigil is on a pause.

In response to mitigation efforts related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the

Angels of Hope Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel this year's vigil. The hope is they will once again be able to gather with the community around the Angel of Hope statue in December 2021.

Although the traditional evening ceremony will not be held, the organization's members encourage the public to continue with the tradition of

visiting the park and placing a single white flower at the base of the angel in honor of a lost child.

Through the generosity of Matt Baskerville, of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes, single flowers will be located near the angel should individuals be unable to bring one for placement.

"Although there will not be

an organized event this year, Campbell Park remains a place for you to reflect, remember and cherish the memories of our children in the days and years to come. We wish you faith, love, grace and most of all hope," said Nicole Lussion, Angels of Hope board member.

White Art On Canvas files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on Nov. 19th, A.D. 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as White Art On Canvas, located at 5 Washington Drive, Coal City, IL 60416

Dated this 19th day of November A.D. 2020.
Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 25, and Dec. 2, 9, 2020.

Evening with Santa Claus files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 16, A.D. 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Evening with Santa Claus, located at 1051 Park Blvd., Morris, IL 60450.

Dated this 16th day of November, A.D. 2020.
Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 18, Nov. 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Foreclosure sale of 1305 Clifton Drive

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR AEGIS ASSET BACKED SECURITIES TRUST MORTGAGE PASS THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2005-4; Plaintiff, vs. DEBBIE MILLER; LAKEWOOD TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; UNKNOWN SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF THE JOHN C. MILLER REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MARCH 6, 2012; JOHN C. MILLER REVOCABLE TRUST DATED MARCH 6, 2012; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 19 CH 19

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT 446 IN LAKEWOOD TRAILS UNIT 2A BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 14 AND PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 14, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 19, 2004 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 436615, IN AUX SABLE TOWNSHIP, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 03-14-202-003.

Commonly known as 1305 Clifton Drive, Minooka, IL 60447.
The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13160547
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16, 2020.

Attorney Black files Sammy estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2020 P 105

In the Matter of the Estate of Wallace Sammy, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Wallace Sammy. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Gary Matteson, 926 E. Jefferson St., Morris, Illinois 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

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

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 18 and 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Attorney Fisher files Magnetta estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Linda L. Magnetta, Deceased. Case No. 2019 P 94.

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Linda L. Magnetta of Minooka, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 14, 2019 to Julie A. McClelland as Independent Executor.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Court House, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before May 25, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the co-representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: November 25, 2020.
Julie A. McClelland, Independent Executor.

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law,
Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635.

Published in the Coal City Courant Newspaper on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and 9, 2020.

Foreclosure notice of 2375 Chestnut Lane

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. MORRIS G SMITH; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.
20 CH 34
2375 CHESTNUT LANE, MORRIS, IL 60450

JUDGE
PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Morris G Smith, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

LOT 13 BOULDER HILL SUBDIVISION, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF A PORTION OF WEST HALF OF THE EAST 1/2 OF SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, RECORDED OCTOBER 15, 1988 AS DOCUMENT NO. 286039 IN PLAT CABINET F AT SLIDE 101; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 2375 Chestnut Lane, Morris, IL 60450 and which said Mortgage was made by, Morris G Smith, Mortgagee(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds County, Illinois, as Document No. 578893; and for other relief.

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT.

By order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Court, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on January 15, 2021 at, 10:00 a.m. at the Grundy County Law Library; 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois. A lender representative will be present along with a court appointed mediator to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification. For further information on the mediation process, please see the attached NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION.

YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE GIVEN OR YOUR MEDIATION WILL BE TERMINATED.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 18, 2020, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider.

If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. If you are unable to pay your court fees, you can apply for a fee waiver. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff

1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 20-02668IL
13160137

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

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

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

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

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

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

Hang on America

SHADOW LAKES—Just heard your president-elect China Joe, make a statement, and it sure sounds like he is really not for "America First." Get ready for the ride of your life...always, Margot Lane.

Potential for lawsuit

BRAIDWOOD—There is a Braidwood resident who needs to learn the definitions for defamation of character, slander and libel. This person is making an awful lot of accusations and statements in public forums along with a bunch of finger pointing. Hopefully this person has actual proof and evidence to back up their claims because what they think they know and what is actually the truth are very possibly two different things. Lawsuits of this nature can cost a person a ton of money if they are on the losing end.

Who's next?

SHADOW LAKES—Rumor has it China Joe is going to pick Whoopi Goldberg as "Secretary of Intelligence."

Always, Margot Lane

A good choice

WILMINGTON—Congratulations to Robert Bolser for being named the Wilmington Chamber's Business Person of the Year. He is a polite and helpful young man. I remember several years back I was shopping at what was then Wilmington SuperValu when, in the pouring rain, I discovered a tire on my car was flat. Not knowing what to do (never changed a tire before) or who could help (no cell phone back then to call) it didn't matter because a young man working at the store came up and offered to change the tire for me. I later found out his name was Bob Bolser and he refused to take my offer of money. He became my Good Samaritan that day and I will never forget the kindness he showed to a stranger. I have heard other people praise Bob for his kindness too. He is an asset to our community. Janet Fisher

Pay attention

BRAIDWOOD—To the citizens of Braidwood. Pay attention to what is going on with the finance commissioner who is continually being influenced by members of the past administration. One of them is trying to get a relative a position in public works. Not just any position but the supervisor of public works. The only way this can be accomplished is by moving the part time person to full time per the union contract. They had all applications sent to commissioner Smith's home. When FOIA'd nothing was produced. By sending applications to Smith's home personal information of applicants is compromised. The city now has to fill the temporary position of commissioner of public health and safety and these members of the past administration are working together to try and manipulate who is put in that position. If anyone has doubts about what the previous administration did to the city please FOIA the budget from then and now to see the difference. Their ridiculous behavior has to stop. After hearing them berate Fay Smith outside

after a city council meeting in which Fay approved a new business they wanted him to vote no to and after hearing conversations in the hallway after meetings between them and much research it is my belief they are continuing to try and destroy our city. Please be aware and research the facts on this previous administration.

Ignoring our safety

COAL CITY—I don't understand how people can just blatantly ignore the mask requirement in businesses. It has gotten really bad at our Dollar Store to the point I hate to even go in there any more. The signs are clearly posted on the entry door. What gives you the right to just ignore it? The employees are all wearing masks as are most of the customers. Come on people, get with the program or stay home.

Attacks unmerited

BRAIDWOOD—This whole personal vendetta of a newer Braidwood resident towards a few members of the Braidwood City Council needs to stop. This person is causing so much trouble in our town right now, not just for them, but for so many others as well. By doing outright attacks of these people visible to the public on social media and then become argumentative when others stand up against these attacks is just childish. It might be tough being the new kid on the block, but earning a reputation for being a troublemaker is just going to get you alienated from the rest of the town.

The new normal

WILMINGTON—According to ABC news, Sarah McBride, will become the nation's first openly transgender state senator with her election day victory in Delaware. In all there are eight transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary candidates won election to state legislatures in six states. Our new normal.

No science background

SHADOW LAKES—On the news it was stated that Joe Biden has picked John Kerry as the climate czar. But John Kerry does not seem to have any scientific background to determine if the climate change theory is real or not. So why has someone been put in charge of anything scientific if the individual does not have the proper credentials to perform their duties in a specific area? But maybe John Kerry will work with his step son and Joe Biden's son so they can determine how to waister the taxpayers' funds in the name of science. Since their sons seem to be tied with John Kerry on who has less scientific knowledge so it will be like having three blind mice trying to find a piece of cheese somewhere in the galaxy. But their salaries would be given to them because they showed up at their place of employment to discuss what days it is going to rain and the taxpayers lose again.

It's their right

WILMINGTON— I am confused by the whiny, cry baby conservatives claiming their free speech is being censored by social media or, as they call it, Big Tech. You must of been



absent the day your civics teacher taught the Bill of Rights including the first amendment or you would know that it only protects you from the government not the private sector. When the Dixie Chicks said they were ashamed that George Bush was from Texas the back lash was instant. They were banished from country radio and endured death threats from the right. Free speech has consequences. Conservatives supported the baker who refused to bake a cake for gay people citing his First Amendment right as a private business. Well Google, Twitter, Facebook are all private businesses and if they don't want right wing propaganda and lies on their social media platforms they have that right. Maybe you should start your own social media so that you can control the content you could call it Gargle or Nit wittier or how about fascist book. There is just subjective truth in the world and you should acquaint your self with it. You will never get it from Trump, Fox news, Newsmax or OAN. Remember the truth will set you free, stay safe. Penny Lane

Freedom lost

COAL CITY—Joe Biden has plans to revert everything President Trump has done for America. He is no longer going to recognize the America First policy but he will do as much as possible to aid the foreign countries with employment while the American citizen gets lost in the shuffle. So people that voted him to be the next president can now look forward to seeing their relatives and friends lose everything to foreign workers. A lot of our great movie stars do not care about Americans, they only want the money from foreign lands and don't look to any Big Tech corporations to aid any citizen. So the people that wanted Joe Biden in office may regret their decision when their bank books decline with all the new taxes that will be imposed for The Green New Deal which is nothing but an excuse to collect funds for the politicians and their friends' wallets. Everyone enjoy your future of restricted lives and good luck trying to survive.

Capping refugees

WILMINGTON—I read President Trump thankfully put a cap on the number of refugees that could enter the country over the next fiscal year to 15,000, less than anytime during the program's 40-year existence. The historical average is 95,000 refugees yearly. For decades, America accepted more refugees than the rest of the world combined. That's not counting the illegals. Refugee resettlement has become a racket with state department sanctioned charities such as World relief and Catholic Charities getting paid by the head to find refugees, bring them here, settle them in apartments, sign them up for welfare and then move onto the next batch. Under President Trump only truly needy people were being admitted.

It's unforgivable

WILMINGTON—With billions of our tax dollars at stake, the drug companies, like Pfizer's COVID vaccine, announced their vaccine six days after the election, not before the election. Pfizer picked their candidate, that's unforgivable and that's what power will do, as they wish. Trumpism is not going away any time soon...73 million of us say so.

Taking control

SHADOW LAKES—Right now people are beginning to discover just how far some Democrat leadership will go for control over the American citizens' lives. If Joe Biden really becomes the next president there will be so much government control that we'll be living in a global economy and USA could be controlled by the United Nations where communism will take over the solvent laws and the American citizens will no longer have any voice in determining an election and many people will become political prisoners since there will no longer be free speech. Free speech is already being denied in colleges and across social media and also some people have already been denied the right to have an opinion about the Democratic party by being beaten and it will continue. Beware of promises by Democratic leadership that will not happen for the American citizens. Censorship will take control and there will no longer be transparency from the government leadership. Happy trails to you.

Political corruption

WILMINGTON—Most people are aware of the fact that in Washington, D.C. there is so much corruption that many people have continually allowed the corruption to continue by turning their backs on the truth. Lies seemed to have become more important to many people. It really doesn't matter which political party anyone prefers because corruption has forced a lot of people to look at the future elections and how the American citizens will be able to live whether under freedom or socialism. It is possible that a lot of people do not understand the real meaning of socialism. So all you have

to do is look at China or Cuba and you may discover that government control with socialism does destroy all legal rights for every individual. The people that voted for Democrat leadership to take control may discover they have destroyed their lives and the lives of family and friends unless you are a government employee. All the nuts are not in the cake.

I miss it

WILMINGTON—I was wondering if anyone else misses the leaf vac truck like we do? It was a good service for older people like us who have a hard time bagging up the leaves and can't really afford to pay to have someone else do it. It's a shame the mayor and the alderman didn't see the value of it.

Makes no sense

WILMINGTON—Do I have this right? All states Trump won had valid and legitimate ballots. All states he lost had invalid and fraudulent ballots?

Doing it all

WILMINGTON—What's next with the city? First they cut down and remove dead trees in some areas of the city. Last week they came by to remove the tree stumps. What's next? Will they be out in spring to remove mulch and replace with black dirt and grass seed? If you do all this please water also for residents. Maybe the industrial park can pay for the lost revenues?

Blind eyes?

WILMINGTON—Who is in charge of enforcing the regulations on indoor eating and sitting at the bars? Mayor? Chief of Police? People, the virus is spreading everywhere. In Wilmington, Will County, states? Some people stated the virus was going away after the election. Well it's not going anywhere. Please do your part to protect others.

Eddie

Preparing for spread

COAL CITY—With the COVID-19 rising, Florida is open and their numbers are rising. Their governor sees their economic needs with the snowbirds. The infected states are flooding to Florida. It won't be long before their beaches and economy sees the effects of opening up. I see from the Thanksgiving weekend Chicago hospitals are getting ready for tourists that flooded to Florida for the holiday weekend.

Thanks for the laugh

WILMINGTON—To the person who wrote "Shut the heck up" in the Sound-off column, I literally laughed my "blank" off. I just wanted you to know you're right, you're right, you're right. PS. Go Joe.

Hard enough to breathe

WILMINGTON—Driving through the South Island Park on Sunday afternoon I noticed three people up next to the ball diamonds raking leaves into piles and burning them. City ordinance states no open burning of leaves in city limits. Residents of Wilmington rake and bag leaves all fall season while this goes on. Please remember there is a pandemic going on with everyone supposed to wear masks. It's hard enough to breathe now and these people are burning leaves. Let's use some common sense please.

Watched, did nothing

SHADOW LAKES—I have a neighbor who has a Biden/Harris sign on his house and next to it is Back the blue. My question with that is when Antifa and BLM were burning cities, destroying businesses and these Democrat controlled cities and governors had the police stand down, I cannot understand how someone could be for Biden/Harris when they did nothing to step in on this and quell the riots. I would like someone to reply to this because these people have to be very messed up in their minds. You can't have Antifa and BLM destroying businesses, hurting people and rioting when Trump offered to send in the militia and they stood back and wouldn't allow it. And what did Biden and Harris ever say about this? Nothing. Dan Hill

Beautiful island

WILMINGTON—A big thumbs up to the Lions Club and their hard work in creating the Christmas walk on the island. Took the family through there Saturday and enjoyed it. Was sad to hear this may be the last year for doing it. want you to know it's appreciated.

Can't afford it either

WILMINGTON—They want us to give more money to help support the church. I think they need to give us a more itemized bill so we can see where the money is going. Maybe the churches need to cut back. People can't afford any more money and with the economy the churches need to cut back.

50/50 Split The Pot

Buy Your Button

Proceeds To Help Fund
The Wilmington Tourism
Beautification Program

**Drawing to be held
December 21**

\$3 or **\$15**
per button collect all 6

Thank you for your support!

*Have a
Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.*

**Wilmington
Chamber of Commerce**

Buttons available in Wilmington at Bob Bolser COUNTRY Financial, El Patron Mexican Kitchen, The Free Press Newspapers, Kerr Management Consultants, Spins & Needles Sewing, Wee Sip Liquors, Whitmore Ace Hardware and Wilmington Collision Center



Thanks Bob for making the town better

SO MANY TO THANK - Bob Bolser (center), agent for COUNTRY Financial in Wilmington, accepts a plaque from Steve Evans (right), president of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, for earning the Business Person of the Year title for 2020. At left is Bob's wife, Alicia, who he thanked for encouraging him to be involved in the community and his secretaries who hold down the office "and keep me in-line some of the time." The presentation was made Saturday under the Claire's Corner Park gazebo in front of a crowd of about 40 people. Bolser said he is thankful for growing up in a small town which allows for him to be a contributor of volunteer time and help make the community a better place to live.

An under-appreciated spirit and a fascinating story

There are cocktails that are popular on both sides of the generation gap, think Martini, Manhattan, and the venerable Old Fashioned. Some cocktails aren't so lucky, and two of those cocktails are made with one of the most under-appreciated spirits on the planet, sloe gin.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Shake ingredients with ice, then strain into an ice-filled glass and add the "fizz" in the form of soda water. Note that this gin fizz does not call for the use of egg white, as other gin fizzes do. The fizz here is 100% soda water. Make sure that you use actual soda water, not tonic water, and that your club soda is fresh. I buy the small bottles of Fever Tree club soda, and I always have fresh soda when I need it.



There is a bit of confusion among casual imbibers as to what sloe gin is, and what it is not.

Sloe gin is not gin. Sloe gin is a "gin-based" liqueur made by simply adding "sloes" to gin, and allowing the sloe berries to dissolve into the gin. The sloe is a relative of the plum, similar in color and flavor. Authentic British sloe gin producers use the native sloes, but domestically produced sloe gin often uses either beach plum or aronia berries. Despite its labeling as a "gin", sloe gin is sweet and approachable, without the harsh ethanol burn of lower quality gin.

Standard gin is bottled at 40% ABV or higher, whereas sloe gin is typically bottled between 15% and 25% ABV. Also, beware that some commercially available sloe gin is made from grain alcohol infused with sloe berries as opposed to a proper gin. If you want to be absolutely sure that your sloe gin is made from a proper gin base, you may prepare your own sloe gin at home.

The practice of preparing homemade sloe gin remains popular in the UK, not so much on our side of the pond. If you can get a hold of the right berries, at the right time of year, I suppose you could make your own sloe gin. The rest of us will have to make the trip to our local spirits retailer.

The availability of sloe gin in the US marketplace is a good news/bad news situation. The good news is that sloe gin is just popular enough to maintain a presence on US store shelves. The bad news is that you may have only one or two options depending on where you shop.

I have had good luck with Plymouth gin, and with their sloe gin. It will be a bit more expensive than some of the other options, but it is a balanced liqueur that is heavy on the fruit notes and does not go overboard on the sweetness. Many lower quality, less expensive offerings are simply too sweet to make anything other than a Sloe Gin Fizz.

If Plymouth Sloe Gin is unavailable in your area, Bol's also turns out a quality sloe gin, as does Hofland. Ah, the Sloe Gin Fizz. Once upon a time this light and delicate wonder was among the most popular cocktails in the US. The Sloe Fizz was more than likely a "first" drink for many of your parents' (or grandparents') generation. It is by far the most popular sloe gin cocktail, and one that you should try at least once. You may not revisit the Sloe Gin Fizz often, but give it try for the sake of nostalgia.

The Sloe Gin Fizz calls for sloe gin, lemon juice, and simple syrup. It's the classic combination of something sweet, something sour, and a base

The Sloe Gin Fizz is built in a shaker, and served in a Collins (tall) glass.

Combine in shaker:
2 oz. sloe gin
1 oz. fresh lemon juice
1/2 oz. simple syrup
Shake with ice, strain into ice-filled Collins glass

Top with 3 oz. club soda
Garnish with lemon wheel

If the Sloe Gin Fizz is the most popular sloe gin cocktail, the Charlie Chaplin has to be the second most popular. The Charlie Chaplin was created as a tribute to the silent movie star before prohibition, though it is not clear if Mr. Chaplin ever consumed his namesake cocktail.

The drink was one of the most popular pre-prohibition cocktails, but was not able to regain popularity after the end of prohibition. That is unfortunate, because the drink is downright delicious and deserving of a reboot.

The Charlie Chaplin is an easy to remember equal parts mix of sloe gin, fresh lime juice, and apricot brandy. Classic preparation for the Chaplin, shake with ice and strain into chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

By the way, if you are staying home and looking for some reading material to pass the time during the current state of

affairs, look into to a biography of Charlie Chaplin. He lived an absolutely fascinating life, and the excitement didn't stop when he died on Christmas Day in 1977. A few months into 1978 he was the victim of one of history's most famous cases of body snatching, with the body snatchers demanding ransom from his family in Switzerland.

The ransom was never paid, the snatchers were caught and convicted, and Mr. Chaplin was returned to his rightful resting place.

You'll have to read about the rest.

The Charlie Chaplin is built in a shaker and served in a chilled cocktail glass.

Combine shaker:
1 oz. sloe gin
1 oz. apricot brandy
1 oz. fresh lime juice
Shake with ice, strain into chilled cocktail glass
Garnish with lime wheel

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Get raffle tickets now for C.C.W. quilt

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women are selling tickets for its annual quilt raffle.

Each year Mrs. Anonymous, a parishioner and talented quilt maker, donates one of her creations to the C.C.W. to use as a fundraiser.

The raffle and drawing normally take place during the C.C.W. annual card and game party luncheon in May. Unfortunately that event could not take place this year.

Therefore, all parishioners now have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win the bright and beautifully made quilt.

Tickets are being sold at all weekend masses through

Dec. 20 with the drawing taking place after the 11 a.m. mass.

For ticket information contact Pat Stromquist at (815) 476-6199.

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Braidwood Lions to collect used Christmas lights

The Braidwood Lions Club will be collecting used/non-working strands of Christmas lights starting Sunday, November 15th. Collection bins will be located inside Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City, and inside Braidwood City Hall until January

31st. The strands of lights will be recycled by the Lions of Illinois Foundation with proceeds to benefit the foundation's sight & sound services provided to local Lions Clubs. A collection bin will also be available during the club's annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser.

Exelon generation's 'fishing for a cure' raises \$41,000

Charity purchases wheelchair-accessible bus

Braidwood Station's 'Fishing for a Cure' charity bass fishing tournament was canceled earlier this year due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop employees at the Exelon Generation nuclear plant from giving generously to a local charity.

Employees at the power plant held virtual fundraising events and raised \$41,000 for Special Connections of Grundy County, a charity that serves special needs individuals throughout Northern Illinois.

"We are overwhelmed at the generosity of Exelon, the employees at the plant and those who run the fishing tournament," said Kelly Thompson, executive director of Special Connections. "I cannot express how grateful we are for this donation. It's more money than our charity raises in a year, probably two years."

Two years ago, Special Connections suffered a "huge loss" according to Thompson when the charity's bus was destroyed in a car accident. The bus frequently transported Special Olympics competitors and other events across Illinois.

Thompson said in recent years volunteers have carpooled with multiple vehicles traveling to events, but that Special Connections clients have missed traveling together. Considering this year's Exelon donation, Special Connections decided to use donations from Exelon's 'Fishing for a Cure' to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus for the charity.

"We have needed a new, accessible bus for a long time and all of our folks are all



HOLDING THE \$41,000 donation check are (center, from left) Kelly Thompson, executive director of Special Connections of Grundy County, and Jeremy McNabb, a Braidwood Station employee. Special Connections board members Rob Fisher (left), Jennifer Price (second from right) and Jeff Rzasa (right) were there to express their appreciation.

ecstatic to once again be able to travel together to and from events once the pandemic ends," Thompson said. "Seeing their happiness and watching them interact with each other, it makes you feel great too."

'Fishing for a Cure', Braidwood Station's signature


charitable event, has now raised nearly \$670,000 since it began in 2002.

Braidwood Generating Station is one of six Illinois nuclear plants owned and operated by Exelon Generation producing carbon-free, reliable electricity for more than 11 million homes

and business in the state. Together they provide more than \$2 million each year to local charities through corporate philanthropy and employee donations. Braidwood is located 20 miles southwest of Joliet, Ill.



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Pritzker intends to borrow \$2 billion from federal program

BY SARAH MANSUR
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker announced Wednesday the state would give notice to the federal government that it plans to borrow \$2 billion from a federal program created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to fill the state's budget deficit.

That figure is less than the \$5 billion in short-term borrowing authorized by the Illinois General Assembly in May when it passed legislation allowing the state to tap into the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility program. The program permits the central bank to buy the debt of state and local governments that are in need of funds.

The MLF program was approved as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or

CARES Act, which is a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package passed by Congress in March.

Pritzker said the \$2 billion will be used to cover revenue losses and unforeseen COVID-19 expenses for this current fiscal year.

The state previously borrowed \$1.2 billion from the Fed's MLF program to cover losses from the last quarter of the previous fiscal year, and is the only state that has borrowed from the MLF thus far.

The state has paid \$200 million toward the first \$1.2 billion federal loan, according to Pritzker's spokesperson. The interest rate incurred on the \$1.2 billion loan was 3.82%.

Since the announcement Wednesday was only for a

notice of intent, the interest rate on the \$2 billion would not be known until the actual sale is finalized. As of Nov. 23, the website for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showed a sample rate of roughly 3.37-3.41% for municipalities with Illinois' investment grade, which is one notch above what is referred to as "junk status."

"Although the General Assembly authorized as much as \$5 billion of borrowing from the Federal Reserve, I am very reluctant to saddle our state with that large amount of short term debt. I believe it would be irresponsible to borrow that entire amount, given the persistent fiscal pain it would cause over the next

three years, as we would struggle to repay that entire amount," he said Nov. 25. "Our collective intention is to repay this line of credit as early as possible, after either the awarding of stimulus by Congress or a sufficient recovery of state revenues."

Pritzker said the goal of the short term borrowing is to continue managing the state's massive bill backlog, which has reached more than \$7 billion as of Nov. 25, according to the Illinois Comptroller's Office.

The governor's comments on the state's financial situation came during his daily COVID-19 briefing, which he and members of his administration delivered remotely

Initial COVID vaccine shipment may be smaller than expected

Ezike says Illinois may only get 80k doses at first

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to the state of Illinois may be less than one-quarter of what officials had originally been told to expect.

Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said Nov. 24 that the latest word from federal officials is that the first shipment may contain only about 80,000 doses, or one-fifth of the 400,000 doses that state officials were expecting as recently as last week.

"We know that even if everything goes through smoothly in the next couple of weeks and the vaccine is shipped, there won't be many doses," Ezike said. "I know I had originally quoted 400,000 doses because that's what we've been told. That number has already been downgraded to something like 80,000. Again, all of these numbers are constantly in flux and so we are staying very nimble in order to adjust. As the feds give us more information, we adjust and tweak our plans."

Ezike spoke during Gov. JB Pritzker's daily COVID-19 news briefing which was held entirely remotely due to the Tier 3 mitigation order that went into effect Nov. 20. Before then, they were mainly held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago with a limited number of

reporters present while other reporters observed by streaming video and asked questions online.

Interest in how the state plans to distribute a vaccine has heightened in recent days as a number of pharmaceutical companies have announced plans to apply for emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Pfizer and BioNTech recently announced they had submitted an application for two vaccines the companies

are developing jointly, and the FDA said it would put those applications on a fast track for approval, which means a limited number of doses could be publicly available by the end of December. Moderna Inc. has also said a vaccine it is developing a vaccine that has shown promising results in clinical trials.

Ezike said the first people in line to receive the vaccines will be frontline hospital workers who treat COVID-19 patients and other first responders.


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Now is the time to spot owls at Midewin

Think cold weather is for the birds? If you're a bird watcher, it sure is. With annual migration and leafless trees, now is a perfect time for spotting owls, harriers, kestrels and other elusive birds overwintering at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Here are a few ideas about where to look and what to look for.



KESTRELS, COOPER'S HAWKS, great horned owls, barred owls and more active now at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

In recent days, the fence along the pasture on the east side of the Group 63 Trail has been lined with the long lenses of dedicated bird watchers. In late afternoon hours, just before sunset, short-eared owls and northern harriers have been competing in the sky for voles on the ground.

The east pasture is where bison graze, creating shorter grasses and the perfect feeding ground where birds can more easily spot prey. Grazing also stirs rodents, which is why coyotes follow the herd and can be heard yipping and howling way off in the distance starting at about 4 p.m. nightly.

Both northern harriers and short-eared owls are native grassland birds in Illinois, and they can possibly be seen throughout the year at Midewin NTP. However, both species are rare here during the nesting season, and the timing of the recent sightings suggests that these are winter migrant birds that are using the expansive grasslands of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to forage," said Midewin NTP Restoration Team Leader Michael Redmer.

Short-eared owls are known for being able to travel great distances, with recorded migrations as long as 1,200 miles. You can identify them by their yellow, piercing eyes and beige-colored faces. Northern harriers have white on their back sides and their tails are longer than the tails of short-eared owls. Like owls, they rely on hearing as well as vision to capture prey. Their disk-shaped face looks and functions much like an owl's face, with stiff facial feathers helping to direct sound to the ears.

There were more owls and harriers seen on Saturday, November 28 than on other days, and there were kestrels and even a Cooper's hawk spotted flying.

With the dark and rainy weather all day on Wednesday, November 25, owls and harriers started showing up earlier than on other days. At 2 p.m., a short-eared owl swooped past bird watchers as it headed west from the bison pasture and flew low over the Group 63 Trail.

On Sunday, November 29 at 4:30 p.m. an obscure American kestrel flew into trees near a bunker on the west side of the Group 63 Trail, just north of the open bunker. The kestrel rested in the trees for a time before dashing through the sky in search of more food.

On the fourth of July this year, two barred owls were spotted in a tree together at

Midewin NTP. On June 14, a barred owl was photographed flying over Midewin NTP.

Two great horned owls were spotted perched together in a tree in the <https://tinyurl.com/yne779r>South Patrol Road Prairie restoration area. If you are looking for owls in this area, there are many photo opportunities: Prairie Creek is about a 15-minute walk north Boathouse Road from here.

Across from the northwest corner of the restoration area stands a white oak tree that was instrumental hundreds of years ago in establishing Wilmington Township boundary lines. Parking: 41°20'32.2"N 88°10'16.5"W.

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OBITUARIES

Irene Jeffries

WILMINGTON—Irene Kay Jeffries (nee Highbaugh), 63, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at her home.

She was born Dec. 30, 1956 in Key West, FL. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Wilmington. Irene graduated with the class of 1975 from Joliet West High School. Soon after graduation she married the love of her life, Kenneth Jeffries on June 7, 1975 in Wilmington. She was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and had a passion for bargain shopping, finding "treasures" and antiquing. She also had a love for camping and always looked forward to taking the family trips to Hayward and the Gulf Shores. If you were lucky enough to know Irene, you knew she loved to talk and had the gift for gab. Her one of a kind personality will never be forgotten. The world lost a beautiful soul that had a heart of gold, and will always be remembered.

Surviving are her parents, Robert and Darlene (nee Koca) Highbaugh, of Joliet; husband of 45 years, Kenneth Jeffries, of Wilmington; three children: Marissa (Greg) Hall, of Wilmington; Stuart Jeffries, of Carmel, IN and KaraLynn (fiancee, Matt Morris) Jeffries, of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Cameron and Angelina Bergman, Benjamin and Lucy Hall,



Annie Bergman and Addy Morris; four brothers: Randy (Sharon) Highbaugh, of Shorewood; Steve (Kim) Highbaugh, of Wilmington; Kenny (Lynette) Highbaugh, of Braidwood and Bobby (Heather) Highbaugh, of Crest Hill; honorary daughter, Heather Davis, of Coal City; sister-in-law, Sharon (John) Crichton, of Apache Junction, AZ; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends and her beloved four-legged companion, Walter.

Preceding her in death were her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lydia and Charles Jeffries and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Chuck and Sue Jeffries.

Memorial visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 1 at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood. Cremation rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

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

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

Claudia Karn

BRAIDWOOD—Claudia Karn, 63, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee.

She was born Sept. 30, 1957 in Chicago to Harold and Carol (nee Melzer) Maunter. Claudia is now home with the Lord in Heaven. Her family and many friends are so blessed to have loved and been loved by her for all those years. Claudia enjoyed the fall and winter holidays and she had a love for scrapbooking, photography and being at the place that centered her most, her love in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Surviving are her husband, William Karn, of Braidwood and his family; one sister, Doreen and her family; many friends, especially her long time close friends: Erin, Jane, Jen and Nicole and of course the many doctors that



cared for her.

The family would like to thank the many doctors, nurses, and support staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee for their compassion and care they gave her and the family.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to: smokiesinformation.org, under the membership tab, there is a place to donate.

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

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

Karen J. Neste

HOMER GLEN—Karen J. Neste, 77, of Homer Glen, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Morris.

Born May 23, 1943 in Chicago, Karen Jeanne was a daughter of John and Jeanne (Dennett) DePyssler. She was raised and educated in Mt. Greenwood and graduated from Morgan Park High School. Karen worked as a custodian, and retired from the Orland School District. In her free time, she enjoyed playing cards, cooking, baking, shopping and watching her soap operas, particularly General Hospital.

Survivors include her four children: Kim (Mike) Budz, of Channahon; Sheri (Billy) Dowling, of Dade City, FL; Jeff (Kim) Neste, of Morris and Terry (Nikki) Neste, of Michigan; grandchildren: Amber (Ryan) Denato, D.J. Crook, Riley Neste, Arayah Neste, Shaydon Neste, Izabell Neste, Aryonna Neste and D.J. Neste; two great-granddaughters, Payten and Harlee; one brother, William (Suzie) DePyssler,



and one sister-in-law, Jeri Goss.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, granddaughter, Valerie Crook and her former husband and the father of her children, Ken Neste.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a Memorial Mass will be planned for a later date at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Karen's memory to the Immaculate Conception Building Fund, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, IL 60450.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Home in Morris.

Margaret A. Keigher

JOLIET—Margaret A. Keigher, of Joliet, passed away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, at her home in Joliet.

Margie was born on Sept. 7, 1931, the daughter of Leo and Veronica (née Haley) Keigher. She was born in Chicago and soon after moved to Joliet, where she attended St. Patrick's Grade School and graduated from St. Francis Academy, where she was the editor of the school paper and the lead in several school plays. She was a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church and the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus.

After graduation, Margie was involved in the Catholic Social Club of Joliet, worked as a counselor with the YMCA, and then worked at the Joliet Correctional Center on Collins Street in Joliet. It was her interactions with those entering the prison that led to her life's work of helping those in need. Margie then joined the Daughters of Charity, founded in France by St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac to help the poor and sick. Margie took the name of Sister Leo after her father, Leo. She began teaching at St. Vincent's Grade School in Perryville, MO, close to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, for which the Daughters of Charity are renowned. While in Perryville Margie continued her education on weekends and summers at Marillac College in St. Louis. Her brother, Francis (Brother Leo) served as a Vincentian brother in Perryville while Margie lived there.

After Margie's time at Perryville, she taught at grade schools in Birmingham, AL; Milwaukee, WI; St. Louis, MO and New Orleans, LA. After her father and brother passed away, Margie returned to Joliet to help her mother. After serving as a Daughter of Charity for 23 years, she continued her work as a teacher in Joliet at Hufford Jr. High School, Washington Jr. High, Joliet Junior College (Adult Learning Program), and also at the Spanish Center in Joliet.

Margie was such a kind and loving person and made an impact on so many lives. As a teacher, she had a gift for making learning fun, which made her a favorite with her students. She was always finding ways to help the poor and lonely both during her years as a Daughter of Charity and afterward in the Joliet area. She reached out to strangers she chanced to meet with a smile and a kind word, and would often say good-bye with a gesture upwards and the words "See you at the Party." She kept contact with her classmates from St. Patrick's and St. Francis Academy, enjoying the many reunions



over the years.

Margie loved her neighbors on Glenwood Avenue, often calling them "her angels." She really enjoyed their visits and was grateful for their friendship. She loved her parish, St. Patrick's Church, where she was a volunteer at liturgies and events throughout the years. She especially enjoyed their annual St. Patrick's Day party.

Margie loved and was devoted to her large family. She always looked forward to the many parties, reunions, events and vacations which she enjoyed so very much. She loved playing the piano, especially the old songs like Easter Parade, Doodley Doo and Till We Meet Again. When it was someone's birthday without fail she would call up and say "I have a singing telegram for (So-and-So). Please hold..." and after settling herself at the piano she would play and sing "Happy Birthday."

Having such a positive attitude and strong faith, Margie inspired her family to count their blessings, be generous to others, and stay close to Jesus. She led a sparing and sharing life, denying herself what most of us take for granted and giving very generously to charities, especially Food for the Poor. Margie set an example, day in and day out, of what it means to love one's neighbor, and the lessons she taught us will live on for generations. Her family loved her so much and she will be dearly missed by all.

Margie is survived by her siblings: Francis "Bro. Leo" Keigher, C.M.; Theresa (the late Jerry) O'Connor, Rita (the late Glenn) Keenan, Eileen (Tom) Schiltz, Jim (Joyce) Traina, Patrick (the late Carroll) Keigher and Kathleen (Warren) Lindsay and her brother-in-law Tom Flavin. Numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins also survive.

She is preceded by her parents, siblings: Mary (John "Buddy") McGrail, Lois Flavin and Mike Keigher; niece, Sheri Schiltz and great-niece, Marina Schiltz; as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment followed at St. Joseph Cemetery in Manhattan, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in her name to St. Vincent De Paul Society appreciated.

For more information visit her Memorial Tribute page at www.fredcdames.com.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home in Joliet was in charge of arrangements.

Roger E. Melvin

COAL CITY—Roger E. Melvin, 81, of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

Born Aug. 9, 1939 in Bloomington, IL, Roger Earl was a son of Earl Laverne Melvin and Edith Eva (Pittman) Melvin. He was raised and educated in Streator, and on Oct. 16, 1960, Roger married Brenda Kaye Brady in the Presbyterian Church in Chenoa.

Roger worked as an automobile mechanic in Coal City for several years before gaining employment with Material Service Corporation, where he retired as the Superintendent of Maintenance following 35 years of service. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club, and was a lifelong member of the A.F. & A.M. Braidwood and Wilmington Masonic Lodge where he served as Grand Master (1985). Roger loved spending time outdoors, boating and fishing with his family. He enjoyed traveling with his brother to fish all across North America from Florida to Canada, and he took great pleasure in vacationing at the family home in Friendship, WI.

Roger will be remembered as a cherished and devoted husband to his wife, Brenda. He was a loving father and grandfather who always had a story to tell in his own unique way; always with a smile and some laughter. He will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Brenda; three children: Dean (Marianne) Melvin, of Coal City; Darren (Heather) Melvin, of Wilmington and Jennie (Art) Johnson, of Crest Hill; son-in-law, Todd Schumacher; eight



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

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Debra Schumacher and six brothers: Randall (Mary) Melvin, Ronald Melvin, Gregory Melvin, Dennis Melvin, Richard Melvin and Roland Melvin in infancy.

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

Roger will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Joliet.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Roger's memory to the Coal City Food Pantry.

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

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

Billy W. Pittman

WILMINGTON—Billy W. Pittman, 66, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at Amita Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Jan. 31, 1954 in Chattanooga, TN, he was the son of Henry and Willie H. (nee Farmer) Pittman. He retired from Big Bay Lumber after 30 years of employment. Billy enjoyed living the lake life at Shadow Lakes and was a member of the fishing club. His main hobby was fishing, but he also enjoyed traveling, shooting guns, and gardening, which he was known to have grown the best tomatoes.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Mary (nee Mucci) Pittman, who he married April 21, 1990 in Melrose Park, IL; five children: John (Chiara) SanFilippo, of Naperville; Billy Girard, of Chicago; Dena (Edward) Siears, of Chicago; Jamie (Joseph) Allen, of Naperville and Joseph (Ben Brooks) Pittman, of Yorkville; eight grandchildren: Jesse, Jeremy, Alyssa, Alex, Olivia, Audriana, Ella and Conor; one great-granddaughter, Mackenzie; two brothers, Wesley



(Wanda) Pittman, of Seymour, TN and Gary Capps, of Alba, MO; one sister, Vickie (John) Lester, of Charlotte, NC and several nieces and nephews and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, step-father, Virgil Capps and six siblings: Debbie, Brinda, Cricket, Terry, Larry and Jerry.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the All Clear Foundation supporting first responders, www.allclearfoundation.org.

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

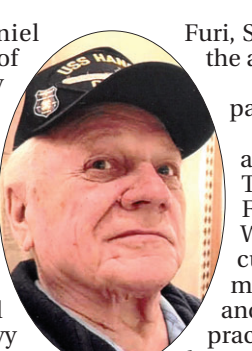
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was in charge of arrangements.

Daniel E. Sedlachek

WILMINGTON—Daniel E. Sedlachek "Dan," 83, of Wilmington passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 at his home.

Born Sept. 5, 1937 in Pipestone, MN, Daniel Edward was the son of Edward Sedlachek and Florence DeBates. He was raised and educated in Pipestone, and graduated from Pipestone Area High School with the class of 1956. Dan served honorably in the United States Navy until his retirement in 1976 after 20 years of service. He was a member of the VFW Malcom J. Mayo Post 5422 in Wilmington and served on the Honor Guard. Dan also held membership with the Wilmington Masonic Lodge 208 and Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 241, as well as the Elks. He attended First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. Dan's biggest passion was spending time with his family and friends in various settings. He enjoyed golf and was an avid bowler in his younger years and continued to bowl as much as he could in his later years.

Survivors include his life companion, Helen Ziller, of Wilmington, who he married on April 23, 2016; special families members: his loving step daughters, Debbie (Kevin Sao) Marion and Veronica (Marty) Orr; grandchildren: Brian (Nicole) Furi, Isaac Orr, Erica Orr, Jay Mashburn and Jessica (Jeremy Penfield) Kahler and great-grandchildren: Gavin and Mia



Furi, Stella, Jeremy Jr. and Adam who were the apple of his eye and made him laugh. Dan was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law, Alice Ziller.

The family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 3 until 6 p.m. Due to current pandemic guidelines, face masks will be required for attendees and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

A private family service will follow Friday morning with Masonic Rites officiated by the A.F. & A.M.

Dan will be laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery with military honors provided by the Wilmington VFW Honor Guard.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Dan's name to the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, 301 N. Kankakee St. in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, or share Dan's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Daniel-Dan-Sedlachek

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



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OBITUARIES

Viola Starmann

WILMINGTON—Viola Hebert Starmann, 96, of Wilmington, and formerly of Joliet, passed away Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at Alden Estates of Shorewood.

Born Oct. 30, 1924 in Watseka, IL, Viola Mae was a daughter of Leslie and Ona (Peters) Allain. She was raised and educated in the St. Anne and Kankakee area and graduated from Kankakee High School with the class of 1942. Viola retired from Joliet Junior College as the assistant comptroller in 1982. She was a former member of the Kankakee Moose Lodge, belonged to the Joliet VFW Auxiliary and served as an officer with the Wilmington Senior Social Club.

One who was known for always willing to help others, Viola lived both fully and passionately. Traveling was a true joy, and she enjoyed traveling regardless whether it was in a motorhome, by plane, boat or in a car for fun. She especially took great pleasure in spending time with her children and grandchildren, and was proud to have been able to visit every place her family has lived both throughout the United States and abroad, including military bases. She will be remembered as an avid crafter, master angler, voracious reader and dedicated Chicago Cubs fan.

Survivors include her son, David (Kathleen) Hebert, of Joliet; son-in-law, Thomas Kohl, of Bourbonnais; grandchildren: Deborah (Todd) Groth, of Bourbonnais; William



“Stormy” Kohl, of Bradley and Kristine (Joseph) Zenkus, of Lake in the Hills, IL; great-grandchildren: Father Michael Groth, Lauren (Taylor) Oxner and Garret Kohl.

Viola was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, Robert Hebert in 1981; second husband, Charles Starmann in 1999; grandson, Michael Hebert in 1978; daughter, Judy Kohl in 2014, and one sister, Bernice (Phil) Gladu.

Per Vi's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 in Kankakee Memorial Gardens, where she was laid to rest with her parents and grandson. Viola's grandson, Rev. Father Michael Groth will preside.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Viola's memory to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease Research.

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

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

Barbara G. Smith

MORRIS—Barbara G. Smith, 61, a resident of Saratoga Towers in Morris, and formerly of Joliet, passed away Monday, Nov. 30, 2020.

Born Aug. 2, 1959 in Joliet, Barbara Gail was a daughter of Jean (Hannah) Stedman of Gardner, and the late James Thomas Stedman. She was raised in Joliet, and graduated from Joliet Central High School where she was active in ROTC and was an expert rifleman. Barbara enjoyed sewing and crocheting, and took pleasure in participating in craft shows throughout the years. Above all else, she was a wonderful mother who made her children her priority and loved them very much.

Survivors include her mother, Jean Stedman, of Gardner; daughter, Holly Smith (fiancé, Cody Kuehni), of Coal City; son, Jeremy Smith, of Bolingbrook; siblings: Dorothy Stedman (Linda), of Godley; Bob (Debbie) Stedman, of Tennessee; Mike Stedman, of Gardner and Debbie (Ken) Knepper, of Braidwood; numerous nieces and nephews, including Frank (Marissa) Staats, of Emington, IL and the father of her children, Keith Smith, of Bolingbrook.

Barbara was preceded in death by her father, James Stedman, and one son, James Smith on July 6, 2020.



The family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City from 10 a.m. until the time of private family funeral service at 12 p.m. Due to current pandemic guidelines, face masks will be required for attendees and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Those wishing to participate in Barbara's services online are welcome to join the live-streamed service beginning at 12 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 by logging onto her memorial page.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

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

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

Tier 3 mitigations: What it all means

STAFF REPORT

Tier 3 resurgence mitigations went into effect statewide on Friday. As with Tier 1 and Tier 2, masks and social distancing are required in all public spaces.

The resurgence mitigations include the following guidelines:

Gathering limitations

Indoor gatherings of more than one household are prohibited. Outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people.

Restaurant, Bars, and Social Events/Banquets

No indoor service. Outdoor service is permissible provided establishments follow social distancing guidelines of 6-foot separations between tables with parties of six people or fewer. Such service should be by reservation only. Tents/temporary outdoor structures may be used provided they have at least two of the sides open to provide adequate air flow, and patrons inside a temporary outdoor structure must be seated, and tables must be spaced a minimum of six feet apart. Such structures must also adhere to state fire marshal standards.

Patrons must follow the restaurant and bar guidelines in the establishment, including wearing masks when wait-staff approach and when they are not eating or drinking at a table.

All bars and restaurants should close by 11 p.m., and open no earlier than 6 a.m.

Meetings/Gatherings

Meeting rooms, banquet centers, private party rooms, country clubs, etc. may not host meetings or events – including weddings – under

any capacity.

Retail

Grocery stores and pharmacies can operate at 50% capacity. Retail and service counter stores that are not primarily engaged in the sale of groceries or medicinal drugs (pharmacies) are limited to 25% capacity. Big Box stores that sell both groceries and other items are limited to 25% capacity.

Malls are restricted to 25% capacity within each store as well as in common areas, and mall food courts are restricted to take away services only. The capacity limits do not include employees.

Flea markets and farmer's markets should operate at 25% capacity, or 15 people per 1,000 feet, with booths places the lesser of every third spot or 30 feet apart.

Sports and Fitness Centers

Health and fitness centers are limited to 25% of occupancy at any given time. No group fitness classes are permitted, but one-on-one personal training is allowed. Health and fitness centers should configure workout stations to be six feet apart, and locker rooms should be closed. Health and fitness facilities must use a reservation system to keep track of capacity as well as to assist in potential contact tracing efforts.

Youth and recreational sports

All indoor group sporting and recreational activities including youth and adult recreational sports are not permitted. One-on-one indoor sports are permitted. Teams may practice outdoors in groups of 10 or less, with proper social distancing. Competitive play is not per-

missible. Golf courses can continue to operate under the golf guidance. Professional sports and collegiate level sports teams are exempt from these mitigations.

Indoor Recreation

Movie theatres, museums, and bowling alleys are closed.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreational facilities, including outdoor exhibits at zoos and museums, can continue to operate at 25% capacity. Outdoor group activities limited to 10 people or less, participants/guests must wear face coverings at all times

Casinos

Casinos are not permitted to operate. All video gaming terminals in bars, restaurants and other locations must be closed.

Personal Care Services

Personal services facilities such as spas, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, waxing centers, tattoo parlors, and similar facilities may be open but must cap occupancy at no more than 25%, and services that require patrons to remove face coverings are prohibited. Spa body services such as body scrubs, body wraps and other body treatments should not be provided. Nail services are permissible with face coverings at all times, and at 25% capacity. Pet grooming is permissible at 25% capacity.

Places of Worship, Funerals

Religious organizations and houses of worship are strongly encouraged to consult and follow the recommended practices and guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health, including providing online, outdoor, or drive-in services. Funerals are limited to 10 fam-

ily members of the decedents, not including staff.

Daycare

Daycares licensed by DCFS should continue to follow those guidelines. Day camps not licensed by DCFS can operate in group sizes of 15 or fewer.

The Illinois Department of Public Health will continue to track the positivity rates and hospital capacity metrics in regions over a 14-day monitoring period to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigation should remain in place.

In order to see a removal of Tier 3 mitigations and transition to Tier 2, a region must experience less than 12% test positivity rate for three consecutive days and greater than 20% available intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital bed availability and declining 7 day average COVID hospitalizations in 7 out of the last 10 days.

State and local law enforcement along with local health departments and the Illinois Department of Public Health are empowered to enforce the resurgence mitigations.

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Cheatgrass wreaks havoc on our ecosystems

Dear EarthTalk: What is Cheatgrass and when did it become such a big problem out west?-- William G., Portland, ME



Cheatgrass is an annual grass native to Europe and eastern Asia that European settlers brought to North America in the late 1800s as forage for grazing their livestock.

Little did they know at the time that this innocuous looking herbaceous plant would eventually wreak havoc on ecosystems across the American West, edging out native plants and creating conditions ripe for now all-too-frequent brush fires.

"It probably wouldn't have outcompeted with native vegetation if early settlers hadn't also introduced large numbers of livestock like cattle and sheep into sagebrush country," reports Mike Pellant, a retired Rangeland Ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management who volunteers for the non-profit Sage Grouse Initiative.

"Our palatable native grasses and forbs [herbaceous flowering plants] weren't adapted to those high levels of uncontrolled overgrazing by domestic livestock, which created a void that Cheatgrass

quickly filled."

And once Cheatgrass gains a foothold, it ups the risk around it significantly, in part because it sets seed in the spring and by the heart of fire season, in mid- to late-summer, its shoots have dried out and become like tinder that can spark into fire with the slightest provocation.

"Basically, cheatgrass is comparable to tissue paper covering the landscape-an easily-ignited fuel that carries fire quickly and spreads it rapidly," adds Pellant.

Native plants in the Great Basin have not evolved to handle such frequent burns-every five to seven years on average lately. As such, each Cheatgrass-fueled brush fire creates more open space for more of the weed to quickly colonize. And by moving into open territory before native

plants have a chance to set seed, Cheatgrass ensures its dominance over the desert ecosystems it inhabits.

The ascendancy of Cheatgrass is also a big problem for native wildlife as well as plants. The Greater sage grouse, Mule deer and Pygmy rabbit are just a few of the iconic desert species dependent on healthy sagebrush plants for their own survival. If sagebrush steppe landscapes go the way of the dodo thanks to Cheatgrass, so will these species and dozens of others which contribute to making the American desert such a special place.

That said, there is little we can actually do to effectively stop Cheatgrass' spread-it has already taken over some 50-70 million acres of desert across the American West.

Herbicides applied widely

have been effective at removing grown Cheatgrass plants, but these synthetic chemicals do nothing against the seeds already rooted in the soil-meaning the plant will sprout anew the next spring regardless.

Employing all-natural soil microbes to inhibit the growth of Cheatgrass' root system below the surface shows promise as a potential solution. But it could be years before we know whether it's feasible to use on such an epic scale given how much Cheatgrass has already spread across the sagebrush steppe.

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INVASIVE CHEATGRASS has taken over more than 50 million acres of desert across the American West.

Commentary

No good for taxpayers – Biden administration likely to tout more taxpayer-funded broadband

BY JOHNNY KAMPIS
THE CENTER SQUARE

President-elect Joe Biden's broadband plan indicates he will push for more government-owned (taxpayer-funded) internet networks, which would be bad news for taxpayers.

Biden's agenda on his website talks in detail about his broadband goals. That includes expanding broadband to every American, which could include wireless broadband through the deployment of 5G.

The most alarming part of the plan: Biden says he will task the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) "to support cities and towns that want to build municipally-owned broadband networks." This means that taxpayers will be on the hook for these systems.

A Democratic task force put together by Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) wants to empower the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to largely undo much of what was accomplished by Chairman Ajit Pai under the Trump administration, includ-

ing reversing the agency's stance on government broadband.

"Democrats will take action to prevent states from blocking municipalities and rural co-ops from building publicly-owned broadband networks, and increase federal support for municipal broadband," the recommendations released by that task force this summer state.

But the list of such projects that were tried and failed are quite long. The Taxpayers Protection Alliance highlighted many of them in its report "GON with the Wind: The Failed Promise of Government Owned Networks Across America." More follies are noted on TPA's "Broadband Boondoggles."

Jeffrey Westling, a fellow in innovation and technology policy at R Street Institute, told TPA that government can help usher in infrastructure growth in other ways, such as loosening regulations and offering incentives to private providers to aid expansion to high-cost areas such as rural America. That's a better plan than promoting municipal broadband, he said.

"There's a better way of doing this that doesn't put taxpayers at risk," Westling said.

Wish list for the Biden administration

U.S. Telecom: The Broadband Association agrees with Westling. In its agenda for the next administration's first 100 days, the organization lays out its wish list for the goal of connecting every American with broadband.

This includes addressing "antiquated policies" that harm broadband deployment and discourage competition. U.S. Telecom said the administration can work to eliminate high pole attachment rates, help expedite permitting processes and lift mandates that companies must sustain outdated networks rather than devote more resources to deploying the next generation of networks.

U.S. Telecom also said Congress should fund the Broadband Data Act so the FCC can create better broadband maps to ensure taxpayer resources are better targeted toward unserved and underserved areas. The group also rejects any proposal that would treat broadband as a government utility and the potential red tape that could ensue.

"All policies should be viewed with an eye toward

removing barriers that impede getting broadband to everyone," the U.S. Telecom agenda states.

Biden has indicated his desire to significantly increase spending on broadband infrastructure – a move not unheralded, if never implemented, under President Trump – including allocating an additional \$20 billion in rural broadband infrastructure.

As for a program to specifically fund government-owned networks, a plan touted by Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), is not likely if the GOP keeps control of the upper chamber of Congress.

"I don't see something like that getting past a Republican Senate," Brent Skorup, senior research fellow in technology at the Mercatus Center, told TPA.

Rather than push for the growth of government internet, the FCC under the Biden administration would be better served to leave the task of infrastructure growth to the private sector and remove any regulations that would impede that goal.

Johnny Kampis is a senior fellow and investigative reporter for the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

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

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.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13			14			
15					16				17			
	18				19				20		21	
					22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30						31						
32							33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42		
					43				44			
	45	46	47									
48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Opposite of west
 - Caesar, comedian
 - Helps little firms
 - A way to censor
 - Expresses atomic and molecular weights
 - Chalcedony
 - Type of sword
 - A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
 - Attired
 - A sequence of winding turns
 - Pal
 - Expresses pleasure
 - Amendable
 - Clear
 - A way to cut off
 - Indigenous Thai person
 - Pale brownish yellow color
 - Aquatic plants genus
 - Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
 - Merchants
 - Fix a chair
 - Throws into disorganization
 - Famed German composer
 - Keyboard key
 - Oral polio vaccine developer
 - Partner to pain
 - Where golfers start
 - Jenny __: weight loss program
 - Sailing dinghy
 - Suffix that forms adjectives
 - Speeds at which music is played
 - Body part
 - Fall back
 - Ancient Greek sophist

- CLUES DOWN**
- One point south of due east
 - Wings
 - One point south of southeast
 - The shirts on our backs
 - One who works on the seas
 - Select jury
 - Small intestines parts
 - Plant of the heath family
 - Extrasolar planet
 - Creates more of
 - Before
 - Forms over a cut
 - Runs down
 - Exercise regimen __-bo
 - Unkeyed
 - Principle underlying the universe
 - Corpuscle count (abbr.)
 - Residue
 - Company that rings receipts
 - Rugged mountain range
 - Commercials
 - NY footballer
 - They __
 - Soviet Socialist Republic
 - Poked holes in the ground
 - Pitchers
 - Your
 - Diana __, singer
 - Important document for inventors
 - Bangladesh capital
 - Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
 - Famed daguerreotype photographer
 - Where military personnel work
 - Play a role
 - La __ Tar Pits, Hollywood
 - Unstressed-stressed
 - Type of palm tree
 - Judo garments

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to jewelry. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = R)

A. 18 2 9 2 12 22 16
Clue: Personal ornaments

B. 17 20 22 20 15
Clue: Measure of purity of gold

C. 19 22 13 12 12 13 20 14 6 2
Clue: Intense brightness of light

D. 22 13 14 10
Clue: Finger jewelry

Answers: A. Jewelry B. karat C. brilliance D. ring

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to jewelry.

LISREV

Answer: Silver

Guess Who?

I am an animal expert and conservationist born in Australia on December 1, 2003. I first came into the limelight when I appeared on my father's reality show. I followed in my famous parents' professional footsteps and co-host a television show about animals.

Answer: Robert Irwin

JEWELRY WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ARTICULATION
- BAGUETTE
- BANGLE
- BRIOLETTE
- BROOCH
- COLLET
- CRYSTAL
- DESIGN
- DIAMOND
- EARRING
- FACETS
- FILIGREE
- INCLUSION
- MARQUISE
- NECKLACE
- ONYX
- OPAL
- PEARLS
- QUARTZ
- RHINESTONE
- SETTING
- SPACER
- STONE
- TRADEMARK

Illinois State Trooper squad struck on I-80

Motorist charged with reckless driving

On Sunday, Nov. 29 at approximately 11:34 p.m., an Illinois State Police (ISP) District 05 Trooper was conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 80 westbound at Francis Road in Will County.

The Trooper was seated inside his fully marked stationary squad car with the emergency lights activated on the right shoulder of the roadway. While conducting a traffic stop on a White Honda, the Trooper's squad car and the Honda were struck.

A silver Chevrolet failed to yield to the authorized emergency vehicle and struck the driver's side of the Trooper's squad car and continued forward striking the rear end of the Honda. The driver of the Honda was transported to a local area hospital with injuries. The Trooper did not sustain any injuries.

The driver of the Chevrolet, Cheyenne T. Payton, 21-year-old female of Naperville, also did not sustain any injuries. Payton was arrested and charged with



A 21-YEAR-OLD Naperville woman was charged with reckless driving after failing to follow Scott's Law by slowing and moving into the opposite lane, and thus hitting a Illinois State Police squad car that was making a traffic stop on Interstate 80.

reckless driving and was cited well as other Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) violations. The ISP reminds the public of the requirements of

"Move Over" (Scott's) Law. When approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with emergency lights activated, or any stationary vehicle with their hazard lights activated, drivers are required to slow down, change lanes if they can do so safely, and in all cases proceed with due caution.

"It is especially important now, as winter is fast approaching, to be aware of emergency vehicles and stranded motorists on the side of the roadway. Please avoid an

unnecessary tragedy by making responsible choices when behind the wheel," stated ISP District 05 Interim Commander, Lt. David Keltner.

"Emergency personnel risk their lives daily to protect others. We would like to remind the public to obey all traffic laws, including the "Move Over" (Scott's) Law, in order to protect the lives of our Troopers, other first responders and all members of the motoring public," he concluded.

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

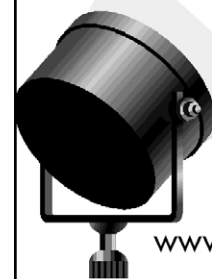
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Illinois gas prices at a stand still

Illinois gas prices are unchanged in the past week, averaging \$2.14/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 3.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 41.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.78/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of \$1.01/g.

The lowest price in the state today is

\$1.78/g while the highest is \$2.79/g, a difference of \$1.01/g. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.11/g.

The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands 47.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"As the nation saw subdued traffic for Thanksgiving, gas prices have been mostly stable in the last week as gasoline demand plummeted to the lowest since spring as Americans stayed closer to

home," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"With oil holding near a pandemic high around \$45 per barrel, we may see additional upward pressure in the weeks ahead, but it's unlikely to be earth shattering. We're likely to remain in somewhat of a limbo until early 2021 or vaccines begin to see widespread distribution and Americans slowly start venturing back to their normal lifestyle- if they ever do."

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ASSET BACKED SECUR-
ITIES TRUST MORT-
GAGE PASS THROUGH
CERTIFICATES SERIES
2005-4; Plaintiff,
vs. DEBBIE MILLER; LAKE-
WOOD TRAILS HOME-
OWNERS ASSOCIATION;
ILLINOIS DEPART-
MENT OF REVENUE;
MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC
REGISTRATION SYSTEMS,
INC UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA; UNKNOWN
SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE OF
THE JOHN C. MILLER REVO-
CABLE TRUST DATED
MARCH 6, 2012; JOHN C.
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REAL ESTATE

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CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
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to a Judgment of Foreclo-
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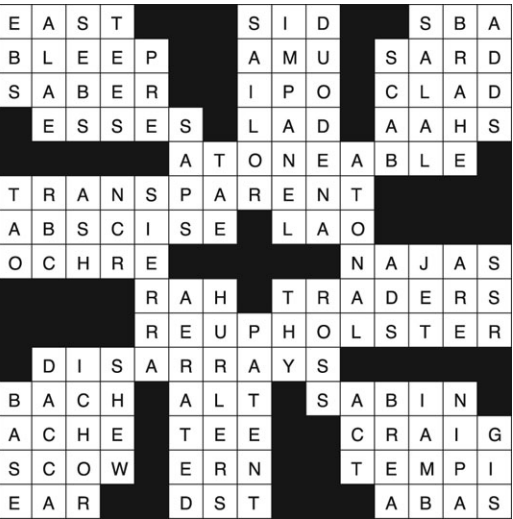
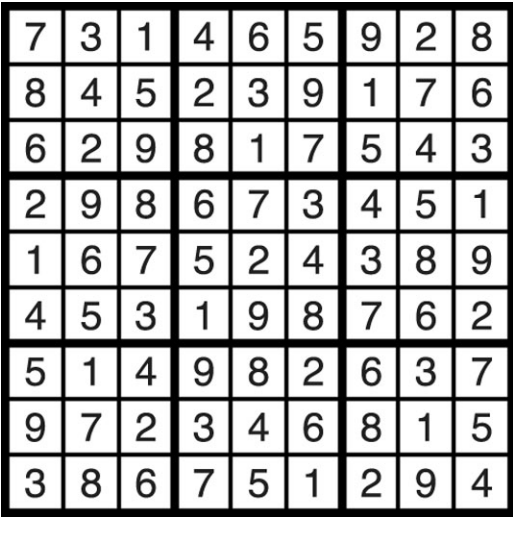
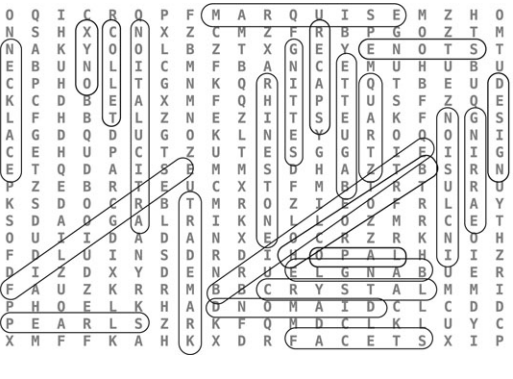
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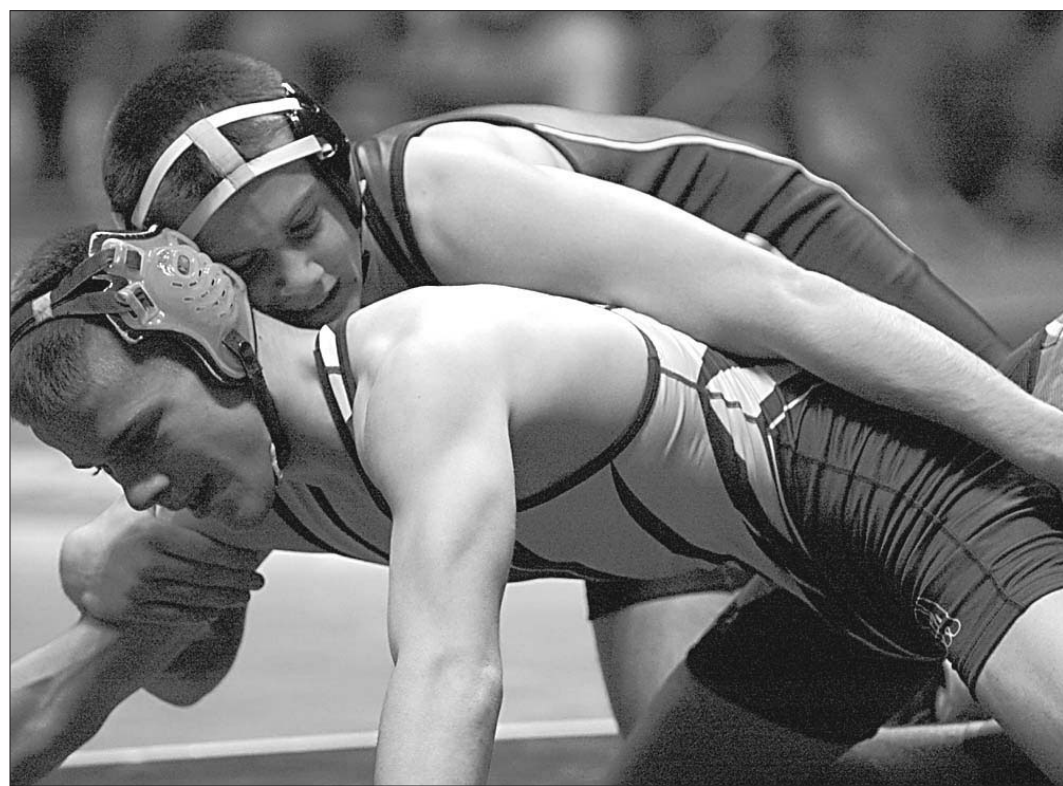
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COALER SPORTS



FORMER COAL CITY WRESTLER Joey Rivera was named to the wrestling dream team. Rivera won a state title in 2016 at 106 pounds.



CHASE ODEEN was named to the dream team at 152 pounds. Chase won state in 2008 and was a two-time state placer for the Coalers.

Team

Behind both those wrestlers would be their 132 pound state champion David Hanley, who won it in 2010 by way of a 2-0 decision.

138
At 138, Bryan Van Duyne and Mike Friddle were top picks. Both were state champions.

Friddle won the state title in 1984 under George Dare, who Masters said had nothing but good things to say about Friddle that won 35 matches during his senior season.

"He said they just don't make them like this kid anymore. I just hear how tough he was. He was one of the best athletes to walk through Coal City. Football, wrestling, baseball, super tough kid. That comes from a couple different guys that I really respect. This dude is tough as iron."

Van Duyne won the 1995 state title his senior year in with a 9-2 decision. Masters had just arrived at CCHS during Bryan's senior year.

"What I do remember about him is tough, in your face, lots of pressure. He was another one of those guys that were relentless."

Behind both those wrestlers would be 2008 135-pound state champion Noah Roseland.

145
Two-time state champion John Odeen, who won state at 145 in 2007 and 130 in 2006, was one of his top wrestlers at this weight class. He also took second at 119 as a sophomore.

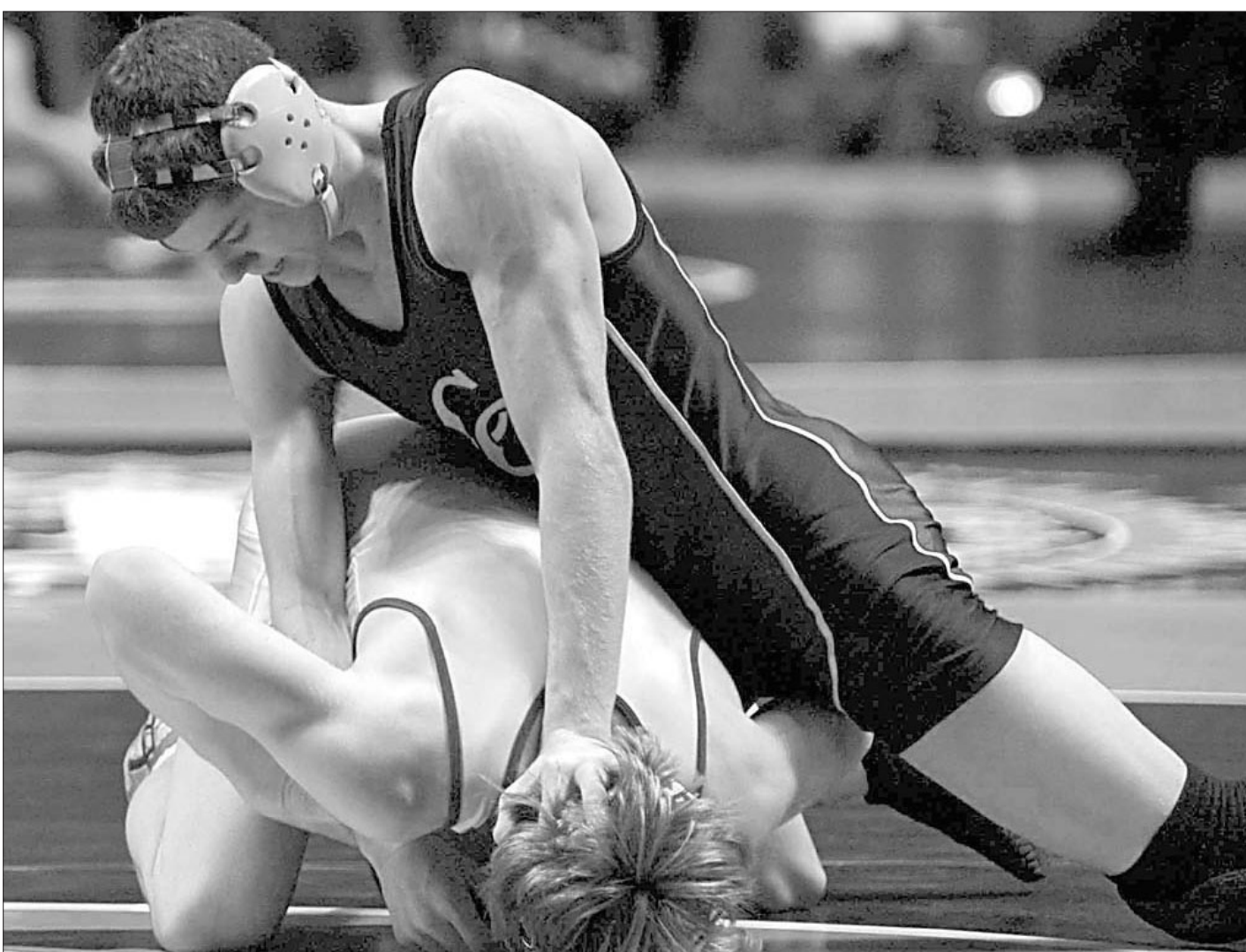
"That's the best that we've had to offer at 145."

Bryan Wills, who won state at 145 in 1984 by a 11-2 major decision, would be Masters' second pick at the class.

Behind them at 145 is the first ever state placer for Coal City Everett Leasure, who placed third in 1979 with a 38-1 record.

Leasure finished his high school career as a two-time state qualifier as he also made it to state in his junior season.

152
At 152, Chase Odeen, John's brother, was the top pick. Chase won state in 2008 and took second at 160 in 2009. The one thing about



JOHN ODEEN was named to coach Mark Masters wrestling dream team. Odeen won the state title in two consecutive years and is Master's top option at 145 pounds.

Chase was he was very good at taking the other wrestler down.

"He was hands down the best at that class. He was really good on his feet and he was really good off the bottom."

Another standout would be 2019 third place finisher Ryan Wasielewski.

"He was really good on the mat. Top and bottom position. He was an excellent mat wrestler. That was his strong point. Hands down. He had some good upper body throws and technique."

Masters also selected Mike Gabehart to provide depth at 152. Gabehart placed fourth at state in 2001 with a 37-8 record at 145.

160
At 160, Masters chose Drew Vickers, who placed

third at state in 2005.

"Drew was excellent on his feet. Heavy hands. He was a kid that he had a really good double. He just ran the double. He'd just double double double double. He's just one of those guys. Solid on the bottom. You couldn't ride him but excellent on his feet."

He also selected David Papach at 160 to be a great backup wrestler if Drew went down. Papach was about as good as they come in his senior year, capturing second at state.

"He was really good on the mat," commented Masters. "He scored a lot on the opposition. Just one of those guys that would just roll around on the mat. He felt really comfortable in just every position. He was the most dominant on top."

Masters added Danny Norton, who was a two-time state qualifier, as insurance.

170
At 170, Wilmington wrestling coach Rob Murphy was the first name out of his mouth. He placed third in 1981 at 167 with a record of 38-4.

After Murphy, Masters placed Jason Gulandi, who went 1-1 at state in 2003 to finish his senior season 38-9.

Behind those two wrestlers, Masters selected Jason Rodriguez, who was undefeated going into the state championship his senior year as depth. He had very good technique and a don't quit attitude.

"He was positional. He had a really good underhook offense. He just slowed guys down and he never got tired. He wore people out."

182
At 182, the top pick was two-time state champion, Daniel Jezik, who was the top wrestler in state his junior and senior years.

Behind Jezik is assistant wrestling coach Nick O'Bert, who earned second at state in 1998 with a 37-5 record and third in 1999 with a 34-3 record.

Masters also slotted the two-time state qualifier and 2017 third place medal winner Brock Crawford in as depth for the 195 class.

220
At 220, top pick is fourth place winner Gage Leake, who was just about as strong as they come.

"He didn't get out of position and he would power you." Jake Frost would be good depth behind Leake. Frost earned fifth place in 2015. He was an aggressive wrestler that took plenty of risks but when he connected, it was a good risk.

"Jake was a thrower. He had no problem giving up five to get five. He just went out there and he thought he was going to win every match. There's a lot of time that spent a lot of time with Nick O'Bert. Both big boys and a lot of Greco. He beat people."

Adding depth would be present assistant football coach Jim Looper, who qualified for state in his junior season, finishing with a 36-8 record.

285
At the heavyweight class, three-time state placer at 1998 state champion Jack Leffler was the top pick.


"We haven't had anybody like that kid," said Masters. "Jack was a beast. He had a great underhook offense. He could throw people from anywhere. Up until Alex (Friddle), he had the record for wins. He was 42-0 his senior year."

Another wrestler he'd choose in that weight class would be Keegan Grant, who earned fourth place his senior year.

"Keegan had to cut some weight to make 275 but getting right down to it, he'd just overpower people. He was big, strong and brought lots of pressure."

At the heaviest weight class, Masters picked Mike Cerny, who placed second at the Unlimited class in 1981 with a record of 35-8, as much needed depth if one of the other big guys went down.


Masters has assured us this team would never get beat. It is solid top to bottom with backups who could start on any team.



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COAL CITY earned a second place finish during the IHSAA Dual Team State tournament five years ago. Wrestlers include: (front, from left) Brandon Strnad, Max Rowell, Alex Friddle, Ryan Wasielewski, Joey Rivera, Jake Hiles, Hunter Carlson, Cole Garcia, TJ Jezik, Connor Skubic, Danny Norton, (standing) coach Michal Barrie, coach Corey Jurzak, coach Jim Looper, Matt Girot, Michael Chirappa, Brock Crawford, Jonah Englert, Dalton Wallace, Alec Leasure, Trevor McIntire, Paul Jones, Bryan Stopka, Riley Kauzlaric, coach Nick O'Bert and head coach Mark Masters.

Masters selects standouts, state champions for wrestling dream team

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

When you have a program with an abundance of state qualifiers and wrestlers who contributed during dual team state meets, coming up with a dream team of Coal City wrestlers is pretty straightforward.

Coal City coach Mark Masters, who has led the Coalers to five state trophies including three seconds and two thirds during 17 years coaching with 350 overall wins, had his picks ready with the top three wrestlers at every weight class.

103-06

Masters chose a mastermind on the mat, and that was 2016 state champion Joey Rivera.

"He was a pinner," said Masters. "He had a little bit of everything. He was tough on top. He's got some scrap moves. He could throw you and he had a little bit of everything."

Masters said 2008 state champion Lance Evans, who went 33-4, is another standout. Evans was very good with submission moves.

"He was solid in all three positions. The thing I remember about Lance was he had a really nice ankle pick. He could get on top and just turn people. He was a good leg rider and he was just able to turn people."

Also there would be 1985 graduate Mick Hannum, who captured fourth at state at 98 pounds during his junior season. He finished his senior season as a two-time state qualifier and a state placer.

113

Starting at 113 pounds would be 1997 state champion Todd Combes, who won his state title with an 11-2 major decision.

"He was very strong," added Masters. "He never got out of position. Always stayed in a good position. He was a four-time state finalist."

Masters also likes Ian Trammel, who earned second place in 2006 with a 37-3 record. Trammel was very good at reversing good submission moves.

"Ian had a great arm drag. From either side, he could take them down. He ended up losing to Clayton Rush from Aledo, who ended up becoming a two-time All-American wrestler in college. He got taken down four times and he got four escapes. Those were his points in a 9-4 decision."

Another wrestler Masters would add for depth would be senior Connor Huston, a two-time state qualifier, finishing his junior season with a 35-8 record.

119-20

At 120, Masters likes Cody Minnick, who kept his feet no matter the circumstance.

"He was a guy that never got out of position. He was elite on his feet. His re-attack offense was phenomenal. He was relentless. He tired guys out. He wore them out. He really did."

Minnick was a two-time state champion. In his first year, he beat his opponent by four and came back to cruise by his opponent 12-6 during his senior year. Masters notes Cody had full control throughout the match even when he went down.

"He gave up a takedown late. The kid was never in the match. Cody took him down six times. The score looked a lot closer than the match was. I remember the kid took a really nice re-shot. Cody took a shot, came up got a little bit out of his stance and the kid got a double on him. A re-shot for the takedown."

Another standout would be Casey Brown, who placed second at state at 132 in 2014. He also placed fifth in 2012 and second at 120 in 2013.

Behind Brown looms Ryan Bunton, who placed second at 119 in 1984, finishing his Coaler career as a two-time state qualifier. He finished his 1984 season with only 2 losses in 42 matches.

126

At 126, Corey Jurzak, who won state in 2016, would head the class. Masters notes Jurzak was a three-time state finalist, winning the state title at 132.

"Corey was as tough as they come. Heavy hands really heavy hands. Super tough kid."

Rory Elliot and Justin Halliday would add depth behind Jurzak.

Elliot battled back to place third in state with a 2-1 decision over Manito's Zac Charlton during the 1995 IHSAA Class A wrestling state finals.

Halliday battled in the state tournament and ended up fourth to Lisle's Josh Goodwin during the 2000 finals.

132

At 132, top pick is Alex Friddle, a four-time state placer and a state champion with a record of 53-0 as a senior. Friddle worked harder than anyone on the mat and he was a carbon copy to a former state champion under Masters.

"Relentless. He and Cody Minnick reminded me a lot of each other. Alex didn't like having fun until his senior year. He was extremely focused and driven. I only had a couple kids that came in that don't smile, don't laugh, just work, work, work."

For depth, Master selects Coal City's first state champion Dennis Grosvenor, who won it in 1980.

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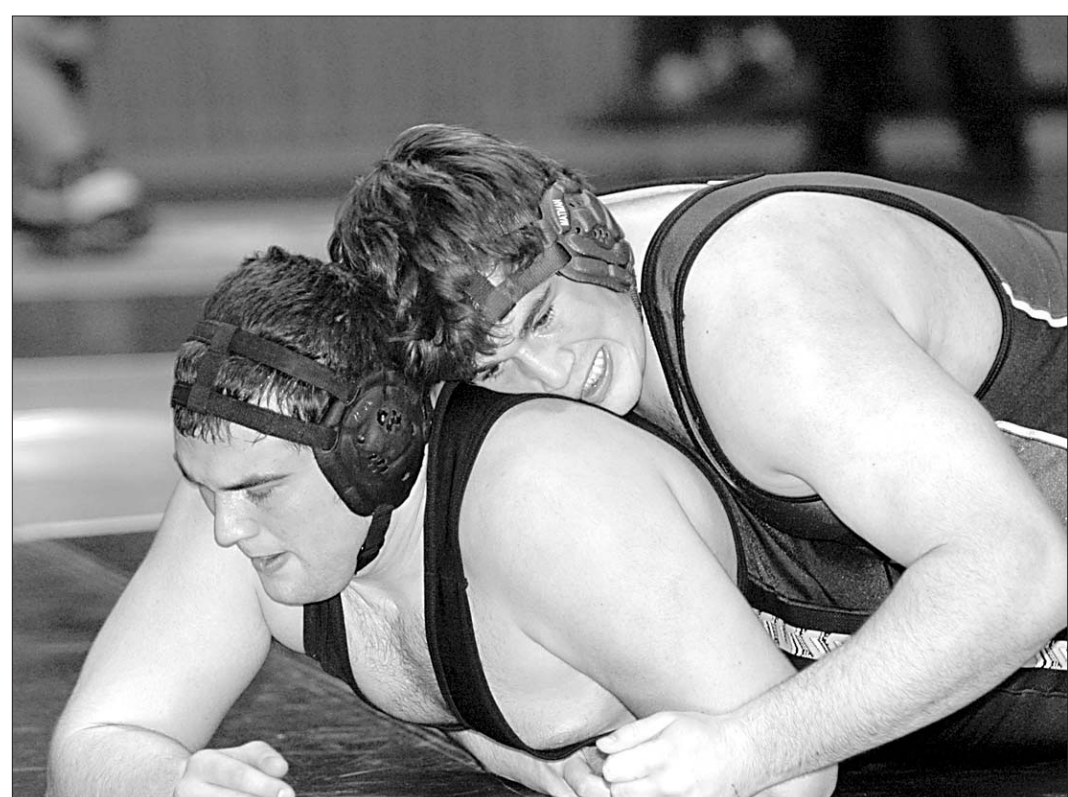
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FORMER STATE PLACER Keegan Grant was selected by coach Mark Masters to be on the Coal City wrestling dream team. Grant placed fourth in 2006.

File Photo