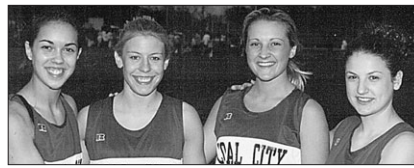


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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## Moving in and out

### Unit 1 considering minimum remote learning times

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

As the first semester of the school year enters its final days, school officials continue to evaluate and tweak the district's five month old Return to School Plan.

"As you know it's an ever moving target," Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg told the Board of Education last week.

Since the plan was adopted and implemented it has been under consistent review to ensure it keeps up with the ever changing pandemic guidelines, and provides a clear path for district students, staff and families to follow through this unprecedented time.

"Things continue to change and when you think you are ready to implement something, things change

again" Bugg said, as he provided the board with his monthly update on the plan.

The committees assigned to draft the plan last summer have been meeting for several weeks to evaluate the document and make recommendations on various aspects of the plan including extended school days and ensuring the district is ready should the call be made to move back to full remote instruction.

A topic that has recently surfaced is the ability for students to move in and out of remote learning.

As Bugg noted, the plan provides a lot of flexibility for families to choose in-person or full-remote learning and to move back and forth between the two.

"We are starting to have some issues with people moving their kids to full remote for two days so they can go for a long weekend or something and then come back again, and it's getting a little bit difficult for us to manage, Bugg said.

The constant movement within the hybrid model of instruction the board approved is one that is being

discussed.

According to Bugg there has been some initial conversations about putting some minimal limits on the movement between the two learning models, meaning if a student goes full remote they would have to stay in that model for a minimum period of time.

"Right now we don't know what that is going to look like," he said.

What is clear is the minimums would be designed in a way to ensure

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2

### Unit 1 moving forward to fill vacant board seat

by Ann Gill  
Editor

Time is running out for the Unit 1 Board of Education to fill the vacancy of Jeff Emerson who resigned Nov. 4. If they don't do it within 60 days, the Regional Superintendent of Education will do it for them.

At its meeting last week, board members agreed to take direction from Emerson and fill the seat with an individual who intends to seek election to the board in spring 2021.

In his closing comments to the board, Emerson said he believed it would be in the board's best interest to appoint an individual that had an interest in board service so they could be part of two important issues—the process of hiring a superintendent to replace Dr. Kent Bugg upon his retirement in June 2022, and the financial planning necessary should Exelon Nuclear close its Dresden Generating Station in November 2021.

As of today [Dec. 9] the board has just 25 days remaining to select and seat a replacement for Emerson. They have invited the individuals who obtained candidate petitions to interview for the spot.

As of Dec. 8, six petitions had been taken out—two by incumbent board members Mary Gill and Shawn Hamilton—and four by newcomers.

Board members determined they would only interview candidates who, by Dec. 11, had taken out a petition for election.

A special meeting has been called for 6 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 16 to interview the candidates, a process that will take place in open session with public access to the meeting.

At the request of board president Ken P. Miller, each member was asked to submit interview questions to ensure the same queries are asked of each candidate.

SEE VACANCY, PAGE 2

### 200-plus COVID tested in Coal City

STAFF REPORT

The Illinois Department of Public Health administered over 200 free COVID-19 tests at its mobile testing site in Coal City.

Results of the nasal swab tests given Sunday outside Coal City High School will be available within 4-7 days of specimen collection.

IDPH reports 1,412 tests were administered to Grundy County residents between Monday, Nov. 30 and Friday, Dec. 4, with 301 new cases reported within the same time period.

As of Tuesday, the state was reporting the number of positive cases had reached 3,147 with 24 deaths—seven in the past seven days.

The most recent deaths from COVID complications

include one female and one male in their 70s, two males and two females in their 80s and a female in her 90s.

According to the Grundy County Health Department it was following 430 people who tested positive and were in isolation as of Dec. 4, along with their close contacts.

The health department continues its efforts to talk with persons who have tested positive and their close contacts within 24 hours of lab notification.

Residents are encouraged to follow isolation and quarantine guidelines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] recently provided modified quarantine guidelines for persons who are close contacts of COVID-19

SEE TESTED, PAGE 2



Photos by Ann Gill

VOLUNTEERS GATHERED AT Coal City United Methodist Church on Saturday morning for the Coal City Food Pantry's drive-thru holiday food distribution. Each recipient received a box of shelf stable food, a ham and fresh yams, along with laundry and dish detergent. The pantry had 120 local families pre-registered for the giveaway that has been taking place in the community for more than three decades.

## A little help this holiday season

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

At a time when some in the community could use a little extra help, the Coal City Food Pantry is there to see them through the holiday season and beyond.

The pantry doors are open weekly allowing individuals and families to shop the shelves once each month for perishable and non-perishable foods, along with other necessities such as laundry soap and paper products when available.

Long before the pantry became a year round operation, community volunteers organized a holiday distribution that provided families in need with boxes of food filled with donations made during the annual Cub Scout food drive. Those distributions often included a few extras like bread, eggs and ham that were donated by community members and businesses. And, during those times local residents would contribute wrapped gifts that were handed out to children.

The gift distribution

ended a few years ago and was replaced with cards for recipients to use at their discretion.

Once again the pantry handed out gift cards, \$25 for every family being assisted this year.

Pantry president Barb Kent said recipients were unaware of the gift cards until they arrived to collect their holiday meal boxes on Saturday.

Unlike past years donations collected from the annual food drive were not handed out as part of the holiday distribution, those items went directly onto the pantry shelves.

The holiday meal boxes—200 of them—were purchased from the Northern Illinois Food Bank for distribution to families. The boxes arrived at the pantry about one hour prior to distribution that was scheduled for 9 a.m.

The giveaway consisted of a ham, bag of fresh sweet potatoes and box of shelf stable food—larger families received more than one box, according to Kent, who noted many of the pantry's patrons are part of larger families—

three or more people.

The change to the holiday meal boxes was made several months ago by the pantry's board of directors to ensure the annual Christmas distribution continued.

At that time, Kent said it was unclear if the scouts would be given the go ahead to conduct the food drive during the pandemic, and when the authorization came through to move forward with the door-to-door collection the pantry had already secured its holiday items.

The annual community food drive organized by Cub Scout Pack 466 provides the pantry with a significant amount of shelf stable food items, as well as household cleaning and personal care items that are regularly needed.

This year's drive was move up a month and allowed volunteers the time necessary to sort the donations and stock the shelves. Current guidelines limit the number of volunteers the pantry can have working at one time.

Kent said the community once again came through with

an abundance of donations. The door step collections filled two enclosed trailers.

"The outpouring was phenomenal given the situation we are in," Kent said.

As of Saturday morning, 120 families had registered to participate, and Kent expected a few more to make their way through the line prior to the end of the day.

Due to pandemic guidelines the pantry conducted a drive-thru distribution with volunteers placing the items in cars as they made their way through the line.

Employees from ExxonMobile were on site to assist pantry volunteers with the Saturday morning distribution.

The pantry relies on volunteers and donations to carry out its mission of alleviating hunger for families in need.

One former recipient of the pantry's assistance pro-

SEE PANTRY, PAGE 2



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# Diamond businesses burglarized, robbed

A burglary was reported in the village of Diamond then two days later a man armed with a handgun robbed an employee at a second Diamond business.

The crimes are currently under investigation and the town's mayor is calling on citizens to remain alert and report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

A community safety alert was issued by the village on Friday, Dec. 4 detailing a robbery reported the previous evening at the Minit Mart Shell Gas Station, 3195 E. Division St.

According to Mayor Terry Kernc, it was shortly after 10 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3 when a male black subject armed with a handgun entered the business and robbed the employee. The suspect was wearing a black coat and black mask. The gas station employee was not injured.

The subject left the station in a newer model dark Dodge Charger heading north on Interstate 55. The vehicle was spotted passing Larkin Avenue on Interstate 80, but due to its high rate of speed the suspect eluded police.

Earlier in the week, Naked Sun Hair, Tanning and Day Spa reported a break-in during the early morning hours of Dec. 1.

The person or persons responsible for the crime broke through one of the business' two glass front entry doors.

As a result of the crime, the business was closed for several hours. It was reported nothing was observed missing from business at 2918 E. Division St.

"If you see something suspicious, leave the area and call 911," Kernc stated in her safety alert message.

# Buy \$50, get \$25 more thanks to Dresden Station

Every year Grundy County Chamber Gift Certificates are the gift that keeps on giving—the recipient gets to buy what they really want from a local business and the local business gets a new customer.

This year Dresden Station is making Grundy Chamber Gift Certificates even better. For every \$50 purchased in Chamber gift certificates, Dresden Station's donation to the Chamber is buying you another \$25 gift certificate. Maybe you'll keep that gift certificate for yourself for lunch, use it to buy your mom the perfect gift, or give it to your neighbor as a Secret Santa present. Whatever you decide to do with the certificate, it's being spent locally and that's the goal.

"It is always the Chamber's goal to encourage local shopping, buying, and eating. Through this pandemic, supporting our Grundy County businesses is more imperative than ever and Dresden Station wanted to help. The gift certificate matching program will help further stimulate local spending and is just another way Dresden Station is an asset to this community, its businesses and its residents," said Christina Van Yperen, Chamber president & CEO.

The matching program for the gift certificate purchases is happening now through the holiday season.

"Supporting the community and local businesses during the holidays is incredibly important to the employees of Dresden Station, especially in the midst of a pandemic," said Pete Karaba, site vice president of Dresden Station. "That's the essence of being a good friend and neighbor."

The matching program could incentivize \$30,000 in local sales at any of the more than 500 businesses who are members of the Grundy and Channahon-Minooka chambers. A listing of members can be found on the directory at grundychamber.com.

All of the funds from a gift certificate go straight to the business where it is spent, keeping the dollars local.

As an extra incentive to buy local, when you purchase a Chamber Gift Certificate by Monday, Dec. 14 your name will be entered into the Chamber's Holiday Hometown Shopping giveaway for a chance to win prizes the Chamber has purchased from local members.

To purchase a gift certificate you are

encouraged to order in advance of pick up by calling 815-942-0113 or order online grundychamber.com. Limitations do apply on the matching program.

Exelon recently announced Dresden Station is set to close November 2021. Local leaders, the Grundy Economic Development Council, and the Chamber are part of a movement to save Dresden. The impact this plant closure would have on the community would be devastating.

The jobs and economic impact Dresden provides cannot be matched, Van Yperen said. To join the movement visit savedresden.com.

Exelon's Dresden Generating Station's two nuclear reactors generate more than 1,800 megawatts of carbon-free energy. This is enough clean electricity to power 1.8 million homes.

The station has been a part of the Grundy County community for more than 60 years. It provides hundreds of well-paying jobs and millions of dollars in economic support, including about \$24.8 million in taxes annually for schools, roads and other public services.

The station and its employees donate more than \$300,000 annually to local organizations and charities.

# School

students had every opportunity to get back into the classroom.

As the superintendent has said before, the district wants to have its students back in the buildings.

"We are going to have more discussions on that and seeing if we can tighten that up, because it's getting a little difficult for the administrators to track and the teachers to deal with in the classroom," Bugg said.

In their monthly reports to the board, the district's K-8 building administrators provided enrollment updates that show 14.3% of the early childhood center's students were learning remotely in the past month, 12% at the elementary school, 17% at the intermediate school and 19% of middle schoolers.

The numbers are higher at the high school, which has also witnessed a number of students moving in and out due to positive COVID-19 tests and close contacts.

In his weekly correspondence to parents, Bugg reported the daily average of high schoolers quarantined between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4 was 46 and a week earlier that number was 61.5.

The school's report further showed that for the 14 day period between Nov. 20 and Dec. 4 there were 11 current COVID-19 positive cases at the high school—eight students and three staff.

For that same reporting period, the early childhood center had one student and one support staff case, at the intermediate school there was one student and two staff cases, the middle school had two student and one staff case and there was one additional case reported within the district staff.

"The increase in COVID cases across the country has forced many students into healthy quarantine for close contact and many staff members into healthy quarantine die to the required quarantine period for members of their household who are symptomatic," Bugg said.

District data shows that between Nov. 30 and Dec. 4, the daily average of quarantined students at the early childhood center was 39.6, 26 at the elementary school, 20.6 at the intermediate school and 27.4 at the middle school.

As for quarantined staff those numbers were two at the early childhood center, 3.4 at the elementary school, .2 at the intermediate school, 2.4 at the middle school and two within the district.

As the superintendent noted in his conversation with the board, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC] has published updated quarantine guidelines for close contacts with positive individuals that reduce the time from 14 to seven days with a negative test or 10 days without a test. However, the district had not adopted the new guidelines as it was awaiting direction from the Illinois Department of Public Health and Grundy County Health Department.

The new guidance was adopted by the health department on Tuesday, but IDPH states the quarantine reduction is not recommended for congregate settings. Therefore, Bugg reported at this time the district's exclusion chart will not change and will continue to follow the 14 day exclusion rule.

"I will say overall our parents have been fantastic. When we have to call and a kid has been in close contact and they have to be out for 14 days our parents have been very understanding," Bugg said.

# Ludes installed to Three Rivers Realtor Board



**JIM LUDES WAS** installed to the Three Rivers Association of Realtor Board on Sept. 25. Ludes has been the Designated Managing Broker of Lori Bonarek Realty since 2017. He has served on various committees with the Three Rivers Association of Realtors and will now serve as a director on their board of directors. Three Rivers Association is a non-profit organization that services approximately 1,000 Realtors and affiliate members. With the affiliation of Illinois Realtors and the National Association of Realtors Three Rivers Association of Realtors works to provide its members with the tools and information they need to remain successful. Pictured from left are Jill Breneman, Kristina Davy, Bonarek, Ludes, Kim Engelhardt and Jen Phillips. Lori Bonarek Realty is located in Coal City.

Courtesy photos

# Vacancy

The board is scheduled to appoint the new member when it meets in regular session on Wednesday, Jan. 6.

Although the planned swearing in of the new member will take place a few days after the 60-day deadline, the district has consulted with Chris Mehochko, the regional superintendent of schools regarding the board's timeline.

Bugg said that in his conversation with the regional superintendent, given the current pandemic and holiday season, Mehochko had no issues with the board's plan and was accepting of the January appointment.

The individual appointed at that time will fill out the remainder of Emerson's term which was set to expire with the April 2021 election.

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# Pantry

grams is now giving back to the non-profit, and the annual donation is matched by their employer.

"We are so grateful for the support," Kent said.

Given the pandemic, she wasn't quite sure if donors would have the same resources to lend a hand this year, but as she's discovered in the past few weeks the community continues to step in to help their neighbors.

The pantry recently received an anonymous \$5,000 donation, along with several others that will help keep the shelves stocked this year, include donations that will be coming in soon from the annual bag sale conducted at Berkot's Super Foods that allows its customers to purchase a bag of food for donation to the pantry.

Kent said the number of people seeking assistance from the pantry has gone up in the past year and she expects those numbers to rise

the longer the pandemic has a grip on the state.

Monetary donations for the Coal City Food Pantry are accepted year round and can be sent to 6805 E. McArdle Rd.,

Coal City. Food donations are also accepted and can be placed in the donation box located outside the southeast door of the Coal City United Methodist Church.

# Testing

cases. The guidance suggests a reduction in the number of days to be quarantined after exposure with some special considerations to take into consideration.

The county health department announced Tuesday afternoon that in conjunction with IDPH it was adopting the new guidelines effective immediately. The new guidelines can be viewed on page 6 of this week's edition.

Michelle Pruiam, Grundy County's public health administrator, said her department has always deferred to the IDPH's guidance as it relates to isolation and quarantine for COVID-19.

Grundy County's positivity rate as of Dec. 4 was 21.4%, a number that has remained steady for the past week, and is the second highest out of the 20 counties that make up Region 2.

The North Central Region's most recently posted positivity rate was 13.6%. On a municipal level, IDPH reports a total of 666 cases within zip code 60416, 1,280 within Morris, 86 cases in Mazon, 81 cases between Godley and Braceville, 115 in Gardner, 39 within South Wilmington and 25 within Verona.

Last week it was announced that the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed to the 50 counties with the highest death rates per capita. Grundy County is not on that list, but eight of the counties in Region 2 will be receiving the

vaccine—LaSalle, Bureau, Knox, McDonough, Rock Island, Stark, Tazewell and Warren. Will and Kankakee counties will also be among those receiving the vaccine.

The initial recipients will be health care workers and long-term care residents. Gov. JB Pritzker said 655,000 people in Illinois qualify as frontline health care workers – 162,000 in Chicago and 493,000 outside of Chicago. Approximately 110,000 adults statewide live in congregate care settings, he said.

To help slow the spread, residents are reminded to stay home when possible, wear a face covering, maintain acceptable distance and frequent hand washing and sanitizing.

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May the winds of love blow  
Softly and whisper for you  
To hear that we love and  
Miss you always

Mom (Denise), Marvin,  
Rachael, Jason &  
Marisa Schrum

In Loving Memory of  
**Mike Lissy**

I can hear your absence in my soul,  
loud, luminous, sometimes a hushed  
echo, lingering low, and lurking loose, but  
it never fades; it takes a break but it never  
breaks away.

It didn't kill me, but something died  
inside of me that day. Everyday for the  
rest of our lives, we will miss you.

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Coal City, IL 60416  
Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to:  
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Subscription rates: \$40 Grundy & Will counties; \$48 other Illinois counties and \$54 out of state

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor

# No comment on school district tax levy

The public was given an opportunity to comment on the Unit 1 School District's \$24.9 million property tax levy, but no one did—in person or in writing—thus the required Truth in Taxation hearing lasted less than 60 seconds.

At the meeting immediately following the public hearing, the board of education approved the 2020 levy that seeks for \$24,970,818 to cover school expenses during the 2021-2022 school year. The figure reflects the amount of property tax to be collected from district taxpayers outside of the agreed to payment from Exelon Nuclear which amounts to \$16 million.

The 2020 levy was built on the district's estimated equalized assessed value [EAV], a figure the Grundy County assessor's office has put at \$859 million—\$490 of that is

assigned to the nuclear generating station.

Unit 1 denotes its property tax revenue in two ways—Dresden EAV and all other EAV which is valued at \$369 million, and as noted that figure represents a 16% growth. A number significantly higher than the district's models of a 2% growth in all other EAV.

The levy board members approved last week represents a 9.18% increase from the prior year for corporate and special purposes.

By fund the levy seeks \$17,242,396 for education, \$3,992,739 for operations and maintenance, \$1,566,397 to cover transportation, \$472,969 for Social Security and \$343,978 to cover contributions to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund [IMRF].

Additionally, \$273,918 to working cash, \$343,978 for special education, \$42,997 to life safety, \$310,474 to the tort fund and \$380,972 for leasing.

By statute, the levy must be filed with the county clerks in Grundy and Will counties by the last Tuesday in December.

In other matters from the Dec. 2 meeting of the Board of Education.

- Members approved amending the school calendar noting the elimination of professional development early dismissal days scheduled for Dec. 9 and March 10, April 14 and May 5, 2021.
- As the board proceeds with its search for superintendent to replace Dr. Kent Bugg at the close of the 2021-2022 school year, a payment of \$3,950 was authorized to the Illinois Association of School Board's for the first half of its work to assist the board in its search.
- On a recommendation from high school principal Chris Spencer, the board approved seven student requests for mid-year graduations based on the students having met the requirements. Two mid-year exclu-

sion requests were also approved based on the students completing their requirements by May 1, 2021.

- A \$920 donation was accepted from Morris Hospital and Healthcare Centers. The donation comes from 46 athletic physicals the hospital's providers conducted in July.
- The district renewed its membership with the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce at a fee of \$265.
- Board members had a first reading on 39 revised district policies.
- The board approved the resignations of cafeteria servers Beth Babcock at the middle school and Mary Kozlowski at the early childhood center.
- Custodial transfers were approved for Allen Oder from the high school to the middle school and Jeremiah Kimmel from the middle to the high school.
- At the recommendation of athletic director Dan Hutchings, middle

school math teacher Matthew Perry was assigned as the freshman boys basketball coach.

- The board approved paid contributions to the health savings accounts totaling \$1,400 each for Bugg and middle school assistant secretary Taryn Trotter, and \$2,800 contributions for district administrators Jason Smith, Tammy Elledge, Denny Wickiser, Matt Hook, Amanda Herrera-Ford, LaWanda Gagliardo and Hutchings, and building level administrators Chris Spencer, Luke Krippel, Travis Johnson, Tracy Carlson, Jennifer Kenney, and Amanda Davidson.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for 6 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. A board study session is slated for Wednesday, Dec. 31 and the board will meet in special session on Dec. 16 to interview candidates to fill the board seat vacated last month by Jeff Emerson.

## Santa Claus is looking for letters

Santa Claus reportedly made a quick trip to Coal City last weekend to collect wish letters left in his Letters to Santa mailbox.

As Christmas draws near, Santa and his team at the North Pole are looking to collect all the letters in time to make a final check of the gift list.

The local Letters to Santa mailbox is located in Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park and it will be accepting letters until Dec. 18. Santa will send a reply letter to those who enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope with their messages and wish lists.

Santa and his elves have been checking the special mailbox for the past 30 years with assistance from the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club.

## Domino's in development



A DOMINO'S PIZZA restaurant is taking shape on the southwest corner of Division and School streets in the village of Diamond. Missouri-based MBR Management Corporation—conducting business locally as Domino's Diamond—is constructing a two-tenant structure at 2255 E. Division St. The pizza place will occupy one side of the building with a yet-to-be-named business on the other. The Domino's will have a pickup window, but no voice ordering box, according to information presented when the proposal went before the town board. Construction on the building began several weeks ago with an intended opening as soon as the end of the month. Mayor Terry Kernc has said that should the weather hold out, she has no doubt the business will be taking orders soon.

## Patriot's Pen finalists announced

Patriot's Pen is a national patriotic program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

Each year the national commander picks a theme for the 300 to 400 word essay that each student submits. This year's theme was, "What is Patriotism to Me?"

St. Juvin Post 1336 sponsored the essay contest at Coal City Middle School and its members selected the top essay to move on to the next level of competition.

An essay penned by seventh grader Olivia Weatherbee was selected by Post 1336 to move on to the 18th District—Will, Grundy and Kendall counties—contest for judging and possibly going on to the state VFW competition.

Nationally over \$50,000 in prizes will be awarded.

Along with Weatherbee, St. Juvin Post recognized six other finalists that included eighth grader Madi Peterson, and seventh graders Jacob Cimino, Grace Heatherwick, Dane Noffsinger, Brandon Rentauskas and Colin Schimandle.

## Students of the Week celebrated at Unit 1 Schools

 <b>FRANK PONIO</b> Intermediate School	 <b>SOPHIA EDWARDS</b> Intermediate School	 <b>JONATHAN WEGNER</b> Intermediate School	 <b>KINSLY NOWAK</b> Intermediate School	 <b>LIAM WYNN</b> Elementary School	 <b>WILLOW WEATHERSBY</b> Elementary School	 <b>KAYSEN KOCHENBURG</b> Elementary School
 <b>COLLIN NESS</b> Elementary School	 <b>GARYN KENT</b> Elementary School	 <b>KAITLYN WALKER</b> Elementary School	 <b>CLARE HABERZELT</b> Elementary School	 <b>JAICE HULL</b> Elementary School	 <b>DAISY BELL</b> Elementary School	
 <b>STELLA EATON</b> Elementary School	 <b>MARA MILINKOIC</b> Elementary School	 <b>DEREK MAXWELL</b> Elementary School	 <b>LOGAN INGALLS</b> Early Childhood Center	 <b>AUSTIN NEWMAN</b> Early Childhood Center	 <b>JACE GILLUM</b> Early Childhood Center	

### Foreclosure sale of 1305 Clifton Drive

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**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 NORTHEAST 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 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.

### Attorney Black files Lutz estate claim notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE  
No. 2020 P 109

In the Matter of the Estate of Jacquelyn J. Lutz, Deceased

**CLAIM NOTICE**

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

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

STEPHEN LUTZ  
MICHAEL LUTZ  
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

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

Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 9, 16 and 23, 2020.

### 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.

### 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.

### Village of Diamond accepting election petitions

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice for Filing of Election Petitions  
(1) Village Mayor -4-year term (4) Village Commissioner-each 4-year term

Notice is hereby given by office of the Clerk of the Village of Diamond, 1750 E. Division St., Diamond, Illinois, to file nominating petitions. The first day to file: Monday, December 14, 2020, the last day to file: Monday, December 21, 2020. The Village of Diamond will accept petitions from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during the petition filing period. The Village will remain open to accept petitions until 4:30 p.m. on the last day to file, December 21, 2020.

Please note that the filing period hours have changed from previous years in order to align with the hours the village hall is open due to the Coronavirus.

No petitions will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2020. Consolidated Election to be held April 6, 2021.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 9, 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 52244, 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.

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## Please help Kuzma

WILMINGTON—Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington is in need of donations before Christmas. Someone has donated \$5,000 but they will only donate it as a match for other donations. Please take advantage of this great opportunity. You can donate through the Kuzma Care Cottage Facebook page or mail your donation to Kuzma Care Cottage at 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481. Every dollar makes a big difference to help many people in need this time of year. Please help.

## Costing \$\$\$

BRAIDWOOD—There is a self-proclaimed truth seeking vigilante who has been filing FOIA request upon FOIA request in an attempt to dig up trouble on a few city officials and employees of certain city departments to make them look like lazy and incompetent fools. Just how many hours have been spent so far on fulfilling the multitude of FOIA requests from this one person and how much money is it costing us the taxpayers for this person's pointless mission? The current administration had no problem making it public knowledge when it came to the multitude of FOIA requests submitted by a former city official, why won't they do the same for everyone else? A monthly FOIA report would be nice to see breaking down who submitted what, how many hours were spent fulfilling the requests and how much it cost to fulfill each request. At what point does the mayor and city administrator say enough is enough and call off their hound?

## Long lines

WILMINGTON—US Bank first closed the Braidwood branch, which upset many customers. Now the service in Wilmington is terrible. There are long lines. Why don't they hire more people? Everyone should close their accounts there; they don't care about their loyal customers.

## Flimflam family

WILMINGTON—What's the ultimate national fraud that will occur on Inauguration Day? An entire ruling family, children included, will ask for preemptive pardons as they exit the White House. Is it because the Trumps, the consummate clan of grifters, swindlers and con artists running our country know how guilty they are? When the door hits them on the way out, they will suffer no punishment for trashing our country. The Trumps are masters at getting away with cheating, chiseling, stiffing the taxpayers and sticking it to the nation. Good riddance.

Ralph D.

## No Good for Taxpayers

SHADOW LAKES—Wow, I see China Joe isn't even in the office as of yet, but he is ready for more taxes. I hope you read the article in last week's paper, "Biden administration likely to tout more taxpayer-funded broadband." This is only the start. As time goes by, you will never talk to anyone who voted for him. I wonder where those 70 million votes came from.

Always, Margot Lane

## Giggling grim reaper

BRAIDWOOD—The whole nation saw a blubbering baby last week when Republican Leader McConnell shed tears in front of the Senate about the retirement of his buddy Senator Lamar Alexander. How touching. But remember the debate last month when McConnell giggled at length on camera about small businesses going broke, about growing numbers of unemployed lining up at food banks and about people evicted from their homes due to COVID-19? McConnell doesn't care that small businesses are at the brink of bankruptcy and as Senate leader he is single-handedly blocking legislation which would help. What kind of man is McConnell? As a tyrant who proudly calls himself the grim reaper, McConnell gets sentimental about his powerful friends but doesn't give a hoot about ordinary Americans in distress. Ann S.

## Every 32 seconds

CUSTER PARK—Remember the 9/11 terrorist attack in 2001? America went to war immediately with Afghanistan in our pursuit of revenge and eventually killed Osama bin Laden. COVID-19 is now hitting us with almost as many deaths as a daily 9/11 attack as one American dies every 32 seconds every single day the impact of 9/11 fatalities. What has been the response from the White House? President Trump has behaved like an adolescent in high school rather than the president of an international superpower by calling the pandemic a hoax and poking fun at people wearing masks. In fact, Trump's radical right-wing supporters turned violent against governors who've been trying to keep the people safe. But it didn't have to get this bad. South Korea, Japan, New Zealand and many other nations have controlled the pandemic and life is nearly normal in those countries. Americans have nobody to blame but Trump and the irresponsible Republican lapdogs who foolishly followed Trump's every fancy. Gary W.

## The Grinch surprise

WILMINGTON—This year has put a test on all of us and the Grinch understood the cancellation of the grand parade even though I made the long journey just in case a miracle were to happen and I could partake in the event. I was here and ready. As I was in town I took a drive and saw some great bright lights on some homes, especially those homes with a replica of myself up front and center. So no parade was very disappointing, however, why not say thanks and meet my fans who use my beautiful face to decorate this time of year. I will be seeing you soon to give thanks to your support in hopes next year your neighbor with his sleigh and reindeer will realize what his display is missing. This year has been hard on us all however this may be the year my message hits home more than any other. Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store, perhaps Christmas means a little bit more. When seeing our family and hanging out is in question the gifts don't seem to matter, I tried telling ya.

## The downtown look

COAL CITY—The evergreens in all the cement planters on Broadway look great but it would have been nice to add at least a little bit of color during the holiday season even if it was a small branch spray painted red. Also, are we not going to hang any Christmas decorations on the new streetlights on Broadway or are the poles too tall for that? Not sure why they decided to go with such tall light poles. It kind of takes away from the small-town look. A lot of money was spent on this beautification project but in my opinion it wasn't spent wisely.

## Too early

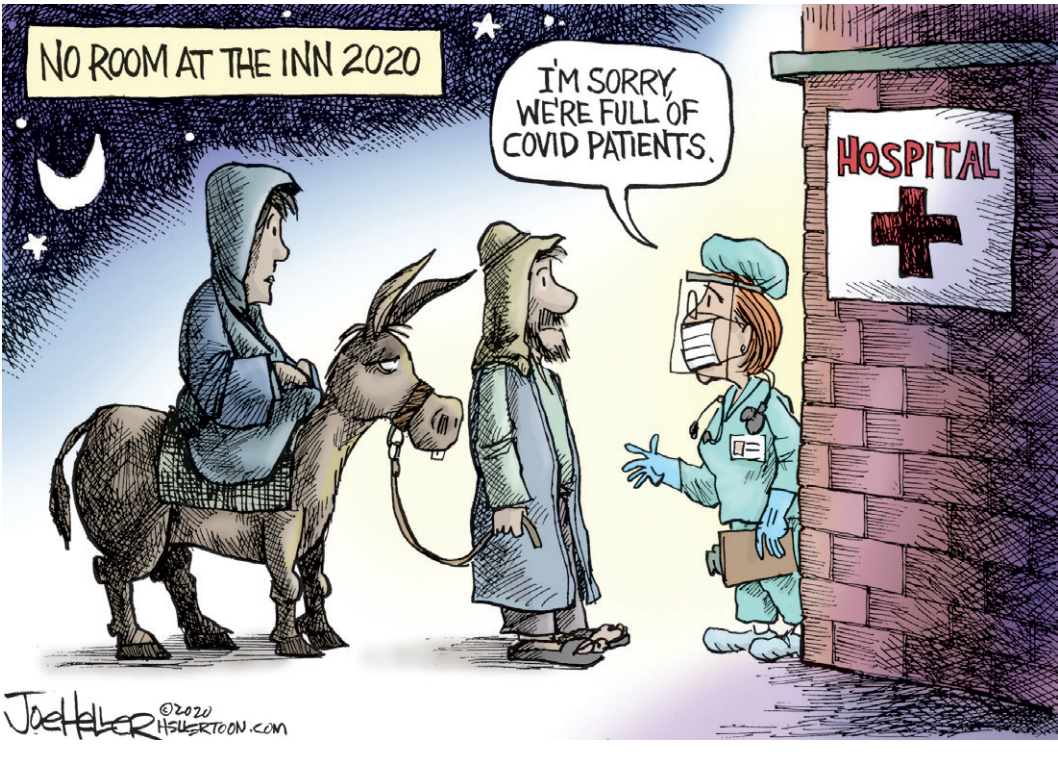
WILMINGTON—My heart and prayers go out to Mike Stroud's family. I will miss Mike. I really enjoyed his laugh and smile. Mike was genuine and had a good heart. I am grateful to have gotten to know Mike the last couple years. Christmas is going to be different this year and the following years for Mike's family including his two sons. So please keep them in your prayers. Jack Sadrakula

## Political corruption

COAL CITY—Get your facts straight before you give out 'fake' information and lie to the great readers of this publication. You do not know the real meaning of Socialism. China, Cuba, North Korea or Russia are Communist countries not Socialist countries. Sweden, for example, has been a Socialist nation for many years and appears to be functioning rather well.

## Just as good, cheaper

SHADOW LAKES—My question is why do states not allow employment that doesn't include union? Why do you have to be a union member? That should be an individual's choice and many union members are trained well, but so are many non-union people trained well. What is wrong with free employment? Unions are basically and have always been very socialist. So I see no problem with being a state with free employment. It should be your own choice if you want to work for a union or non-union company.



## Government control

COAL CITY—The Democrat party has placed unnecessary restrictions upon the American citizens while they prevented stimulus money from being sent to help people. While many small businesses will close because of the shutdowns, the Democratic leadership does not care because they will put American citizens out of work and force them to live under government control. The Democratic leadership will always make sure the government employees receive all the finances they need to enable them to live an easy life while Democratic leadership gives taxpayers funds to individuals from foreign lands as I laugh about how they will continue to destroy the USA. In their eyes the American citizen can live on food stamps while they give the American dream to people from foreign lands. Let them eat cake while the government employees and people from foreign lands live on steak and potatoes. Just as the Democratic way of life for the American citizen.

## Constantly changing

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching a movie "The Day After Tomorrow" which is all about global warming and it's an excellent movie. It's very interesting, it's definitely science fiction and I'm sure that a lot of people have watched this, especially people in the United Nations, the Dahlikes, the Weideners, Renee K., who contribute to the Soundoff column. It is a very good movie, but one thing everyone has to admit, long before humans were ever here and the Industrial Revolution there has been climate change. The earth has been tropical, it has been a ball of ice and reverted back and yes we are going to go back to that again. But it has nothing to do with what we the people are doing and if it does have anything to do with it you have to look at places like China. They are the worst contributors to global warming. My name is Dan Hill, thank you.

## A correction

WILMINGTON—This is a correction from my last week's Soundoff. I used the phrase objective truth with an O not subjective which is the opposite. Objective truth means it is a fact even if you don't believe it. As an example whether you are pro Trump or not, an objective truth is that he has cheated on his wives, he admitted to this and sexually assaulting women because they let you if you are famous. I hope that clears it up, Penny Lane.

## Return your PPP

WILMINGTON—Here is a question for the conservatives. Are you going to turn down the Paycheck Protection Program because it's socialist?

## Pledge to protect

WILMINGTON—There are many people in the U.S. that do not seem to understand, or

want to understand, that every government employee takes an oath of office to protect the laws of this country. To ensure that every American citizen has their legal rights to be enforced and that if any government employee which includes every politician throughout the USA does not honor the oath of office they can and should be legally charged with violating the laws of the USA but as every American citizen is aware that there is so much corruption throughout the USA that the violators of laws in the USA are given get out of jail free cards no matter what type or form of crime they may commit. Just look at the crimes involved in the election process that are being dismissed by Democratic judges and Democratic politicians. It shows they are willingly violating their oath of office but they are protected by the corrupt individuals so they can destroy American citizens lives and USA. Crime does pay if you are a Democrat.

## A lady's touch

COAL CITY—Way to go Garden Creations, the planters finally look great. Now if the city would let you decorate Campbell park. No offense city workers, but you have no idea how to string lights. I know it's not really your job. Let the ladies take over, please.

## Leeching America

SHADOW LAKES—When this country first began there were two political parties. One was the Federalist and the other was a Democrat. Then there was the Whig and Democratic party. After that it was always Republican vs. Democrat party. But now we have the Republican party and a bunch of people who do not care about laws or the Republican party and the Socialist party. With the Democratic party turning their backs to justice and the laws of our country, which the Democratic party does not believe, the American citizens should have any knowledge of what the Democratic party will be doing and all the citizens are suppose to do is shut up and behave like children that do not have the intelligence to understand anything but its ok for the Democratic party to have people in charge that do not even have the credentials to be employed as dog catchers. They will be in charge of everything even though some of them have millions of dollars in their bank they prefer to leech off the tax payers. Next we may have criminals in charge of the tax payers funds.

## Where's Trump?

To Dan Hill: As an avid Trump supporter can you explain to me why about-to-be-former President Trump has not acknowledged the death of Sgt. Jeremy Sherman of Watseka, IL, who was killed while on active duty overseas? If you claim that he did, please give me your sources so I can confirm this information. Thank you.

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## Commentary

# Lack of competition results in lack of life lessons for student athletes

BY MYLES MITCHELL

Ever since I was a young child, everyone told me that my high school years would be the best years of my life. I grew up in a small town in Illinois, where my idols were the varsity athletes that performed their talents in front of a big crowd.

That is really all we had in that small town, but people took pride in our athletics. The town gathered around Friday night lights, varsity basketball games, and playoff baseball games. These sports brought everyone together and unified a community as one.

I was a three-year varsity athlete on the football team and would have been a four-year starter on my high school varsity baseball team. The pandemic stole my senior year baseball season, just as it did to thousands of other ballplayers who waited 18 years to compete in what should have been the best year of our lives.

I am now a freshman in college at the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. Living in Wisconsin has given me a

much different perspective on life, even though geographically I am not very far from home. I thought that my class, the Class of 2020, had it the worst, but I now realize and feel sympathy for the Class of 2021 more than ever. These teenagers are not only missing out on the best year of their life, but they are missing out on valuable life lessons that they will never get back.

Competitive sports have taught me more about life than any classroom ever has. Sports teach you toughness, discipline, compassion, leadership, empathy, teamwork, respect, and most importantly, how to be a quality teammate. As the great Vince Lombardi once said, "Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

These life lessons are what the athletes from the Class of 2021 are missing out on. As everyone who lives in Illinois knows, Illinois is one of the few states who are not allowed to compete in "contact sports". I am making a call to the state of

Illinois and Governor Pritzker to give these kids the opportunity to live the best year of their life, and not tragically steal something from these athletes that will never be able to be bought back.

I was blessed to be able to participate with my teammates, friends, and brothers in my senior year of football.

Ever since 2013, my High School team had an ugly past with football. My team was projected to go 3-5 in the pre-season poll. We finished the year at 5-4, earning my school's first playoff appearance in six years.

These are memories that every kid on that roster will have with them forever. Football created a bond between my teammates, coaches, and staff that will never be able to be broken. I don't know what I would have done without my senior year football season, as up to this date, it is the most cherished and proudest event of my life.

If you don't believe the true passion that kids have for these sports, I wish you could experience what it is like in the locker room after the last loss

of a senior's football, baseball, or basketball career. Everyone would soon realize how much it means to any participant in high school athletics.

It truly saddens me that when you cross the state border, athletes in Wisconsin are getting these experiences, creating special bonds and friendships, and lastly experiencing ever-so-important life lessons that all high school athletes so desperately need, while athletes in Illinois are missing out on the same experiences that athletes in Wisconsin get to enjoy.

I have many friends that still attend high school, and this affects their lives more than anyone, other than them, can fathom. It is unfair to the parents, friends, and families who don't get to watch their son or daughter compete, but most importantly, it is unfair and cruel to the high schoolers who are having their seasons ripped away from them.

Enough is enough, let the kids play.  
Myles Mitchell is the son of Reed-Custer School Superintendent Mark Mitchell.

## Forest Preserve reports unusual December bird sightings

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has been tracking unusual bird sightings this year and December has brought a couple of bird-watching firsts to the area.

On Dec. 2, a great kiskadee was spotted along Front Street in Channahon near McKinley Woods. It's the first time a great kiskadee has been documented in Illinois.

On Dec. 4, a Baltimore oriole was spotted at Rock Run Rookery Preserve in Joliet. It's the first time a Baltimore oriole has been seen in Will County in December according to eBird.org. Kiskadees are not native to Illinois, and typically all Baltimore orioles have migrated by this time of year.

The great kiskadee was reported by John Weisgerber and later posted on the <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/ILRBA/permalink/3219497668162068">https://www.facebook.com/groups/ILRBA/permalink/3219497668162068</a> Illinois Rare Bird Alert Facebook Group. Bob Bryerton, a program coordinator for the Forest Preserve, said the bird may have been blown off course by a hurricane because the species lives in southern Texas and Central and South America and it is not a migratory bird.

The Baltimore oriole sighting was reported on the



Courtesy photo by Michael Nagrocki

**BALTIMORE ORIOLE** at Rock Run Rookery in Joliet. Typically all Baltimore orioles have all migrated south by now.

Forest Preserve's <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/willcountylife/permalink/1562327913975331">https://www.facebook.com/groups/willcountylife/permalink/1562327913975331</a> Will County Wildlife Facebook group by Michael Nagrocki, who headed out to the preserve to look for bald eagles.

Bryerton said he isn't sure why the oriole is hanging around. "It apparently didn't get the memo that it was supposed to leave," he said. "Only time will tell if this is a shift and they are starting to stay north longer."

Bryerton said it is becoming easier to document unusual or rare bird sightings because of birding websites such as eBird.org and social media. "People being able to document and share these rare sightings may help us to get more detail on these birds' movements and could change the way we think about their range and migration going forward."

Additional rare bird sightings so far have included: a Eurasian wigeon along Front Street in Channahon, a yellow-crowned night heron at Whalon Lake in Naperville, American avocets at Whalon Lake, black-bellied whistling ducks at Monee Reservoir in Monee Township, a painted bunting at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, a black-legged kittiwake at Whalon Lake and a red-throated loon at Whalon Lake.

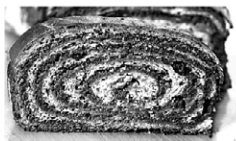
"This is one of the reasons birders go out and bird as often as possible," Bryerton said. "You never know what you will run into on the trail, and any day can be the day when you find something rare or new for your area."

For more information on unusual and rare bird sightings, visit the Current Headlines page at <a href="https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>ReconnectWithNature.org.</a>



A GREAT KISKADEE was spotted in Channahon near McKinley Woods. The Forest Preserve District of Will County is documenting these sightings on its website, ReconnectWithNature.org.

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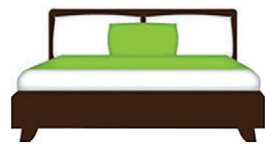
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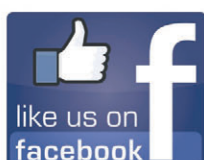
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# Friends step up to help business owner recovering from COVID-19

## STAFF REPORT

There's no better time to buy a quality knife—be it for yourself or for gift giving—than now if you're interested in helping a small business owner who has always believed in helping the community.

Now it's a community of friends who are trying to help him.

Rich Quigley, owner of Quigley Quality Cutlery at 195 E. Main St., Braidwood, was in and out of the hospital and back in since contracting the coronavirus. His store has been closed for almost two months during what would

normally be his busiest time of the year.

Knowing that 2020 has already been a tough year for the knife shop, officers of the Braidwood Chapter of the Knights of Columbus sent an email blast to members asking for volunteers to help operate the shop in his absence.

The response was extraordinary. So many volunteers said yes that they're expanding the business' regular hours through two days before Christmas.

"It's the least we can do for Rich as he's always doing what he can to take care of the communities of Wilmington and Braidwood, their churches and

the surrounding area," commented Grand Knight Dave Wollgast.

Volunteers have filled the shifts for this week.

"I originally set it up for evening shifts during the week and middle of the day over the weekend for one week," Wollgast said. "I didn't want to burden the guys with it right before Christmas. However the Knights quickly stepped up and filled all the shifts and are expressing a desire to do whatever they can and have had some of the Knights wives offer the same as well."

The plan is to keep the shop open through the day before Christmas Eve

(Wednesday, Dec. 23) and extending the hours from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. during the week and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

They've even come up with their own promotion to try and drum up business.

"We have a wheel set up and anyone who comes in can spin it for a chance to win prizes, candy cane, gift certificates etc. and anyone purchasing anything over \$10 gets put in a drawing for a \$50 gift card," Wollgast said.

Quigley also operates Rich's Lock and Key in Wwilmington, a service he's been providing for more than 37 years.

# Quarantine days shortened under new guidelines

The Grundy County Health Department has received direction from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) concerning the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) change in quarantine timeline.

Grundy County announced Tuesday afternoon that it was adopting this change effective immediately.

The CDC continues to recommend a quarantine period of 14 days. However, the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives.

Quarantine can end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring. And, quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring.

The specimen test may be collected and tested within 48 hours before the time of planned quarantine discontin-

uation [in anticipation of testing delays], but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than day eight. In other words, the earliest they could test would be on day six.

Due to the risk of severe illness and congregate transmission, IDPH does not recommend application of the two shortened quarantine options in congregate settings.

With both options the following additional criteria through day 14 must be met: Correct and consistent mask use [including within homes], social distancing, hand and cough hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, avoiding crowds, ensuring adequate indoor ventilation, monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 illness, and minimizing contact with persons at increased risk for severe illness, including vulnerable and congregate populations.

Grundy County Health Department requires self-monitoring to be conducted for the entire 14-day period, resuming quarantine and contacting a healthcare provider if any of the following symptoms present—fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting or diarrhea.

# Helping those in need



**WITH THE SUCCESS** of its drive-in movie, the On Broadway Dancers will stream the 2020 Christmas show—“Signed, Sealed, Delivered,” on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. In lieu of ticket sales, the dance company is asking viewers to make a monetary donation. All donations and proceeds from this year's show that featured the On Broadway Dancers Junior and Senior Company dancers and the acting of Jake Scerine [left] and Caleb Swick [right] will benefit local families in need this holiday season. Links for the show and donation information will be posted Friday, Dec. 11 on the dance company's website at onbroadwaydancers.com and on Facebook at Broadway Dance Center. To date, OBD's annual Christmas shows have generated over \$37,000 for food, clothing and gifts for local families.

# IESA running out of money starts 'Go Fund Me' campaign

**BY SHAWN LONG**  
 SPORTS WRITER

The Illinois Elementary School Association could cease to exist if it doesn't get emergency funding, as much as \$1 million, to counteract the loss of revenue from not being allowed to host state tournaments.

In a letter sent Monday to school superintendents, IESA Executive Director Steve Endsley implored school officials statewide to support a 'Go Fund Me' campaign to keep the IESA alive.

"The cancellation of the volleyball, wrestling and track and field state championships last school year resulted in a loss of about \$440,000 to our budget," Endsley revealed.

"We certainly hope we are able to do so (host tournaments) but only time will tell. If we are not able to have them, that could easily mean an additional loss of at least \$1 million. The income from tournaments is our lifeblood. We simply cannot continue to operate with no income."

The IESA has been able to keep operations running from membership dues and entry fees schools pay for sporting events but will run out of money within four months.

"As I mentioned above, without our tournaments, we have no income," added Endsley. "Even with the loss of two administrators in July, positions we did not fill, we will literally run out of money in April. We have been spending our reserves to keep our doors open just like any business. If the income is not greater than expenses, the business will not survive."

That forced Endsley and the IESA Board of Directors to launch a Go Fund Me campaign with a goal of \$500,000.

"We are not a state agency and our operating funds come from the membership dues and state tournament admissions," commented Endsley. "We are asking for help from anyone and everyone that has had some affiliation with IESA over the years. As a 32-year employee, it seems surreal that this is the step that must be taken to survive. As difficult as it is for me to grasp the magnitude of our financial loss, I also know that we are not in this position because funds have been mismanaged. It is simply due to the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and unfortunately it is the hand we have been dealt."

Endsley said that without any income, the Association

may be forced to pause all activities and perhaps close its doors.

"We have been operation for 91 years. We have never had to take this kind of action. But, it would be a shame to lose the only organization in the country that is exclusively set-up to govern and administer athletic and non-athletic interscholastic activities for students in grades 5-8. IESA is that unique."

To donate to the IESA's Go Fund Me page, go to <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/the-campaign-to-save-iesa>.

All donations received will be deposited into the general operating fund and while there is no guarantee that the donations will get sports back up and running for the 2020-21 school year.

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# Toast to the end of 2020 with a champagne cocktail

We are only weeks away from the end of a year that none of us, in a million years, would ever sign up for. I'm sure many of us will mark the occasion with a socially distanced champagne toast, so this week I will share a few champagne tips and while we're talking champagne, we will pour a few classic champagne cocktails.

I can honestly say that outside of the occasional wedding toast, I take only a few sips of champagne a year. Those sips are on New Year's Eve, and I am not alone. In fact, according to WalletHub, an estimated 360 million glasses of champagne are consumed on New Year's Eve in a "normal" year. That's a lot of bubbly.

I have nothing against champagne on its own. Honestly, I can take or leave a stand-alone glass of champagne. However, champagne in a cocktail is an entirely different story. The bubbly texture and sweet fruit notes can add depth (fruit) and sparkle (bubbles) to a wide array of cocktails.

The most popular champagne cocktails year in and year out are the Champagne Cocktail, and the Mimosa. The French 75 is an amazing drink that typically is made this time of year, the only time that many of us have a stray bottle of champagne laying around.

Before we get started, I would like to issue a warning in the interest of public safety: If you have never opened a bottle of champagne, do your homework. Watch a YouTube video, read an article from a food/wine publication, or have someone experienced open the champagne.

Champagne is pressurized, and that cork is a projec-

tile that is just waiting to take flight across your living room and hit something, or someone. Be careful.

The hardest part of the champagne toast isn't the toast itself, it's the purchase. So many questions. Does my champagne need to be "expensive"? Will it be any good if it is not expensive? At what price point does decent champagne begin?

The good news is that you don't have to bring home a bottle Dom Perignon to have an enjoyable toast, or prepare delicious champagne cocktails. Having said that, I would not spend less than \$30 on a bottle of champagne. Any perceived savings will be negated by a lingering New Year's Day headache.

\$50 seems to be the magic price point for good options in the champagne aisle. Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label Brut Champagne is widely available for around \$50, in fact it is the top-selling champagne in the US. Veuve Clicquot carries a medium-bodied fruit flavor, ripe fruit aromas, along with nutty notes. It's #1 for a reason.

If you love Chardonnay, reach for a bottle of Taittinger Brut La Française. Taittinger is also widely available around the \$50 price point. Since Taittinger is 40% Chardonnay, expect plenty of berry and white fruit aromas with sweet apple notes.

The best champagne south of \$40 is Sotheby's Grand Cru Blanc De Blancs, which usually rings up around \$37 when you can find it. You know the drill for toasting,



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

pour champagne in your glass and toast. Let's make some cocktails.

First up is the Champagne Cocktail, a drink that you have likely had at a New Year's Eve celebration and were unaware that it has a name. Remember that time that you were served a glass of Champagne with a red sugar cube in



the glass? This is it.

In the simplest terms, the Champagne cocktail is a sugar cube soaked in bitters dropped into a glass of champagne. When I say soaked, I mean soaked. Don't be shy with the bitters when soaking the sugar cubes, and use Angostura Aromatic Bitters. Be sure to drop the soaked sugar cubes in as close as possible to the mid-night toast as the sugar tends to dissolve quickly.

The Champagne Cocktail is built and served in a champagne flute.

Pour 5 oz. champagne into a chilled flute  
Soak one sugar cube in angostura bitters

Drop cube into flute  
Garnish with lemon twist

Rarely do I miss an opportunity to mix up a French 75. The French 75 is basically a Gin Sour topped with champagne, and one of the most underappreciated drinks in all of mixology.

Fill your shaker with ice and shake the gin, lemon juice, and sugar. Do not shake the champagne, or you will be left with a frothy, bitter film on top of the drink. Strain the drink into a chilled glass, then top with champagne.

The French 75 is Built in a

shaker and served in a tall fizz glass.

Combine in shaker:

1 oz. gin  
1/2 oz. fresh lemon juice  
1/2 oz. simple syrup  
Shake with ice, then strain into a tall fizz glass.

Top with 1 oz. champagne  
Mimosas are not rocket science, although a bottomless drink does defy some laws of physics. Stick with a 2:1 ratio of champagne to orange juice and you will be the MVP of your New Year's brunch.

If you find that Mimosas are too light and fluffy for your taste, add a teaspoon of a quality orange liqueur for depth. A splash of Gran Mariner is a fine addition to a Mimosa.

The Mimosa is built and served in a chilled champagne flute.

Fill flute about 1/3 full of orange juice, approximately 2 oz.

Top with 4 oz. brut champagne

Add 1 tsp. Gran Mariner (optional)

67% of Americans will make a New Year's Resolution, on average only 8% will keep those resolutions. Let's raise a glass to the 8%.

# Leadership team elected by Will County Board

Organizational leadership took shape on Monday, Dec. 7 as Will County Board members re-elected Dr. Mimi Cowan to a full two year term as Speaker, while Meta Mueller was selected as Majority Leader and Mike Fricilone was chosen as Minority Leader. Margaret Tyson will serve as Democratic Caucus Whip and Judy Ogalla will serve as Republican Caucus Whip.

"We have made great progress this past year, but we have major challenges facing our county as we simultaneously grapple with a worldwide pandemic, severe stress on our resources, and a struggling economy," said Speaker Cowan. "I am humbled to accept this position as Will County Board Speaker and I am committed to working on behalf of all of the residents of our county while at the same time maintaining fiscally responsible county government operations."

The county board last month approved the new FY 21 budget that began on December 1st. The total budget is \$718 million, of which \$258 million is in the Corporate fund and \$460 mil-

lion is in special funds. The new budget meets all of the county's debt obligations, and contributes over \$2 million towards the county's required pension and other retirement obligations. These strong fiscal practices have allowed the County to maintain its AA+ bond rating.

"I look forward to working with the Speaker to serve the needs of our constituents in the coming year," said Fricilone. "There is no shortage of work to be done during these trying times and we will work together to do what is best for Will County taxpayers."

In the past year, the county board worked diligently to support the response to the Coronavirus pandemic which has caused higher unemployment rates in Will County and has also contributed to revenue loss in both the public and private sectors. New Majority Leader Meta Mueller noted it has been a balancing act to fund critical services in the face of reduced tax receipts. Federal funds have helped offset the pain that COVID -19 has wrought on businesses, local taxing bod-

ies, non-profits, and residents in the county.

"Will County received more than \$120.5 million in federal coronavirus relief funds this year," said Mueller. "We've worked hard to quickly distribute those relief funds throughout the county but we know that our work is not done yet."

The county board created a Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) committee in 2020 to oversee the distribution of the \$120.5 million in relief funds. Over \$66 million were directed to local taxing bodies that provide vital services to residents and have been impacted by COVID-19. The initial allocation of funds directed \$24.1 million to small businesses and farms, \$12 million to individuals needing support for shelter, food, and utilities, \$6 million for non-profits, and \$12 million for other needs like public safety. The county board will continue to prioritize the response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Also on the board's agenda in the new year will be continuing work on critical infrastructure improvements, and

additional progress of a master plan for managing and optimizing logistics and truck traffic through the county.

"These are challenging times," said Speaker Cowan. "We're ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work."

# Public invited to take IDOT traveler survey

The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking feedback on the state's transportation system through its annual Illinois Traveler Opinion Survey, available through Dec. 31. The survey is available online by visiting [www.idot.illinois.gov](http://www.idot.illinois.gov).

"Learning the public's views on our transportation system is a great tool. This information allows us to better understand travel habits as well as areas where we're doing a good job and those that may need improvements," said Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. "We represent and try to meet the best interests of all Illinois citizens and individual travelers and in an effort to help us continue to provide the best service, please take a few minutes to complete the survey."

The annual survey, conducted in partnership with the University of Illinois Springfield, seeks feedback on topics ranging from road conditions and ice-and-snow removal to commuting habits and driving behaviors.

Questions also ask travelers for feedback about any changes in their travel habits due to the pandemic, the IDOT website, the state's rest areas and passenger rail use.

The Illinois Traveler Opinion Survey has been conducted annually since 2001. A copy of the 2019 survey and results, as well as data collected from past years, can be

viewed on their website.

For IDOT updates or view area construction details go to

[GettingAroundIllinois.com](http://GettingAroundIllinois.com).

Godley Park District will be hosting a Facebook live Virtual Tree Lighting December 11th at 5:00 p.m.

This is a strictly virtual event, but you can join in the fun by following us on Facebook.

**Calls from Santa!** Call the Godley Park District through December 18th to sign up your child for a call from SANTA! Time slots will be available on Dec. 21 and 22 between 8am and 6pm. Parents will need to pick a time for the call and provide the child's name, phone number, and some possible gift ideas.

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# OBITUARIES

## Donald Bock

 Donald Keith Bock, 85, formerly of St. Joseph, IL, Barrington, IL and Wilmington, passed away on Dec. 4, 2020 in South Barrington, IL. Donald was born on Aug. 25, 1935, in Cape Girardeau, MO, the son of Theodore W. and Mabel M. (nee Burke) Bock. He was the second of three boys. His brothers were Phillip and Barry. He attended Wilmington High School until his senior year, when he attended Barrington High School, from which he graduated, having lettered in multiple sports. He attended the University of Iowa, where he received a full scholarship to play baseball and became an All-Big Ten catcher. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism.

Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as first lieutenant and paratrooper. He was stationed at the Fifth Army Headquarters in Chicago, in the public information section until 1960. After leaving the military, he worked as an English teacher at both Libertyville and Barrington High Schools, where he also coached football and baseball. In 1968, he left teaching and began a successful 30-year career in insurance sales and training. He retired in 2000 to St. Joseph, IL. Donald met Darlene Clementine DeQuaker in Chicago in the spring of 1959, and they married on Oct. 17, 1959, at St. Celestine's Catholic Church in Elmwood Park,


IL. He converted to Roman Catholicism at that time.

After retirement, Donald served as head usher at his parish, St. Matthew Catholic Church in Champaign, IL. He was an avid Civil War enthusiast. He enjoyed golf and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Donald is survived by his wife, Darlene Clementine (nee DeQuaker) Bock; his brother, Barry Bock (Joyce); daughter, Diane M. Ebert (Norm); daughter, Cynthia A. Metzger (Kurt); son, David P. Bock (Celeste) and son, James E. Bock (Beth); grandchildren: Troy Vanco (Erica), Kevin Alexander (Colleen), Kristin Alexander, Emily Lange (Jordan), Brianna Alexander, Jake Bock (Kristi), Shayne Bock, Alyssa Alexander, Rachael Metzger, Trevor Bock and Hayley Bock; great-grandsons: Preston and Graham Vanco, and Nathan Alexander and granddaughters, Jillian and Isla Lange. He was preceded in death by his brother, Phillip Bock (Gloria).

A funeral Mass for family and close friends was held at St. Hubert Catholic Church in Hoffman Estates on Monday, Dec. 7, 2020. Online condolences can be sent to [www.ahlgriumfuneral.com](http://www.ahlgriumfuneral.com).

Ahlgrium & Sons Funeral and Cremation Services, Ltd. was in charge of arrangements.

## Charles Bristow

 BRAIDWOOD—Charles Bristow, 69, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020. Born Sept. 11, 1951 in Brandenburg, KY, he was the son of David and Lucile (nee Crawford) Bristow. He retired from Caterpillar Tractor Co. after 32 years of service. Charlie loved the outdoors. He could always be found outside in his shed where family, friends and neighbors would often stop by. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, cooking and grilling.

Surviving are his longtime friend, Ann DuBois; two children, Jake (Katie) Bristow and Amy Warden, both of Fort Meyers, FL; three grandchildren: Jesse Bristow, Kya Warden and Brody Bristow; one sister, Eva Gresham, of Shorewood, three brothers: Kenneth (Ida) Bristow, of El Paso, IL; Louis Bristow, of

Chrisman, IL and Thomas (Sharon) Bristow, of Franklin, OH; sister-in-law, Lori Bristow, of Chrisman, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.


Preceding him in death were his parents, infant sister, Louise; sister, Deanie Morris; brother, William Bristow; brothers-in-law, Tom Morris and Don Gresham and sister-in-law, Sandy Bristow.

Cremation rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to Joliet Area Community Hospice.

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

## James Dabulskis

 JOLIET—James Richard Dabulskis, 76, of Joliet, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 at AMITA Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Sept. 19, 1944 in Chicago, James was a son of Joseph and Edythe (Gillis) Dabulskis. He was raised and educated in Lemont, and then enlisted into the United States Army. Following his military service, James worked as a television repairman and owned and operated J&B TV in Joliet. He had a great fascination with electronics and spent many hours tinkering with them. James also enjoyed going fishing and taking nature walks in Pilcher Park, and will be remembered for his deep belief in Jesus Christ.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Ann (Pearce) Dabulskis, of Joliet; three children: James (Janice) Dabulskis, of Coal City; Laurie (John) Luther, of Joliet and Bryan (Amy) Dabulskis, of Decatur; eight grandchildren: Amanda (Branden) Griffiths of Highland, Crystal Torres (fiancé Michael Kowaluk), of Portage, IN; Jacob Luther (Jessica Price), of Rochelle; Tabitha Dabulskis, of Joliet; Anthony

(Nicole) Torres, of Hartland, MI; Alexandra Scheidt (Greg Watkins), of Murietta, CA; Justin Dabulskis, of Coal City and Madison Luther, of Joliet; seven great-grandchildren, one brother and one sister, Kathleen (Wayne) Schlueter and Robert Dabulskis and several nieces and nephews.


James was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Joseph Dabulskis.

Per James' wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and a private Memorial Mass will be held at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City. Inurnment with military honors will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

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

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

## Robert E. Roman

 ROCKFORD—Robert E. Roman, 90, of Rockford, IL, passed away Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 of a short illness complicated by Covid-19. He was born in Chicago on Aug. 8, 1930, the son of Gino and Irene (DiSpirit) Roman. He was a 1947 graduate of St. Thomas High School and 1952 graduate of Loras College. He married Barbara Ann Dworak in Rockford on Feb. 2, 1952 at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Robert started his career in flooring construction with Northern Illinois Terrazzo and Tile. He went on to join in partnership with his son, David and started RD Roman Inc. He spent 60 years of his life in the business he loved; sharing it with his sons, David and Gregory. Robert coached his children in baseball and basketball and could be found in the stands at all their games; be it football, baseball, volleyball, or wrestling. Robert was dedicated to his family and leaves them with wonderful memories of summer vacations in Lake Mills, WI.

Surviving Robert is his wife of 68 years, Barbara; children: Robert Jr. (Mary), of St. Louis;

Mark (Teri), of Watchung, NJ; David (Janet), of Rockford; Mary Colette (Donald) Szeszycki, of Iowa City, IA; Mary Theresa (Jeffrey) Fisher, of Wilmington; Elizabeth (Jerry) Linder, of San Francisco, CA and Gregory (Patti), of Rockford; loved by his grandchildren: Melissa, Maggie, David Jr., Tony, Anne, Susie, Emily, Tony, Elizabeth, Claire, Allison, Brian, Christine, Jerome, Barbara, Bekkie, and Gino; great-grandchildren: Roman, Mimi, Leigh, Charlie, David III, Nathan, Everly, and Bennett; sister and brother-in-law, Anna Marie and Richard Arbisi; nieces and nephews.


He is predeceased by his parents and granddaughter, Katie.

Private Family Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be available via Zoom at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020; meeting ID: 831 5011 5933 and passcode: 123.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Crusader Clinic.

Share online condolences at [www.fitzgeraldfh.com](http://www.fitzgeraldfh.com)

## Gary M. Frazier

 COAL CITY—Gary M. Frazier, 67, of Coal City passed away Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at his home.

Born Dec. 6, 1952 in Chicago, Gary Melvin was a son of Ransford and Louise (Pardus) Frazier. He was raised in Chicago and Roselle, and joined the Pipefitter's Local 597 as a welder. Gary worked at all the area nuclear power generation stations during his career, until he retired in 2010. He took great pleasure in being in nature and spending his time fishing and hunting.

Survivors include his brother and two sisters: Lynn Marie (Ted) Ballent, of Houston, TX; Peggy Ann (Ray) Tamasauskas, of Vernon Hills and David Lee (Pam) Frazier, of Covington, IN;

several nieces and nephews, and his dear friend, Emma Smith and her family.


Gary was preceded in death by his parents and several aunts and uncles.

Per Gary's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and private memorial services will be held at a later date.

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

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

## William J. Keagle

 WILMINGTON—William J. Keagle, 74, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at his home.

Born Aug. 24, 1946 in Joliet, he was the son of Robert and Inez (nee Oliver) Keagle. Bill was a proud Veteran of the United States Navy, having served during the Vietnam War. During his time in the service he received the National Defense Service Medal, four bronze stars with the Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Metal, and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon. He attended the First Baptist Church in Morris and also enjoyed attending other churches, such as the First Baptist Church in Coal City. Bill also had a love for fishing and boating.

Surviving are his two daughters, Cheryl Christiansson, of Coal City and Andrea (Thomas) Hanna, of Braidwood; seven grandchildren: Alexandria, Tyler, Anamaree, Kortnie, Blake, Jeremy and Jacob; four great-grandchildren: Natalie, Brent, Aiden and Layla; one brother, David Keagle; one sister, Sharon Miller and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Visitation for Bill will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020 from 12-3 p.m. with a funeral service beginning at 3 p.m. with Pastor Bob Hahn officiating.

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


Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment with military honors will be at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the family to help with funeral expenses.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

## Debbie Jaudon

 WILMINGTON—Debbie Jaudon, 61, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 following a valiant battle with cancer.

Born May 24, 1959 in Joliet, Deborah Gay was a daughter of Edith (nee Bengé) Jaudon and John Jaudon. She was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1977. Debbie worked for Kerr Glass for 18 years until their closing, and then gained employment with St. Joseph Medical Center.

One who loved being outside, whether working in the yard or spending time poolside, Debbie also enjoyed cooking and baking. She took great pleasure in hand crafts and loved to both crochet and diamond paint. Her puppies were wonderful companions, and she will most be remembered as a loving and dear daughter and sister.

Survivors include her mother, Edith and one brother, Pete Jaudon, both of Wilmington; aunts and uncles: Ron and Brenda Bengé, of Wilmington; Laurine and Melvin Heal, of Sarasota, FL; Corky and Joanne Jaudon, of Alabama; Patricia Jaudon, of Sardis, MS and Opal Jaudon, of Arkansas and cousins: Jim and Lisa Bengé, of Douglas, WY; Bob Bengé (Geoffrey), of Ft. Lauderdale, FL; Ronnie and Jill

Bengé, of Pensacola, FL; Mick and Victoria Bengé, of Martinsville, IN; Randy and Laurie Melvin, of Wilmington and Valerie and Marcus Montgomery, of Louisville, KY as well as her Godchildren: Billie Jo and Bobbie Jo Smothers.

Debbie was preceded in death by both her maternal and paternal grandparents; her father, John in 2000; aunt, Gloria Kunz; uncle Jerry Bengé and cousin, Katrina Kunz.


Private family services will be held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington with Deacon Jay Plese from St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington presiding. Debbie will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington with her father.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Debbie's memory to the Lung Cancer Research Foundation.

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

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

## William B. Davis Jr.

 WILMINGTON—William B. Davis Jr., "Bill," "Butch," 75, late of Wilmington passed away peacefully on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Joliet, raised in Lockport, living in Gardner, Joliet, and a resident of Wilmington since 2013. Bill was a dedicated truck driver for 36 years, retiring from NFI Trucking in 2009. He loved watching TV, but above all else he loved talking to and spending time with his cherished family.

He is survived by the mother of his children, Margaret M. (Nee Ondersin) Davis; his children: William B. (Jennifer) Davis III, Stephen (Pamela) Davis and Jenna (Philip) Boersma;


four adored grandchildren: Caleb Davis, Marissa Davis, Michael Davis and Andrew Boersma; his brothers: Tim, James, Martin, Robert and Patrick Davis and his sisters: Katherine Greenway, Ruth Seplak and Mary Ash. Numerous other loved family members and friends also survive.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William B. Davis Sr. and Frances G. (Nee Seely) Davis and a brother, Charles P. Davis.

Per Williams wishes cremation rites have been respectfully addressed.

Arrangements were made under the care and direction of O'Neil Funeral Home in Lockport.

## Carol Spring

 WILMINGTON—Carol Ann Spring (nee Hubbert), 67, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at Amity St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. Born Oct. 29, 1953 in Aurora, IL, she was the daughter of George and Rose (nee Walker) Hubbert.

Carol was a bus driver and retired after 30 years employment. She drove for many school districts, such as Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Yorkville and Joliet. She was an avid animal lover and was known to always have pets around the house.

Surviving are her husband of 46 years, Charles A. Spring of Wilmington, who she married Nov. 2, 1974 in Downers Grove, IL; two children, Robyn (Jerry Watenpaugh) Cox of Wilmington and Jason (Kathy Craig) Spring, of

Bolingbrook; four grandchildren: Kayla, Delaney, Seth, and Jerod; two sisters, Bobbie Cardelli, of Downers Grove and Randi (Carry) Daugherty, of Beloit, WI and numerous nieces and nephews.


Preceding her in death were her parents; and one nephew, Sean Cardelli.

Cremation rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name to your favorite charity would be appreciated.

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

## George Robles

 COAL CITY—George Edward Robles, 67, of Coal City, passed away Dec. 3, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

He was born Aug. 20, 1953, in Chicago to Luis Robles and Juanita Taylor, one of nine children raised in Chicago and Aguascalientes, Mexico. After working for several years in construction, George opened the Coal City Fruit Market, a family owned business, and grew the business to become the La Cocina Restaurant. George also worked several years as the custodian at the Coal City United Methodist Church.

George really enjoyed singing karaoke, preparing food for friends, and fixing things for others. Mostly, George loved being with family. He was a fighter, overcoming the adversity of many health issues and never gave up.

In memory of a life so beautifully lived, a heart so deeply loved, George was the strongest and most caring husband, father, grandfather and friend there could ever be. He was always there to make everyone laugh and make sure everyone was taken care of with everything they needed. He touched the lives of so many people and though he will no longer be with us physically, he will always be in our hearts. He will always be watching over us in heaven where he is no longer suffering. This passing of such a

wonderful, kind-hearted man took us all by surprise but we will now live life in his name. We will continue to strive because that is what he would have wanted.

Gracias por los bonitos momentos de mi ninez que nos dio mi papa y lo queremos mucho vivimos muy feliz a lado de el—de parte de tus hijos.

George is survived by his wife, Yadira, 8 children: Leonardo Flores, Jose Flores, Eric Flores, all of Hanover Park; Laura Flores, Ana Flores, Jasmin Robles, Jackquelin Robles and George Robles, of all Coal City; 12 grandchildren: Leonardo, Karla, Emiliano, Renatha, Matteo, Kimberly, Erika, Alejandro, Pamela, Melani, Esteban and Natalia.

A memorial service was held Dec. 5, 2020, at Ferrari Funeral Services in Coal City. George will be cremated and his remains will be taken to Mexico.

The family is grateful for your prayers and support during this difficult time.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services was in charge of arrangements.



# OBITUARIES

## Kathleen M. Grady

COAL CITY—Kathleen M. Grady, 73, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

She was born on July 29, 1947 in Chicago to Daniel Sr. and Helen (nee Krasnopolski) Grady. Kathleen grew up with her close family in the Chicago area and graduated from Gage Park High School. She worked for Central Steel and Wire Company, in the records department for over 42 years. She was a dedicated employee and retired to the Goose Lake area in 2008.

Kathleen was extremely kind and generous. She loved spending time with family and friends. Her fun loving spirit, contagious laugh and sweet smile comforted many. In her younger years, she enjoyed water-skiing, hunting, fishing and spending time at the lake. She loved travel and adventure, and took many family vacations. She enjoyed good food, wine and holiday celebrations. She always looked forward to the springtime when she could plant her flowers and watch them bloom. Kathy absolutely loved children and children loved her kindred soul. Kathleen struggled with MS for 37 years, yet she remained the heart of her



family. She is survived by her nieces, Tama (David) Kovar, of Coal City and Kelly (Douglas) Fite, of Morris and her great-nephews and niece, David Kovar Jr. and Alysia and Daniel Fite.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Daniel Sr. and Helen Grady, her brothers, Daniel Grady Jr. and James Grady, and her sister, Eileen Grady.

Kathleen and her brother, James K. Grady, who passed away on Nov. 21, 2020, will share their visitation from 2 until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City. Funeral services will be private following the visitation.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Visitors are asked to wear a mask, observe social distancing guidelines, and please be brief with condolences.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrari-funeral.com](http://www.ferrari-funeral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## James K. Grady

COAL CITY—James K. Grady, 69, of Coal City, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

James, or Jimmy as he was known to his loved ones, was born on May 8, 1951 in Chicago to Daniel Sr. and Helen (nee Krasnopolski) Grady. He grew up with his close family in the Chicago area and graduated from St. Rita Of Cascia Catholic High School. He received his 45 year pin with the Heat and Frost Insulators Local #17. He moved to the Goose Lake area in 1984 and was a longtime member of the Goose Lake Association Board of Directors.

Jimmy enjoyed living at his lake home and was a perfect host to family and friends. His home was a gathering place where he could share the beauty of the outdoors with those he cared for. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was known affectionately to many as "Moe." With his bright white hair and beard, Jimmy was an excellent Santa Claus at Christmas time and played him at many local events.

He is survived by his sister, Kathleen Grady of Coal City; his nieces, Tama (David) Kovar of



Coal City and Kelly (Douglas) Fite of Morris and his great niece and nephews, David Kovar Jr. and Alysia and Daniel Fite.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Sr. and Helen Grady; his brother, Daniel Grady Jr. and his sisters, Eileen Grady and Kathleen Grady.

Jimmy and his sister, Kathleen M. Grady, who passed away on Dec. 1, 2020, will share their visitation from 2 until 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City. Funeral services will be private following the visitation.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Visitors are asked to wear a mask, observe social distancing guidelines, and please be brief with condolences.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrari-funeral.com](http://www.ferrari-funeral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Michael C. Stroud

WILMINGTON—Michael C. Stroud, 49, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Dec. 23, 1970 in Joliet, Michael Craig was a son of Mary (nee Hale) Holloway and the late Ricky J. Stroud. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1989. Following graduation, Mike gained employment with the City of Wilmington, where he has worked for the past 31 years, currently in the water reclamation plant. He was a member of Braidwood Recreational Club, and loved to golf. Mike will most be remembered as a great dad, who was dearly loved as a son, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin and friend to many.

Survivors include his mother, Mary Holloway, of Wilmington; step-father, Ralph (Sue) Zarada, of Niles, IL; two sons, Nicholas Michael Stroud and Matthew Shireman; sister, Kimberly Hawks; brother, Kevin (Samantha) Zarada and his cousin, Michelle Forsythe (Tom Sanford) who was like a sister, all of Wilmington; four nephews: Rylan, Kellan, Jace and Jaxon; aunts and uncles: Donna Hale, Connie (Leonard) Forsythe and Paula (Joe) Spurlock, all of Wilmington; Delores Stroud, of Georgia; Dorlene Keith, of Braidwood; Jolene Brian, of Ohio; Connie Norman, of Wilmington; Mark (Bonnie) Hootman, of Texas and Debbie Hootman, of Nevada, and numerous cousins, including his local cousins: Joey Spurlock (Macy), Jared Spurlock, James (Beth) Norman and Linda (Jeff) Mueller.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Rick Stroud; maternal grandparents, Clayton and Mildred Hale and paternal grandparents: Kay (Bob) Stroud and Dean (Beverly) Hootman.



The family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020 between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington. 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 with Pastor Mike Medlin officiating.

Those wishing to participate in Mike's funeral service online are welcome to join the live-streamed service beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. This virtual service is accessible by logging onto his memorial page.

Green flameless cremation rites will be accorded following the services, and Mike will be privately laid to rest with his grandmother in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Mike's memory to the Christian Help Association (to support children in the community during the Christmas Season) 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481

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

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

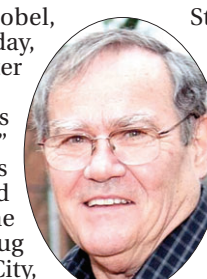
## Douglas E. Strobel

WILMINGTON—Douglas E. Strobel, 79, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Dec. 7, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 1, 1941 in Joliet, Douglas Edward was a son of Edward "Barney" and Maxine McGill-Strobel. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1959. On Nov. 12, 1960, Doug married Frances Klegman in Coal City, and together they made their home and raised their family in Wilmington. Doug gained employment with Commonwealth Edison at the Dresden Station, where he worked for 35 years until his retirement.

He was a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington, a former member of the HAM Radio Club, and served as a volunteer fireman in Wilmington. Throughout the years, in addition to enjoying his HAM radio, Doug took pleasure in fishing, watching wildlife, especially the birds, boating, and being on the water. He was a master griller; was proud to have built his own home, and was one who could build or fix anything. He will most be remembered as a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who spent many of his last years as a caregiver for his parents and dear wife.

Survivors include his three children: Reverend Scott (Renee) Strobel, of Lockport, NY; Sandra (Ron) Van Epps, of Northfield, IL and Amy (Patrick) Burke, of Macomb, IL; 11 grandchildren: Douglas (Holly) Strobel, Michael (Ashalea) Strobel, Timothy (fiancé Hope)



Strobel, Wesley (Anja) Strobel, Jacob Strobel, Annika Strobel, Kaitlyn Strobel, Krista (fiancé Alex Bloom) Van Epps, Zachary Van Epps, Joseph Burke and Edward Burke; three great-grandchildren: Clayton, Kira, and Nathanael; one sister, Sheri Friddle, of Wilmington; four sisters-in-law: Patricia (Ron) Fox, Kimberly (Dave) Brown, Debbie Klegman and Ilene Klegman, and one brother-in-law, James Klegman, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Doug was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Fran on Nov. 12, 2020; his aunt, Hazel Baughn; three brothers-in-law: Donald (Carol) Klegman, Thomas Klegman and William "Jersey" Klegman and two sisters-in-law, Cathy Broderick and Margaret "Peggy" Ragain.

Per Doug's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a memorial service for both he and Fran will be planned for a later date.

Doug and Fran will be laid to rest together at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Doug's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, Our Caring Closet, or to the Wilmington Fire Department.

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

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

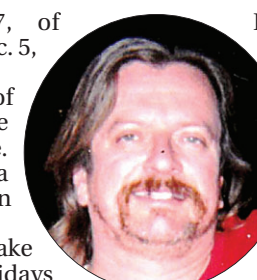
## Frank A. Mantia Jr.

WILMINGTON—Frank A. Mantia Jr., 67, of Wilmington, passed away suddenly on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

He was born June 9, 1953 in Joliet, the son of Frank and Edith (Fortey) Mantia. He was a graduate of Wilmington High School and Joliet Junior College. Upon graduation from high school, Frank became a proud member of Ironworkers Union Local #444 in Joliet, retiring in 2016 following 45 years of service.

In his free time, Frank enjoyed boating on Lake Michigan while spending many weekends and holidays at North Port Marina. He also enjoyed Chicago Bears football and had a passion for animal rescue. Frank will continue to enhance lives by his gift of organ and tissue donation through the Gift of Hope Network.

Frank is survived by his loving partner in life, Cheryl-Ann



Koren; sisters, Phyllis Mantia and Gayle (Dennis) VanDuyne of Henderson, NV; brothers, William and Scott Mantia, both of Wilmington. Frank was also the proud uncle of Evan, Jack and David VanDuyne, of Henderson, NV.

He was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

As it was Frank's request, cremation rites will be accorded. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, service and burial honoring Frank's life will be held at a later date for all family and friends. Details will be forthcoming.

To visit his Memorial Tribute go to [www.fredcdames.com](http://www.fredcdames.com) to share a favorite memory or leave an online condolence.

Fred C. Dames Funeral home in Joliet is in charge of arrangements.

## There's never a time to ignore medical emergencies

Some alarming statistics have been published since the onset of the COVID pandemic that show a decline in the use of hospital emergency departments, causing concern that some people are putting off seeking treatment for serious conditions such as heart attack, strokes, and uncontrolled diabetes.

"We want to reinforce the importance of immediately seeking care for serious conditions," says Tony Bucki, Director of Emergency and Trauma Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "You shouldn't avoid coming to a hospital emergency department because you're afraid you could get COVID. Between temperature checks, screening questions, mask requirements, negative air pressure capabilities, and stringent cleaning measures, hospitals have more safety measures in place than any public place you're going to encounter."

Medical experts agree that even in the midst of a global pandemic, it's always important to immediately seek care when symptoms of serious medical conditions occur. Time is critical for many types of medical emergencies, and delays in treatment can have serious consequences.

While some symptoms may be obvious medical emergencies - serious injuries, deep wounds, choking, unconsciousness, head or spine injuries, or uncontrolled bleeding - there are a number of other symptoms that people too often take a wait-and-see approach.

Signs of a medical emergency that require immediate

medical attention include difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; chest or upper abdominal pain or pressure lasting two minutes or more; fainting, sudden dizziness, weakness; changes in vision; difficulty speaking; confusion or changes in mental status, unusual behavior, difficulty walking; any sudden or severe pain; unusual abdominal pain; severe or persistent vomiting

or diarrhea; coughing or vomiting blood; suicidal or homicidal feelings; ingestion of a poisonous substance.

For children any significant change from normal behavior can be a sign of a medical emergency, including confusion or delirium, decreasing responsiveness or alertness, excessive sleepiness, irritability, seizure, lethargy, or strange or withdrawn behavior.

Feeding or eating difficulties can also indicate a medical emergency in children, as well as skin or lips that look blue, purple or gray.

Morris Hospital opened a new emergency department in March that includes 17 private treatment rooms, a trauma room, a rapid care area, and specialized treatment rooms for pediatric, gynecology, and psychiatric emergencies.



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Fri., Dec. 4	5-7:30 p.m.	Fish Fry
Sat., Dec. 12	5-7:30 p.m.	Steak Fry
Fri., Dec. 18	5-7:30 p.m.	Fish Fry
Sun., Dec. 20	9-11:30 a.m.	Moose Riders

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# Pushing to have more diversity in green groups

# It's not too late for a flu shot

*Dear EarthTalk: What if anything are environmental groups doing to increase the diversity of their own staffs and boards?*

-- Jake S., Queens, NY

This issue was in the news recently when 13 current and former staffers from the National Audubon Society, a leading environmental non-profit, spoke out against the organization's management for maintaining "a culture of retaliation, fear and antagonism toward women and people of color."

One employee who quit voiced his perceptions of an uncomfortable reaction in the mainly white and male executive board when issues surrounding the lack of women and people of color came up.

David Yarnold, President and CEO of Audubon, has rebutted the claims and has brushed off any responsibility for the actions and behaviors that people have attributed to him around issues of diversity.

"Audubon is not the first environmental organization to face allegations of racial

## EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

inequity and most likely will not be the last," says Andrés Jimenez, Executive Director of Green 2.0, a non-profit dedicated to increasing racial diversity within green groups.

"The responsibility of creating a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion falls on the leadership of every organization," he adds. "It should never be the burden of employees of color to have to fight uphill battles and face intimidation or harassment in order to accomplish something as fundamental as equal treatment and transparent processes for accountability."

Dorceta Taylor's 2014 study The State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations detailed bias along gender,

racial, and class lines within 293 environmental groups.

Key findings included that men were still more likely than women to occupy powerful positions in environmental organizations, and that while significant progress had been made on gender diversity, the gains had mostly gone to white women.

Additionally, the state of racial diversity was lagging far behind gender diversity. "Homogeneous workplaces arise because of adherence to particular cultural norms, filtering, network structure and recruitment practices," reported Taylor. "These are forms of unconscious or inadvertent biases that can lead to or perpetuate institutional homogeneity."

In the intervening years since Taylor's landmark study, several environmental groups have made strides toward becoming more inclusive and diverse. To wit, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has implemented training workshops on implicit bias. Meanwhile, the Wilderness Society's innovative "Urban to

Wild" program works to make nature more accessible to city dwellers and people of color in urban communities. Additionally, the group has been working to increase racial and ethnic diversity through paid internships.

Another example is the Resources Legacy Fund (RLF), which moved its base to a bigger city and expanded its outreach to local schools and colleges in order to attract staff from more diverse backgrounds. And it's not your granddaddy's Sierra Club anymore: The environmental group that started it all back in 1892 recently adopted a comprehensive Multi-Year Equity Plan and Workplan Guidance.

"In the 21st century, the success of environmental causes will be based on our ability to transform into more just, inclusive and relevant organizations and movements," concludes Green 2.0's Jimenez.

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

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is encouraging everyone six months and older who has not yet received the seasonal flu vaccine to get it this week as part of National Influenza Vaccination Week.

"This year it is more important than ever to get your flu shot to help avoid being co-infected with flu and COVID-19," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Not only could being infected with both a flu virus and the virus that causes COVID-19 result in severe health complications for individuals, it also places a tremendous burden on our health care system and health care workers who are being stretched due to the increase in COVID-19 cases. If you have not already received your flu shot, get it as soon as possible to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community."

Vaccination is particularly important for people who are most vulnerable to developing serious flu complications, including people with certain chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease. In fact, during the last flu season, 9 out of 10 adults hospitalized for flu had at least one reported underlying medical condition according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In addition to rolling up your sleeve, #SleeveUP, to get your flu vaccine, IDPH recommends following the 3 W's for both COVID-19 and influenza. Wash your hands. Watch your distance. Wear your mask. Viruses spread when infected people cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu usually comes on suddenly. Many of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are the same, such as fever and cough, but there are some differences. If you have symptoms of either flu or COVID-19, self-isolate and contact your health care provider. They can talk with you about testing and other measures you should be taking. Influenza antiviral drugs can be a second line of defense for people who get sick with the flu. Many studies have found that in addition to lessening the duration and severity of symptoms, antiviral drugs can prevent flu complications.

To find a location to get a flu shot in your community, check with your health care provider or local health department. You can also use vaccinefinder.org. More information can be found at www.dph.illinois.gov.

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

### 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.

## Positive news on COVID vaccine propels oil markets higher

Illinois gas prices have risen 2.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.18/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 1.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 41.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.85/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of 94.0 cents per gallon.

The lowest price in the state is \$1.85/g while the highest is \$2.79/g, a difference of 94.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has risen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.16/g.

The national average is up 5.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 42.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"With oil's rally to a new COVID-19 high-water mark, gas prices have begun to follow, even as gasoline demand crumbles to some of the lowest levels in months," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"Optimism continues to propel oil markets higher, led by positive news on a COVID-19 vaccine, but should anything change timing wise, we could see a reversal, but for now it remains full steam ahead with markets focused on the promise of oil and gasoline demand rising, or the best potential outcome of the situation.

"Should the hype be overblown, a correction could happen in the weeks or months ahead. For now, motorists may see more volatility in oil markets than we've seen in months."

## Christmas bake sale

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church is sponsoring a Sweets Sunday Christmas Bake Sale on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 1-5 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City. Be sure to stop by and pick up some homemade cookies, candies, caramels and other sweet treats. Masks will be required and social distancing will be observed. All proceeds will benefit Assumption Church. For more information call the Parish Office at 815-634-4171.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14				15		
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49	50		51			52			53		
54		55			56				57	58	59
60				61					62		
63				64				65			
66				67					68		

### CLUES ACROSS

- Skateboarders love them
- Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- Former Ohio State great Michael
- Not dirty
- Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
- A Spanish river
- Pig meat (French)
- Famed astronomer
- Floating ice
- Broadcast
- Aquatic mammals
- Some are bath
- Hip hop trio
- NY Giants' #56
- Small European viper
- Neither
- Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
- Loud noise
- Second year high schooler
- "\_ in comparison"
- Golf score
- Raise
- Pastas
- Easily manageable
- Fathered
- Pouch
- Institute legal proceedings against
- News organization
- Unruly group of people
- Fasten or secure
- Sheets of glass
- Doubled
- Foolish person
- Rooney and Kate are two
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Advice or counsel
- Large wading bird
- Famed British physicist
- Narrow ridges (Swedish)
- Field force unit
- Lying face downward

### CLUES DOWN

- Proof of purchase (abbr.)
- Soap ingredient
- Blackbird
- Single steps
- Tin
- Books have lots of them
- Made of fermented honey and water
- You can get it in a bed
- Room for communal meals
- Early Syrian kingdom
- Provokes dry amusement
- Use with "thou"
- Mollusk
- Grain storage units
- Not a car, not a truck
- Ooze
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Tennis pros group
- Something that's not what it's purported to be
- E. Indian trees
- Beloved December holiday
- Regions
- Metric unit of length
- Peter's last name
- Beige
- 18-year period in astronomy
- Tropical Asian plant
- Basketball stat (abbr.)
- Frocks
- Soda comes in it
- On approval
- Trims by cutting
- Small finch
- Language Bura\_
- Nothing
- Imbecile (British)
- Tropical Asian plant
- Abba\_ Israeli politician
- Small freshwater fish
- Indicates position
- Data processing

## CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

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

**A. 9 16 3 25 2 9**  
Clue: Small meals

**B. 26 22 14 22 4 3 23 22**  
Clue: Drink

**C. 18 4 6 22 16 15 9**  
Clue: Close companions

**D. 25 12 3 5 13 3 23 16 22**  
Clue: Bubbly beverage

Answers: A. snacks B. beverage C. friends D. champagne

## WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to parties.

V T D I N E I

Answer: Invited

## Guess Who?

I am an actress born in Georgia on December 10, 1985. I gained fame as a child star on a popular family sitcom and also as a child model.

I went on to be the headliner in a Disney series and its spin-off.

My name is a type of bird.

Answer: Raven-Symone

## ENTERTAINING WORD SEARCH

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

WORDS

- AMBIANCE
- APPETIZER
- CATERING
- CELEBRATE
- COCKTAILS
- DECOR
- DINNER
- ENTERTAIN
- EVENING
- EXCITEMENT
- FAVOR
- GUEST
- HOLIDAY
- HOSTESS
- LEFTOVERS
- MENU
- PARTY
- PLAYLIST
- PREP
- SEATING
- SETTING
- SILVERWARE
- VENUE
- WELCOME

# Opposing Madigan could become a career-ending move

Illinois House Democratic Caucus Chair Kathleen Willis (D-Addison) told me last week that her decision to oppose Speaker Michael Madigan's reelection was a process that she's been struggling with since the summer.

Willis became the 19th House Democrat to declare opposition to Madigan, putting him six votes shy of the 60 he needs to win.

"Over the last couple of weeks, it's been getting more and more troubling," Willis said. It boiled down to "an ethical decision, a moral decision," she said.

Her father had heart surgery the previous weekend and, while sitting with her mother, she remembered what her mom had told her when she first ran for the House in 2012: "Don't ever let your morals or standards decline."

"And I was looking at my mom and I thought, 'I want her to continue to be proud of me.' And this is what I had to do."

When I initially received Willis' email announcing her decision, I checked the return address to make sure it wasn't a hoax. Willis said several people asked her whether the

email was legit. She was the first member of House Democratic leadership, after all, to publicly break with Madigan. This was no small deal. It felt to me and to others that this one was different.

Willis said she didn't know if her decision would allow other House Dems to come forward. "I think everybody has to come to their own decisions their own way," she said. "Maybe it'll give them strength to be able to do that, but it's not intended to push people to do something they're not ready to do."

She said she didn't have anyone in mind to be the next House Speaker, but wants to support someone who is "willing to be a collaborative leader, so that it's not just all controlled by one person. I think we need to see a change in leadership style."

Asked if she was interested in the top job herself, Willis would only say, "That's not the purpose of what the statement was. It was more to really free



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

myself up." I told Willis I had just been talking on the phone with a union lobbyist who said there was no way that Madigan will ever give up. He's just going to wait for everyone to flip back, the labor guy said with supreme confidence. There will be no surrender.

"I honestly don't think they're gonna flip back," Willis said about the 18 House Democrats who preceded her in vowing to vote against Madigan.

"When I made the decision to do a written statement, it was knowing that there was no point of return, there was no going back by doing a written statement. That forced my hand. And I think the other members that did the same thing, if they were to ever turn back they could never run for office ... that would be a career ending move."

None of them took the decision lightly, Willis said. "I think they all realize that it's a point of no return."

As you might imagine, the paranoia level among House Democrats is pretty high these days. So, it wasn't too surprising that moments after Willis issued her statement, mem-

bers were asking whether this might be some sort of Madigan plot to place one of his own leaders behind enemy lines. Willis flatly denied anything of the sort.

"If you had been on the conversation I had with him earlier this morning, you'd know that he did not put me up to it," Willis said with a laugh.

Willis wouldn't talk too many specifics, but said she called Madigan as a courtesy.

"He did not want me to release the statement and I told him I had no choice. I have made the decision to do it and I wanted to do it. He really felt strongly that I should not release a statement and I said, 'Well, the only way I won't release the statement is if you withdraw from running for speaker,' and he assured me that he was going to continue to be a candidate. There were a few other things that got said in between, but that's the gist of it."

Madigan didn't lose his temper and was "very reserved," she said.

"It was the most difficult call I've ever made in my life. But after the call was done, I felt like a ton of bricks was off of my shoulders."

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

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**Tickets available for St. Rose CCW quilt fundraiser**

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 CCW to use as a fundraiser. The raffle and drawing normally take place during the CCW 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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# COALER SPORTS



**NICK SHEPKOWSKI** is another honorable mention hurdler on the dream team. Shepkowski qualified for state and ended up seventh in the preliminary rounds in 2004.

File Photo



**VANCE TEMPLETT** was nominated as an honorable mention member of the track dream team at Coal City High School. Vance was a state qualifier in both the 100 meter dash and the 4x100 meter relay in 2004.

File Photo



**BRIAN EVANS** is an honorable mention for shot put on the dream team. Evans qualified for state in the event in 2004.

File Photo

## Track

with a second placed in the triple jump and a second place in the 4x100 relay during her senior year. She also placed ninth and seventh in the long jump during the 2002, and 2003 seasons.

### Tracy Murphey

Murphey was a three-time state placer in discus.

"She was a hard worker. I spent enough time with her to know she was dedicated to what she was doing and a very coachable girl."

Murphey had a combination of power and technique in her throws which gave her the advantage.

"She was solidly built girl, strong but at the same time, she did utilize technique in her throwing as well.

Murphey was able to capture a fifth place trophy during her first season to state in 1987. She followed that with a second place in the discus in her junior season and finished with another fifth place in 1989.

### Chris Olsen

Olsen, a three-time medalist from 1980-83, would run the 1600 and the mile on Best's dream team.

"She was an average runner in the first couple of years and then boy, things just kicked in for her during her last couple years of high school. She really came on strong. I think she was one of those athletes that was motivated by the success she was having."

Olsen placed sixth place in the 1600 in 1981. She followed that with an eight place in her junior season and placed eighth in her senior year.

### Lisa Rasmusson

Rasmusson, who placed first in the hurdles in 1989, would be an excellent 300 meter or 100 meter hurdler on the dream team. Best notes Lisa was a phenomenal athlete from the start.

"Ras was an outstanding athlete. Freshman year showed a lot of promise for us and she had a lot of success. She got better and better. She was a very tough girl psychologically. She was a little more mature than most freshman we had gotten. She really channeled

all that energy into her athletics. We could have put her anywhere and she could do any event but she really excelled in the hurdles."

Lisa began with an eighth place in her first season at state. She followed with a seventh the next year and a gold medal in her final season in the 300 meter individual hurdles.

She did so well that year in the 300 meter hurdles that she tried the 100 meter hurdles, qualified for state and placed second in the event.

That was the first year she did the 100 meter hurdles and for everyone not familiar with hurdles, Best says it can be difficult to transition from one after doing the other.

"Some kids can handle it and some can't. When you do the high hurdles, it's a little different and some kids have a little trouble getting the timing down. Your body height could be a factor too if you're a shorter person. With the 300 hurdles, sometimes it's the endurance for some kids so just because you're a hurdler doesn't mean you can do both."

### Michelle Frazier (Painter)

Frazier, who was a sprinter on the 1989 regional championship, would be a good 100 and 200 meter runner for the Coalers on the dream team.

"She ran in our sprint relays."

### Denise Lareau

Lareau, who played with Painter was a 100 and 200 meter runner who could run relays too.

"She was another good sprinter for us."

### Dawn Aldridge


Aldridge was another sprinter on the 1989 regional championship team that ran in the relays as well.

### Jan Thatcher

Thatcher was a very good sprinter as well. "The thing about these girls was most of them came on the scene as freshmen and stuck with it throughout the four years. In that group along with the guys from 93, they were all a great group of kids to work with. They made coaching very enjoyable."

Best's best years with the girls track team was in the late 80's.


"That was when we had Rasmusson, Michelle Frazier, Murphey and all those other girls."



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## Students earn spots in district choir

Coal City High School had six vocal students selected to the Illinois Music Educators Association (ILMEA) District 1 Choir.

Named to the senior chorus, based on virtual auditions submitted this fall, were seniors Adeline Connor and Riley Nevin, juniors Aidan Kostbade, Eli Fritz and Chloe Peacock, and sophomore Izzy Kostbade.

Having received the highest score among all tenor 2 auditions, Nevin earned first chair honors.

Aidan Kostbade was also selected to the 12 member honor jazz choir and Peacock was selected to jazz choir 2.

ILMEA District 1 includes Grundy and Cook counties, a large portion of Will County and part of DuPage County.



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# COALER SPORTS

## Best puts together dream team featuring top Coaler tracksters

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

They were the best runners, throwers and overall competitors in Coal City track history.

Former coach Dennis Best, who led the Coaler boys to 242 wins over 26 years including two sectional championships and a third place trophy at state, was ready to make that happen. He had a good idea of who he'd pick to be on his team.

### Chris Shirkey

Shirkey was a state medalist in the discus, placing third in 1993.

"Chris was a very hard worker for us," said Best. "He was not as big as most of the discus throwers in state but he was a very good technician and really had the technique down very well. And that was his strong point. He was so technically sound."

### Shawn Hamilton

Hamilton was a distance runner and a relay guy who placed third at state in the 800 meter his senior season in 1993. Best notes he was a great athlete with a lot of intangibles.

"He was a good athlete and was a hard worker to say the least," said Best. "He was very dedicated. His strength in the 800, it was unusual in a sense that he had a lot of foot speed to begin with. If Shawn hadn't been such a good 800 runner, he had enough speed that he'd be in our sprint relays so that really benefited him in the 800. When it came down to those final moments in the kick to the finish, he was very strong at that because of his footspeed."

### Ryan Meece

Meece was another dis-



File Photo

**SECOND BEST IN STATE**—The 2002-03 4x100 Coaler track relay team that placed second was named to the track dream team at Coal City High School. Members of the relay team included: (from left) Nicki Marczewski, Kim VanDerwall, Dana Trotter and Beth Zelinko.

tance runner who placed fourth in the 1600 meter run that same year.

"Ryan was obviously a very strong runner for us. A hard worker. A very knowledgeable runner that was really into the running in that he read a lot and studied a lot. Ryan's key aspect was not only was he a good runner but he was what we call, a good 'chaser', meaning that when he got the baton and there were people in front of him, that was his motivation and he would run them down. He was just a very tough competitor."

### 4x800

Best noted the boys state

title relay team that brought home the gold in 1993 had a few guys on it that would be a great fit for the dream team. Those guys all had something special to bring to the table.

The team consisted of: Keith Smith, Shawn Hamilton, Ryan Meece and Joe Christensen.

### 4x400

The 1600 meter relay team placed fourth in 1998. That team consisted of Billy and Bobby Chapman, Nate Durbin and Jim West.

Those guys also had something special about them that helped them excel.

"All these guys that I coached were very coachable and wanted to do well and pretty much did whatever you asked them to do. They were very good in the 400 meter relay."

### Ray Burroughs

Burroughs, who was a placer at state in the triple jump event, cracks the top of the list for the jumpers.

Burroughs placed eighth in 1983. Best notes Ray was a natural born athlete.

"That event, he was a good long jumper too," added Best. "Triple jump, he had a knack for it. He just was able to put it all together and it worked out well for him. I think Ray was in the 43 foot range."

### Tim Cooper

Cooper, who placed eighth in the 400 meter dash in 1996, would be another excel-

lent sprinter on a team run by speed relays.

"Cooper's strength was he was a very hard worker and he had a lot of stamina. During the course of the season, Coop ran in other events for us and he was just a strong runner. He had a lot of stamina which really benefited him in certain events."

### Kevin Lovell

Lovell, who placed sixth in the 200 meter dash in 1995 was one of the better runners Best had.

"Kevin was one of the faster runners that I had coached over the years. He was one of those guy...we had to be careful with workouts and anytime he'd start to complain about leg problem and that, we really backed off and watched that closely so we really had to monitor how we trained him and sometimes you have to deal with that especially with sprinters. There's a fine line between staying healthy or pulling a muscle."

### Jon Micetich

Micetich, who was a state hurdler, would be one of the first hurdlers off the board.

"John was a very hard worker. He was very dedicated in what he did. He was a real technician. He was one of those runners where you could get technical with Jon is what I mean. With technique and steps between hurdles and so on and so forth. Part of that

was when Jon was in high school, he was not very tall so for him, technique was extremely important.

Jon placed eighth in the 300 meter low intermediate hurdles in 1986.

### Steve Nicoletti

Nicoletti, who placed fifth in the 400 meter dash in 1984, would be a strong option.

"He was a very versatile athlete. He ran in our relays and was a hurdler for us as well. He could've made it down there and could've done well in the high hurdles but there was an extremely strong field that year. I could've ran Steve in the 800 meters if I wanted to so that just gives you an indication how versatile he was. He was a hard worker and a good team leader."

### Dusty Johnson

Johnson would be another hurdler on the dream team. Johnson was a great hurdler in the 90's who had his senior season sidelined by an illness but all throughout was a very solid player.

"Dusty's senior year, he contracted Mononucleosis and that really affected him but all four years, he was a great runner and really scored a lot of points for us."

Jeff Enger, Tim Fehr, Mark Wismen and Mike Kaiser were sprinters who would get an honorable mention tag on Best's team.

"They all qualified for state at some point and they

didn't end up medaling but all those guys were very good runners for us."

Best notes the best span he ever had with the boys team was 1991-93.

"That was a very strong team. Those guys were good as freshman. You saw that coming. They were dominating in the fresh/soph meets, moved up to varsity where they continued to work hard and improved."

"When we got third at state, that was big for us. We were happy about that. When you get down to a state track meet, to a certain extent there's a little bit of nostalgia involved because for some kids it's their very last track meet of their high school career and you've worked with them for the last four years. There's a lot of sentimentality involved too especially when you get very close to some of your athletes."

### Becky Gervase

Best also coached the girls to 122 wins in 15 years, including a regional championship in 1989 when the team went 18-2.

Best remembers just how good Gervase was even though he started right after she left. That's why she is not only on this team but is a mainstay in the dream team lineup.

Becky placed fourth and sixth in the high jump in 1978, and 1979.

"I know that Becky was a very dedicated and strong runner, and I know from watching the workouts when the boys were out there practicing that she was a hard worker and took it very seriously. She wanted to do well."

Gervase competed in the high jump at Illinois State.

"I believe she was a multi-event athlete at Illinois State and had some success down there."

### Nicki Marczewski

Marczewski was a multiple event athlete who placed at state in different events. And even though Marczewski was after Best's time, he heard all about her and knew exactly what kind of an athlete she was.

"There was a girl that had a lot of natural ability. She was just a good kid and very coachable. On top of that, she was very intelligent in some of those events that she participated in. From a technique standpoint, I know she was pretty meticulous in what she did."

Marczewski went to state in 2000, placing second at triple jump. she followed that

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File Photo

**ASA COOPER** is an honorable mention on the track dream team. Cooper qualified to state in the long jump last season with a jump just under 20 feet.



File Photo

**NICKI MARCZEWSKI** was named to the Coaler track dream team. Marczewski qualified and placed at state in all kinds of events including triple jump from 1999-2003.

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0520-513HC\_16272-11/30/2020