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and small bites



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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2019 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Unit 1 finalizes levy request at \$23.8 million

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

'Tis the season for tax levies, that time of year when taxing districts undertake the task of determining the amount of property tax dollars needed to cover expenses in the coming year, and for the Unit 1 School District the 2019 request is \$23.8 million.

The final levy request was approved by the Unit 1 Board of Education at its Dec. 4 meeting. There was roughly a \$700,000 increase in requested funding from the tentative levy the board placed on file in November.

In comments to the board, Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg said, "as we told you last month we did not have the EAV (equalized assessed value) figures from the county assessor yet and we did not receive those until

3:30 p.m. on Nov. 27."

So over the Thanksgiving holiday the district's chief business official Jason Smith reworked the numbers based on district's EAV that had been provided by the county assessors office.

"I believe we have as accurate of a levy as we can get based on the information that we have," Bugg said.

The bulk of the district's operating revenue comes in the form of property tax dollars, with the amount determined by the annual levy, which is calculated by the EAV of all property located within the district's borders.

Unit 1 denotes its property tax revenue in two ways—Dresden EAV and all other EAV.

The assessed value of Exelon's Dresden Generating Station and the amount of property tax paid on an annual basis is set by agreement.

For tax year 2019, Smith built the tentative levy on a conservative increase in the district assessed value.

"As we projected growth in all other EAV, we felt that we were conservatively using a 4% increase and we anticipated our EAV to be around \$812 million. The estimates that came from the assessor put that number at more like \$843 million," Smith said.

He went on to explain that with the village of Coal City's tax increment financing (TIF) district an adjustment occurs right before the extension that backs out all of the increment.

"The incremental increase in EAV last year was around \$11 million, but that's not a number the county assessor affixes," Smith said, adding that process happens at the county clerk level when the extension gets set. That process happens early in the calendar year.

As he worked to tweak the levy prior to its adoption, Smith said he reached out to see what the adjustment would be.

"I spoke to the folks at the county clerk's office, very nice folks, they don't have their numbers for increment yet, because they were waiting for the same estimations that we were. They did let us know there was one property within the Coal City TIF that did increase in increment by \$8 million, so that number maybe closer to \$20 million as a deduct, but not knowing or having certainty what that increment looks like we are conservatively basing our EAV on \$833 million for levy purposes," Smith said.

The assessor's numbers point to an increase in all other EAV of 10.68%. From Smith's view, "when all is said and done I think

SEE LEVY, PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

VOLUNTEERS GATHERED AT Coal City United Methodist Church on Monday morning to begin the process of unloading the bags of donations and sorting the items to ensure they had valid expiration dates. Among those lending a hand were Sharon Watson and LaVaunTira. All of the donations will be used by the pantry to provide sustenance and assistance to families in need this holiday and throughout the year.

'Tis the season for giving

Food Pantry to assist
131 families this holiday

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As dozens of volunteers sorted through brown paper sacks filled with food donations, Coal City Food Pantry Board members Barb Kent and Deb Gowdy looked on with smiles, but also with tears in their eyes.

For the long-time pantry volunteers, this time of year always generates a multitude of emotions as they see first hand the generosity within the community they call home. The donations being sorted Monday morning came from the community through the annual Cub Scout Pack 466 holiday food drive. An estimated 22,000-plus pounds of food, paper

products, cleaning supplies and personal care items were donated during the drive that also included a bit of food for cats and canines.

The food drive is a local tradition that dates back longer than anyone can remember, and once again the community came together to provide the food pantry with the tools it needs to make the holiday season a bit brighter for families in need.

The holiday food distribution coordinated by the pantry will assist 131 families. The number of people receiving assistance this year is up from the year before.

Every donation collected, be it a can of corn, a jar of jelly, box of pasta or bottle of barbecue sauce, goes to provide sustenance to local residents during the holiday season and throughout the year.

The Coal City Food Pantry is a year-round operation. It takes between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a month

to keep the shelves, refrigerators and freezers stocked, so the annual holiday food drive helps the non-profit, volunteer pantry provide additional food items to families during the holiday season.

Families assisted by the pantry through its annual holiday distribution will also receive, based on family size, \$25 Walmart gift cards. An individual or family of two will receive a single card, families of three to four will receive two gift cards and families of five or more will be presented with three cards to utilize at their discretion.

A request for gift card donations yielded about 25, according to Kent, the pantry's president. However, there is still time to make a gift card or monetary donation to support the pantry's effort.

Donations come in at various

SEE GIVING, PAGE 2

Unit 1 Schools earn exemplary ranking

Students post high
scores on state
assessments

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Illinois State Board of Education has designated 334 elementary schools as exemplary and three of them are in Coal City.

Coal City's Early Childhood Center, Elementary School and Intermediate School, designated exemplary, performed in the top 10% of all K-8 schools in the state. Coal City Middle School was named commendable, as was Coal City High School.

The designation was outlined in the 2019 Illinois State Report Cards that implemented the second phase of the state's new process for rating school performance.

In the past, school ratings were based on whether students met or failed a designated benchmark on standardized testing. The new process was introduced last year and bases school success on a performance on standardized tests, academic growth, graduation rates and student attendance.

Each indicator has an assigned percentage within a pie chart and new measures with assigned percentages are added each year.

"Last year was the first year we had the pie and percentages, this year they added science (scores) and a climate survey," said Tammy Elledge, the Unit 1 District's director of curriculum and instruction.

With new categories added, there was less emphasis placed on student proficiency so the results of the state's assessment exam in both mathematics and English/language arts went from 10% to 7.5% of the pie.

The larger focus is on student performance on the state's standardized assessment improves from year to year.

The designation system places schools into one of four categories—exemplary, commendable, underperforming and lowest performing.

In order to achieve a designation of exemplary a school must fall within the top 10% of schools statewide. Additionally, none of the school's subgroups, including those with special needs, racial and ethnic groups or students from low income families, can be under performing.

According to Elledge, all of the state's schools were ranked and the state's education agency set a threshold for exemplary that for the year was 80.12. The elementary school was 90.62, the intermediate school 88.93 and early childhood center an 88.93.

At 78.42, Coal City Middle School just missed the mark still earning a respectable ranking as a commendable school.

Elledge noted that at the high school level the threshold to earn an exemplary ranking was 85.42 and just 68 schools in the state fell within that designation. Coal City High School was one of 546 to earn commendable designation from the state.

"We were very close, actually really, really close to being an exemplary high school," Elledge said.

In the coming year, new measures will be added at

both the elementary and high school levels. At this point it's not entirely clear what will be added at the lower grade levels.

"The high school is a little clearer," she said, noting fine arts and college and career readiness are on the

docket for inclusion.

The state designations were outlined as part of Elledge's annual report to the board of education on student testing results.

Last spring, students in grades three to eight took the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) exam, a test that replaced the Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exam.

Results of the first IAR exam indicates a large percentage of students are meeting state standards and making academic strides in the areas of mathematics and ELA.

Among last year's third graders 44% of students met or exceeded standards in ELA and 45% in math. Both above the state averages of 38% in language arts and 32% in math.

When compared to a dozen other area schools, the elementary school ranked third in language arts and fourth in math.

"Mrs. Kenney (CCES principal) is working hard with her third grade teachers. We know there are areas we can improve

SEE RANKING, PAGE 2

Unit 1, GAVC partner to put local produce on lunch menu

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Locally grown produce may soon appear on lunch trays at Unit 1 Schools.

Last week, the Unit 1 Board of Education gave its approval for the district's food service director to apply for a federal Farm to School grant. If approved, the grant would provide the district with \$15,000 to purchase a greenhouse that would be utilized by the Grundy Area Vocational Center's (GAVC) agriculture program.

"With the GAVC ag program being here we really have some unique opportunities for partnerships coming up and this is one of them," said Unit 1

Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg.

The grants are available through the United States Department of Agriculture and, among other things, are meant to provide access, proper training and technical assistance to improve local foods in schools.

The proposal for the greenhouse would result in locally sourced vegetables for use in the school's food service program while teaching students in the vocational center's ag program about hydroponic growing.

The total cost of the project is \$20,000, 25 percent of that must be matched by the group submitting the request. The Board of Education has agreed to put up the required \$5,000

match.

Should the district be awarded its request, the green house would be constructed on the middle school property near the recently acquired Neil and Honor Trotter farm.

The greenhouse would be owned by the school district, and maintained by the ag program. GAVC recently entered into a lease agreement with the Trotters to utilize portions of the farm it did not sell to the district.

According to the USDA, over 42,000 schools already participate in its Farm to School program and the agency anticipates awarding approximately \$20 in funding in 2020.



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Escaped inmate back in custody

After six months in county jail, Andrew J. Viles got a taste of freedom, but it didn't last long.

Viles wasn't scheduled to get out of jail, nor had he posted bond on the burglary charge that landed him in the county's custody back in June, rather he walked out during the evening meal service delivery on Saturday, Dec. 7.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office reported late that evening that Viles escaped the county's custody at 4:34 p.m. while taking delivery of the evening meals. He was spotted on surveillance video exiting the east jail door where he proceeded to walk north on the west sidewalk of Franklin Street. According to the sheriff's office, he then walked through the alley between East Main Street and East Washington Street. When he left the jail Viles was not in the county issued jumpsuit, rather he was in jeans, a coat and dark shoes. According to a release issued by the sheriff, the events leading up to Viles obtaining civilian clothing and exiting the jail are under investigation.

A search for the missing inmate ended when Viles was apprehended and taken into custody by deputy Eric Halpin and Sgt. Josh Slattery near Stockdale Road and North Saratoga Road in Morris at 2:34 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 8.

Viles entered the county jail on June 1 on a class 2 felony burglary charge. His bond was set at \$15,000. In addition to the pending burglary charge, the sheriff's office reports he also has an Illinois Department of Corrections parole violation warrant/hold for burglary. Viles has since been charged with one count of escape from a penal institution, a class 2 felony.

During his time in the county jail, Viles was described as a model inmate. The sheriff's office reported his good behavior earned him the role of jail trustee, a role that allowed him certain privileges, including assisting with meal service.



Courtesy photo
ANDREW J. VILES

Levy

we are going to be around 7.5% growth in all other EAV that is taxable.

School officials say this is the latest the district has received the EAV data from the county assessor's office. The delay is based on a couple of factors including a change in software and the quadrennial re-assessment that requires the assessor's office to evaluate all 26,000-plus properties in the county.

"It did put us in a bind in terms of trying to get accurate information to the board," Bugg said, adding he's talked with county officials who indicated the delay was an anomaly and he's been assured it will not be the norm moving forward.

The levy as approved seeks \$16.68 million for the education fund, \$3.8 million

for operations and maintenance and \$1.4 million to cover transportation costs. Also, \$333,404 for the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), \$125,026 in working cash, \$458,430 for Social Security, \$333,404 for special education, \$83,351 for life safety, \$225,048 for the tort fund and \$362,577 for leasing.

Additionally, the district's levy for bond and interest on its outstanding bond debt is \$3.49 million, bringing the total request to \$27.35 million.

The approved levy now must be filed with the office of the county clerk in Grundy and Will counties prior to the last Tuesday of the month, which this year falls on Dec. 31.

"I think it should be recognized the work that Jason did during a holiday week for us to have the numbers and to make sure we were ready," said Shawn Hamilton, the board's vice president.

Ranking

on in third grade, it's just trying to get there. Third grade is a challenge because it's the first grade we are testing so it's really hard to pinpoint deficiencies in third grade and if those are deficiencies from second grade, first grade or kindergarten," Elledge said. Fourth grade was the only grade that improved in the rankings in both math and ELA, according to Elledge. "They did really well," she said.

According to the testing data the school received, 57% of fourth graders met or exceeded standards in ELA and 51% in math. The state averages were 36 and 34%,

respectively. Elledge said the fifth grade class also did well with 66% of students meeting or exceeding ELA standards placing them first among area schools and they came in second in math with 53% meeting or exceeding.

The state averages in fifth grade were 38% for ELA and 30% in math.

Elledge highlighted the success of last year's fifth grade class that had 96% of students meet or exceed state standards.

"They are just absolutely knocking it out of the park and I couldn't be happier with what we are seeing there," Elledge said.

The 2019 exam was the first year science was tested,

Giving

times throughout the year, in the form of food and funds.

Kent and Gowdy say they are grateful for the support the community provides and share the story of one woman who's generous donation was doubled with a match from her employer.

The two women tear up as they tell the stories of individuals who have donated, those assisted by the pantry monthly and those who just come forward for a little help at the holidays.

In the past year, the non-profit has become an emergency food pantry, making it a bit easier for people to access services. The pantry no longer requires clients to provide detailed information such as household income or proof of residency within the Unit 1 School District.

While those seeking services still have to register with the pantry and provide identification, many of the rules and regulations are gone and the pantry's doors are open to anyone in need of food.

Kent said the pantry is currently serving individuals from Braidwood, Mazon, Gardner, Wilmington and even Ottawa.

"We don't care where you are from, if you are hungry come in," Kent said.

On average the pantry assists 75 families per month. Kent notes many of them are senior citizens.

The pantry is open Mondays from 9 to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3



Photos by Ann Gill

A GROUP OF local Girl Scouts pitched in to help Cub Scout Pack 466 with its annual holiday food drive to benefit the Coal City Food Pantry. The Scouts delivered collection bags on Saturday, Dec. 7 and returned on Sunday, Dec. 8 to collect the filled bags from residents in Coal City, Carbon Hill and Diamond. Over 24,000 pounds of food, paper products and cleaning supplies were donated.

p.m. with the exception of major holidays and during inclement weather, and the week of holiday food packing and sorting.

Families can shop the pantry shelves one time each month, however if they are in need of additional services the local pantry provides a list of other pantry locations where individuals can go to obtain

additional food items.

In the event an individual is unable to visit the pantry during its normal hours of operation or in an emergency, they can call 815-216-3288 to schedule an after-hours appointment.

There is now a donation box located outside the southeast door of Coal City United Methodist Church for individ-

uals to make donations, and in an emergency situation people can also take items for the box if they need to get food on the table.

As Kent and Gowdy run down what the week holds for the pantry, volunteers sorted through about half of the donations. Volunteers will work through the week to unload all of the donation bags, check for current expiration dates and then pack up the holiday distribution boxes. For the record the oldest date on an item that came in was a box of cereal with a 2007 expiration and the most unique item might have been a box of plastic wrap from IGA.

The cereal will not be included in one of the boxes, but cereal will be one of the items that families receive. Each of the food boxes is slated to include peanut butter and jelly, canned fruit and vegetables, baking items, snacks, beans, skillet dinners, pasta and sauce, canned meat, beverages, macaroni and cheese, gravy and sauces and condiments.

Other items collected like paper products, personal care items and ethnic foods will be available to families as they shop the pantry shelves during their monthly visit.

"We have received excellent help from our community, they have really opened their hearts," said Gowdy, the pantry's vice president.



MEMBERS OF THE Coal City Fire Protection District including firefighter/paramedic Mike Barrow provided the Coal City Food Pantry with a bit of manpower in sorting the various donations that came in during the annual holiday food drive coordinated by Cub Scout Pack 466.

Johnson (CCMS principal) and middle school math teachers that are seeing improvements," Elledge said.

According to the test results, 55% of eighth graders met or exceeded standards in math, up from 51% the prior year. The improvement took them from third to first place among local schools.

In the area of ELA the school had 80% of its eighth graders earn a meets or exceeds in state where the average is 39%.

"Every year I get up here and talk about eighth grade ELA. They just absolutely kill it year after year. It doesn't really matter what kids you give them this is how they succeed, the standards are extraordinarily high. Just amazing results," Elledge said.

"Overall, fourth grade is consistently improving, middle school mathematics is improving and trending the correct way, and eighth grade ELA, again, every year knocking it out of the park and again, fifth grade science there is little room for improvement," Elledge said.

After eighth grade students are not provided a for-

mal assessment until junior year when they take the SAT exam.

The results posted by the class of 2020 showed notable improvements in the area of evidence based reading and writing with 40% of students meeting or exceeding standards, compared to 36% the prior year. When it came to student scores in math 38% met or exceeded which increased from 31% in 2018.

Last year's test also included a biology component and 57% of juniors met or exceeded standards, the

state average was 49%.

As the current junior class prepares to take the test this coming spring, Elledge noted there will be a change in the science exam as it moves from a biology based test to a comprehensive science exam.

"We are fortunate our students are in science their junior year, most schools don't have a three year science requirement, so we at least have that as an advantage," she said, noting, just like at the lower grades, the state provides no feedback on what areas need improvement.

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Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk, juice and coffee.

For additional information call 815-634-2101.

Hosted by Coal City American Legion Post 796 and the Coal City Lions Club.

Send your Santa letters

As Christmas draws closer, Santa is looking to receive children's letters and wish lists.

In conjunction with the North Pole mail department, the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club has set up a special mailbox to receive Santa letters from local children.

The Santa mailbox has been moved from Campbell Memorial Park to the Coal City Village Hall/Police Department parking lot. The mailbox can be found behind the community sign. The last day to post a letter to Santa in order for him to respond is Tuesday, Dec. 17. Letters should include the child's first name and a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Award Winner

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

High school students earn accolades

Each month teachers and staff at Coal City High School nominate students who display outstanding qualities such as character, organization, leadership and service to be the school's students of the month.

In November, principal Chris Spencer recognized 20 students who displayed outstanding organizational skills.

Those students were Zoe Smith, Aspen Johnson, Connor Patterson, Chloe Peacock, Kalie Egan, Skylar Zink, Katie Holmes, Claire Ellena, Tori Ferrari, Jenna Super, Cassie Lebanowski, Jack Bunton, Morgan Carrier, Blayne Adams, Chase Wasielewski, Talya Pierard, Brady Crawford, MacKenzie Leach, Evan Rivera and Addey Connor.

Additional achievements noted by Spencer:

- Eight students attended the first Illinois Central Eight Leadership Conference held Nov. 4 at Reed-Custer High School. Participating students were Alexis Medina, Kit Clayburn, Natalie Teague, Griffin Johnson, Lauren Ferrari, Ashton Harvey, Carley Morris and Braiden Young.

- The first Illinois Central Eight Fall Art Workshop was held at Peotone High School on Nov. 13 and CCHS was represented by Julie Appleton, Nicolette French, Caelan Ragain, Alyssa Metzger, Abigail Seeley and Kalie Legg.

- CCHS had three students receive the Grundy Area Vocational Center Directors Award in October. Recognized by the GAVC were Sean Rabenda, culinary arts; Kelsie Norris, early childhood; and Macen Dennis, engineering technology.

- There were 25 students selected to attend the Illinois Central Eight Honors Chorus Festival on Nov. 4. Participating were Lilly Ullrich, Sam Kenney, DeKotah Rueger, Luke Van Duyn, Jasmine Gaertner, Erin Gottschalk, Rich Bell, Tyler Johnson, Grace Howell, Dakota Englert, MacKenzie Kraus, Sophiya Williams, Levi Counterman, Caleb Kuhel, Sophia Johnson, Liz Kenney, Chance Lacey, Kain Ulivi, Alexis Curtis, Kylee Boyd, Alexis Arreola, Kendall Gomez and Gabby Oswald.

UW-Madison announces students named to dean's list

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the dean's list for the spring semester of the 2018-2019 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester. Each university school or college sets its own GPA requirements for students to be eligible to receive the distinction. Most call the honor dean's list, but some grant the dean's honor list and dean's high honor list.

Local students Mackenzie Bugg and Carly Pavlis, both of Coal City, have earned dean's list distinctions in the College of Letters and Sciences, while Kaitlin Verchimak, of Morris, has been placed on the dean's list in the School of Education.

To view an online listing, visit http://registrar.wisc.edu/deans_list.htm. For questions or concerns about eligibility, contact deanslist-registrar@em.wisc.edu

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Hometown Storage to evict tenant for storing flammable materials

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.
Tenant: Joseph Belice, 120 N. Calkey, Diamond, IL 60416, Unit #424
Tenant is to have unit completely empty by Dec. 31, 2019 or be taken to small claims court.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 11 and 18, 2019.

Foreclosure notice of 1806 North Lisbon Rd.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

MANLEY, DEAS, KOCHALSKI LLC
One East Wacker - Suite 1250
Chicago, IL 60601
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY BUT AS TRUSTEE FOR PRETIUM MORTGAGE ACQUISITION TRUST, Plaintiff, v. MARGARET HEAD; THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF BILLY HEAD, DECEASED; MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR CREDIT SUISSE FINANCIAL CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; GLORIA LONGMIRE; TERESA KERR; SHEILA BOJOVIC; DONNA STAGGS; NORMAN HEAD, Defendants, **Case No. 2019CH88**
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Billy Head, Deceased, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Teresa Kerr, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 5 in Harmon Acres first addition according to the plat thereof recorded January 13, 1969, in Plat Book E at page 7 as Document Number 213281; in Grundy County, Illinois.
1806 North Lisbon Road, Morris, IL 60450
2019-03-403-011
Now, therefore, unless you, The Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Billy Head, Deceased, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Teresa Kerr, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois, on or before January 10, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint. This case is set for a Mandatory Mediation on January 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM in the Law Library at the Grundy County Courthouse located at 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or contact the Clerk of this Court.
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FILE NUMBER 19-036119
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 18 and 25, 2019.

Coal City Madrigals to present annual concert, feast



COAL CITY HIGH School's Madrigal choir invites the community to join them this weekend for the annual holiday concert and feast. Performances are Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. The evening performance will include a grazing table full of meats, cheeses, and other delights and the Sunday afternoon show will include a traditional plated dinner. Tickets are available at ccmadrigals.brownpapertickets.com

Unit 1 staff can purchased used computers

STAFF REPORT

A number of items were addressed during the Unit 1 Board of Education's monthly meeting on Dec. 4.

In addition to taking action on a number of items, including approval of the 2019 tax levy, the board also engaged in discussions on a variety of topics from school safety to student test scores.

The board also discussed and took action on a proposal to allow district staff members to purchase used laptop computers.

Last month the board approved entering into a lease agreement for the purchase of new MacBooks for district staff and as a result the old units will become surplus property.

The new units have arrived and are scheduled to be distributed to staff.

Staff members will have an opportunity to purchase the old units at a cost equivalent to what the district is to receive from a recovery company. Those left unpurchased will

then be sold to the recovery company at a cost of \$380.

The funds generated will go toward the cost of the new units.

In other matters from the Dec. 4 meeting:

- At the recommendation of high school principal Chris Spencer the board approved mid-year graduation requests submitted by seven members of the senior class and seven mid-year exclusion requests.

- A second reading was held on a series of revised district policies. A third reading and approval is slated for the board's January meeting.

- The district renewed its membership in the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry at a cost of \$265.

- A \$150 donation from Coal City United Methodist Church was approved. The funds will go to the lunch assistance program.

- Bugg reported nine Unit 1 teachers are currently pursuing National Board Certification and are working

with certified teacher Pam Vigna.

Those working toward national board certification are high school teachers Martin Egan, Emily Hayse, Matthew Leman and David Sinkular. Middle school teachers Jean Kipple, Amy Siefken and Sharon Swink, and early childhood center teachers Belinda Egan and Devin Esparza.

- The board accepted the resignation of part-time cafeteria server Amanda Wren effective Dec. 19.

- The board employed Christopher Olson to the district maintenance staff. He replaces Gilbert Herrera.

- The board approved medical leave requests submitted by part-time middle school lunchroom aide Kristin Logan, full-time middle school special education aide Shannon Manietta, full-time high school special education aide Dawn Rodgers and middle school English teacher Valarie Clark.

- Extra-curricular assignments were approved for Nick Micetich, freshman boys bas-

ketball coach; Kirk Walker, assistant varsity boys basketball coach; Chris Carlson, assistant middle school wrestling coach; middle school wrestling coach split between Clinton Poyner, Vince Piatek and Joe Widlowski; and part-time assistant speech coach split between Colin Keppner, Joey Fatigante, Megan Van Duyn and Elise Hackett.

- Bob McGuinn was approved as a volunteer wrestling coach.

- The board authorized health savings account payments for the district's administrative staff ranging from \$1,400 to \$2,800.

- A new job description for assistant maintenance was presented and approved and the board employed Ross Williams to the post for the remainder of the school year.

The next meeting of the board is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8, at 6 p.m., in the district's administrative office. The board's monthly study session for December has been canceled.

Rodriguez applies for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In re the Matter Of: Miranda Rodriguez on behalf of Eric Luis Guerrero
Change of name to: Eric Luis Rodriguez
No. 15 MR 2

NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that I have filed a petition on behalf of Eric Luis Guerrero in said Court praying for the change of his name from Eric Luis Guerrero to Eric Luis Rodriguez, pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided, and that the return date on the petition is December 31, 2019.

Dated at Morris, Illinois, November 21, 2019.

Signed: Miranda Rodriguez

Robert E. Geiger - Trial Attorney (6184014)

Malmquist, Geiger & Durkee LLC 415 Liberty St.

Morris, IL 60450 815-942-5072

bobgeiger@mglawoffices.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 and 11, 2019.

Breakfast with Santa

Santa and Mrs. Claus are headed to Coal City this weekend for the 13th annual Breakfast with Santa.

Coal City American Legion Post 796 in conjunction with the Coal City Lions Club will host the breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 14. The free family event will take place at the Coal City Lions Hall, 480 S. Illinois St., from 10 a.m. to noon.

The event is enjoyable for children of all ages. Kids can take a seat on Santa's lap to share their holiday wishes and each child will receive a special gift. Adults should bring a camera to capture the moment with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Breakfast will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, milk, juice, hot chocolate and coffee.

For additional information call 815-634-2101.

2020 Supervisor of Assessments Annual Meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/9-15 of the Illinois Property Tax Code, notice is hereby given that the 2020 Supervisor of Assessments Annual meeting for all Township and Multi-Township Assessors, and Deputy Assessors, in Grundy County has been scheduled for Monday, December 30, 2019 at 5:00pm at the Grundy County Administrative Building, County Board Room, 1320 Union Street, Morris, IL. The purpose of this meeting is for consultation and instruction to ensure uniformity of the Township Assessor's functions. This meeting is open to the public.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019.

Foreclosure notice of 713 Davidson Drive

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PNC Bank, National Association, Plaintiff, vs. Christina L. Blankenstein aka Christina L. Platt aka Christina Platt aka Christina L. Blankenstein Platt; PNC Bank, National Association sbm to National City Bank; Cavalry SPV I, LLC, as assignee of GE Retail Bank/JC Penney Consumer; Illinois Housing Development Authority; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants.

CASE NO. 19 CH 87
713 Davidson Drive, Unit A
Minooka, Illinois 60447

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Christina L. Blankenstein aka Christina L. Platt aka Christina Platt aka Christina L. Blankenstein Platt, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, defendants in the above entitled cause, that suit has been commenced against you and other defendants in the Circuit Court for the Judicial Circuit by said plaintiff praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit: **THAT PART OF LOT 102 IN THE 3RD ADDITION TO THE MEADOWS, A SUBDIVISION RECORDED MAY 5, 1994 AS DOCUMENT NO. 332222 AS PART OF THE NORTH 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 102; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 09 SECONDS WEST, 139.41 FEET; THENCE ALONG A CURVE CONVEX TO THE SOUTHEAST HAVING RADIUS OF 3919.83 FEET AND AN ARC DISTANCE OF 43.41 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST 146.94 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 59 MINUTES 04 SECONDS WEST, 42.79 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, ALL IN THE VILLAGE OF MINOOKA, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**
P.I.N.: 03-01-234-017

Said property is commonly known as 713 Davidson Drive, Unit A, Minooka, Illinois 60447, and which said mortgage(s) was/were made by Christina L. Blankenstein and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds as Document Number 496722 and for other relief; that Summons was duly issued out of the above Court against you as provided by law and that said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County on or before January 10, 2020, a default may be taken against you at any time after that date and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on January 17th at 10:00AM at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450. A lender representative will be present along with a court appointed mediator to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification. For further information on the mediation process, please see the NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION on file with the Clerk of the Circuit Court or by contacting the Plaintiff's attorney at the address listed below.

YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE GIVEN, OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

This communication is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Steven C. Lindberg
ANSELMO LINDBERG & ASSOCIATES LLC
1771 W. Diehl Rd., Ste 120
Naperville, IL 60563-4947
630-453-6960 | 866-402-8661 | 630-428-4620 (fax)
Attorney No. Cook 58852, DuPage 293191, Kane 031-26104,
Peoria 1794, Winnebago 3802, IL 03126232
ilpleadings@anselmoLindberg.com
THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR.
F19090141 PNC

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 18 and 25, 2019

Foreclosure sale of 107 Emmett Street

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff, -v-

JESSICA P. GOLDEN et al, Defendant
2019 CH 34

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 25, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on December 27, 2019, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: **LOTS 3 AND 4 IN BLOCK 13 IN THE TOWN OF MITCHELL, NOW REFERRED TO AS KINSMAN AND BEING A SUBDIVISION SITUATED IN THE EAST 1/2 OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**
Commonly known as 107 EMMETT STREET, KINSMAN, IL 60437
Property Index No. 10-06-287-011

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

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

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

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

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602, Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200
Chicago IL, 60602
312-346-9088

E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No. 269002
Attorney ARDC No. 61256
Case Number: 2019 CH 34
TJSC#: 39-6540

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
13138073
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2019.



AS COAL CITY Middle School eighth graders, 10 students exceeded state standards in the areas of English/language arts and math. Honored for the academic accomplishment by their former principal were (from left, row one): Brecken Johnson and Izzy Kostbade. Row two: David Torres, Kaelan Natyshok, Collin Dames and Gavin Chernesky. Not pictured: Peyton Benson, Logan Hawkins, Luke Hawkins and Jacob Piatak.

Students lauded for academic achievement

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

For a third consecutive month, the Unit 1 Board of Education has recognized the academic achievement of students who excelled on the annual state exam.

After several years of the Partnership of Assessment for Readiness in College & Careers (PARCC) exam administered in third to eighth grade the test switched to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) as the state's assessment tool. The new test assesses public school students in the subject areas of English/language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

"Last year was the first year we gave the test and third graders are always the first students to get the test, it's something new to them. When they take it and succeed we are extremely proud of them," said Jennifer Kenney, principal of Coal City Elementary School.

Eleven students taking the test as third graders last spring exceeded standards—eight in math and three in both math and ELA

Earning recognition in math were Rylan Clements, Kayla Kowalski, Abigail Rose,

Drake Carpenter, Carson Dearth, Angel Diaz, Xavier Baer and Caleb Brown.

Exceeding in both math and English on the 2019 exam were Maiden Leman, Lindsey Duran and Jacob Munsterman.

The students were honored at the start of the Dec. 4 meeting of the Unit 1 Board of Education.

"We're glad to honor these kids at a board meeting and give them the recognition they deserve," Kenney said.

Along with recognizing the success of last year's third graders, the board was introduced to the 23 students who exceed state standards in both subject areas at Coal City Middle School.

Last year, 56% of the sixth grade class met or exceeded state ELA standards and 45% achieved that mark in math.

Students exceeding the standard in both subject areas in sixth grade were Lily Feisley, Grady Gillan, William Johnke, Kylee Kennell and Hunter Nettles.

Earning marks that placed them in the exceeding category as seventh graders were Dominic Cimino, James Feeney, Lucas Nolan, Kylee Scheer, Ryan Sears, Creide Skubic, Kylie Jackson and

Michael Smith.

Overall, 60% of last year's seventh graders met or exceeded in ELA and 45% in math.

Last year's eighth graders did extremely well on the test with 80% of the class earning a meets or exceeds in ELA and 53% in math.

Honored for their work as eighth graders were Peyton Benson, Gavin Chernesky, Collin Dames, Logan Hawkins, Luke Hawkins, Brecken Johnson, Izzy Kostbade, Kaelan Natyshok, Jacob Piatak and David Torres.

"We're very proud of these guys. The test is not a one-day test, it's really a test of how they do all year and the progress of the work they put into it," said Travis Johnson, Coal City Middle School's principal.

The principal further recognized the long-term academic accomplishments of four students—Logan, Hawkins, Johnson, Kostbade and Natyshok—who exceeded on both math and reading all three years at the middle school.

As the presentations closed out, board president Ken P. Miller spoke to the students saying, "congratulations on all of your hard work."




EIGHT STUDENTS AT Coal City Middle School achieved honors for exceeding state standards on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness exam during their seventh grade year. Those students (from left) Kylee Jackson, Kylee Scheer, Dominic Cimino, Lucas Nolan, Michael Smith, Rylan Sears and Creide Skubic were honored by principal Travis Johnson. Not pictured: James Feeney



COAL CITY MIDDLE School principal Travis Johnson recognized five students who exceeded state standards on the 2019 Illinois Assessment of Readiness exam as sixth graders. Those students were (from left): Lily Feisley, Kylee Kennell, William Johnke, Hunter Nettles and Grady Gillan.

In Loving Memory of
DOUGLAS MONTANA
Happy 50th Birthday
12/14/1969 - 8/21/2008



*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**

Information sought on vehicle burglary

Crimestoppers of Grundy County is seeking information regarding a burglary from motor vehicle reported to the Coal City Police Department occurring at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

The incident occurred at Coal City Middle School, 500 S. Carbon Hill Road. Surveillance video shows a black sport utility vehicle enter the parking lot and a large male wearing shorts and a hooded sweat-shirt exit the vehicle. The male then uses a blunt object to break out the passenger side window of another vehicle parked in the lot. Once the individual broke out the window, the man enters the vehicle and removes a purse containing credit cards and keys.

Callers providing information to the Crimestoppers line at 815-942-9667 will remain anonymous and rewards of up to \$5,000 are eligible for information that leads to an arrest and filing of criminal charges on crimes occurring in Grundy County.

Attorney Wilson files Golen estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
GRUNDY COUNTY- IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MELANIE LYNN GOLEN, DECEASED;
NO. 19 P 98

CLAIMS NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Melanie Lynn Golen of Minooka, IL. On November 20, 2019, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued to Roxanne Dyers, 1560 Marigold Ln., Minooka, IL 60447, whose attorney is Claire M. Wilson, P.O. Box 344, Channahon, IL 60410.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Grundy County at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 within six months from the date of the first publication of this 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 her attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Claire M. Wilson
Attorney At Law
25154 W. Channahon Dr.
P.O. Box 344
Channahon, IL 60410
Ph: 815-467-1184
Fax: 815-467-1198
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2019.

Speech team takes first place at invite



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY HIGH School Speech Team took first place out of 30 teams at the Bloomington Invitational on Dec. 7. The team had 55 entries on Saturday with 25 of them making a final round. Dylan Ludes and Riley Nevin were Novice Champions in Dramatic Duet Acting. Ludes and Izzy Kostbade were also Novice Champions in Humorous Duet Acting. Luke Cairns was the tournament champion in Radio Speaking. Cody Rogers was a double tournament champion in Prose Reading and Special Occasion Speaking.

Students of the Week



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center Students of the week for Dec. 9 are Drew Novak, seated in front. Arienna Tarman starts off row two (from left) along with Aryana Senisais, Liana Bakiu, Reed Clements, Maclin March and Kaylee Veronda. Completing the group standing in row three are: Charlotte Mohler, Jordyn Owen, Allisson Nava, Harper Lardi, Ruby Padavano, Grady Jensen and Xavier McReynolds.



SECOND GRADE STUDENTS of the Week at Coal City Elementary School for the week of Dec. 9 are kneeling in row one (from left): Zack Babcock, Levi Ritter, Brantley Brooks, Carson Feehan and Ronald Molenaar. Third graders standing in row two include Kinley Neary, Emma D'Orazio, Ryder Meyer, Phoenix Senodenos, Felocity Furlan, Reagan Stupak and Michael Pershey.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for the week of Dec. 9 are (from left) Logan Natyshok, Lilly Foley, Alan Calderon and Addison Sota.

Attorney Black files estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2019 P 108
In the Matter of the Estate of Daniel N. Beal, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Daniel N. Beal. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Debra A. Buttry, 3125 S. Buffalo Road, Verona, Illinois 60497, 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.

DEBRA A. BUTTRY
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 Dec. 11, 18, and 25, 2019.

Attorney Fisher files Simms estate notice

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of Dorothy M. Simms, Deceased. **Case No. 2019 P 99**

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Dorothy M. Simms of South Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 21, 2019 to Cheryl Rodriguez 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 27, 2020 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 21, 2019.
Cheryl Rodriguez, Independent Executor.
Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law,
Attorney No.: 06184265, Fisher Berardi Law, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 and 11, 2019.

Attorney Fisher files Walski 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 Sabrina M. Walski, Deceased. **Case No. 2019 P 100**

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Sabrina M. Walski of South Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 21, 2019 to Susan C. Walski 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 27, 2020 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 21, 2019.
Susan C. Walski, Independent Executor.
Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law,
Attorney No.: 06184265, Fisher Berardi Law, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 27 and Dec. 4 and 11, 2019.

- THANK YOU -

Thank you to all who contributed to Help for Hope's Annual Turkey Give-Away for 2019.

Special thanks to the Coal City School District Staff, Coalers with Character students, Teachers Brad Boresi, Corey Mikula, and Francis Loughran, Berkot's of Coal City, Assumption Roman Catholic Church, Father Robert Noesen, Reed-Custer School District Staff, Emily Aiechle, Cardinal Transport, CR Transport, Hulbert Family, Ken Talty, Reed-Custer Teachers Union, Fran Smeets and Coal City Junior Womens Club.

Cathy Milne

Help for Hope, Executive Director

COALER SPORTS

Cold shooting results in three game slide

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coal City girls basketball team was held to single digits in all four quarters by Reed-Custer Monday night, suffering a 45-25 loss.

Reed-Custer held a slim, 10-7 lead but in the second quarter and beyond is when the Comets opened it up.

"Of the first 16 minutes, I thought we played the first 12-13 minutes pretty well," said CCHS coach Brad Schmitt. "They went on a three minute run that opened up the gap, but first half I thought we played pretty well. We came out in the second half and they got to every 50/50 ball. It was more a quickness thing which gave them second and third chance opportunities. Defensively, they did a nice job of causing us some turnovers."

Reed-Custer produced a 14-6 run in the second quarter to take a 24-13 halftime lead.

The Lady Coalers (2-7, 1-3) had several shots bounce off the rim so it was just that kind of night.

They weren't going to give up but could muster only six points in the third. On top of that, the Comets scored 18 more to build their lead to 42-19.

The Lady Coalers made 29 percent of their shots. They made two threes and only missed two free-throws.

Both Megan Norris and Madison Emerson paced the Coalers with six points apiece.

Emerson made both three point buckets while adding four boards and an assist. Norris drove her way to the rim for six points. She also collected four rebounds and added an assist.

Laura Flores did a nice job off the bench, scoring three points in the final minutes. She made her only free-throw attempt to better that average. She also pulled down three boards.

Luci Hakey, Meghan Onsen, Hayleigh Roach, Colleen Feeney and Alexis Tinsley also added two points. Hakey snagged six boards while Roach grabbed four, Onsen had two and Feeney grabbed one. Hakey led the team with four assists while Roach and Onsen had one more each.

Alexis Medina and Gabby Cinotto also had a rebound.

The Coal City defense swiped six steals and were led by Macy McDowell, who took three away.

Roach, Emerson and Onsen had the three other steals.

The Lady Coalers travel to Peotone on Thursday to play a team with a 7-2 record.

Coal City 41
Herscher 52

Coal City took the lead in the first half but couldn't hang



Photos by Shawn Long

CORNER TWO—Coal City sophomore Molly Stiles takes a shot at two points during Thursday's game against Lisle.

on in the end, falling to the Tigers on Saturday.

The Lady Coalers outscored the Tigers 21-14 in the first half to take the half-time lead.

After the break, Herscher made adjustments and outscored Coal City, 25-12 in the third to take a six-point lead, 39-33 heading into the fourth quarter.

Coal City needed six to tie and seven to win. Well, they managed to score eight but their defense was unable to slow down the Tigers, who put up another 13 points to finish this one off.

The Lady Coalers made seven shots from the floor, shooting under 20 percent. Of those seven shots, six were threes that kept them in the game.

They added 9-of-14 from the line to cushion the 20 percent from the floor.

Emerson had her best game of the year, putting up 13 points. She made three of their six shots from behind the arc and was perfect from the free-throw line.

She pulled down six boards and added two assists to the mix.

Kenney was right behind her with nine points, making both of her three-point attempts. She also added two rebounds.

Roach made the other three-pointer, totaling seven points. She also collected six boards.

Feeney had five points with three rebounds, hitting 2-of-5 from the floor.

Norris was 3-of-4 from the charity stripe, adding three

points. She also collected five rebounds.

Both Hakey and Flores added another two points. Hakey had two rebounds and seven assists; while Flores added a board.

Medina also had a rebound.

The Lady Coalers snagged seven steals led by Emerson who had three while Roach added two. Both Norris and Hakey grabbed another.

Coal City 21
Lisle 50

The Lady Coalers faced state-ranked Lisle who pressured them to the breaking point, forcing the Coalers to drop their fifth game of the season.

Coal City's Hayleigh Roach tipped the ball to her team but they lost the opening possession as Lisle guard, Tara Kane came out of nowhere to steal it away. That set the tone for how this one was going to go.

"We knew what type of pressure we were going to face," added Schmitt. "And for the most part, given who we are, we handled the pressure well but we didn't make layups to finish it off. We were 1-for-16 in the first quarter and I thought the majority of those shots were in the paint and you've got to convert those if you're going to beat a good team. Those are correctable errors. I liked our effort on the offensive glass. We went to the board hard, we did a number of things in this game as far as effort-wise and those things that really aren't on a stat sheet that we haven't been doing in previous games that's a step in

with 27 points.

Brady Crawford put up 20 points while Jack Bunton scored 14 and Tyson Spencer put up 12. Cade Mueller had nine while both Jarod Garrelts and Kyle Burch added eight.

Dominic Wharrie scored another three while Riley Ponio added a bucket.

On the defensive side of the ball, Garrelts connected,

the right direction and one of those games you've got to forget about."

The Lady Lions put up nine unanswered points before coach Schmitt was forced to call a timeout.

And the timeout did help a bit as they were able to put some points up scoring 11 to Lisle's 16 in the rest of the first half to keep it somewhat close. But they trailed by 14 at the break so they had some work to do.

The biggest adjustment that had to be made was taking advantage of the chances they did have especially when they didn't get many of those chances.

But they weren't really able to get into a groove scoring the basketball as every time they got into the paint, the pressure of the Lisle defense compounded problem after problem for the Coalers.

"There's no doubt, there's kids out there that haven't seen that type of pressure and that type of foot speed and it kind of just magnified a lot of the time. They feel as though they have to rush their shot and that's a credit to Lisle and how they play. They get you to play faster than your skillset is able to."

And Lisle's offense didn't miss a beat as they recorded another double digit quarter, outscoring Coal City, 21-7 to advance their lead to 46-18 at the end of three.

The Lady Coalers were stymied all night offensively by this very aggressive defense.

Megan Norris led Coal City offensively and defensively for that matter. The senior leader scored eight points, hitting both of her free-throw chances. She also had one of her best games of the season rebounding the basketball, pulling down six boards. She also had two of four of their assists.

Madison Emerson drained the two three-pointers with six points and pulled down three boards. She also had an assist.

Sam Kenney hit two shots from inside the paint with four points. She also snagged four offensive rebounds.

"She did a better job," added Schmitt. "She's got to a better job of finishing at the end but she did a number of good things for us that hopefully, she can build on."

Alexis Tinsley sunk both of her free-throws from the line, scoring two points. She also had a rebound on the defensive end.

Laura Flores also converted on a free-throw so their free-throws were spot on.

Coal City had four take-aways as Kenney came up with two steals while Kerrigan Copes and Roach swiped the other ones.

Coaler matmen gaining steam, win eight straight

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coalers (9-1) have made it eight straight victories after losing to Joliet Central in the first match of the season.

The Coal City wrestling team blasted Plano, Mendota and Moosehart during their dual team match at Plano High School on Wednesday.

They shutout Plano 80-0 as the Reapers didn't stand a chance with Coal City's full lineup. The Coalers tallied 18 points from three forfeits, added nine pins, a Lane Kutemeier decision and a Mike McVay major decision.

They got another shutout victory over Moosehart. The Coalers earned 54 points from nine forfeits. On top of that, they added four pins and a Joey Piatak decision.

Their final match of the day was Mendota, who scored three points from a decision. Other than that, it was all Coalers, who got a bunch of help from 10 Mendota forfeits. They mixed in three pins and that was all she wrote.

The wrestling Coalers continued their winning ways during their home dual against Clifton-Central and Pontiac on Tuesday.

Coal City made quick work of Clifton-Central with nine pins, two decisions, and a Connor Huston major decision.

Pontiac was next and they won easily 64-12, recording four pins, three technical falls, a Jack Poyner major decision and three forfeits en route to victory.

Coal City 78, Mendota 3

106 - Jacob Piatak (CC) win by FFT.
113 - John Housman (CC) win by FFT.
120 - Zakk Kramer (CC) win by FFT.
126 - Harley Felker (CC) win by FFT.
132 - Trevor Pedigo (CC) win by FFT.
138 - Fittano (M) dec. over Riley Dehler (CC), 11-5.
145 - Huston (CC) fall over Preston, 1:58.
152 - Gabe Ludes (CC) fall over Lawrence, 3:27.
160 - McVay (CC) fall over Connelly, :43.
170 - Andrew Feisley (CC) win by FFT.
182 - Ashton Harvey (CC) win by FFT.
195 - Daniel Jezik (CC) win by FFT.
220 - Mike Gonzalez (CC) win by FFT.
285 - Logan Miller (CC) win by FFT.

Coal City 81, Moosehart 0

106 - Jacob Piatak (CC) fall over Edington, 1:05.
113 - Mataeo Blessing (CC) win by FFT.
120 - Landon Selio (CC) win by FFT.
126 - Garrison Rolley (CC) win by FFT.
132 - Zach Finch (CC) fall over Bufford, 4:38.
138 - Stephen Latawiec (CC) win by FFT.
145 - Issac Sterba (CC) win by FFT.
152 - Chase Adams (CC) win by FFT.
160 - Joey Breneman (CC) win by FFT.
170 - Joey Piatak (CC) dec. over Spivey, 15-11.
182 - Sean Rabenda (CC) win by FFT.
195 - Jezik (CC) fall over Mirelez, :48.
220 - Gage Leake (CC) fall over Gaye, 3:28.
285 - Logan Miller (CC) win by FFT.

Coal City 80, Plano 0

106 - Jacob Piatak (CC) win by FFT.
113 - Evan Rivera (CC) fall over Hernandez, 3:02.
120 - Derek Carlson (CC) win by FFT.
126 - Poyner (CC) fall over Reyna, 3:51.
132 - Finch (CC) win by FFT.
138 - Kutemeier (CC) dec. over Diaz, 12-5.
145 - Huston (CC) fall over Jones, 1:20.
152 - Ludes (CC) fall over Reyes, :34.
160 - McVay (CC) maj. dec. over Collins, 3:11.
170 - David Papach (CC) fall over Bowne, 3:11.
182 - Dane Dearth (CC) fall over Kelabe, 1:12.
195 - Jezik (CC) fall over A. Diaz, 1:06.
220 - Leake (CC) fall over Painter, 1:29.
285 - Logan Miller (CC) fall over Hape, :43.

Coal City 64, Pontiac 12

106 - Piatak (CC) win by FFT.
113 - Blessing (CC) fall over Versteeghi, 1:07.
120 - Carlson (CC) win by FFT.
126 - Poyner (CC) maj. dec. over Burns, 11-2.
132 - Finch (CC) fall over Wiles, 1:54.
138 - Kutemeier (CC) fall over Gray, 1:32.
145 - Huston (CC) tech. fall over Monahan, 19-4.
152 - Ludes (CC) dec. over Smith, 6-4.
160 - McDormand (P) fall over McVay (CC), 4:48.
170 - Papach (CC) tech. fall over Lockwood, 17-1.
182 - Harvey (CC) tech. fall over Schott, 17-1.
195 - Jezik (CC) win by FFT.
220 - Leake (CC) fall over Orndoff, :51.
285 - Lewis (P) fall over Miller (CC), :59.

Coal City 64, Clifton Central 6

106 - Piatak (CC) fall over B. Morris, 3:09.
113 - Rivera (CC) fall over G. Poyner, 1:29
120 - Carlson (CC) fall over Kent, 1:00.
126 - Felker (CC) dec. over T. Morris, 5-4.
132 - Finch (CC) fall over Hess, 1:35.
138 - Thorne (CL) dec. over Kutemeier, 5-3.
145 - Huston (CC) maj. dec. over Panozzo, 14-4.
152 - Ludes (CC) fall over Bailey, :49.
160 - Miller (CL) dec. over McVay, 10-3.
170 - Papach (CC) fall over Schacht, 1:27.
182 - Harvey (CC) fall over Beherns, 2:36.
195 - Jezik (CC) fall over Alexander, 1:48.
220 - Leake (CC) fall over Kuntz, :35.
285 - Miller (CC) dec. over G. Panozzo, 6-3.

Hot-handed Coalers out-gun the Blue Devils

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Coal City boys basketball team blew out Peotone 103-69 on Friday after grabbing an early lead and never looked back.

The Coalers 2-2 (1-1) scored 52 total points in the first half to own a 10-point lead into the half.

Coal City came out of the locker room fired up and outscored the Devils, 30-20 in the third to extend their lead to 72-62.

Peotone was still staying with them until the fourth where the Coalers ran away with it, posting a 21-7 run to close this game out.

Austin Pullara in his first game back, led the Coalers

Warriors win two

The Coal City Middle School boys basketball team cruised past Wilmington on Monday, 28-18.

The Warriors (3-7) were led by Aiden Christopher who put up 12 points. Owen Hren scored eight while Jim Feeney tallied three points.

Both Dylan Brown and Gavin Carpenter made a bucket while Austin Davy added a free-throw.





CCMS 31, RCMS 13
The varsity Warriors came out fired up and used that in a big win over the RCMS Panthers.

Hren paced them with 14 while Christopher and Feeney added five, apiece.

Dylan Brown added a three while Luke Nolan had two points.


Carpenter added two assists and eight boards.

Owen Kurdenok added a bucket while Chris Oliphant had a block that sealed the game.



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COALER SPORTS

Coalers send off band, cheer seniors



CODY ROGERS walks with his parents (from left) Steve and Amy Rogers during band senior night at Coal City High School. Cody was a drum major in the marching band for four years. He was also involved with student council, FBLA, drama club, musical and play, Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica, jazz band, speech, Philanthropy Group, Student Ambassadors, tennis, Madrigals and National Honor Society. Cody plans to attend a four-year university majoring in journalism and mass communication with a double minor in anthropology and Latin American languages.



ASPEN JOHNSON walks with her parents (from left) Jeff and Tonya Johnson during band senior night at CCHS. She has been a section leader of the flutes for four years. She also is involved in tennis, FCA leader, Student Ambassadors, pit band, Link Leaders, Book Club, Scholastic Bowl, math team, National Honor Society and Spanish Honors Society. Aspen plans to attend either Central Michigan or Eastern Illinois to study Elementary Education.



DOMINIC CURTIS is escorted by his mother, (on left) Allison Mitchell, during CCHS band senior night. He played tenor saxophone in the school marching band for all four years. He is also involved in National Honor Society, speech, Scholastic Bowl, math team, Student Ambassadors, La Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica and book club. Dominic plans to study chemical engineering at a four-year university.



JOESTELA WILLIS walks with her mother (right) Madonna Woodward on Friday during band senior night. Joestela has been in the color guard with the school marching band for four years. She is also involved in winter guard; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; jazz band; concert band; drama club; and Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. She plans to attend Illinois State University to pursue a career family and consumer science education.



LUKE CAIRNS is escorted by his parents (from left) John Cairns and Shannon Baer. Luke has been a drum major and has played saxophone in the school marching band for all four years. He also participates in Boy Scouts, having attained the rank of Eagle, speech, Scholastic Bowl, National Honor Society, math team and jazz band. He plans to attend a four-year university to study game designing.



LILY BEST walks with her parents (from left) Ron and Amy Best. She has been in the color guard with the school marching band for all four years of high school. She also participates in winter guard, art club, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. Lily is undecided in her future plans.



TYLER POLAREK is escorted by his parents (from left) Michael Polarek and Julianne George-O'Cannel. He has played clarinet in the school marching band for all four years. He also participates in concert band, jazz band, pit band, PALS, art club, chess club and tennis. Michael is undecided in his future plans.



SHANNON HAKY walks with (on right) Holly Tazelaar. She has played mellophone in the school marching band for the last four years. She is also involved in tennis, winter guard, speech and art club. Shannon plans to attend Loyola University to study Neurobiology.



RICHARD MICHAEL BELL III is escorted by his parents (from left) Riann Messenger-Galus, Richard Micahael Bell Jr. and Elizabeth Bell. Richard has played bass in the school marching band for three years. He also participates in track, concert band, FBLA, Musical, Madrigals and running club. He plans to attend Joliet Junior College.



ALEXIS MEDINA walks with her parents (from left) Tommy and Norma Medina during poms senior night at Coal City High School. She was in poms for one year but also participates in basketball, soccer, theatre, FBLA, Link Leaders, National Honor Society, Coalers with Character, Student Ambassadors and drama club. Alexis plans to attend Grand Canyon to study theatre and drama.



GRACIE OPYD is escorted by her parents (from left) Brian Eaton and Angela Opyd during poms senior night at CCHS on Friday. She was involved in poms for four years. Gracie also participates in dance with Forte Arts for the last eight years, madrigals, SADD and art club. She plans on attending Makeup First in Chicago.



JESSICA LEASURE walks with her parents (from left) Everett and Shantel Leasure during cheer senior night at Coal City High School. She has been a flyer in the football cheerleading squad for three years. She also participates in track and field, National Honor Society, FBLA and Footnotes. Jessica plans to attend Lewis University to pursue a career in law.



ABRIELLE WHITAKER is escorted by her parents (from left) Jim Santanagelo and Melissa Whitaker. She has been in poms for three years. Abrielle has also been involved in Major School of Dance for the last 14 years, National Honor Society, SADD and science club. She plans to study at a four-university in the fall.



KELSIE NORRIS walks with her parents (from left) Joe and Rene Norris. She participated in poms for four years, has been a dancer at Major School of Dance for the last 13 years, served as vice president of the National Honor Society, Link Leaders and Student Ambassadors. Kelsie is undecided in her future plans.



LAINA JOHNSON is escorted by her parents (from left) Kurt and Tricia Johnson. She has participated in poms for one year. Laina was on the cheer squad for three years. She plans to attend Lewis University in January to major in finance with a minor in marketing.



KORYNNE ELLIOT is escorted by her parents (from left) Devon Elliot, Jen and Kevin Jones. She has been a base and a flyer in the football cheerleading squad for all four years of high school. She is also involved in the competitive cheer squad, basketball cheerleading and competitive gymnastics. Korynne plans to attend Marquette University where she will continue her cheerleading and pursue a doctorate in physical therapy with a bachelor's degree in exercise science.



KIT CLAYBURN, AKA Charlie Coaler, is escorted by his mother, Dawn Clayburn during football senior night on Friday. He was the school mascot Charlie Coaler for three years. Clayburn is also involved in track, drama club, theatre, National Honor Society, Student Ambassadors, Philanthropy, Student Council, Spanish Honors Society and speech. Kit is undecided in his future plans.



Add Flavor to Holiday Festivities

FAMILY FEATURES

The holiday season brings gatherings, get-togethers and parties of all kinds, meaning dishes that can feed a crowd are all too important for successful entertaining. From appetizers to snacks to desserts, recipes that come together quickly mean more moments with loved ones.

For example, these dairy-fueled recipes from Milk Means More pack plenty of festive flavor for feeding family and friends without keeping you cooped up in the kitchen. Appetizers and snacks such as Holiday Baked Brie, Roasted Garlic-Whipped Feta Crostini and Cheese Buds help hold over hungry guests until the main course is served, while Peppermint Shortbread Cookies make for a perfect way to cap off the night.

Find more recipes for holiday gatherings at milkmeansmore.org.

Peppermint Shortbread Cookies

Recipe courtesy of Rachel Gurk of “Rachel Cooks” on behalf of Milk Means More
Prep time: 15 minutes, plus 30 minutes freeze time
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 40

- 2-2 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup peppermint crunch baking chips

In stand mixer fitted with paddle attachment, cream butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and salt until smooth. Gradually add flour and mix on low until combined. Add baking chips and continue mixing on low until fully combined. On wax paper or parchment paper, form dough into 12-14-inch log and freeze at least 30 minutes, or until firm. Heat oven to 350 F. Cut shortbread dough into 1/4-inch slices; bake 13-15 minutes on parchment-lined baking sheets.

Snacks, small bites and savory treats to feed a crowd



Holiday Baked Brie

Recipe courtesy of Lori Yates of “Foxes Love Lemons” on behalf of Milk Means More
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 14 minutes
Servings: 8

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 8 ounces button mushrooms, sliced
- kosher salt
- ground black pepper
- 1 brie round (8 ounces)
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup pomegranate arils
- 1/4 cup shelled pistachios

crackers or toasted bread, for serving

Heat oven to 350 F. In large skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms; cook 8-10 minutes, or until deep golden brown, stirring frequently. Season with salt and pepper; remove from heat. Place brie on parchment-lined rimmed baking pan; drizzle with honey. Transfer to oven and bake 5-7 minutes, or until inside of cheese is softened but outside remains intact. Transfer brie to serving platter; top with pomegranate arils, pistachios and mushrooms. Serve with crackers or bread.

Roasted Garlic-Whipped Feta Crostini

Recipe courtesy of Liz Della Croce of “The Lemon Bowl” on behalf of Milk Means More
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes
Servings: 16

- 1 bulb garlic (about 12 cloves)
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 teaspoon salt, divided
- 1 teaspoon pepper, divided
- 32 slices baguette
- 8 ounces feta cheese
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/2 cup pomegranate seeds
- 1/4 cup parsley, minced

Heat oven to 400 F. Slice garlic bulb in half, exposing garlic heads; place in

center of large piece of foil. Drizzle each half with 1 tablespoon olive oil, 1/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Wrap foil tightly around garlic and roast until caramelized, about 30 minutes. Place baguette slices on large baking sheet and drizzle with olive oil. Bake on middle rack until golden brown, about 10 minutes; set aside. Place feta cheese, milk, lemon juice, remaining salt and remaining pepper in high-speed food processor. Once garlic finishes roasting, add garlic cloves to food processor. Pulse until whipped and creamy, adding more milk as needed to reach desired consistency. Adjust seasonings, to taste, if necessary. To serve, spread each crostini with whipped feta and sprinkle with pomegranate seeds and minced parsley.



Cheese Buds

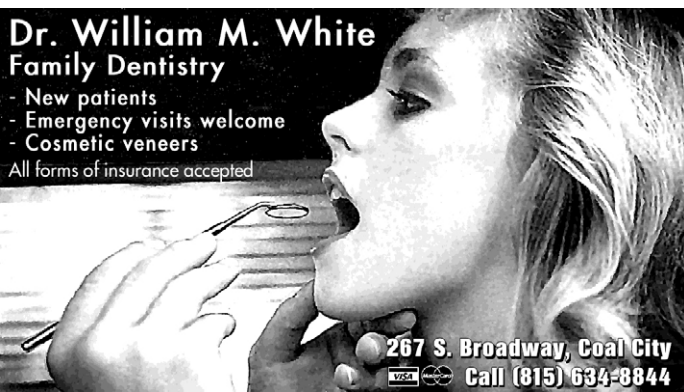
Recipe courtesy of Sheila Johnson of “Eat 2 Gather” on behalf of Milk Means More
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes, plus 1 hour chill time
Servings: 12

- 1 cup cake flour or all-purpose flour
- 1 cup grated extra-sharp white cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, cold and cut into chunks
- 1 teaspoon coarse sea salt
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 40 pecan halves
- 1 egg white, whisked with 1 teaspoon cold water
- smoked paprika

Heat oven to 350 F. Line baking sheet with parchment paper. Add flour, cheese, butter chunks, salt and cayenne pepper

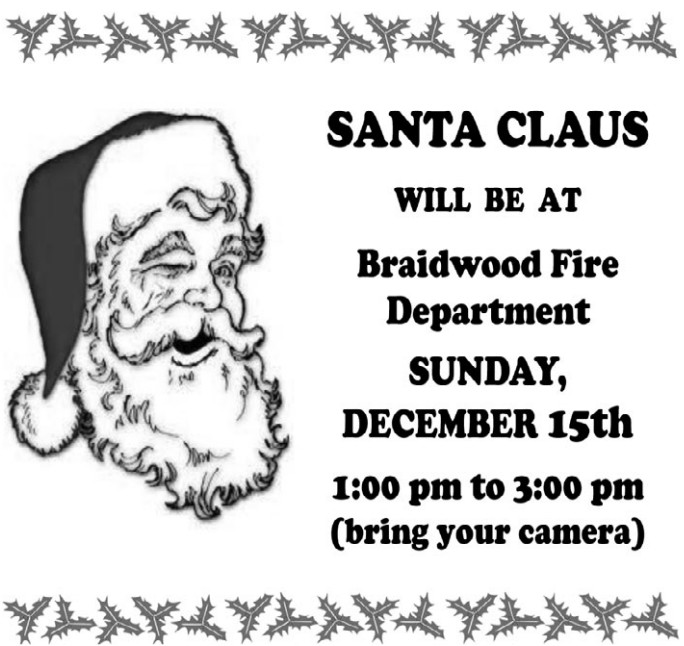
to food processor. Process until ingredients form into ball, about 1 minute. Remove dough from food processor, wrap with plastic wrap and press into flat round. Place in refrigerator 1 hour. Dust counter with flour and roll out dough to 1/4-inch thick. Using 1-inch round cookie cutter, cut out rounds and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Place one pecan on top of each round. Using pastry brush, lightly paint each cracker with egg wash. Sprinkle with smoked paprika. Bake 12-15 minutes, or until buds just start to brown around bottom edges. Remove from oven to cooling rack. Store in airtight container up to 1 week or freeze 1 month. **Note:** Cheese buds can be made plain without pecans, or pecans can be chopped and sprinkled on after egg wash and smoked paprika.

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Congratulations Tom Rhodes!

O'Dekirk, Allred & Associates, LLC is pleased to officially announce that Thomas Rhodes has been elected to a Partner of the Firm!

Tom, a lifelong Wilmington resident and WHS graduate, has been a member of O'Dekirk, Allred & Associates since 2015, focusing on Real Estate Law by handling a large volume of residential files for our firm. He is active in the Three Rivers Association of Realtors, and has gained the respect of not only realtors and lenders, but also that of fellow attorneys and members of the legal community in both Joliet and the surrounding area.



"We welcome Tom as a Partner of the Firm," commented Managing Partners, Bob O'Dekirk and Leslie Allred. "Tom is an incredibly skilled and respected attorney. He will continue to make outstanding contributions to the Firm and our clients in the coming years."

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Community calendar of events

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

Thursday, Dec. 12

- 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 295 N. First St., Wilmington, closing early to prepare for special Saturday opening. Only open each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., second Wednesday of each month

Saturday, Dec. 14

- 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 295 N. First St., Wilmington, special hours for those needing coats and Christmas items
- 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, each Saturday
- 10 a.m. to noon, Mobile Food Pantry, Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive, Braidwood, bring your own bags or boxes
- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., open each Saturday
- 5 to 8 p.m., Godley Circle Jam, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley

Monday, Dec. 16

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Life Line Screening, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington
- 4 p.m., Mobile Food Truck, St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road, South Wilmington, bring your own bags or boxes
- 5 p.m., St. Vincent's Table, Assumption Catholic Church, 195 S. Kankakee St., Coal City
- 7 p.m., Ladies Auxiliary VFW meeting, Wilmington Moose Lodge, 32050 W. River Road, third Monday of each month
- 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington

Tuesday, Dec. 17

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 295 N. First St., Wilmington, CLOSED from Dec. 17 until Jan. 7, 2020, please don't drop off donations during this time
- Noon, Wilmington Rotary Club, Hayden's Crossing, 107 N. Water St., Wilmington, each Tuesday
- 12:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Tuesday

5:15 p.m., TOPS IL 2264, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Tuesday

- 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Immaculate Conception Church, Father White Hall, 110 S. School St., Braidwood, each Tuesday
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration and Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., first and third Tuesday of each month

Wednesday, Dec. 18

- 7:45 a.m., TOPS IL 1024, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington, each Wednesday
- 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
- 6 p.m., Custer Township Fire Protection District Board meeting, Custer Fire Station, 21750 Route 113,
- 6 to 7 p.m., Awana Club, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Wednesday
- 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer Community Unit District 255, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

Thursday, Dec. 19

- 9:30 a.m. to noon, Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; NO Mobile Workshop Center today
- 10 to 11:30 a.m., Braidwood senior citizens' coffee, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., third Thursday of the month
- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington, meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month

Monday, Dec. 23

- 7 p.m., Village of Godley meeting, 150 S. Kankakee St., Godley, meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month
- 10:30 a.m., Island City Homemakers meeting, Island City Park District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, fourth Monday of each month
- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, Braidwood City Hall, 141 N. Main St., Braidwood

Holiday happenings

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

Friday, Dec. 13

- 5 to 8 p.m., Happy Hallidays, Reed-Custer High School, 249 Comet Drive, Braidwood, \$3 for adults 18 and older, \$1 for children ages 4 and older/a student with an ID, no charge for children ages 3 and younger
- 6 p.m., Full Gospel Holy Ghost Revival service, Main Street Banquet Hall, 173 E. Main St., Braidwood
- 7:30 p.m., Jingle and Jazz, Joliet Junior College, 1215 Houbolt Road, Joliet, admission \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; \$2 for JJC students

Saturday, Dec. 14

- 10 a.m., Victorian Christmas ornament making, Wilmington Public Library District, 201 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington, call 815-476-2834
- 4 to 8 p.m., Friends of Custer Fire Holiday Chili Dinner, 35445 Washington St., Custer Park; \$8 per person, 5 and under free; Toys for Tots donations, raffle, silent auctions, door prizes; proceeds go to new equipment for the Custer Fire Department
- 4 to 5:45 p.m., Santa's 'Sunny' Shindig, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley; dinner at 4:30 p.m.; \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 2 to 12; register by Dec. 9.
- 4:30 to 7 p.m., Wilmington Chamber Holiday Kickoff, North Water Street, Wilmington; 5 to 7 p.m., Ride the Polar Express; free treats; visit with Santa
- 6 to 7 p.m., Annual Tree Lighting, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St.; complete with Santa, hot chocolate, inflatables and more.
- 6 p.m., Full Gospel Holy Ghost Revival service, Main Street Banquet Hall, 173 E. Main St., Braidwood

Sunday, Dec. 15

- 1 to 3 p.m., Santa at the Braidwood Fire Station, 275 W. Main St., Braidwood; bring your camera for pictures, enter through the front door on Main Street
- 2 p.m., Christmas Benefit Concert, Fire United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington

Wednesday, Dec. 18

- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Free holiday luncheon, Wilmington Fitness Center, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Mobile food truck coming to South Wilmington

Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will distribute food in the St. Lawrence Church parking lot, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington, on Monday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m., rain or shine.

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

Participants are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to transport food and grocery products to their vehicles. Shopping carts will be available.

A representative from Catholic Charities will be available to explain additional services provided by the agency.

Participants do not have to be Catholic to receive the free food items. Catholic Charities helps provides help to all faiths and beliefs.

For more information about Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Braidwood holds holiday decorating contest

The city of Braidwood is hosting a Holiday Lighting Contest this season to encourage and support residents' holiday decorating.

Residents can enter their homes into the contest for a chance to win cash prizes of \$100 for first place, \$75 for second place and \$50 for third place.

There is no entrance fee. Participants must enter by Dec. 12 by completing the entry form, which can be found on the city's website at www.Braidwood.us under "Forms" on the "Government" tab.

The form can be mailed to the City of Braidwood, 141 W. Main St., Braidwood, IL 60408 or email to dmoney@braidwood.us.

Judging will be done from Dec. 16 to 20.

None of the city's employees, contractors or their families are eligible to win prizes. The judging will be done based on decorations visible from the street. Winners' pictures will be posted on the city's Facebook page.

Final prize winners will be notified and awarded on Dec. 23.

Jingle and Jazz at JJC

The Joliet Junior College Fine Arts Department presents Jingle and Jazz at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13, in the Fine Arts Theatre at JJC's Main Campus.

Jingle and Jazz features the JJC Chamber Singers and JJC Chorale, conducted by professor Philip Spencer, and the JJC Jazz Combo, directed by professor David Nuccio.

The program will include vocal and instrumental jazz and carols from around the world for the holiday season, featuring Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols" with harp. All who attend will receive a free holiday jingle bell decoration.

Admission is \$5 for adults; \$4 for senior citizens, non-JJC students, JJC faculty and staff; and \$2 for JJC students.

JJC's Main Campus is located at 1215 Houbolt Road in Joliet.

Mobile food pantry at R-C Middle

Reed-Custer Middle School and Exelon are teaming up to help families in need by hosting a Mobile Food Pantry on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon in the RCMS cafeteria.

Feel free to park in front of the middle school. Participants can use the bus loop to get closer to the door to load items if needed. Please bring bags or boxes.

RCMS is located at 407 Comet drive in Braidwood.

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Wassail: A traditional toast to 2020

Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too! When revelers appear on your doorstep bringing wishes of joy and good health in the New Year, will you be ready? This week we're going a-wassailing!

Wassail, also referred to as Mulled Wine is a holiday tradition that can be traced back literally hundreds of years. It is warm, festive, and delicious, and literally was once served to anyone who appeared at your front door asking for it.

The term "wassail" is an Anglo-Saxon greeting meaning "be in good health," which was commonly used as a toast when serving cider or ale. Generations passed and the term wassail would come to refer to the drink in the glass instead of the toast.

Wassailing refers to the practice of going door to door offering songs, and occasionally gifts in exchange for a drink from the wassail bowl. Most houses in Victorian-era England kept a Wassail bowl full of warm cider throughout the winter. In exchange for a song, wassailers were invited in from the cold for a cup of Wassail, and perhaps a few minutes next to a cozy fire. The practice has largely been replaced by caroling, but there are pockets of revelers steeped in Christmas tradition that still enjoy an evening of wassailing.

It's unlikely that anyone will come a-wassailing to your door demanding a cup of Mulled Wine, but in pockets of

Scotland and Northern England the practice is very much alive and occurs on New Year's Day as part of the "first-foot" celebration. The "first-foot" refers the first person to enter a home in the New Year and is seen as a bringer of good fortune.

Think of the Wassail Song as the European version of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"; both emphasize blessings in the New Year.

Fast forward to 2019, and you will find that the Wassail bowl over the fire has been replaced by the slow cooker.

There are literally hundreds of Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes available online, and who knows how many handwritten recipes are tucked away in drawers and recipe books around the globe. The common thread in most contemporary Wassail recipes is that most are wine based, specifically calling for red wine. Red wine has richer fruit notes and is darker in color than white wine, making it a perfect base for Wassail.

Any number of "Christmas spices" can be used in your Wassail, but the essential spice is cinnamon which is commonly added via cinnamon sticks. Using cinnamon sticks serves two purposes: impart



the cinnamon flavor into your Wassail, and each stick can be used as a garnish when serving. If you have a party of eight, be sure to drop eight cinnamon sticks into your slow cooker so that each guest receives a cinnamon stick garnish.

Fruit is also a Wassail essential. The fruit juices (apple cider and orange juice) impart most of the flavor notes, but the sliced fruit brings a festive visual element to your Wassail. Be sure to use the apple and orange slices when garnishing your servings of Wassail.

Good Wassail takes time, but this is not a negative! After about an hour in the slow cooker you will be treated to the authentic holiday aroma that only scratch-made Wassail can add to your holiday gathering.

Speaking of slow cookers, you will want to take it slow. Wassail can be made on a "high" setting, but remember that this warm Christmas punch is bursting with flavors, and those flavors need time to come together. Don't rush this one, and you will be rewarded.

Many Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes call for non-descript red wine, I find that Pinot Noir is the best fit for Mulled Wine recipes. If you

have a favorite Pinot Noir, use it, but don't break the bank buying bottles for batches of Mulled Wine. You don't want the stuff in the box, but keep it at or below \$20 a bottle.

Feel free to add and subtract from this recipe, your Wassail should reflect your personality and your tradition. If you are preparing Wassail for the first time, the recipe below is a great starting point that is sure to please.

I hope that your 2019 was wonderful, let us be the first to wish you a safe, happy, and blessed New Year in 2020!

Homemade Wassail is best prepared in a large slow cooker.

Combine in slow cooker:
2 750 ml bottles red wine (Pinot Noir or rioja)
4 cups apple cider
2 1/2 cups orange juice
1/2 cup honey
2 cups frozen pitted cherries

1 large apple, sliced thin
1 large orange, sliced thin
1 piece fresh ginger, sliced
8-10 cinnamon sticks
1 vanilla bean, cut open
1 teaspoon cloves

Cover and heat on high for three hours, or on low for at least five hours. Ladle into glasses, garnish with fruit and cinnamon sticks.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Papes has a special touch



THE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH trophy found a new home during December at Athletico Physical Therapy in Wilmington where therapist Joan Papes (right) became its recipient. Chamber ambassador Stefany Gumm (left) of Grundy Bank presents Papes the trophy noting that the public nominated her commenting that she "is a wonderful therapist who treats her patients with care and compassion." Papes has worked in Wilmington for about eight years, noting that the people of the community are hard workers and really work hard to regain their prior functional levels. "I have met some amazing, interesting and hard working people," she said. "I also love to help guide people to attain their goals they have from an injury or illness. It is rewarding to see the improvement with people's functioning. We have a great team here in Wilmington and I enjoy coming to work every day to be around my coworkers."

Wilmington Chamber photo



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Braidwood TOPS chapter planning end to 2019

As 2019 nears the end, the Braidwood chapter is busy planning and collecting information to be sent to headquarters in Wisconsin.

Kathy Voight was the best weekly loser for Nov. 24. Betty Elwell received the menu gift. Lucy Ellis drew for the 50/50 raffle. Lori Jackson kept the wallet challenge and earned an attendance charm. Joan Benson won the cry-can cash. There was a vote taken for Chapter Inspiration. The winner will be announced Dec. 10.


New contests will begin in January.

The treasurer has been ill. Lynne Hatten will fill the position. Sandy Hundley will serve as co-leader until the yearly election of officers in the spring.

TOPS bingo was played on Dec. 3. As usual, the November best monthly loser received fruits and vegetables on Dec. 3. The Christmas party was scheduled for Dec. 10.


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Man with backbone

WILMINGTON—Why is it that Senator Romney is the only Republican in Washington who has the courage to tell the truth? For one thing, Senator Romney has always been an honorable man. Also, Romney can depend on his constituency in Utah to support him because the Mormon people aren't fond of President Trump's immorality. That's why Romney recently had the backbone to defy Trump and to state publicly that Ukraine did not meddle in our 2016 election. Some Republicans, on the other hand, have become Putin's useful idiots by pushing the Russian propaganda that perhaps Ukraine meddled and maybe Russia didn't meddle. Many Republicans are cowardly keeping mum because they are spineless wimps who are afraid of Trump. What's next? Will Trump invite Putin to the White House while President Reagan rolls over in his grave?

Tank surprise

COAL CITY—Who does city hall think they're kidding when they said they didn't know those gas tanks were on South Broadway in Coal City? The city knew they were there all the time. They have been there for over 80 years or more. They didn't just appear overnight magically. I think they better do some studying of city records.

Trump versus Pelosi

COAL CITY—In the last five weeks under Trump 266,000 new jobs with unemployment at 3.5, a 50-year low; wages up 3.6 %; home ownership up and two hostages home again. Under Pelosi house leadership no vote on trade yet both sides support it. No work on lowering prescription drugs. Why ? We can't have winning deals for the country and have an impeachment at the same time, It would make us look stupid,

Unanswered questions

WILMINGTON—There have been two articles about the park district referendum. Having read them through closely, still not understanding, but thinking there are others like me, it would be helpful if our editors would please do an article or an editorial on the downside of the park district referendum. Explain how these bonds work, tell us what is the worst that could happen? One of the articles gets to the "fluffer" part where the bond guy gives examples about how little the taxes will increase. The average person quits reading at that point because it is only a few dollars. Many people do not know the park district doesn't take care of our parks anymore, in fact has nothing to do with them. A history refresher on that would also be helpful. All of the taxpayer money the park district gets is funding an old A & P store building they do not own, and only a fraction of the population uses and that fraction still has to pay a market based fee for the services they use.

Embarrassment

BRAIDWOOD—After setting such a horrible example for our citizens and our children, Mayor Jones, you need to resign. What would have happened if you had seriously hurt or worse, killed someone in that accident? What an embarrassment to our community.

Personal gain

SHADOW LAKES—The news is saying that President Trump is using the office for personal gain. Well, Clinton used it for personal gain, and so did Obama. Look what these people get paid to go in front of an audience and speak. Let's face it, Trump is already a billionaire, so where is this personal gain? Clinton loved authority, and the one that loved authority more than anyone in my lifetime is Obama. And he did nothing for this country, nothing for black people that the blacks thought he would do. He ruined our military. You gotta remember Operation Fast and Furious and the other one where he had the FDIC go after banks that dealt with gun manufacturers and gun dealers, which is against the Second Amendment of the constitution. So, let's not forget about those little personal gains.

Dan Hill

A happy day

SHADOW LAKES—Dec. 4, 2019 it's a great day in America. Four law professors from the most respected universities in the country testified that according to the United States constitution Trump must be impeached. I am very happy to see that Trump's presidency is going to end the only way it should.

Nature's dryer

SHADOW LAKES—For all you climate change helpers here is a little tip I found in the Farmers Almanac. "On good days, use your outside clothesline for drying instead of the dryer. Air-drying your clothes can reduce the average household's carbon footprint by 2,400 pounds a year. And even if you line dry half the time, you can save over \$60 in a year." Gee, but isn't there a lot of ordinances in communities that will not let you use a clothesline? Oh well, have to find another way to save the earth.

Margot Lane

The possibilities

BRAIDWOOD—Have you seen pictures of the gorgeous residential high-rises in Italy which have trees, bushes and greenery growing as an integral part of the building on every floor? They are built to fight climate change, reduce air/noise pollution and create beauty. Plans are going forward in the Netherlands and Switzerland for these 'green' buildings to house low-income families. China, Egypt and Mexico are planning 'forest cities' with tree-covered hospitals, schools and office buildings. It's good to learn what is being done when there is positive leadership in the right direction. Oh, the possibilities. It's a shame these ideas weren't put into place decades ago and it's a shame we don't hear about such proposals in this country. Instead measurements indicate the air in this country has become dirtier in the last few years. We have the dubious distinction of going backward instead of forward.

Nothing's normal

WILMINGTON—Nothing's normal these

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

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

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

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

days. President Trump's toady, Attorney General Barr, claims that Trump was spied upon by law enforcement despite no evidence found in that regard. Barr's responsibility is to be the people's attorney, not to be the personal consigliere of Trump and for that reason, legal scholars recommend Barr's disbarment. Considering that Trump's loyalties are with Russia, there is no reason to believe Barr's investigation is warranted much less accurate. A fishy smell arose when Trump constantly praised Putin during the 2016 election, and when Republicans mysteriously changed their platform from opposing Russia to suddenly obeying Russia, red-hot warning signals went through the roof. The intelligence community came through and did a stellar job of getting to the bottom of it. Barr should stop attacking law enforcement and uphold his pledge to represent the 327 million people of this country rather than kissing the feet of just one.

Just their opinions

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching the impeachment process with the lawmakers questioning constitutional scholars, and what's really interesting is they are so interested in these scholars' opinions about impeachment, but there are no Democrats out there who wish to stand up for the Second Amendment—the right to keep and bear arms. So, why are they so concerned about these scholars now with impeachment, when they're not interested in what scholars have to say about trying to repeal the Second Amendment? Can any of you anti-Trump people answer that for me, as I have answered one of the gentlemen or ladies' questions?

Dan Hill

Abyss of corruption

ESSEX—Perhaps it's appropriate to bring up the tale of the tan suit. President Obama was criticized mercilessly for his wardrobe selection on a hot summer day in 2014 which caused a reaction so vicious that defies logic. The contrast between such an innocent incident and to what's happening these days in Washington is shocking. President Trump schemed to seize personal political gain by bribing a foreign country using taxpayer dollars to dump dirt on his political rival all the while endangering national security in the process. And the only reason Ukraine finally received their aid is because Trump was caught. Yet every Republican politician throughout the nation is either playing possum, asleep at the wheel, missing in action or is actively defending these acts which are in violation of the Constitution. Our nation has descended into the abyss of corruption so quickly and so deeply it's enough to make your head spin.

Starts at home

BRAIDWOOD—The problem with climate change is everyone wants to blame with the people in charge like President Trump. But look at your own actions. Are you teaching your children to recycle and conserve? I can tell you my grandchildren don't even think about recycling no matter how much preaching I do to them. That's because their parents don't set the right example. Go to the fast food restaurant and do you see any bins for recycling. What about our schools? They should have classes on saving the environment, recycling programs in the schools, how to reduce food waste, even talk about how much carbon footprint is left from planes, trains, buses and automobiles. To save this earth it has to start in our homes and in our schools,

Condoning bad behavior

BRAIDWOOD—Why do so many people on social media seem to think that it is appropriate for the mayor of Braidwood to have been drinking and driving? By trying to defend such actions, it's only condoning the bad behavior which has been displayed. Wake up Braidwood residents, it's not OK. Everyone who is trying to defend his actions needs to think, what if it had been me and my family inside the vehicles he ran into?

3-to-1

SHADOW LAKES—I see the professor scholars that were being interviewed today in the impeachment hearings. They had three Democrat scholars and one Republican scholar. Guess who got asked the most questions?

Dan Hill

Putin's a threat

WILMINGTON—Remember the park bench in England where Putin's agents poisoned a man and his daughter? They luckily survived, but several months ago in Berlin an asylum seeker persecuted by Putin was assassinated in Tiergarten Park. No surprise. Putin has been pursuing his victims beyond Russia's borders for more than a decade. Germany expelled two Russian diplomats in retribution for this crime but President Trump has exacted no punishment. And last week 71 Republicans voted to agree with Trump to allow Russia readmission to the G7. Fortunately they were overruled by 222 Democrats and 116 Republicans who have the good sense to know that Putin is a threat. Three years ago Russia had virtually no support from Republicans so 71 Republicans supporting Russia now is a new and alarming development. It seems Putin's murderous tyranny is becoming accepted by a growing number in the GOP which is frightening.

Jill J.

Clarification

COAL CITY—There needs to be some clarity on the fact that not every person who identifies as a Democrat or is not in favor of Trump is a "left-wing liberal nut." There are many of us out there who are pretty moderate or who are centrist. There are an ever-increasing number of Republicans who are withdrawing their support without changing parties. Going against a racist, narcissistic, sexist, chauvinistic liar does not make one a crazy liberal socialist. It makes one a decent human. Dan Hill poses many questions about why Democrats oppose Trump so strongly. It's not just disagreement in policy or international relations, or even the lies; it's the fact that he is potentially mentally ill and degrading quickly. As he is challenged more and more, and especially in light of the



impeachment hearings, he becomes a loose cannon. In other words, we don't just worry that he will destroy our country figuratively. We worry that he will do so literally by either angering the wrong dictator or by having a temper tantrum and pushing that shiny red button that could annihilate us all. The man was shaky at best in the beginning, but he has become unhinged and dangerous, as evidenced by the increasingly aggressive tweets he puts out. So, before labeling an anti-Trumper as a liberal nut, perhaps you should actually listen to their ideas and beliefs instead of always being on the attack. Yes, Dan Hill, I am referring to you and your cronies. And on a side note- I am not a news watcher, but I am a news reader, using many different sources for my information. I also take part in discussions on a very regular basis in reference to the state of affairs and actually listen to whomever I am speaking. I am well-informed and logical, a dangerous combination for Trump supporters. Lastly, let go of Obama and Clinton already. I haven't forgotten, but it has been years and your arguments are no longer relevant. Live in the now and focus on the problems of today that are being proven true, not some unproven conjecture and assumptions from years ago. Those arguments do not help your case; they just make you sound like a whiny kid talking to his mommy about who started it. Move on.

Growing deficit

COAL CITY—US Federal Budget Deficit: Obama: 2009 - \$1.413 trillion; 2016 - \$0.584 trillion. A decrease of 82.9% decrease (remember we were getting out off a recession). Trump: 2017 - \$0.665 trillion; 2019 - \$1.109 trillion. An increase of 44.4%. From: thebalance.com using government statistics.

Opinion

COAL CITY—A president whose Justice Department says he cannot be indicted, whose White House counsel says he cannot even be investigated and whose lawyers say he can block the executive branch from participating in the impeachment process is a president who has become a dictator. None of us can feel safe in such a regime. by: Laurence H. Tribe, Carl M. Loeb University Professor and Professor of Constitutional Law at Harvard Law University.

A sorry fact

BRAIDWOOD—Once again a testament to the sorry condition of this community, with the DUI arrest of the current mayor of this town. It is bad enough that this community is so backward and seeks no way to move ahead while little towns like Diamond and Coal City are leaps and bounds ahead in their progressive attitude. And no one seems to care about anything, and by no one, I mean the citizens who are so complacent about the condition of this community. The "good ole boy" attitude does not belong anywhere in politics, government or otherwise. Wake up people. It is time to get into the 21st century.

Without warning

BRAIDWOOD—What does the D in D Construction stand for? On Friday, Dec. 6, they closed the ramp for Reed Road on SB I-55. No signs were posted prior to the exit, not until you were at the exit. They had a sign with cones stating "ramp closed." Now you had to go six miles to the Gardner exit to come back on NB I-55. Once again, no signs stating that the ramp at Reed Road was open or closed. It was open, but it was very confusing. This whole fiasco, especially at night, is very dangerous. Who closes a ramp without warning or signs at the exit prior so you don't have to travel out of your way? Does the D stand for dumb, dim-wit, dense, doe-doe, disturbed, disrupted, disorder, dunce, or Dumbbell? When a fatal accident occurs due to incompetence, then that death will be on D Construction. IDOT needs to instruct them how to properly and safely do traffic control.

Toilets and Trump

COAL CITY—Anderson Cooper on CNN comments President Trump's views on handling important issues in the U.S. such as toilets and light bulbs. This video can be found on You Tube by searching: Anderson Cooper toilet flushing. Specifically, 'Trump claims Americans need to flush the toilet 10 times, 15 times, as opposed to once.' I think you will enjoy this.

Bank robber

BRAIDWOOD—A robber walks into a bank and grabs all the cash. If he stumbles, drops the money and tries to run off, do the cops look the other way and let him go? No, because attempting to commit a crime is a crime. So when people say Ukraine got their money, what's the big deal? The big deal is that Ukraine received their aid only after President Trump got caught, and even more important, Trump committed bribery with a foreign power for his personal political gain. It violates the constitution. And by the way, Ukraine still hasn't received \$35 million of the aid that is coming to

them.

Plastic bag quandry

SHADOW LAKES—Let's take a look at this quagmire for climate change. Here is a quandry for you to solve. We all use plastic bags at the store. You read that these bags take a 1,000 years to deteriorate. I have seen these bags in the dumpster and even caught in trees. Maybe we should not use them. Let's go to the alternative. At the store, you ask for paper bags. Now here is an idea, bags that will deteriorate. But here is the problem, we are cutting down trees to make the bags. We are destroying one of our natural resources to make brown paper bags. What is the next answer to this problem? Bring your own bags when you shop at Aldi. Maybe Aldi is ahead of its time with climate change. Alas, we are all concerned about these problems. Just how many people do you see shopping in stores, bring their own bags? I bet the answer is zero. I am sure I will receive a lot of flak about this. You are all concerned...but let somebody else do it.

Margot Lane

Call the plumber

RITCHIE—What is President Trump's most recent assault on the environment? It's low-pressure plumbing. He complains about the showers. He claims the toilets aren't flushing. But that's strange because I've never had a problem. What is wrong with this man? He is not only attacking water conservation but a regulation roll-back would increase water bills and energy bills. And when he complains that energy efficient light bulbs make him look orange it's because he really is orange. He wears orange makeup. It makes him the butt of jokes. No pun intended. But he deserves every snicker he gets.

Wink, wink indeed

CUSTER PARK—To the person who wrote the Wink, Wink' sound-off letter: When Republican Senator Inhofe claimed a snowball was proof that climate change doesn't exist, conservatives lost all credibility concerning climate solutions. When President Trump deliberately destroys good environmental policies too numerous to list here, conservatives again lose all credibility concerning climate solutions. When we examine voting records of GOP congressmen in the last 40 years, conservatives absolutely lose all credibility concerning climate solutions. And the Green New Deal addresses our transportation imbalance. As an active citizen involved during the analysis of Chicago's third airport project at the Nakakee site 30 years ago, predictions regarding the demand for future air travel were inflated by the planning consultants. The experts were just plain wrong. The airport was not needed then and not now. Too much money goes into aviation funding which unfortunately makes flying our only viable long distance option throughout the country. Admittedly the Green New Deal's suggestion to eliminate most air travel goes too far. But the answer is to build responsible transportation not a monolith.

We, the people

COAL CITY—I've been captivated, listening to every word since President Trump descended the escalator after announcing his candidacy in 2015. Is Trump authentic as his supporters claim? He is authentic in the sense that he is not afraid to insult and offend. Otherwise Trump is a true con artist who honed his dark skills during his years as a failed businessman. He uses confusion techniques which include: repeating lies over and over; telling lies mixed together with a kernel of truth; lying and then denying the lie; telling bigger lies because the bigger the lie the more likely people will believe it. Trump also applies the strategies of cult leaders which makes perfect sense because Trump fits that personality profile. What are the traits of cult leaders? Grandiose feelings of talents and achievements; fantasies of power, intelligence and wealth; a sense of entitlement, a lack of empathy and a lot of lying. But this is not what we the people signed up for. We the people did not choose to join a cult when we voted.

Losing jobs

COAL CITY—Over the last six months manufacturing has lost a net of 23,000 jobs and average hours worked has fallen to its lowest level in eight years. The number of people employed in the manufacturing sector also remains well below the 2008 level. Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Been there 60 years

COAL CITY—Regarding the "underground surprise," it seems to me that whoever did the study was sadly lacking in knowledge of the area. Surely someone must have known that Schimandle's Gas Station operated on the corner of Broadway and Oak. It was there about 50 to 60 years ago and gas stations stored their gas in tanks underground.

Koerners celebrate 50th wedding anniversary



Bob and Jean Koerner

Bob and Jean Koerner, of Coal City, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 19, 2019. Bob and Jean (Planeta) were married on Dec. 19, 1969 in Princeton, IL.

They are the parents of Ann (Eric) Kodat, of Coal City and Charlie (Ann) Koerner, of Oswego and the grandparents of Abby Kodat and Emily Koerner.

The couple will celebrate with a family dinner and plan to travel on a whim.

Santa coming Saturday to Godley for dinner, festive tree lighting

Join the Christmas festivities at the Godley Park District on Dec. 14 with Santa's "Sunny" Shindig followed by the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Rumor has it that Santa spends his summers relaxing in the tropics, so the Godley Park District has invited him to share those beach vibes with everyone at their annual dinner before he goes back to the North Pole to prepare for the holiday.

Head over to the park district at 4 p.m. and enjoy dinner with Santa and friends at 4:30 p.m. The fee is \$10 for adults and children ages 13 and older. It's \$5 for children ages 2 to 12,

which include pictures and dinner.

Register and pay by Dec. 9. No walk-ins; pre-registration only.

Following dinner, the Godley Park District is holding its tree lighting ceremony at 6 p.m.

The celebration will be complete with hot chocolate, inflatables and much more, including a special visit from Santa. Don't forget your camera! This event is free and is sponsored by the Pet Parade Pet Services.

The Godley Park District is located at 500 S. Kankakee St. in Godley. For more information, call 815-458-6129.

What to do when Medicare tells you no

Dear Savvy Senior,
How do I go about appealing Medicare when they won't pay for something that they covered in the past?

Rejected Rhonda

Dear Rhonda,

If you disagree with a coverage or payment decision made by Medicare, you can appeal, and you'll be happy to know that around half of all appeals are successful, so it's definitely worth your time.

But before going that route, talk with the doctor, hospital and Medicare to see if you can spot the problem and resubmit the claim. Some denials are caused by simple billing code errors by the doctor's office or hospital. If, however, that doesn't fix the problem, here's how you appeal.

Original Medicare Appeals

If you have original Medicare, start with your quarterly Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). This statement will list all the services, supplies and equipment billed to Medicare for your medical treatment and will tell you why a claim was denied. You can also check your Medicare claims early online at MyMedicare.gov, or by calling

Medicare at 800-633-4227.

There are five levels of appeals for original Medicare, although you can initiate a fast-track consideration for ongoing care, such as rehabilitation. Most people have to go through several levels to get a denial overturned.

You have 120 days after receiving the MSN to request a "redetermination" by a Medicare contractor, who reviews the claim. Circle the items you're disputing on the MSN, provide an explanation of why you believe the denial should be reversed, and include any supporting documents like a letter from the doctor or hospital explaining why the charge should be covered. Then send it to the address on the form.

You can also use the Medicare Redetermination Form.

See CMS.gov/Medicare/CMS-Forms/CMS-Forms/downloads/CMS20027.pdf to download it or call 800-633-4227 to request a copy by mail.

The contractor will usually decide within 60 days after receiving your request. If your request is denied, you can request for "reconsideration" from a different claims review-

er and submit additional evidence.

A denial at this level ends the matter, unless the charges in dispute are at least \$160 in 2019. In that case, you can request a hearing with an administrative law judge. The hearing is usually held by videoconference or teleconference.

If you have to go to the next level, you can appeal to the Medicare Appeals Council. Then, for claims of at least \$1,630 in 2019, the final level of appeals is judicial review in U.S. District Court.

Advantage and Part D Appeals

If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage health plan or Part D prescription drug plan the appeals process is slightly different. With these plans you have only 60 days to initiate an appeal. And in both cases, you must start by appealing directly to the private insurance plan, rather than to Medicare.

If you think that your plan's refusal is jeopardizing your health, you can ask for a

"fast decision," where a Part D insurer must respond within 24 hours, and Medicare Advantage health plan must provide an answer within 72 hours.

If you disagree with your plan's decision, you can file an appeal, which like original Medicare, has five levels. If you disagree with a decision made at any level, you can appeal to the next level.

For more information, along with step-by-step procedures on how to make an appeal, visit Medicare.gov and click on the "Claims & Appeals" tab at the top of the page.

Get Help

If you need some help contact your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which has counselors that can help you understand the billing process and even file your appeal for you for free. To locate your local SHIP, visit ShiptaCenter.org or call 877-839-2675. The Medicare Rights Center also offers free phone counseling at 800-333-4114.

FAMILY

Don't let anger get the best of you

In today's world, high levels of stress and anxiety seem to be the norm.

We face daily news reports of economic woes, political fights, weather disasters and international threats. And even if we choose to ignore this news, there are still many problems of daily life. Whether it's work pressures, financial worries, or normal family and personal issues, it seems there's always something that adds anxiety to our lives.

One unfortunate side effect of all this stress is that sometimes we can reach a point where all it takes is a small incident to unleash an outpouring of rage and anger. This is never a good thing.

When someone isn't able to manage and control their anger, the outcome is usually negative for both professional and personal relationships. Experts say anger is the most poorly-managed emotion in our society. It's estimated that one in five Americans have an anger control problem.

Is out of control anger, a sudden explosion of emotion and possibly action, a problem you may face? It isn't difficult to judge if unchecked anger might be an issue. Do you have frequent arguments with others? During an argument have you ever found yourself shouting? Have you broken something; pushed, slapped or physically hurt someone; embarrassed yourself or felt out of control? If any of these apply, consider some actions you can take to better control your anger:

- Start by accepting

Counseling Corner

responsibility for your anger. Although someone or something else may have triggered your outburst, you are the one who lets it happen and grow out of control.

- Recognize the beginning signs of your rage. Anger is easier to control while emotions are still low.

- Try to identify the source of your anger. It usually isn't another person, but something within you, emotional or psychological from your past, that may be the real source of your becoming upset.

- Learn to focus on the situation or behavior making you angry, not the other person. Criticizing or name-calling only escalates the situation. Use "I" statements to talk about what you're feeling and experiencing

- Take time to listen and communicate more effectively.

Anger should never control you. If your anger is sometimes out of control, consider an anger management course through your local hospital or mental health agency, or contact a professional counselor trained to help with anger management issues.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.



Brooks, Kamphorst united in Marriage

Katelyn Kamphorst and Weston Brooks were married on Sept. 21, 2019 at the Weingarten in Bellville. Officiating the ceremony was the bride's family friend, Jeff Oaks.

The bride's parents are Jason and Crisha Kamphorst, of Mascoutah.

The groom's parents are Darren and Pam Brooks, of Gardner.

Man of honor was Alex Kamphorst, brother of the bride. Standing up for the bride were Gabrielle Kamphorst and Charles Myers, uncles of the bride.

Best man was Jarrod Marma, friend of the groom; Cale Brooks, brother of the groom and Krystal Russell, friend of the groom.

Ushers were Malcolm Lewis and Jana Brooks.

A reception was held immediately following the outdoor ceremony at the Weingarten.

Light up your house

The Custer Park Town Hall will sponsor its 10th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's.

Entry forms are available at Santa's mailbox at the Custer Park Fire Department, or use the one below, and return it by Friday, Dec. 13.

Prizes will be awarded on Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m., at the Custer Park Village Board meeting.

For more information or to enter your house information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.


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- DECEMBER EVENTS -

**EVERY SATURDAY
RACES**
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**EVERY SUNDAY
QUEEN OF HEARTS**
(Members Only) 4 p.m.

Sun., Dec. 8 9-11 a.m. Breakfast with Santa

Mon., Dec. 9 7 p.m. LOOM Meeting

Wed., Dec. 11 7 p.m. WOTM Meeting

Sat., Dec. 14 5-8 p.m. Steak Fry

Live Music 7-11 p.m. - "STILL KICKEN"

Sun., Dec. 15 9-11 a.m. Moose Riders

Breakfast & Meeting

Fri., Dec. 20 5-8 p.m. Fish Fry

Live Music 7-11 p.m. - "TALL PAUL"

Mon., Dec. 23 7 p.m. LOOM Meeting

Tues., Dec. 24 12-5 p.m. **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

Wed., Dec. 25 Closed

Tues., Dec. 31 3 p.m.-12 a.m. New Year's Eve

Wed., Jan. 1 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. New Year's Day Party

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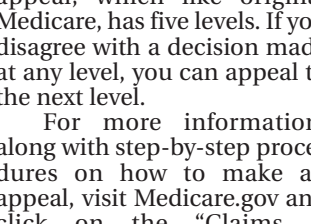
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OBITUARIES

Gene Proffitt



WILMINGTON—Gene Proffitt, 75, of Wilmington, passed away Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019 at Miller Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Kankakee.

Born April 4, 1944, in Joliet, Gene was a son of Lester Brasel and Amy (Emberton) Proffitt. He was raised and educated in Wilmington, and went on to honorably serve in the United States Army.

Gene was an exceptional mechanic who retired from Valley Concrete in Joliet, and enjoyed tinkering on anything mechanical. In his free time he loved racing, swap meets and car shows, as well as hanging out with his friends and grandkids.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia "Ginny;" four children: Brian (Toni) Brown, of Coal City; Owin (Kelly) Proffitt, of Wilmington and Gale (Michael) Cottles and Kirk (Katrina) Proffitt, both of Alabama; several grandchildren, one brother, Harold (the late Pat) Proffitt, of Winchester, IL; one sister, Joan (John) Thompson, of Wilmington; his mother-in-law, Phyllis Saben, of Coal City and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dave Brown, of Costa Rica; Larry Brown, of Coal City; Barb (Dennis) Lenzie, of Braceville; Mike (Todd) Glenn, of Homer Glen and Trudy (Sean), of Chicago.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents



and one brother and sister-in-law, Jimmy and Marilyn Proffitt.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a celebration of Gene's life at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 between the hours of 1 and 3 p.m.

Inurnment with full military honors will follow Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. Family and friends wishing to attend the cemetery services will assemble at the funeral home Monday at 8:45 a.m. for a procession which will depart at 9 a.m.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Gene's memory to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Gene's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/notices/Gene-Proffitt

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

Ryan Verbeck

BRAIDWOOD—Ryan Roy Verbeck, "Rhino," 42, of Braidwood, died unexpectedly on Dec. 4, 2019.

Born Aug. 15, 1977 in Centralia, IL, Ryan Roy was a son of Rhonda (Wayne) Grayling, of Braidwood and Timothy Verbeck, of Greensburg, IN. He was raised in Aurora before moving to the Homewood Flossmoor area. He worked as a residential construction carpenter and laborer, and enjoyed electronics.

Ryan played baseball from childhood into his adult years, and was a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. He enjoyed BMX freestyling and dirt biking, as well as being outdoors and fishing. Ryan had a creative spirit, and was an accomplished artist, who loved drawing as well as tattoos. He was a quick learner, a great teacher, and will be remembered for his ability to antagonize and simply make people laugh.

Survivors include his parents, two daughters, Sylina Taylor and Kylina Verbeck; grandchildren, Ryanna and Miko; siblings: Starla Verbeck (Robert Ilkanic), of Diamond; Joshua (Beth) Grayling, of Braidwood; Mandy (Bill) Molle, of Farmersville, IL and Keila (Gina) Verbeck, Kara Verbeck and Kyra Sandoval, all of Beckemeyer, IL; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, including: Alicia, Nico, Ethan, Billy, Rhonda, Isabella, Ariella, Braxton, Thayer, Cylas and Ozdyn; his paternal grandmothers: Joan Verbeck, of



Westport, IN and Shirley Verbeck, of Shelbyville, IN and aunts and uncles: Robert (Joellen) Rohde, Craig (Ana) Rhode, Fred (Sue) Rohde, Kim Rohde, Sheri (Mark) Hardebeck, Barbara (Danny) Wolford, Vicki Brown, Bonnie Rolfingsmeyer, Shannon (Mark) Edson and Joni (Ray) Sweet.

Ryan was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Fred and Geraldine Rohde; paternal grandfather, Jerry Verbeck; nephew, Brayden Grayling and uncle, Chris Rohde.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 1 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington.

Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood. Family and friends are encouraged to support the family in lieu of flowers by making a contribution to the Funeral Care Fund on the funeral home website.

To sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Ryan's memorial page, please log on to: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/notices/Ryan-Verbeck

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

Free winter gear

Harvest Worship Center, will be giving out children's hats, gloves and scarves to those who may need it on Dec. 15 between 2 and 4 p.m. while supplies last. They will also give out hot chocolate and cookies.

The church is located at 32111 S. Route 53 in Wilmington.

Loretta Tulley

WILTON TWP.—Loretta M. Tulley, 89, of Wilton Township, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019 in Summit Place of Beaufort, SC, where she was residing near her daughter and son-in-law, Colleen and Brad Dralle.

Born Nov. 6, 1930 in Florence Township, Loretta was a daughter of Michael F. and Margaret G. (Nugent) Doyle. She was raised and educated in Manhattan and went on to graduate from Peotone High School with the class of 1948. On Feb. 13, 1954, Loretta married Harold F. Tulley in St. Patrick Catholic Church in Wilton Center, and together they made their home and raised their family in Florence Township. She was employed with the Will County Clerk's Office from where she retired from in 2000, and she maintained to be a member of St. Patrick Parish in Wilton Center. In her free time, Loretta had a love of reading, enjoyed sewing, and took pleasure in canning her fresh fruits and vegetables. She will most be remembered for her love of spending time with her family and grandchildren.

Survivors include her five children: Colleen (Brad) Dralle, of Beaufort, SC; Karen Bettenhausen, of Peotone; Robert Tulley (Pamela Coleantonio), of Wilmington; Cathleen Schaeffer (Dale Ball), of Manteno and Rita (David) Beata, of Western Springs; nine grandchildren: Kelly (Andrew) Necker, of Houston, TX; Brian (Jocelyn) Dralle, of Roswell, GA; Erin (Nick) Ragle, of Asheville, NC; Maureen (Jordan) Broggi, of Marietta, GA; Kurt Dralle, of Beaufort, SC; Cheyenne Tulley, of Fort Collins, CO; Caitlin Schaeffer and Megan Schaeffer, both of Chicago and Connor Beata, of Western Springs; 16 great-



grandchildren, her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Donald and Joan Tulley, of Wilmington and numerous nieces and nephews.

Loretta was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Harold F. Tulley; one son, Patrick J. Tulley; brothers: Mike, Tom and Donald Doyle and sisters: Florence Delaney, Mary Glenney and Ruth Harrell, and one great-granddaughter, Jane Broggi.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 14936 West Wilmington-Peotone Road in Wilton Center on Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 12 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding. Burial will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Loretta will be laid to rest with her late husband, Harold.

Pallbearers will be: Robert Tulley, Brad Dralle, Steve Bettenhausen, David Beata, Brian Dralle and Kurt Dralle.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Loretta's memory to: Agape Hospice Care Center, 1800 Paris, Ave., Port Royal, SC 29935 or to Alzheimer's Family Services, 1111-B Bay Street, Beaufort, SC 29902

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Loretta's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/notices/Loretta-Tulley

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

Report: State's deferred maintenance in budgeting leads to unclear road costs

BY COLE LAUTERBACH
THE CENTER SQUARE

When governors present balanced state budgets, a new report found they are often leaving out the cost of infrastructure repairs, omissions that can lead to potholes and other problems along with big bills in future budgets.

The nonprofit Volcker Alliance, as part of a larger series of studies on government transparency, estimated deferred maintenance costs to be as high as \$873 billion. Those costs were either obscured or deferred in state budgets, the report found.

"Combined with a reported federal backlog of \$170 billion, the national total deferred maintenance cost may be at least \$1 trillion," according to the report.

The biggest reason was a lack of transparency regarding

infrastructure spending compared with other types of spending.

"It's certainly a bad habit, whether it's willful or just neglect," Volcker Executive Vice President William Glasgall said. "States are very scatter-shot."

Illinois, Glasgall said, has done better recently with defined infrastructure spending. The state's \$45 billion infrastructure plan sets dollar amounts, appropriations and assigns authority to manage the implementation in the Capital Development Board and other organizations.

Other studies have found the state has relegated infrastructure spending to the political winds.

In 2010, another study referenced in the Volcker paper found "Illinois's technical practices for capital budgeting ... were replaced by nonac-

counting approaches, such as incremental appropriation, interactive discussions in priority ranking, and internal negotiations among policymakers," it said. "Departments usually ranked identified projects based on each agency's own criteria and did not use technical practices in prioritization."

This history of poor infrastructure tracking is what Glasgall said begat the infrastructure bill and tax hikes to pay for it.

"The reason why the gas tax went up was because there was a lot of maintenance that has been ignored or deferred," he said.

The Rebuild Illinois infrastructure plan is largely funded by doubling the state's motor fuel tax from 19 cents to 38 cents per gallon in July.

Family medicine physician joins Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers

Local family medicine physician Dr. Jennifer L. Jones finalized an affiliation agreement that merges her independent practice with Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers.

Dr. Jones has served on the Morris Hospital Medical Staff for more than 18 years. The partnership allows Dr. Jones more time to focus on patient care, while Morris Hospital oversees the business management responsibilities associated with her practice.

Dr. Jones' office location and phone number remain the same: 1499 Lakewood Dr.,

Suite C, Morris, 815-416-1300. The name of the practice has changed to Morris Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital. She is not accepting new patients at this time.

A graduate of Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Jones completed a three-year family medicine residency at St. John's Mercy Hospital in St. Louis. She joined the Morris Hospital Medical Staff in 2001. She is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.



DR. JENNIFER L. JONES

Free tours of Kankakee landmark offered for first responders

As a sincere thank you for courageous work, Wright in Kankakee is offering community first responders (fire, police, emergency medical, military) with a complimentary one-hour tour of the architectural historic landmark, the B. Harley Bradley House. Frank Lloyd Wright's first prairie style house built in 1900 is located at 710 S. Harrison Avenue on the river in Kankakee.

The tour will be complimentary for individuals with a credential showing they are an active member of a police department, fire department, emergency medical certified first responder or military. The complimentary tour can also include one family member or friend (total value \$40). Tours are limited, so reservations can be requested by calling 815-936-9630, or send an email to info@wright1900.org.

December tours are Friday, Saturday and Sunday at noon and 1 p.m.

A generous, anonymous Will County donor, who was a former first responder, has given a memorial contribution to Wright in Kankakee for these tours in memory of his late wife. Both fascinated by the

architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, they enjoyed their experience visiting the B. Harley Bradley House, as well as other Wright properties.

They wanted others serving as first responders to have the same positive benefit in touring this local architectural landmark.



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Vote for your favorite holiday lights

The Wilmington Rotary Club began accepting public votes for the entries in its first annual fundraiser holiday lighting contest and holiday lights tour on Monday.

The contest is for residents and businesses, and the winners will be decided by Rotary Club members and popular vote.

Each holiday lights display is entered in six categories: Most whimsical, most traditional, the Clark Griswold award, best in business, people's choice and Rotarian's choice. The winning entry in each category will receive \$100 in Wilmington Chamber of Commerce gift certificates.

The Rotary has mapped the locations of the entries, so that families can ride around and view the amazing displays, and also vote for their favorites. (Contestants are encouraged to get friends and family to vote for them.) The

map is updated as the entries are received.

A link to the map can be found on the Wilmington Public Library District's website, www.wilmingtonlibrary.org. Click on Light the Way Wilmington that will be in the box at the top of the page. The link to the map is in the second paragraph of the contest details. Photos will be added to the map this week.

Public voting takes place between Monday, Dec. 9 and Friday, Dec. 20. The winners will be announced Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

The public can vote for the people's choice winner in one of two ways: Online and by text message. Go to the Light the Way Wilmington page on the library district's website; the link is in the first paragraph of the contest details. The link will take you to the Polls Everywhere website where you'll have to register, then you

can vote.

To vote by text message, text MariaMeachum041 to 22333 once to join, then enter the letter that corresponds with your choice of entries.

Residents and business owners wishing to participate in the contest and tour can enter their displays until Saturday, Dec. 14. Applications are available on the library district website, at the library, at 201 S. Kankakee St., or at the Wilmington Island Park District facility at 315 N. Water St. Applications can be submitted by mail to Wilmington Rotary Club, P.O. Box 701, Wilmington; or they can be dropped off at the library.

The entry fee is \$10 for residences and \$20 for businesses.

Contest sponsors include Oak Knoll Financial Services, The Wine Cafe, Pro Real Estate and Batory Foods.

Just under half of IL lawmakers unopposed

BY COLE LAUTERBACH
THE CENTER SQUARE

Nearly every other Illinois lawmaker in the General Assembly could run unopposed in the 2020 election.

The deadline to file paperwork for the 2020 March primaries was last Monday. Unless local party leaders intervene to put a candidate on the ballot, 54 out of the 118 Illinois state representatives will be the only choice from the state's major parties in November. Twelve of the 20 senators up for re-election won't face opposition from the other party, but a number face

primary challenges.

That's higher than the national average of just under one-third.

"That is somewhat above average," Ballotpedia staff writer David Luchs said. "It's not the highest percentage nationwide, that goes to Massachusetts with 72 percent of seats uncontested."

Local party leaders have the ability to put a candidate on the ballot before June first if no one has filed to run in their primary. Otherwise, the incumbent, or a party member who ousts them in a primary, is often the only choice voters will see for their legislative representatives.

University of Illinois Springfield professor emeritus Kent Redfield said the lack of competition can lead to voter indifference.

"There's not an opportunity for citizens to consider the issues and consider alternatives," he said. "It is take it or leave it."

There are no third parties that hold a seat in the General Assembly.

The percentages of unopposed incumbents, according to Ballotpedia, were the same in 2018 for the Illinois House of

Christmas musical benefit concert Dec. 15

The First United Methodist Church in Wilmington will be hosting a Christmas Musical Benefit Concert for local charities, Kuzma Care Cottage and Christian Help Association on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 2 p.m.

Several musical groups such as a Community Choir, Praise Ringers Bell Choir, and Island City Brass Quintet will perform both religious and

secular arrangements.

An offering will be taken for both organizations and refreshments will be served following the concert.

Please invite your extended family, friends, and neighbors to come out for an enjoyable afternoon to put everyone in the Christmas Spirit.

First United Methodist Church is located at 401 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington.

Blue Christmas service

A Blue Christmas service will be held at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.

This service is designed for those who are dealing with difficult times or due to life's circumstances, just not feeling

"in the Christmas Spirit."

With music, scripture, prayer and a timely message, we will create a sacred space for all who are struggling with dark times. This service is open to everyone. Come as you are and hold on to hope together.

Christmas poster contest

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 is holding a poster contest following the theme of "Keep Christ in Christmas" through Dec. 16.

The contest is open to kids ages 5 to 14. Submit your originally designed posters which reflect the theme.

Posters must be submitted to the folder in the back of

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood or by contacting Dave at 815-287-2036.

Artwork needs to be 11-by-17 inches and must have completed entry form on back.

Entry forms are available from religious education instructors, in folder in back of church or by calling.

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Red means stop



THREE STUDENTS FROM Stevens Intermediate School won an art contest during Bus Safety Week from Oct. 21 to 25, held by the company Illinois Central School Bus. Students were asked to draw posters that emphasized the theme "Red means stop." The winners received a t-shirt, gift card and a Wildcat decal. From left to right are Mrs. Harding, Arianna, Ali, Chloe and Mrs. Dedo.

Chicago man gets prison for Dwight robbery

A Chicago man with a lengthy history of drug and other offenses has been sent to prison for stealing merchandise from the Love's Travel Stop in Dwight last Christmas Day.

Andre B. Boulden, 55, agreed to a sentence of two years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to the offense of retail theft, Class 4 felony. Grundy County Judge Robert C. Marsaglia accepted the plea.

On Dec. 25, 2018, Boulden entered the Love's Travel Stop

at Interstate 55 and Illinois Route 47 and placed several pieces of merchandise that were for sale into a bag and left the store without paying. A store employee saw Boulden steal the items and called police. Boulden returned to the store without the bag. Dwight police arrived and placed him under arrest. The total value of the items Boulden stole was less than \$300.

Boulden was eligible for enhanced sentencing because of his extensive criminal history, which includes multiple drug and theft offenses.

According to Illinois law, Boulden is eligible for day-for-day sentencing. He receives credit for 78 days served in the Grundy County jail.

Grundy County State's Attorney Jason Helland said: "Mr. Boulden was caught thanks to the quick action of the store employee who witnessed his criminal activity, and the Dwight police officers who were willingly serving their community on Christmas Day instead of celebrating with the families at home. My thanks to all who helped out in this prosecution."

Wish your customers a Merry Christmas!

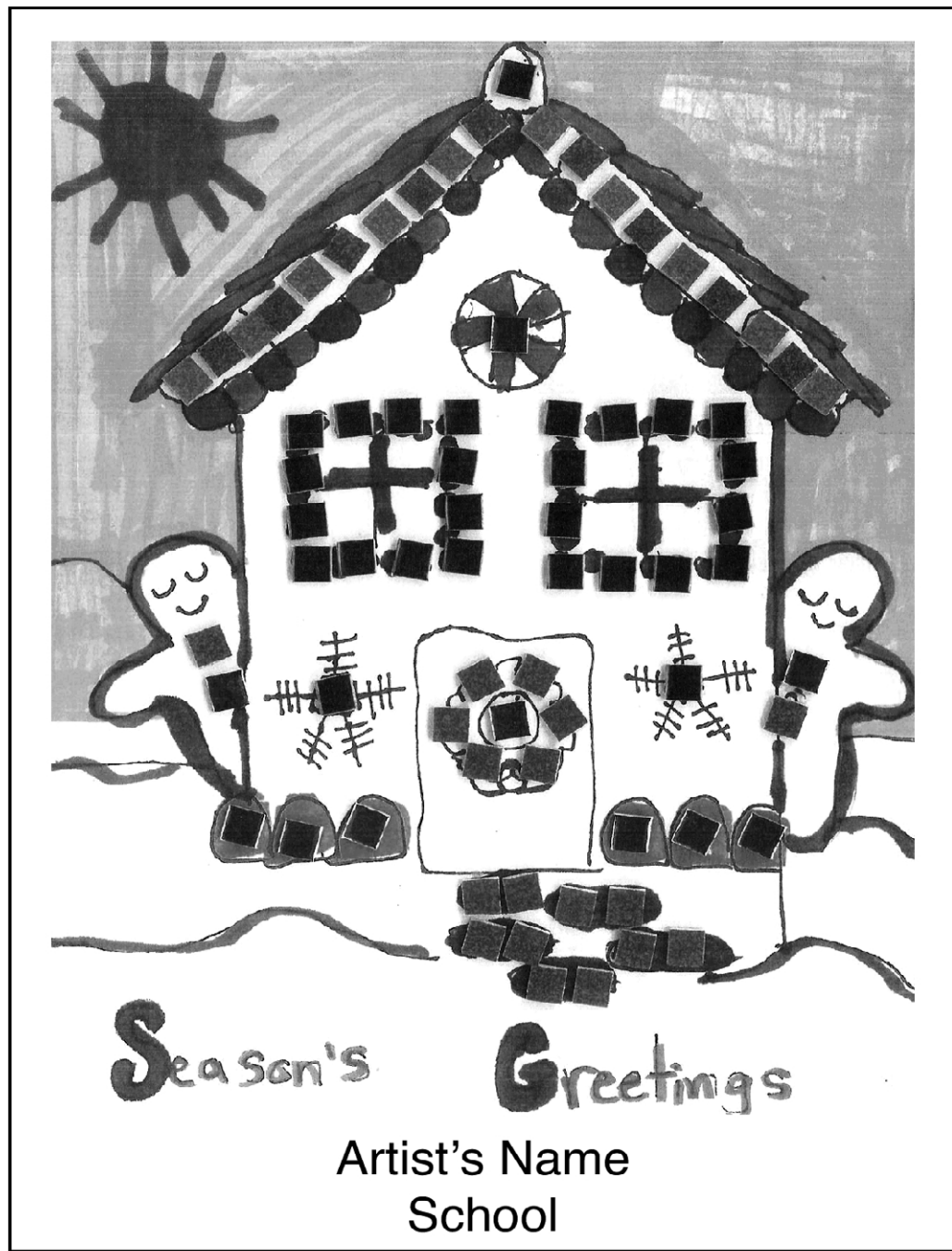
We have children from area schools drawing Christmas art to be featured in our Dec. 23 & Dec. 25 issues.

Your business can sponsor a child's drawing to send out a season's greetings message to your customers.

Parents, grandparents, and children comb through the ads looking at all the businesses who supported these community pages.

Make sure your business isn't left out by scheduling TODAY

Deadline is Dec. 16



Call 815-476-7966
to be included

FAITH

Christmas Eve candlelight

Everyone is welcome to attend a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church. All can partake in communion at 4:30 p.m. Please bring your families to join in worship. First United Methodist Church is located at 401 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington.

Baptist holiday celebration

The Women's Ministry of Island City Baptist Church invites you to join them for their holiday event at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 13 for an evening of fun, food, fellowship and music. Please RSVP at 815-476-9750; email office@icbcwilmington.org; website icbcwilmington.org; or the Island City Baptist Facebook page to sign up.

Holy Ghost Revival

There will be a Full Gospel Holy Ghost Revival Service at the Main Street Banquet Hall at 173 E. Main St., Braidwood, Dec. 13 and 14 at 6 p.m. There will also be a children's ministry Saturday, Dec. 14, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. They will be celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with the children, along with some hot cocoa and cookies. For any questions, contact Sarah 815-549-7180.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
109A Jackson St., Wilmington IL
815-476-1675
Pastor Skip Schroll
skipssandy@gmail.com
Fri.: 7 p.m., worship/prayer
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship/the word/prayer

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wilmington, IL
The Rev. Sebastian Gargol
Deacon Jay Plese
School Principal: Nancy Schwab
Rectory 815-476-7491; School 815-476-6220; Religious Education 815-476-6220; Kuzma Cottage 815-476-2030, Hours: 9 – 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
Schedule
Morning Mass 8 a.m. on Tues., Wed. and Fri.; Saturday Vigil at 4 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m.
Wed.: 10 a.m., Legion of Mary in the St. Rose Church meeting room; 5:45 to 7 p.m., REP
Thurs.: 6 to 7 p.m., Holy hour/confessions
• The Christian Help Association is planning for the 2019 Food and Gift/Toy Drive. St. Rose is in charge of soup and crackers this year, and the church is asking for monetary donations to purchase the food through a supplier. Please send in an envelope marked "Soup and crackers" and place it in the Sunday collection or drop it off at the Parish Office. Food packing is Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. and distribution is Dec. 14
• Christmas Mass times will be 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (children's mass), midnight mass at midnight, and 9 a.m. on Christmas Day.
• All children from the parish are invited to sing at the St. Rose 4 p.m. Christmas Eve mass. They will practice on Dec. 15 and Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at the church choir loft. Students must be at the church by 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. For any questions, please call Shelia at 815-325-3708.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & Grace Lutheran Preschool
907 Luther Dr. • Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9480
Preschool Director Mary Kay Hays
office@gracewilm.org
preschool@gracewilm.org
Wed: 6:30 p.m., Cookies and refreshments served by youth, free offering will go to the Christian Help Association; 7p.m., Advent II Service, choir practice to follow
Thurs: 10 a.m. Preschool chapel time
Fri.: 9 a.m., Friday Crew
Sat.: 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers
Sun.: 9 a.m., Worship with communion; 10 a.m., Coffee Hour; 10:15 to 10:50 a.m., Sunday School; 6 p.m. Confirmation/Youth
Mon.: Lamp articles due; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Life Line screening at Grace; 10 a.m., Preschool chapel time; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Cookies and refreshments served by youth, free offering will go to the Christian Help Association; 7p.m., Advent II Service, choir practice to follow

ROSE OF SHARON MINISTRY
29 Aqueduct • Diamond, IL
Rev. Jan Quiet • 815- 228-9585
Sun.: 2 p.m., service
• Gospel Sing is on the second Saturday of each month at 5 p.m.
• Christian Singles meets at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.
• A healing service is held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m.

BRACEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46, Braceville, IL
Pastor Karen Fabian
815-237-8512
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion
• United Methodist People meet on the second Tuesday of each month, time and location to be determined
• Women's Bible study is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are on Friday at 8 p.m.
• Youth groups are held on Wednesdays. JAM (Jesus and Me - kindergarten through fourth grade) and EDGE (Exploring and Discovering God Everywhere - fifth and sixth grade) are from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and STATIC (Standing Together as Teens in Christ - seventh grade through high school) is from 6 to 8 p.m. Youth group leaders are Terri Valeriano, Lynn Jencon and Shirley Bookwalter.

JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION
250 N. Midland Ave. • Joliet, IL
815-741-4600
Rabbi Charles Rubovits
www.jolietjewishcongregation.org
Fri.: 7 p.m., service
Sat.: 9 a.m., service
• Religious school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade features Hebrew and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training. Call the synagogue to register.
• All life cycle events and Jewish holidays celebrated. Social programs include congregational Shabbat dinners, Seders, folk dancing, bagel and lox brunches, book clubs, adult education classes and other special events.

COAL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6805 E. McArdle Rd.
815-634-8670
The Reverend Bradley D. Shumaker
www.coalcityum.org
Wed.: 9 a.m., Women's Bible Study in the church library; 10:30 a.m., Alcoholics Anonymous in the community building
Thurs.: 1 to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance
Sun.: 8 and 10:30 a.m., worship service; 9:15 a.m., Sunday School; 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Mon.: 9 to 11 a.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance
Sat.: 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous in the community building
• **Saturday, Dec. 21:** 6 p.m., Children's Christmas Musical, "The Not So Silent Night." Cookie Decorating Party for families immediately following the program.
• **Sunday, Dec. 22:** 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., "His Name is Jesus" interactive Christmas event; 6 p.m., Community Blue Christmas Service. This service is designed for those who are dealing with difficult times, or due to life's circumstances just not feeling "in the Christmas Spirit. Everyone is invited. Come as you are and hold on to hope together.
• **Tuesday, Dec. 24:** 6 and 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services
• **Wednesday, Dec. 25:** 9 a.m., Christmas Day worship service
• **Sunday, Dec. 29:** 9 a.m., ONE morning worship service
• Fourth and fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade junior high, and ninth through 12th senior high youth groups meet two Sundays of each month. Fourth and fifth grade meets from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and sixth through twelfth grade from 5 to 7 p.m. Gatherings include dinner. All students are welcome. Call the church office for more information or email ccumc@sbcglobal.net.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
303 S. Kankakee, Wilmington, IL
476-4673
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wilmingtonnazarene@sbcglobal.net
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., coffee and fellowship; 10:45 a.m., worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting
Sat.: 9 a.m., Men's prayer breakfast

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
110 S. School St. • Braidwood, IL
Rev. Robert Noesen, Pastor
Rectory: 815-458-2125
Emergency: 815-418-5714
www.icparishbraidwood.org
Weekend Mass: 9:30 a.m., Sunday
Tue.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., communion service
Thu.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., Mass followed by confessions
• Advent Giving Tree begins on Sunday, Nov. 24. Please tag off tree and help the needy in the area. Donate winter clothes for poor children in Peru, South America.
• The Adoration Chapel in Fr. White Hall is open 24/7, but unlocked daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. A code is available for those visiting the chapel before or after hours. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to make a commitment, or access the code, call Bill Scheer at 815-458-6800.
• Study the Gospel of Mark. Attend weekly ongoing bible study sessions in Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St. Morning and evening sessions will be available. For more information and to sign up call the Parish office at 815-634-4171
• Assumption Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish have teamed up with area Christian Faith Denominational churches in the area to serve Monday Evening dinners for the poor. Other charitable services including Food and household items can be received through Help for Hope Organization which is supported by Assumption Parish each week. For assistance, call 815-815-518-2000.

Advent and Christmas Schedule
• Dec. 14: 5:30 p.m., Journey to Jerusalem/Visit from St. Nicholas at Berst Hall
• Dec. 21 and 22: Blessing of the Christmas Bambinos during mass. Bring your Baby Jesus from your Nativity at home for a blessing
• Dec. 24: 5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
• Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m., Christmas Day Mass
• Jan. 1: 10:30 a.m., Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 E. Kahler Rd. • Wilmington, IL
The Rev. Harriette Cross
815-476-5474
www.fumcwilm.com

Wed.: 9 a.m. to noon, preschool; No Chancel Choir practice; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Thurs.: No Church Council; 7 p.m., Community Choir Practice
Fri.: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Preschool - Visit with Santa; 5:30 p.m., CHA food packing at St. Rose
Sat.: 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday School Kids Christmas Party; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Sun.: 8:30 a.m., Adult Sunday School — Advent video series; 9:30 a.m., Worship Service — Chancel Choir/Praise Ringers Bell Choir; 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School (K to fifth grade); 2 p.m., Christmas Benefit Concert (Kuzma Care and Christian Help)
Mon.: 9 a.m. to noon, Preschool; 5 p.m., Our Caring Closet potluck/meeting
Tues.: No Bell practice
• Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Longest Night Service, a service of hope and healing for those who are having a hard time with the holidays
• Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Everyone is welcome to partake in communion at 4:30 p.m.
• The church offers preschool, Men's Club, Women's Group, Christian fellowship dinners, mission and community outreach opportunities, Sunday school, Chancel Choir and Praise Ringers Bell Choir.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 N. Kankakee St.
Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9025
1st-presbyte
rian-church.net
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion worship service, 11:30 a.m., fellowship

RITCHEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Route 102 Wilmington, IL
815-476-6166
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship service
• Communion with Pastor Brent Phillips is on the first Sunday of each month.

ESSEX UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
114 W. Waverly Street
Sun.: 9 a.m., children's Sunday school; 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study; 10:30 a.m., worship
• Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
80 N. Garfield St.
Coal City, IL
815-634-8332
newhopepresbychurch@gmail.com
The Rev. Mark Hughey
Wed.: 6 p.m., Worship & Fellowship Committee; 7 p.m., Property Committee
Thurs: No Bible study
Sun.: 9 to 10:15 a.m., Sunday School; 10:30 a.m., Worship service with Christmas pageant and carol sing
Mon.: 9 a.m., Newsletter articles are due; 10:45 a.m. Meals on Wheels
Tues.: 7 p.m., Al-Anon — enter south door adjacent to parking lot
• Office hours are usually Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• St. Vincent Table: If you have any questions you may call Cindi at 815-735-1432. Assumption Catholic Church, Coal City, will host the months of October, November & December from 5 to 6 p.m.
• Sign up on the tri-fold board for the food pantry and Meals on Wheels at least a week in advance.
• Elizabeth Ministry – The Rosebud Program: Each rosebud in front of the sanctuary is for a couple building a family. Yellow rosebuds are for those trying to conceive, trying to adopt, or suffering infertility. Pink rosebuds are for those who are pregnant. Red is for those who have given birth or have had a successful adoption. White is for those suffering the loss of a child. Instructions for adding persons to our Elizabeth Ministry prayers are on the table in the narthex. Questions may be directed to Alyssa Hicks.
• Prayer Gathering is the first Sunday of each month from 10 to 10:15 a.m., in the Session/adult class room. Everyone is invited. Questions can be directed to Freda Davis.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
110 S. Division St. • Braidwood, IL
Pastor Justin Kinder
815-458-6211 msbbraidwood.com
Sun.: 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 6 p.m., prayer meeting
• Office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.
• Awana will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rt. 113 and I-55 • 2960 E. Division St.
Diamond, IL 815-518-5441
www.clachurch.org
Randy Adams, Lead Pastor - Joe Drick, Pastor
Sun.: 8 a.m., prayer; 9 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 10 a.m., worship service
Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Kids Connection, Metalshop Youth Group and adult elective studies

SOUTH WILMINGTON UNITED METHODIST
225 Rice Street • 815-426-6169
Pastor Dennis Brooks

Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m.
• Holy communion served on first Sunday of each month and special occasions.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
3950 N. Goose Lake Rd.
Morris, IL
(Corner of Pine Bluff, Lorenzo and Goose Lake roads)
942-0675
Pastor Caleb Counterman
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, children's service; 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
P.O. Box 190
So. Wilmington, IL
815-237-2230
Masses: 4 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m., Sunday; 7:30 a.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Reconciliation: 3 to 3:45 p.m., Saturday or by appointment
• CCD classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:40 a.m., at the South Wilmington Grade School. Call the rectory for more information.
• Fellowship and Bible study follows.
• Blessings of bikes coming soon.

PARK STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
806 Park Street
Mazon, IL
815-448-5514
Pastor Tyler Carrell
★★★
Sun.: 9 a.m., worship; 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
Wed.: 6 p.m., Bible study

PHELAN ACRES BIBLE CHURCH
26009 Willow Lane
Phelan Acres
Wilmington, IL
476-7818
Pastor Jeffrey Whittum
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., worship, children's church

CHURCH OF HOPE
Monroe & Jefferson Streets; Gardner, IL
Pastor Jan Chandler; 237-8312
Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., worship
Wed.: 8:30 a.m., Pastor's prayer and lectionary study group
Thu.: 8:30 a.m., church prayer group

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
195 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City, IL
815-634-4171
Reverend Robert Noesen
stmaryassumptionparish.org
WELCOME!

The doors of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish have, and continue to be, open to all parishioners, visiting Catholics, vacationers in need of Mass and the Eucharist and non-catholics who are welcome to hear the gospel message.

Sunday Mass: 4 p.m., Saturday: 7:30 and 11:15 a.m., Sunday; confessions are heard from 3:20 to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday.
• Advent Giving Tree begins on Sunday, Nov. 24. Please tag tag off tree and help the needy in the area. Donate winter clothes for poor children in Peru, South America.

Daily Mass and devotions
• Monday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service
• Tuesday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood; 6:30 p.m., Mass at Assumption Parish
• Wednesday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
• Thursday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood
• Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Assumption Parish
• First Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass
• First Saturday - 8 a.m., rosary, Immaculate Conception Novena, Mass with the distribution of the Sacrament of the Sick
Advent and Christmas Schedule
• Dec. 14: 5:30 p.m., Journey to Jerusalem/Visit from St. Nicholas at Berst Hall
• Dec. 21 and 22: Blessing of the Christmas Bambinos during mass. Bring your Baby Jesus from your Nativity at home for a blessing
• Dec. 24: 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
• Dec. 25: 7:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., Christmas Mass
• Dec. 31: 4 p.m., Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God vigil mass

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL
Dallas Henry, Lead Minister
Zach Griepentrost, Student & Arts Minister
815-476-6734
www.fccwilmington.org
Sun.: 8:30 and 10 a.m., worship service and children's worship for nursery through fifth grade; 10 a.m., Bible classes for adults, high school and junior high; 5:30 p.m., Collision for sixth through twelfth grades
• Family groups meet throughout the week in Wilmington, Braidwood and Coal City. Call the church for more information.
• Moms Connect meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. Check out the new web page at www.fccwilmington.org/moms-connect.

Longest Night service

Those who are having a hard time with the holidays can attend the Longest Night service at the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.

The service is one of hope and healing; a night of reflection,

prayer and worship. All are welcome to participate.

First United Methodist Church is located at 401 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington.

ISLAND CITY BAPTIST CHURCH
120 Vine St.
Wilmington, IL
Pastor Jeff Logsdon
Assoc. Pastor/Music Zane Lynn
815-476-9750
Sun.: 8:30 a.m., and 11 a.m., services, nursery provided; 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Sunday school for all ages
Wed.: 6 to 7:15 p.m., adult Bible study and prayer meeting year-round
• Kindergarten through twelfth grade students meet from 6 to 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays during the school year
• Golden Islander, adults 55 and older, meet on the second Tuesday of every other month for food, fellowship and fun.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
4470 E. Rt. 113
P.O. Box 39
Coal City, IL
Pastor David Gilleland
815-634-2654
www.fbccoalcity.com
Wed.: 7 p.m., adult Bible study and activities for children and youth
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 11 a.m., Sunday worship

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 N. Kankakee St.
Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9025
1st-presbyte
rian-church.net
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship service, 11:30 a.m., fellowship

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 E. Jefferson St. • Gardner, IL
Rev. Greg Olson
Church 815-237-2227
Cell 309-203-9758
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship, word and sacrament
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
• Office hours are on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

IGNITE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1180 W. 1st St.
Braidwood, IL
Ignitechristianchurch.org
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship
The non-denominational church offers children's church and weekly men's and women's Bible study. Visit the church on Facebook.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
West River Road
Wilmington, IL
815-476-4060
Tue.: 7:30 p.m., Midweek meeting, Christian Life and Ministry
Sun.: 10 a.m., Bible topic; Discourse on Bible Topic
All interested persons welcome, no collections taken.

RIVER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
24901 S. Sage St. • Channahon, IL
Pastor Hans Fiene
815-467-6401
Sun.: 9 a.m., worship; 10:15 a.m., Sunday school and Bible study
ABUNDANT LIFE FELLOWSHIP
23632 W. Hwy. 113
Wilmington, IL
815-458-6530
Pastor Greg Linkous
alfwilmington.com
• Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship, children's church and nursery available
• Tue.: Home church (Bible study)
• Wed.: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ladies Bible study at the church; 7 to 8:30 p.m., men's Bible study at the church
• Sat.: 8 to 10 a.m., men's prayer breakfast on the second Saturday of each month
• Potluck fellowship dinner is held on the first Sunday of each month following worship.

LIVING STONES COMMUNITY CHURCH
25124 S. Fryer St. • Channahon, IL
815-325-8476
• Pastor Joe Popischill invited bikers and people of faith to church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
• Fellowship and Bible study follows.
• Blessings of bikes coming soon.

NEW COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
705 E. Washington St
Morris, IL
Pastor Kevin Yandell
Children's Director Patsy Phillips
815-942-4255
Sunday worship: 9 and 10:45 a.m.
• Nursery and children's programs offered

CHRISTIAN FAITH CENTER
1800 S. Water St.
Wilmington, IL
815-388-8628
Pastor Jeff A. Urban
Sun.: 10 a.m., Family worship with classes for children ages newborn to 11-years-old
Wed.: 7 to 8 p.m., Family worship with classes for all ages

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF JOLIET
Joliet, IL
Rev. Emily Gage
722-0836
Sun.: 9 a.m., adult gather, child care; 10:30 a.m., worship and church school.

When you have more money, you play hardball until the end

The oddest political couple in the state's Democratic Party is teaming up again. Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan is backing yet another young protege of progressive U.S. Rep. Chuy Garcia (D-Chicago) for the Illinois House at a time when other people appear to be distancing themselves from or even challenging the powerful House Speaker.

Madigan will help put state Rep. Celina Villanueva (D-Chicago) into the Senate to replace soon-to-retire disgraced Sen. Martin Sandoval (D-Chicago). Madigan shares Sandoval's Senate district with Rep. Villanueva, who worked for Garcia when he was a Cook County commissioner and was appointed to the House at Garcia's request to replace now-Ald. Silvana Tabares (23).

Madigan and Garcia's operations will gather petition signatures for Villanueva's Senate bid during a "special" Dec. 3 to Dec. 9 filing period created by Sandoval's Jan. 1 resignation.

In Villanueva's place, Madigan will back Edgar Gonzales, a constituent services liaison for Congressman Garcia's district office. Gonzales is a Harvard graduate, but is otherwise a lifelong resident of the area. He filed petitions last week to run for the seat in the spring primary after the Madigan and Garcia operations spent the weekend going door to door with him.

If all goes well, he'll also be appointed to the House seat after Sandoval officially retires and Villanueva moves to the Senate.

Both Madigan's 13th Ward and his 22nd House District are majority Latinx. He has the "regular" vote already sewn up, of course, so his big favors for the progressive Latino pol Garcia prevent any significant challenge to his local power and influence, and even to some extent his statewide influence, from his left flank.

This alliance also helps Madigan deal with the anger from some Northwest Side Latinos allied with former Rep. Luis Arroyo (D-Chicago), who appointed Eva-Dina Delgado to Arroyo's seat after Arroyo was arrested by the feds and resigned, despite local support for another candidate from the party's left wing, Nidia Carranza.

The appointment was against Madigan's wishes. The pols have threatened a federal civil rights lawsuit if Madigan follows through on his threat to challenge Rep. Delgado's qualifications and ejects her from his chamber. One of those politicians, Sen. Iris Martinez (D-Chicago), has called on Madigan to resign his



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

state party leadership unless he explains his involvement with his former consigliere Mike McClain's secret bid to funnel money to Kevin Quinn after Quinn, the brother of Madigan's alderman, was accused of sexual harassment.

Garcia, in turn, expands his influence over city and state politics without having to expend much effort. That's a big plus for Garcia because he didn't do well at all in City Council races earlier this year. Garcia's candidates lost two races on the Southwest Side (Ald. Ed Burke's 14th and Ald. Ray Lopez's 15th), the Pilsen-centered 25th Ward and another on the Northwest Side against Ald. Ariel Reboyras, who took the lead in backing Eva-Dina Delgado's appointment to the House.

Reboyras was the first to threaten a lawsuit if Delgado is drummed out of the House by Madigan. Reboyras voted Arroyo's 36th Ward proxy at the meeting to appoint Delgado.

Ald. Ed Burke's 14th Ward is majority Latinx, but he is going "old school" Chicago on his Latino challenger. Burke was indicted on a 14-count corruption charge last summer, but he's stubbornly refus-

ing to go away.

Freshman state Rep. Aaron Ortiz (D-Chicago) defeated Ald. Burke's brother Rep. Dan Burke in the 2018 Democratic primary with Garcia's help. Ortiz then decided to challenge Ald. Burke for 14th Ward Democratic committeeperson. But, on the last day of the petition filing period, Alicia Elena Martinez filed to run against Rep. Ortiz in the House district and also filed to run for committeeperson against Burke and Ortiz.

What's going on? Martinez is an active member of Ald. Burke's ward organization. This is a classic put-up job.

Martinez's candidacy should help split the Latinx vote in the ward race between herself and Ortiz, which could help Burke get the most votes. She's also likely an insurance policy should something bad happen to the indicted pol before primary day.

The Martinez challenge of Rep. Ortiz is also designed to force the incumbent House member to choose which race he wants to focus on, his reelection bid or the committeeperson job.

Burke is playing hardball to the end and Ortiz has very little money to fight. Ortiz had just \$5K in his campaign bank account at the end of the third quarter and, as I write this, has reported raising \$16K since then. Burke has over \$9 million in his two campaign funds.

Free holiday luncheon offered by Park District

The public is invited for lunch and fun this holiday season at the Wilmington Island Park District's Holiday Luncheon on Wednesday, Dec. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Fitness Center, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington.

Bring a white elephant gift equal to or less than \$10 to participate in a gift exchange. Feel free to bring a dish to pass, but it's not necessary. This is a free event but please RSVP so organizers can plan accordingly. Call 815-476-2729.

Make an ornament at the library

The Wilmington Public Library District is offering patrons the chance to make a Victorian-inspired Christmas ornament on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m.

Everyone will be making

an ornament using a variety of lace, ribbon and beaded pins. Space is limited, so be sure to register early.

To register, please stop by the library at 201 S. Kankakee St. or call 815-476-2834.



EARLY DEADLINE

Prairie Shopper Wednesday, Dec. 18

Please submit all advertising by
Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 4 p.m.
for the December 23
Prairie Shopper

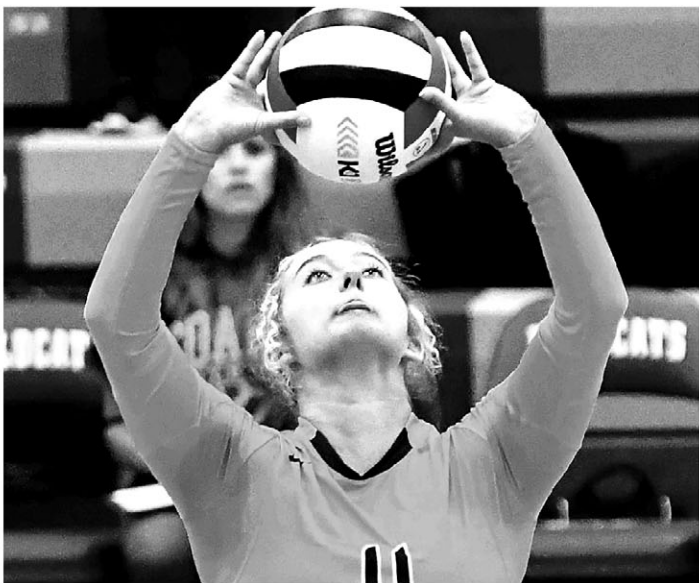
Subscriber Papers Friday, Dec. 20

Please submit all news by
Friday, Dec. 20 at 2 p.m.
for the December 25
Free Press Advocate, Coal City
Courant, and Braidwood Journal

The Free Press offices will
be closed Tues., Dec. 24 &
Christmas Day

SEASONS END but the action can live on!

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FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Display

The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.

Classified Word Ads

All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

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

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



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2 BR Apt. with garage and patio. Lower level, no pets, utilities and water not included. \$750/month plus \$1,000 sec. dep. Call 815-483-0635. cc

Coal City, newer 2 BR, 1 BA, eat in kitchen, gas heat, CA, laundry facility, pet friendly, ample parking, close to schools and park, \$850 to \$875/mo., See pictures at www.apm4rent.com. ch48b-tfn

Coal City: 1BR, 2nd floor apartment, living room, washer/dryer, includes utilities, no pets, \$800/mo., call 708-542-6300. cc449a-52b

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Gardner:

2 BR, \$825 per month. First Month and \$825 security deposit. 815-690-6977, ch24b-tfn

Wilmington 2 BR apt, lower level unit, excellent shape, very quiet, 815-274-6065 senior discount. cc48a-50b

AUTOS

2001 GMC Sierra 1500 4WD HD Truck. Dual cab w/ cap, fully loaded, garage kept, \$6,000, 119,170 miles. Also, large bird cage \$50, large dog cage \$50 & 20 gal. fish tank \$20. Call Ed at 815-476-2060. ck47a-50b

BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

DAVY INDUSTRIAL PARK, 1,500 sq., Ind. unit, bathroom, heated and insulated, two 14" overhead doors, loading dock, 200 amp elec. Perfect shop, \$650/mo., \$650 sec. dep., 1 year lease, no semi's due to space constraint. December 2019 occupancy, broker owned, call or text 815-693-4216. ch48b-tfn

Located in the Mar Theater building, 131 S. Main St., Wilmington. This commercial rental's current use is an insurance office. This unit has private bathroom, reception area, and office area. Some interior modifications allowed subject to approval of landlord. Rent includes all utilities, parking, and garbage. Rent \$425/month plus deposit of same. Available Feb. 1, 2020. Call 815-693-4216 Broker Owned. ch47a-tfn

FOR RENT

490 S. Broadway, Coal City. Large apartment, 3 BR 2 BA, large enclosed front porch, 1 month security deposit, 1 year lease, \$800/month. 815-634-8800 cc50a51b

HELP WANTED

City Pizza and Sub Co., 300 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington, seeking inside prep and cook help. Apply within. ck50b-2a

Needed: experienced CDL-A driver for MORNING & EVENINGS, local mail delivery, extensive background check, O.L. Thompson Transport Svc. Inc., call 815-726-2569. cc49b-1a

HOMES FOR SALE

For sale by owner: 60 E. 3rd St., Coal City. 3 BR, 1 BA, approx. 1,100 sq. ft., unfinished dry basement, 2 car detached garage, gas forced air heat and central air, close to schools & shopping. Asking \$129,900. Call 815-791-5501. ca 47a-50b

Home for Sale by Owner, Wilmington, brick, 1-2 BR, 113 S. Water St., needs TLC. Zoned commercial so would make good rental income property with fix up; or good starter home. \$67,000 Call Eric, 815-922-7966. ca43a-tfn

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

MISCELLANEOUS

Attention Deer Hunters: VillaWare power meat grinder, great for making own sausage. Cost \$150 new, asking \$50. Call Eric at 815-476-7966. fr49b-52a

FIREWOOD

Dry, seasoned oak firewood \$129, cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Wood racks \$49, Camping Wood \$99. The best firewood & quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc45a-52b

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Program Preferences

(Applicant must be able to provide written verification of preference in order to qualify)

- Displace from an urban renewal area
- Displaced as a result of government action
- Displaced as a result of a major disaster

Applicants can apply by calling

Jason Grindstaff at 815-730-9837

Applicants must apply in person and have photo ID with them. The information required for the application is as follows: (1) Head of household name; (2) All family member's names, ages and sex; (3) Income sources and amounts.

(Waiting list will be open until further notice)

CORRECTION!! NOTICE OF SALE!



950 Wildcat Ct.

The home located at 950 Wildcat Court features three bedrooms and two and a half bathrooms with attached three car garage. The kitchen, living, and office area are engineered hardwood. The bathrooms and laundry room are floored with ceramic tile. The guest bathroom includes tiled shower walls, and the master bathroom includes custom glass shower doors with tiled shower walls, an oversized tub with tiled surround, dual vanities and linen cabinet, and a large walk in closet. The great room features a direct vent gas fireplace with a ship lap surround. The kitchen has white cabinetry and connects to the formal dining room. The kitchen also includes a raise counter top that acts as a breakfast bar with seating. All bedrooms include ceiling fans. The exterior of the home features vinyl siding on the sides, back, and part of the front. The front also features a half brick wall with ledge, stone faced gable end, and brick faced garage.

NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that on the 18th day of December 2019, the Board of Education of Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U (the School District), Will County, Illinois, will sell at public sale by sealed bids the real property commonly known as **950 Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481.**

- Said property is to be sold pursuant to sealed bids to be submitted to the School District, Attention: Dr. Matt Swick, 209U Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481, on or before 2:00 P.M., Central Standard Time, December 18, 2019. The minimum bid price for said property is \$259,000.
- In case of any ties as to bids, a lottery will be held immediately after the bid opening to determine the ultimate winning bid as to the property.
- The Board of Education hereby reserves the right to reject any and all bids.
- Said lots shall be conveyed by Quit Claim Deed.
- The Board of Education of the School District makes no representation as to the property including and not limited to habitability, or whether it is suitable for a specific use. The property is sold AS IS and WHERE IS without any warranties whatsoever.
- All bidders must submit a certified, cashiers or bank check with their bid in an amount of \$2500 or more ("Earnest Money") payable to Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U. All unsuccessful bidders shall have their checks returned to them. The successful bidder shall have his/her check applied toward the purchase price of the property.
- The school district shall provide a survey at the time of closing to the successful bidder. The school district shall pay \$3,000 toward the closing costs. In addition the school district will provide a \$3000 carpet allowance.
- Anyone failing to submit the Earnest Money in the form set forth under these terms of sale at the time that the bid is submitted shall have their bid rejected an unresponsive.
- All purchases by the successful bidder shall be consummated by cash at closing.
- At the time of closing, the title report for the property shall reflect title insurance in the amount of the sale price.
- Closing will occur at an office of a title company designated by the School District at a time and dated that is acceptable to the School District.

ALL SEALED BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DISTRICT OFFICE, WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 209-U, 209U WILDCAT CT., WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS 60481, ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., CENTRAL STANDARD TIME, DECEMBER 18, 2019. NO BIDS SUBMITTED THEREAFTER SHALL BE ACCEPTED. SAID BID OPENINGS SHALL OCCUR AT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, 209U WILDCAT CT., WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS 60481, AT 2:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 18, 2019. The Board of Education will make its decision on Wednesday, December 18, 2019 and reserves the right to waive any technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof. Attendance at the bid opening is not mandatory. Successful bidders shall be notified by telephone, followed by written confirmation.

All details as to these terms of sale may be obtained from the District Office, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209U Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481, on school days between the hours of 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

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Call 815-476-7966 or stop by the Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. tfn-47b

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

Looking for manure spreader in good working condition. 779-701-8478. ca48b-52a

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SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn-47b

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERV-ICING, LLC Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA P GOLDEN et al Defendant 2019 CH 34 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 25, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on December 27, 2019, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 107 EMMETT STREET, KINSMAN, IL 60437
Property Index No. 10-06-287-011
The real estate is improved with a single family home with no garage. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will

REAL ESTATE

entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into the building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088
E - M a i l : pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 269602 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Case Number: 2019 CH 34 TJSC#: 39-6540
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2019.

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Beautiful Farmette With All The Updates And Amenities For Easy Living! Highlight of this meticulously maintained two story home is the designer kitchen with all appliances, Maple cabinetry, Corian counter tops, huge island and wonderful natural light streaming in from window looking out on the manicured acres! Many outbuildings include 2nd garage, tool shed, machine shed, barn, loafing shed, and fenced area for animals! Impressive Master with office, bath and private patio! So very Much More To Discover! Photos at www.onoratorealestate.com
LISTED BY CHRISTINE WHITE

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Some TLC needed! 2 BR, 1 BA home on big lot 2 car garage. Jo 252-1724.
DD404

DWIGHT \$1,380,000
Grand Victorian Mansion, former restaurant & banquet facility. Many possibilities! Call Jim Masked 815-693-0180.
SD101 674-2583.

DIAMOND \$364,500
Like new 3 BR, 2.2 BA, ing 4-A lot, 4100+sq ft, 2015 roofs, siding, windows, 4.5 car garage, fin basement, Rod Baulino 815-1674-2583.
LB775

DIAMOND \$144,900
Solid 3 BR, 1 BA, full basement, 2 car garage. Call/Text Lorie 815-715-5959.
SR2465

ODELL \$129,000
Beautiful home with original woodwork, pocket doors and built-ins. Many updates! Text Shawn 815-474-6670.
WH110

MORRIS \$115,000
3 acre wooded lot off of Pine Bluff/Lorenzo Road. Zoned A-R allowing horses. Broker owned. Shawn 815-474-6670.
WH3665

FRANKFORT \$99,900
5 acre 1637 sq ft 2 BR 2 BA home in Gateway Community. Open Hr plan inc 4 season rm and covered porch. Christy 815-693-5757.
TK10828

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WILMINGTON!
Cute and affordable, walking distance to town, schools, etc. Needs some TLC, but better than renting. Mls#10486979. \$97,900.

GARDNER!
3 bdrm, large 132 X 148 lot w/large htd detached gar + smaller detached gar. Large fam rm, open-concept kit w/island. Beautiful hwd floors. Plenty of room for the entire family! Mls#10542298. \$159,900.

WILMINGTON!
Well kept home on the Cooling Lake. Immaculate 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Master bedroom bath includes Jacuzzi tub, separate shower and walk in closet. Great Room, Walk in Pantry in kitchen. Mls#10575302. \$169,900.

WILMINGTON!
4 bdrm, custom kitchen, hwd floors, master suite w/wic, double sink & whirlpool tub, 2nd level family room 14x22, full partially finished bsmt, 12x14 storage shed/playhouse, deck. \$259,900.

WILMINGTON!
1500 square foot 3 bdrm (4th potential), partial bsmt, huge yard, renovated kitchen with quartz c-topst, renovated bath, new roof house & garage 2015, large fenced lot, appliances stay! Mls#10484923. \$155,000.

WILMINGTON!
On the Kankakee River, all updated windows, bathroom, carpet, furnace, central air, fish from your own private spot, river lot is approx 50 x 165, impressive black walnut trees. Mls#10507471. \$162,900.

ELWOOD!
Very Nice 3 Bdrm, 2 Full Baths w/full Bsmt. Large Deck and professionally landscaped, back yard fenced. Large 2 car attached garage. Seller is allowing a \$2,500 Carpet Allowance. Mls#10496905. \$179,900.

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Charming older 2 bedroom farm home located on 13+ acres (18 platted lots), 2 out buildings (21x45) (27x23), average lot size of platted lots 132x297. Mls#10453147. \$310,000.

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RIVERFRONT
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\$5 wristband purchase
*per person

BOWLING GAME
1 quarter

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4 quarters

NACHOS
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**Any Chemical
Service**

\$20 off

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(with Christine only)

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How changing climate affects the poor

Dear EarthTalk:

What is climate gentrification and where is it happening?

— Jamie B., Boston, MA

Climate gentrification is a relatively new term describing what happens when neighborhoods traditionally overlooked by wealthy people become more attractive — and expensive — given their siting in geographic areas that happen to be more resilient to climate-related threats such as stronger, more frequent hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, etc.

The already-classic case is in Florida's Miami-Dade County, where climate-related flooding and sea level rises are driving wealthy homeowners away from once pricey beachfront property and into the higher elevations surrounding areas like Little Haiti, Liberty City and Allapattah that have traditionally been home to struggling minority families.

The result is greater density and higher home prices and rents in these recently poor neighborhoods. Meanwhile the locals move out, complaining that the transition is forcing them out of their beloved homes while sapping once vibrant cultural identities.

A recently released Harvard study of real estate values by elevation in the Miami area over the last five decades found that while home prices were rising in most parts of the 2,400-square-mile county, areas at higher elevations were experiencing larger increases. Properties located 2-4 meters above sea level rose 11.5x in value on average over the

1971-2017 study period, while those located at or within one meter of sea level rose 8x on average. Current climate projections of Florida's coastline in a warming world show that areas less than a foot above sea level will be underwater within another 50 years.

The Harvard study put the concept of climate gentrification in the public eye for the first time, but we can see

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examples of it just about everywhere.

In California, wildfires are becoming more common and forcing people to move, in some

cases because their homes were destroyed, and in others because the threat of fire makes it difficult to get insurance or a mortgage," reports Aparna Nathan of Harvard's Science in The News blog. "Los Angeles, in particular, may see an influx of people from the

coast (as sea levels rise) and further inland (as fires rage) into its traditionally working-class Eastside neighborhoods."

Another area where climate gentrification has become a problem is Arizona, where people are moving from the overheated Phoenix area to the cooler, higher elevation areas of northern Arizona. According to Nathan, this trend is disrupting communities and the real estate market, and widening socioeconomic gaps in the process. Jesse Keenan, lead author on the Harvard study, concurs, telling Bloomberg News that the situation in Miami "evokes matters of equity and justice that have very limited historical precedent."

Now that the issue is coming to the fore, environmental justice advocates hope that municipal planners and government officials start taking climate gentrification into account when developing master plans and drafting new zoning ordinances to make sure that even poor people have safe places to live in the face of increasing environmental torment. But as Nathan points out, housing is just one example of an overarching theme: "as the climate changes, it will be easier for those with more resources to adapt."

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Holiday chili dinner will support Custer firefighters

The Friends of Custer Fire are hosting a Holiday Chili Dinner from 4 to 8 p.m. on Dec. 14 to raise money for the purchase of safety and EMS equipment for the Custer Township Fire Protection District.

The dinner will be held at the Camelot South Suburban Center for Exceptional Learners, formerly the Reed-Custer Primary School, located at 35445 Washington St. in Custer Park.

Come see the Custer Fire Department's new AutoPulse CPR device, warm up with some chili and contribute to a good cause.

A Toys for Tots collection will also be taking place at dinner. One free raffle ticket will be given out for donating a new, unwrapped toy (one per person).

Items raffled off are donated by local businesses in Braidwood, Wilmington, Kankakee and surrounding areas.

The cost is \$8 per person. Kids ages 5 and under are free. There will be chili, hot dogs, cornbread, beverages and desserts. Takeouts are available.



Come see Santa and ride the polar express train Saturday, Dec. 14 • 5 to 7 p.m. in downtown Wilmington

It's a Wilmington Chamber mini-parade - only in the four blocks of N. Water Street from the The Wilm Fitness Center to Jackson St. Floats will travel south on Water from Chicago Street to Jackson, then circle to Main St and back to park on North Water. The Santa House will be at Jackson Street, photos opps with characters, free hot dogs, popcorn and hot chocolate at various stores. Stop at the ticket booth near Hayden's Crossing for free Polar Express train rides.



Street reopens at 8 p.m. for the
Midnight Madness Sale
Come shop until very late