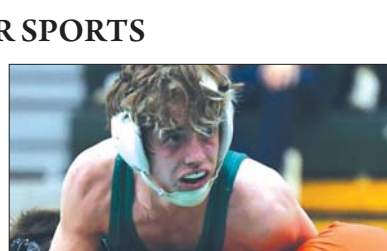




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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023

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## Village Board gives OK for new restaurant

BY ANN GILL  
CORRESPONDENT

Silver Dollar Restaurant Group is opening an eatery in Coal City.

Bimak, Inc., represented by Mony Iljazi, recently acquired the commercial property at 435 W. Division St., and plans to reopen the doors to the restaurant space that

was previously LaPizza.

The Iljazi family, owners of a handful of other restaurants, will open the space under a new name and concept sometime in 2024.

According to its business plan, the restaurant group is "renowned for its commitment to quality ingredients, exceptional customer service and a vibrant atmosphere."

Ahead of the opening, Iljazi asked the village to issue a liquor license to include gaming as an accessory utilization of the space.

"The capability to gain revenue from gaming is a necessity for this location; gaining the conditional use is a necessity to receive the liquor license allowing the gaming to be offered at the location as

well," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz.

The new ownership has also asked the village to allow for the construction of a sign near the roadway, saying it is difficult to locate the space from the east due to the structure's setback that is significantly deeper than its neighbor to the east.

Both requests have been

granted by the Village Board for the new business that will be known as the Clubhouse restaurant.

The west side of the restaurant will be divided off to allow for gaming and it will be accessible from the restaurant and the adjacent barbershop by a newly installed doorway.

Village officials note the restaurant is the primary oper-

ation of the business.

"Silver Dollar Restaurant Group aims to replicate its success in a new market and capitalize on the growing demand for high quality cuisine and outstanding service," the owners stated in the business plan submitted to the village.

The restaurant is currently scheduled to be open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9

SEE RESTAURANT PAGE 2



DEAR SANTA—Students in Amy Foley's second grade class at Coal City Elementary School await the arrival of Santa Claus. The children wrote letters to the jolly old elf and shared them with The Coal City Courant before they were sent off to the North Pole. The students are asking Santa for a variety of items including iPads and iPhones, dolls, dinosaurs and hoverboards.

## Second graders make their wishes to Santa

Second grade students from Ms. Foley's class at Coal City Elementary School have sent their letters off to the North Pole and they shared their holiday wish lists to Santa with The Coal City Courant. The letters appear as written by the students who continue to learn the art of writing.

Dear Santa,  
I now live on Elf Street. I would like Madden 24, Juneie B. Jones books, a controller and my two front teeth for Christmas. Did Elfie tell you about my wrestling tournament? Thank you for bringing Elfie.  
Sincerely, Dallas

Dear Santa,  
You are so nice!! I wish I am on the nice list! I tried my best this year. I really really want an Xbox but you do not have to give me it. But you can if you want to.  
From, Coltin

Dear Santa,  
You are so nice! I tried my best all year. This year I want a Hello Kitty toy car and a cinnamon roll pillow. I want a melod bottle. And cinnamon purse.  
From, Kayla

Dear Santa,  
You are so nice! These are what I want for Christmas. I want fake nails, a phone,

or anything else you think I would like.  
Sincerely, Ellie

Dear Santa,  
Do reindeer eat Candy Canes? I can not wait to see you this year! I would like a mini basketball hoop, a real NBA basketball, and Legos.  
Sincerely, Johnny

Dear Santa,  
I love seeing you at the Christmas Parade. I would love a hover board for Christmas. What do you want for Christmas? I would also like new jeans.  
Merry Christmas.  
From, Kitch

Dear Santa,  
I love you Santa because you give me presents. I like that. These are the toys I want. Handy Dandy Drone, a phone, a big Ryan's World Chest, a principal chair, a new iPad and a ticket to Hawaii.  
Sincerely, Blake

Dear Santa,  
You are so nice! Am I on the naughty or nice list? Is Rudolph one of your reindeer? Can I have a dirt bike, hand print and a motorcycle.  
Your friend, Isaac

Dear Santa,

You are so nice!!! I tried my best to be good! I want a VR Set for Christmas. It's like it's real, but it's a game! Can I have the newest one? Can you also get me games that Sam Tabor plays? Can I also have a phone, to?  
Sincerely, Dexter

Dear Santa,  
Do you write in cursive? What is your favorite part about Xmas? Can you take me to the north pole? Who is your favorite elf? Who is the head elf? Don't forget that you are so nice. I would like a switch pro controller.  
Sincerely, Cole

Dear Santa,  
Do reindeer eat candy canes? Thank you for keeping my elves home because I was sick! All I want for Christmas is a new born baby, baby clothes, makeup, desk organizer, and a waffle maker. Please and thank you. Have a great day!  
Sincerely, Jaycie

Dear Santa,  
You are nice! Am I on the nice list this year? I want for Christmas a lekchek saw and blade that can cut medal dl and a lot of plywood and a dirt bike, a mini excavator. Hobo is funny.  
Your friend, Kaden

SEE LETTERS TO SANTA PAGE 2

## New principal hired at Coal City Middle School

Coal City Middle School will have a new principal beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year.

The hiring of Cameron Stone as the next principal of the middle school was approved by the Coal City Community Unit 1 Board of Education at its meeting Dec. 6. He will succeed Travis Johnson who retires on June 30. Stone will begin his duties with the school district on July 1.

"The district is excited to welcome Mr. Stone to the district, and we look forward to Mr. Stone working with the students, faculty, and staff of Coal City Middle School," said Superintendent Christopher Spencer.

Interest in the position drew six applicants, and all were interviewed by a team of

administrators and a committee comprised of building level teachers and support staff. From that group three were selected for a second round of interviews. Based on those interviews, Stone was offered and accepted the position.

Stone was granted a 12 month contract with a salary of \$93,000 plus Board paid contributions to the Teachers Retirement System. He will also receive customary benefits including vacation, sick and personal time, as well as voluntary participation in the district's insurance plans.

Coal City Middle School is a grade six to eight building

SEE NEW PRINCIPAL PAGE 2



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