

Millstone found is a piece of the past



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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Police chief on COVID-19: "This is something serious"

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Tier 3 resurgence mitigations are now in effect throughout Illinois in the latest effort to slow the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

The new efforts have forced the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce to cancel this year's holiday parade and most recently a drive-by visit with Santa that was going to take its place.

Additionally, the lobby at City Hall is now closed to residents and guests not having an appointment.

Wilmington Police Chief Phil Arnold said the numbers within the

corporate limits of Wilmington are climbing by the day. At the start of this week, there are 101 active cases of COVID-19 in Wilmington.

"This is something serious," Arnold told members of the City Council during a meeting held over Zoom last week. "In the first round of this, we were at six and eight and 10, we're now [over 100 cases]. The hospitals are filling up, and when the hospitals are full, we're going to be in trouble. We need to do the best we can to try and stay out of those hospitals."

Arnold said the Wilmington Police Department will increase its overall usage of personal protective equipment, requiring officers to wear

masks at all times.

"I can't afford to lose many officers, we have one out now with COVID, one is back, but the Shorewood Police Department right now has six officers that tested positive. So, if we are depleted by that many officers, we're in trouble. So, we have to do whatever we can."

The Tier 3 mitigations went into effect on Friday, Nov. 20.

Per those mitigations, bars and restaurants continue to be restricted from offering indoor service. Additional mitigations include capacity limits at grocery stores and pharmacies of 50%, funerals are limited to 10 guests, and all other meetings/gatherings, including wed-

dings and private parties, are prohibited.

Additionally, health and fitness centers, personal care services, malls, and retail stores outside of grocery stores or pharmacies are limited to 25% capacity.

Masks and social distancing remain mandatory in all public spaces.

"The recommendations from the state now are, if you can work from home then work from home. I'm glad we're closing down City Hall, we closed down our lobby at the Police Department."

The lobby at the WPD police station on Robert P Weidling Drive is closed but the call-box is still avail-

able. Anyone who needs to speak with an officer can call the department at 815-476-2811, or come to the station and utilize the call-box between the first and second doors of the station.

The call box connects to WESCOM, who will dispatch an officer to the station. Anyone who needs to reach Chief Arnold, a Detective, or Records can call 815-476-2813.

The department is encouraging phone calls rather than in-person meetings.

Other department activities have also been suspended for the time being.

"Some things we're just not

SEE COVID, PAGE 2

City seeks \$1.25 million in property taxes

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Local taxing bodies are once again taking this time of year to propose their annual tax levies -- determining the amount of tax dollars they must collect in order to operate.

The city of Wilmington is proposing an aggregate 2020 tax levy increase rate of 4.9% over last year's extension.

The proposed corporate and special property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$1.25 million, an increase over the \$1.19 million collected in 2019.

Finance Director Matt Hoffman explained the levy to members of the Finance Committee on Nov. 17.

The levy request separated by fund includes \$350,000 for corporate operations, \$250,000 for police protection, and \$430,000 for police pension.

"The only difference really between this year and year's past is that we've allocated more of the tax levy to the corporate fund as well as police," Hoffman said. "When you allocate it more toward those funds, it frees up how you can spend the money, you're not tied to different allocations we have here like audit or workman's comp. The only difference really is the allocation. It gives us a little more flexibility on how we choose to spend the money."

Hoffman said the 4.9% increase keeps the city below the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL). That law limits the amount of total taxes billed (extensions) for non-home rule taxing districts.

Increases in property tax extensions are limited to the lesser of 5% or the increase in the consumer price index for the year preceding the levy year, and require voter approval to be increased.

The Estimated Annual Tax Levy of the Year 2020 is on file for public viewing at City Hall.

Those who wish to view the levy in person must make an appointment, as City Hall is closed due to the resur-

SEE LEVY, PAGE 2



ROBERT BOLSER of Country Financial, Wilmington, has been named the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year. At 5 p.m. Saturday a ceremony honoring Bolser's contributions to the community will be held under the downtown gazebo at Claire's Corner park. He is pictured while coach the kicking squad for the Wildcat football team.

Business Person of the Year Connecting with the community is key for Bolser

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

For this year's Business Person of the Year, success comes down to one word: Relationships.

Bob Bolser of County Financial has been recognized for the honor this year by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Bolser has been with Country Financial for the past 17 years, selling insurance and investments. A native of Wilmington, Bolser started with Country working in Shorewood, but has been able to work in his hometown for the past five years.

Prior to entering insurance, he worked for Caterpillar before he decided to make a career switch.

While the thought of working in insurance may not strike some as an exciting career choice, Bolser said that idea is a misconception about the work he and his staff perform.

"It's simple, it's two things. One, it's belief in what you're selling, and two, it's the relationships," he said. "Insurance is not 'fun' but you're building relationships with people. When somebody asks you to insure their home or their auto or their life, they're transferring the risk of that to the insurance company... They're trusting you to make sure that their property, their lives, their investments are taken care of should something go wrong."

"You just want to always have that good relationship with people," he continued. "And,

if you don't believe in what you're selling, you're not going to be a very good salesman. You have to believe, and life insurance is the biggest one I believe in. Obviously with home and auto, by law you have to have that, but life insurance is an emotional sale and you have to have relationships with people and they have to trust you, and you have to believe in what you're selling. It's that simple. It's that basic. People will come to you if they like you."

But when talking about his success either professionally or personally, Bolser rarely speaks about himself, but rather gives credit to those folks he's built relationships with. And he said building those relationships is not just a handshake and a few words, but it's about following up, creating lasting rapport with clients, and participating in the community where you serve.

When it comes to taking an active role in the community, Bolser steps up to the plate. He and his wife Alicia run the Christian Help Association Toy Drive for Kuzma Care Cottage during the Christmas season for the past seven years.

"It's basically just helping those who are a little bit less fortunate," he said. "Making sure that kids get some type of Christmas gifts or something to uplift their spirits."

Bolser said it's his belief in relationships that thrust him and his wife into this kind of community service, crediting Kuzma Care director Heather Hobbs for helping them

SEE BOLSER, PAGE 2

Ready the road

New equipment will help public works keep the streets clear

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Wilmington City Council has approved the purchase of a new piece of equipment to help keep the roads clear this winter.

On Nov. 17, the city officials approved the purchase of a sprayer from Kankakee Truck Equipment, Inc. Public Works Superintendent Ken Ewenson said the sprayer will be used for de-icing of public streets and sidewalks.

"This is for the sprayer for the brine for pre-wetting the streets for the salt. It has a sprayer for the road then it also has a reel so you can do the sidewalks, like at City Hall," Ewenson said.

When the freezing weather and snow arrives, the streets won't be made ready with just road salt. Ewenson said the city's road melt also includes a bit of spirits.

"It's a cross of vodka, rum and salt brine, which is a salt mix," Ewenson said of the brine the city uses for treatment.

The superintendent said that brine is both cost effective, and has longevity.

"It lasts longer, the shelf life is tremendous on it, and

when you do put it down on the road, it stays on the road, even if it rains," Ewenson said. "Unlike salt, where, if you do salt, if it drizzles a little, it's all gone, it's all wasted. If it doesn't snow that time and you've put \$3,000 worth of salt on the ground, it's run over and gone. This here, when you put it down, it stays down."

The total cost of the sprayer is \$7,196, plus an additional \$902 for a 50 foot hose reel attachment. That attachment means the sprayer will be able to be used for more than just winter road salting, which makes it an overall cost savings purchase.

"In the summertime I can switch it over [from the salt trucks] to herbicides," he said, so they can spray bulk areas like ditches or weedy areas in city-owned parks. "So, instead of spending two or three hours, a guy can go through there, sit in the truck and another guy sprays it and you're done."

The city expects delivery of the sprayer and hose reel in the next two to four weeks. The sprayer will mount to a truck already owned by the city.

The cost of the purchase was included in this year's streets and alleys budget.

Aldermen eye shoddy sidewalks

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

City leaders have a warning for local residents — keep an eye on those cracks and bumps in your sidewalks.

On Nov. 11, members of the Water, Sewer, Streets, and Alleys Committee held a brief discussion on the condition of sidewalks throughout the city of Wilmington.

Alderman Dennis Vice said there are some areas where the walkways are in a serious state of disrepair.

"There are some sidewalks in town that are pretty dilapidated. They're in bad shape," he told committee

members.

Vice said one roadway in particular where the sidewalks are in poor condition is south Water Street.

He suggested that the city reach out to the residents, who, according to officials, are the ones ultimately responsible for the upkeep of those sidewalks.

"Is there a point where we as a city go to those residents and say, listen, you're respon-

SEE SIDEWALKS, PAGE 2



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Covid

doing," Arnold said. "We're not going to do fingerprints for outside companies right now. We're not having vendors come in right now. We have to change business from the way we usually do it, because it's not safe for our people and we don't want it not to be safe for people coming to our police station either."

Arnold said the resurgence mitigations will not affect the regular operations of the department, particularly being available to the public.

"We have to do certain things, some things we can't stop doing. We can't help that. But, wherever we can stop to try to mitigate this, we're going to do," Arnold said.

So far, Wilmington's local mask ordinance as well as mitigation requirements have not been enforced by local law enforcement. But, Arnold warned, the state of Illinois may soon be cracking down on those businesses that do not comply with the orders.

"One thing that is of interest is that the Illinois Liquor Commissioner has now authorized his investigators to take away a liquor license for seven days until a hearing can be had," Arnold said. "So, I think they are going to be out looking more. We have had the Illinois Liquor Control Commission in town already a couple of times in the last month, so they are out checking."

Mayor Roy Strong said that like the rest of the country, the city of Wilmington has to try to ride it out with mitigation efforts.

"We're kind of stuck," Strong said. "Whatever happens, we have to take it and accept it and do the best we can. Hopefully, it will go down."

As of Nov. 21, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported that the rolling positivity rate for Region 7, which includes Will County was at 18.5%, a slight decline from days previous. In Will County alone, the rate was 18.7%.

As of Tuesday, the total number of cases reported in Will County since the start of the pandemic is 36,032, with 508 deaths.

In the 60481 zip code, which includes Wilmington, Symerton, Shadow Lakes, and surrounding rural area, the total number of cases since March is 566. In zip code 60408, Braidwood, the total number of cases is 303.

Bolser

along. "She was just an absolute, just one of the most genuine and spectacular people I've ever met in my life," he said. "She asked me to participate in this and kind of take it over... and of course I said yes. It just fills us with pride helping our community and helping the kids in this town and helping whoever we can when we can."

Bolser has also served as a football coach at Wilmington High School for nearly three decades, where those relationships that start on the football field can blossom as those students become adults.

"I've seen kids grow up in this town, I've seen their parents, all these kids who you coach they're now having kids and they're growing up and you're insuring them," he said, once again handing much of the credit to the relationships he has built.

"Being a part of that community, football in this town is an identity... Being able to coach here with such a great staff, Jeff Reents, Barry Southall, Rob Murphy, Chad Farrell, it's just an excellent opportunity to help kids. It's not all about wins and losses when you're helping these kids, it's about life lessons and what you're going to do after school."

Bolser's personal relationships around Wilmington go back as well. A graduate of the Wilmington High School Class of 1989, Bolser married Alicia, his high school sweetheart, 25 years ago, and the pair share a

20-year-old son, Brock.

When it comes to his work and his time spent in Wilmington, Bolser is quick to give credit to the people who he surrounds himself with for his success.

"They're just incredible people, and I could not do anything without them," Bolser said of his staff, Laurie Melvin and Heidi Kreitz.

"[Laurie] is just a wonderful assistant, she's my office manager and she's been with me for three and a half years," he said. "[Heidi] is my production assistant, and she's been with me for two years. They're Wilmington ladies and they know the town, they know the people, and any time you get an opportunity to talk with both of them, they're knowledgeable and helpful and they're both friendly. It's one of the best parts about my business is the service that these women give to everybody. Without them, I would not be doing what I am doing, for sure."

Even when it comes to this year's honor, Bolser throws credit to other business leaders in town.

"I'm completely honored and blessed to be named the Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year," he said. "Being mentioned with so many great business owners in this town, business

owners like Steve Evans, Ralph Stevens, Chuck Jeffries, Dave Rampa, Roy Strong, Julius 'Sippi' Shell, they're all lifetime business people. I mention all these names because these are the people you look up to when you're growing up, and now I'm in a position to... follow them and stay with the Chamber. I'm blessed to be around them, I'm honored to be named this. You won't find somebody who enjoys their job more than I do."

Bolser said he feels lucky to have seen much success in 2020, despite the troubles that have hit the nation and the world.

In a pandemic year, I've just had a great year," he said. "It's just due to my staff, due to the people in town, being part of the community, and always helping out when you can. That's the big thing, that's what's more important to me."

Normally Bolser would be the grand marshal for the Chamber's Christmas parade that was planned for Saturday. But due to state-enforced COVID-19 restrictions, the parade has been canceled. Instead Bolser will be honored during a brief ceremony, open to the public, at 5 p.m. Saturday at the downtown intersection. It will include a presentation under the Claire's Corner gazebo and lighting up of the park.

Levy

mitigations in place due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An ordinance to approve the levy will come before the full council on Dec. 15. The levy must be filed with the county clerk by Dec. 28.

Meanwhile, Hoffman said the city is on track in its current fiscal year budget.

The fiscal year began on May 1. Since then, the city has deposited a total of \$2.8 million into the general fund, which is the main operating fund for the city. Those revenues include \$239,974 in property taxes earmarked for general fund activity, \$136,182 for property taxes earmarked for the police department,

\$28,437 in video gaming taxes, and \$133,683 in building permits.

On the expense side, the city has spent \$407,110 in finance and administration costs this fiscal year, as well as \$1 million in police protection and \$332,139 in public works.

Each of those expenditures represent around half of the yearly budget per department.

"The city is doing well," Hoffman said. "We're under budget with expenses. Revenues are holding steady. The only change is, permitting has gone down, but that was to be expected. So, we're in a good position."

Total expenditures across all departments covered by the general fund are \$2.2 million, a current surplus of \$626,626 year to date.

Attorney Naughton files McGinnis estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF TERRY MAE MCGINNIS, Deceased; No. 20 P 864

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Terry Mae McGinnis of 430 S. Eastern Ave., Manattan, Will County, Illinois. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on November 12, 2020 to David L. McGinnis, Jr., of 1249 Cardinal Dr., Bradley, IL 60915 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Michael R. Naughton, P.O. Box 10, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL Compiled Stat. 755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative of the estate, or both, on or before the 25th day of May, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, 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 by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Michael R. Naughton ARDC#06180774
P.O. Box 10
Manhattan, Illinois 60442
815-478-3933

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9, 2020.

Attorney Fisher files Wehrstein estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of Edward Wehrstein, Deceased. Case No.: 19 P 1034.

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Edward Wehrstein of Shorewood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 20, 2019, to Dawn M. Boyle as Independent Executor of the Estate of Edward Wehrstein.

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 Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is May 25, 2021 and any claim not filed within that period 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.

Dated: November 25, 2020.
Dawn M. Boyle, Independent Executor.

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

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Nov. 25, December 2 and 9, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Baldwin estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SUE A. BALDWIN, Deceased; No. 20P828

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Sue A. Baldwin. Letters of Office were issued to Sandra R. Silva whose address is 5309 Maple Glen Drive, Plainfield, Illinois 60586 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 18th day of May, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 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 by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Sue A. Baldwin,
Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Wilmington Township to host Democratic Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 1, 2020 a Caucus of the Democratic Party in the Township of Wilmington, Will County, Illinois will be held at the Wilmington Township Building, 120 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL commencing at 6:10 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Highway Commissioner, Trustees (4 positions) and Assessor, Wilmington Township officials for the 2021 consolidated election.

Dated Nov. 18, 2020
Joe VanDuyne
Presiding Officer

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Nov. 25, 2020.

Wilmington Township to host Republican Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on December 1, 2020 a Caucus of the Republican Party in the Township of Wilmington, Will County, Illinois will be held at the Wilmington Township Building, 120 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL commencing at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Highway Commissioner, Trustees (4 positions) and Assessor, Wilmington Township officials for the 2021 consolidated election.

Any qualified voter wishing to participate via video conference or teleconference must contact the party chairman via email (JAJ416@AOL.COM) not less than 72 hours prior to the commencement of this caucus to verify participant's identification and voter qualification pursuant to statute and caucus rules.

Dated Nov. 18, 2020
Jonathan Jones - Chairman
Presiding Officer

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Nov. 25, 2020.

Sidewalks

sible for those sidewalks, you're going to have to foot the bill to fix them," Vice said.

"It's a hazard, it really is," Vice continued, referring to one section of sidewalk where tree roots have pushed up the concrete.

"If someone was walking through there at night, they could do a faceplant real easy."

Mayor Roy Strong said the first step would be for aldermen to take an inventory of their own wards.

"Maybe as aldermen, we can go to all our areas and if you think the sidewalks are that bad, we have to document it. Then we have to go over and see, when can we fix them," he said.

Strong also noted that there are sidewalks in Wilmington that date back to the 1940s, that are predominantly buried under the grass in front of homes.

"We need to do that, to get some of this done, because people are going to trip and get hurt and we're going to have a lawsuit," Strong said. "Maybe we start looking at all the sidewalks in town and go from there and try to get some letters out, telling people what the program is."

Strong said that program would involve city crews performing the sidewalk repairs, but homeowners paying for the concrete.

City leaders also said the broken sidewalks are often found in high visibility areas, which reflect poorly on Wilmington.

Aldermen plan to create a list of the sidewalks that need attention and discuss the issue again before any action is taken.

Wilmington police report

The Wilmington Police Department provides a regular blotter of activity conducted by officers within the corporate boundary of the city.

Oct. 11
Devin A. Pitts, 21, of Wilmington was arrested on charges of aggravated domestic battery and transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility in Joliet. He was released after posting 10% of a \$10,000 bond.

Oct. 18
Wendy A. Bobak, 35, of Bonfield, was charged with battery and released on an I-bond.

Oct. 24
Nicholeas A. Hanson, 33, of Wilmington, was arrested for two counts domestic battery and transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility, where bond was set at \$25,000 for the first offense and \$3,000 for the second offense. He was later released after posting 10% bond.

Nov. 12
Carl M. Parham, 36, of Wilmington, was arrested on an in-state warrant for driving on a revoked or suspended license in March 2020. He was transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility and released after posting 10% of a \$5,000 bond.

Editor's note: Persons named in the police report are innocent of all charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

PERSONAL INJURY

Block, Klukas & Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyle W. Juckins

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Attorney Naughton files Jendrzek estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EUGENE A. JENDRZEJAK, Deceased; No. 20 P 842

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Eugene A. Jendrzek. Letters of Office were issued to Cora C. Stachyra, 15929 S. Lorel, Oak Forrest, IL 60452, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Michael R. Naughton, P.O. Box 10, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL Compiled Stat. 755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative of the estate, or both, on or before the 18th day of May, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative 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 by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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THANK YOU

The family of Charlie Butcher would like to thank Matt Baskerville and Associates for all of their guidance and kindness. There are no words to express our appreciation.

Thank you to my boss, Jean Gordon and the crew from CLDT. Marcia Smith for the wonderful dinner after the services.

A special thank you to the pall bearers.

Thank you everyone who had a kind word and visit after Charlie's death. We will never forget your kindness.

Cathy Butcher and Charlie's Angels

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

So you think it's easy, closing the bars

I just finished listening to an "expert" saying that closing the bars was as important as wearing a mask. He asked, "Is that so hard to do?" The answer is obviously, yes.



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

Attempts have been made to close bars for over 150 years in Wilmington. A short stroll down Water Street will tell how successful that fight has been.

But why? I can tell you it's not just the booze. There is more to it than that. Like the T.V. sitcom said, "Wouldn't you like to go where everyone knows your name?" I know I would. Today's topic is bars, otherwise known as saloons and sampling rooms.

Alcohol in itself, was not really frowned upon in 1836 when Wilmington was created. More, it was viewed as a medicine or a tonic for good health. Almost every grocery, drug store and dry good store sold brandy and wine. Drinking in the home was good, but drinking in a public establishment was not.

The first time I find that bars were closed in Wilmington comes

from May 3, 1865, Wilmington Independent. "No more grog - agreeable to the ordinances recently passed by the city council, the saloons and bar rooms of the city have ceased the sale of liquor entirely, and are now mostly closed up."

I'm not sure what happened, but 3 years later we read, "Messrs. Frank Hadsell and Dr. Slater have formed a co-partnership, and are now running the "Ruby saloon." They have new and first-class billiard tables, and a pleasant place of resort." Obviously, closing the bars did not work.

In 1871 McNulty's ad gives us a hint as to why bars are so hard to close. "H. McNulty's sample rooms are probably as popular places of resort as any in this city. Here, horseflesh is discussed, base ball matters are digested, and things generally are kept in apple-pie order. The bar is always well stocked with choice Havana's, liquors, etc., and wines just from the "cob-webs."

Yes, it's the comradery, the discussions that go on in a bar! That's the key! That is what bars have that can't be duplicated on a computer screen while Zooming. Face-to-

face impromptu discussion!

In 1874 the women of Wilmington tried once again to close the bars. From February 28, "Several of our city saloon keepers were badly frightened on Saturday last, on receipt of anonymous warnings of the threatened "woman's crusade" against the liquor traffic in Wilmington."

Then a week later, "The raid upon saloons and drug stores, in this city, by the ladies has not been made; but is looked for daily. You can see occasionally upon our sidewalks, ladies with prayer and hymn books under their arms, looking "daggers" at the "evil places" as they pass them, which indicates something." But it only amounted to dirty looks, no bar was ever closed down."

A decade later the women once again took up their banners and marched down Water Street. A letter to the editor admonishes them.

"Before our praying women go any farther let them consider how they would feel if a certain class of men should take it in their heads to go around singing and praying in the houses and homes of such women that are wearing tight gaiters and corsets; that are spending more money for ribbons, dress-

es and jewelry, and other unnecessary, than their respective husbands and fathers can pay for; that are destroying their health and killing their offspring by the use of medicine; that wear false hair and false what-nots; how would they feel if they were asked to quit all that folly?"

"Would to God those women would stay at home, mend their stockings and bring up their boys to some honest trade, let it be ever so humble; instead of that, each thinks her own boy is far too good and smart for a common mechanic, and must at least be President someday or other. It is at home, ye women, where your place is, and where you can do some good, and not on the streets. Make your homes cheerful and happy, and your husbands and sons will stay at home with you evenings more than they do now."

"Do not try to make a paradise of this world while yourselves are so far from being angels. Sing your babies to sleep at home but do not sing in the streets but, if you must, buy an organ and a monkey first, by all means."

It is here that we leave this story, but we will pick it up again from here. Our history of public assault on bars is far from over.



A piece of history unearthed in Wilmington

A small piece of history was unearthed this month by members of the Wilmington Historical Society.

Last week, Bill Weidling with the WHS dug out what is believed to be an original mill stone from the spillway in Wilmington, one used by city founder Thomas Cox.

In 1838, Thomas Cox, Joseph Cox and Albert W. Bowen constructed a three foot high dam across the river, on the west side of the island where the current dam now sits.

Like other dams built during that time, the dam was constructed to force water down the east branch of the Spillway to provide water

power.

Thomas Cox built a gristmill and carding machine in 1839 near the bridge over the mill race.

Dr. Bowen constructed a flour mill further down the east branch in 1839 also, consisting of six run stones producing 500 barrels of flour a day. That mill eventually went idle by the early 1870s, but was still utilized for storage.

The Spillway was constructed out of rubble stone around 1870.

It was from the Spillway where the mill stone was recovered, located near the bottom center of the wall of rubble stone.

The other flour mill was



A MILLSTONE removed from a gristmill elsewhere in the U.S. shows how they were assembled using an iron band.

later built by the bridge over the mill race, where Thomas Cox had built his gristmill in 1839, by McIntyre and Whitten, and was named the White Cloud Mill. This mill was built sometime between late 1840s to 1850s, after the removal of Thomas Cox's mill.

"This is why I believe the found millstone is from our town's founder Thomas Cox's mill," Weidling explained. "The millstone is of a design and type called French buhr and comes from the Marne Valley in northern France. The quarry was located in the area of La Ferete-sous-Jouarre."

La Ferete-sous-Jouarre was once known for the world's best millstones, but by the late 1700s, the quarry was depleted. Weidling said they then shaped and dressed pieces of this rare and valuable stone into one millstone by banding it with an iron ring — the type that was found last week.

"The American Colonial cities and towns, imported them due to the quality," Weidling noted.

The stone is a type of

siliceous rock called burrstone, which has an open texture and is a porous but tough fine grained sandstone or a silicified, fossiliferous limestone.

French millstones made a superior wheat product due to the stone's hardness and it's ability to grind a much whiter flour.

The newly discovered millstone was taken to the Historical Society museum for display.



A SECTION of stone believed to be part of an original mill stone used by city founder Thomas Cox is removed from an exposed stone wall near the mill race. Workers had to prop up the wall with beams in order to remove the mill stone without it collapsing.

Coat drive now underway

The Christian Help Association and Our Caring Closet are collecting new and used coats and other outerwear to help our neighbors in need.

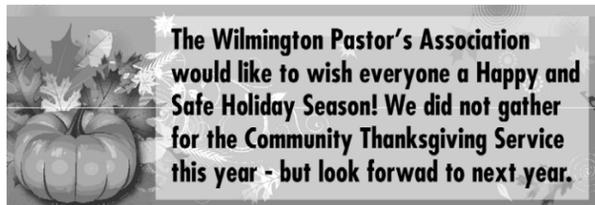
Coats are now available at Our Caring Closet on Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9 a.m. to noon. All COVID-19 restrictions apply to shoppers including entrance limitations and wearing of masks.

Anyone with new, or like new, coats, hats, gloves and mittens, scarves, boots and other outerwear can donate items until Dec. 12.

All used items should be freshly laundered, free of rips and stains, and with working zippers and buttons. Delivery of donations to Our Caring Closet must be completed by Dec. 13 from noon to 2 p.m.

The following Churches and organizations have bins for donations:

Our Caring Closet, Tuffy's Lounge, Longest Realty, Riverfront Lanes, Normington's General Store, Wilmington Park District, The Crafter's Gallery, Wilmington VFW Post 5422, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Grace Lutheran Church, First Christian Church, First United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, St. Rose Catholic Church, Island City Baptist Church and Abundant Life Fellowship.



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Custer Fire plans for Toys for Tots

The Custer Fire Protection District is proudly teaming up with the U.S. Marine Corps. Reserve for this year's Toys for Tots Program. Area residents who wish to partic-

ipate, can drop off a new unwrapped toy at the Custer Fire Station 21750, Hwy 113, Wilmington. between the hours of 9 a.m. 5 p.m., from now until Dec. 11, 2020 at 5 p.m.

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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.

Box is free

COAL CITY—In response to “Too much candy,” it was mentioned that you can buy flat rate boxes at the post office to ship candy to the military overseas. The post office does not charge for flat rate boxes. You pay postage but you do not pay for the boxes, they are free.

Make it safe

CHICAGO—To the Editor: Sometimes doctors have to deliver bad news to their patients. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19, the physicians of Illinois implore you to reconsider your holiday plans this year. Large gatherings of family and friends inside a home or restaurant are not a good idea. Nor is playing that traditional Thanksgiving football game with a bunch of people you haven't seen in a long time. We are experiencing yet another dramatic increase in the number of Covid cases and our Illinois hospitals are filling up with patients. We know how much you want to celebrate, but your doctor wants you to stay healthy by avoiding situations that increase your risk of contracting the coronavirus. Sadly, that means staying away from your loved ones who may be most vulnerable to this deadly virus. Although many may be suffering from Covid-19 fatigue, it's important to stay particularly vigilant to protect against the spread of the coronavirus this holiday season. That means wearing a face covering in public places, keeping a physical distance from people who are not in your household, and washing your hands often and thoroughly. Enjoy the holidays safely and please consider a virtual gathering via computer or telephone. Robert W. Pantone, MD, President, Illinois State Medical Society.

Be safe

COAL CITY—According to the World Health Organization, since 1983 until now 32 million have died worldwide from Aids HIV. It's been 40 years since the Aids virus epidemic. Even after billions of dollars have been spent on medicines to keep people alive “worldwide.” A new 38 million cases in 2019 were infected, 37 thousand in the US have been newly infected. Covid 19 is also a virus. We will eventually get a vaccine but like the flu Covid 19 will be with us for many years until the next virus comes along. Many Covid 19 carriers are not ill themselves and don't know they have the virus. That is why it's important to wear a mask in public. Please do! Think about it herpes, influenza, measles, mumps, ebola, rabies, shingles, chicken pox, common colds, all viruses. Antibiotics work for bacteria infection not for viruses. Be safe! Pray if you know how.

Where's Kwame?

BRAIDWOOD—Observation. With four more indictments in the Madigan/ComEd bribery case you don't see Illinois State Attorney General Kwame Raoul involved. Didn't we elected him to lead the state against corruption and fair justice? Just goes to show the Democrats take care of each other by looking the other way and not getting involved. Another sign of corrupt Illinois.

Unfair attacks

COAL CITY—The Trump haters got their wish. Here is a man that basically has done nothing wrong but the lynch mob will keep attacking him forever. He's done nothing but good for America. He has a Jewish son in law-daughter and Jewish grandchildren yet they call him racist.

News Max reruns

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill and I am watching some reruns on News Max about how the left attack Trump supporters marching in Washington D.C. which you could not find nor could I find on CNN or any other liberal news program. In my opinion it's like fighting a war. You have to fight lethally to prevent the other side from attacking you. And the left has been attacking lethally. This has to stop. These Democrat states, Democrat mayors do nothing about it. All they want to do is restrain the police. And I can bank your money on it, if that ever happened here I will fight back, because when it comes to somebody sucker punching someone like in that news Max reported and shown live that man had a right after being physically attacked to use lethal force.

Do-nothing Durbin

SHADOW LAKES—I listened to Dick Durbin speak at the big tech hearings and I can truthfully state that a six year old child would ask better questions. Censorship is a violation of the constitution of the USA and Dick Durbin doesn't seem to think what big tech is doing is violating any law. So maybe he should just go back and sit at his desk and collect his money from the taxpayers for doing nothing for his salary like he has been doing since he became a senator. When has he done anything for the people of Illinois? He did agree on the sanctuary laws which are also a violation of the laws of the state. Who does Dick Durbin work for, people in the USA illegally and people that censor the news or the oath of office he took to protect the laws of the USA and the American citizens lives.

Beware America

DWIGHT—One thing I want to remind people of is a statement from Ronald Reagan when he was president. He said “I'm here from the government and I'm here to help” Beware.

Collect those signs

WILMINGTON—The election is over and Biden and Kamala obviously won. So why not take those Trump signs down in your yard. It's time to move on Trump supporters because we're going to have some respect in the White House for the next four years.

Misguided party

WILMINGTON—The Democrat party has stated that they are the party of the people and that the people come first. But if this is true then why has the Democrat leadership been shipping employment overseas to foreign countries putting American citizens out of work and then condemn President Trump for bringing all the jobs back from overseas and increasing American citizens employment? The stock market had a boom but under Democrat control the stock market never went anywhere. When fuel prices skyrocketed but under President Trump the fuel prices dropped because our nation became fuel independent. Can someone please explain how the Democrat party is concerned about Americans when they seem to have been working on behalf of foreign countries instead of working for its citizens and their rights. What type of deal was made with China during the Obama administration with Joe Biden? Does anyone really believe that the democrat leadership really cares about any American citizen or the USA?

Make a difference

WILMINGTON—Be sure to follow Kuzma Care Cottage on Facebook, a wonderful group of volunteers who are helping to feed Wilmington residents in need. From time to time an anonymous “Donation Angel” appears who does matching \$ gifts for donations. For every \$ donated, and using Northern IL Food bank, Kuzma can buy \$8 of food for every \$1 donated. Another matching gift program coming soon and you can make a difference by helping to feed others. Love thy neighbor.

Trump's trip to Egypt

BRAIDWOOD—Joe Biden was named president-elect by almost all of the networks and state election results. This was about two weeks ago. Trump refuses to concede. He loses lawsuit after lawsuit. It appears that Trump went to Egypt to vacation at “D-NILE.”

Across the nation

COAL CITY—If you're at all interested in the mess in California read Michael Anton's new book “The Stakes, America at the Point of No Return.” He examines the left liberal one party Democrat state run by super wealthy Big Tech and Hollywood oligarchs. California housing most unaffordable in the nation. San Francisco highest homeless rate in nation. 900 for every 100,000 citizens. Tent camps on sidewalks for homeless drug addicts and mentally disturbed. Freeways and highways deteriorating from heavy traffic. Electric power framework a mess. California pays the highest state income tax, sales tax and gas taxes in the US to fund “welfare” benefits that go to 55 percent of states immigrants and 30 percent of its natives. With federal taxes factored in many middle class workers are forking over 50 percent of income to tax collectors. Now that Democrats



are in charge are we going to become like California on a national scale?

Happy is healthy

SHADOW LAKES—In 1994 at 44 years old I had a massive heart attack as these doctors called it. I don't know what is massive and what isn't. Six weeks later I had to get a quadruple bypass. So I exercise and watch my diet. And at that time I was into coil target shooting which every time you pull the trigger you get 24 pounds of recoil on your shoulder. I was very happy doing it. My doctor Theresa (?) at now St. James but Olympia fields Osteopathic told me happy people live longer. So you go ahead and do what you want to do even though other doctors said not to. It is the same thing with these Covid lockdowns. If you are a happy person you will survive things. If you are unhappy you will not. And here I am now at 71 years old and still doing what I like to do.

America's chumps

COAL CITY—Before the election Joe Biden said that some American citizens were chumps but that didn't bother the people who voted for him to be president. If Joe Biden is able to file presidential mandates the people that voted him into office will find out they are the real chumps. Since the rules he will put out will effect every American citizen and that will destroy the USA and the freedom that all Americans enjoy no matter what political party you prefer. If things change the voters of Joe Biden will still be ungrateful for everything they do they would prefer to be chumps rather than to have freedom.

Sad Thanksgiving

BRAIDWOOD—Americans have a lot of things to be thankful for at Thanksgiving but the Senate isn't one of them. Republican Senate Leader McConnell has no conscience and neither have most Senate members. During a recent televised appearance, McConnell giggled uncontrollably and proudly. Why? For his role in blocking the passage of the second round of sorely needed Covid-19 legislation to help small businesses, the unemployed and those who will be evicted from their homes. McConnell, who happily named himself the Grim Reaper, is delighted when he and fellow Republicans cause suffering toward others and they are amused when they abandon hard-working, self-employed entrepreneurs of the nation's Main Street that keeps our economy going. Renee K.

Election interference

SHADOW LAKES—I have a question. Why is it the Democrats and the whiners from Custer Park whine constantly about Russian interference when Trump won the election in 2016. But I haven't heard anything from the whiners in Custer Park or the Democrats or the liberal media about how Big Tech has interfered with this election. Can somebody answer me in the next sound-off or I'll give you my phone number 708-227-8870 the name is Dan Hill, thank you.

Take a bow

COAL CITY—Congratulations to South Dakota. The population infected by Covid-19 in proportion to population as a whole makes South Dakota's infection rate worse than any nation on earth. Take a bow, Governor Noem. You promised your citizens the freedom not to wear a mask and what you've given them instead is the world's greatest potential to catch the plague.

Kurt K.

Shut the heck up

SHADOW LAKES—Dan Hill, Dan Hill, Dan Hill, Dan Hill. There your name has been printed giving you the attention you so dearly need for this week. So now you can go into the kitchen and pour yourself a nice cup of shut the heck up. PS. Go Joe.

It's like reality TV

COAL CITY—Quoting Mitt Romney on Trump: “It is difficult to imagine a worse more undemocratic action by a sitting American President.” In America being undemocratic is being unpatriotic, un-American, and sad. All

the noise from Trump is theater, reality TV, not truth. The lies about votes have been proven untrue over and over again. Why the theater? To get voters like you, Dan Hill, to question democracy, the voting process, and to obstruct Biden in his presidency. We know it is reality TV, a show not real because when Trump's attorneys get into court their tune changes. They can get disbarred for lying to a judge, so they admit, yes there were Republican poll watchers in the room among other things. Trump and his minions can lie on TV because you have accepted the lies for 4 years. You, the Republican party and Trump are attacking Democracy because you believe in power over the will of the people. Sad and shame on you. MD

Stop the hate

COAL CITY—Over the last 4+ years, hate and violence has increased extensively without guidance from the Executive Branch to quell it. In fact, the opposite was condoned. We, as the United States, function much better when we can agree and compromise. Yes, disagreement is great; it is often needed for our Democracy to function properly like our forefathers envisioned it to be. It is time for the haters to let go and help find a solution (compromise) to whatever bothers them. Now, after the election, I look forward to the US being a respected world power again instead of portraying itself as a dictatorship as it has progressed to be. We, as citizens of the United States, can help stop the hate. Let's do it.

Says a lot

SHADOW LAKES—I'm listening to Joe Biden say that this is the most fair election in the history of the United States. So I guess this election exonerates President Donald Trump because if the Russians interfered the first time, why didn't they interfere this time? Can Gary Weidner answer me this question? Dan Hill

Ignoring state order

MORRIS—So the whole state is supposed to be on no indoor dining. Why are the restaurants open in the city of Morris? Why aren't the police closing them for allowing indoor dining? What is wrong with the Grundy County Health Department? They should go and inspect these restaurants and close them down. Also, all we need is more truck traffic around Morris. I see they are going to have a Love's truck stop on Brisbin Road off US Rt. 6. That is ridiculous. Anything for money. Please wear a mask.

History correction

WILMINGTON—Hey Dan, sorry to hear about your heart condition. So might I suggest you refrain from reading the sound-off page. From my own experience some of the sound-offs, including yours, get my heart rate elevated. Take care. I called to correct your history of the 2000 election. Gore was not declared the loser because the Supreme Court stopped the vote count in Florida and declared Bush the winner. It turned out that Gore won Florida by 500 votes but the project for a new American century decided we needed to invade Iraq and take their oil so the fix was in. And this plan was in place before September 11, 2001. In fact it was rejected by Daddy Bush so the neo contributors had to wait to start their war mongering until the next Republican president was in place. In closing, I wish you good health in these uncertain times. Stay safe.

Can you do better?

WILMINGTON—This is a question for all the people who display a Pritzker sucks sign. Is that all you've got? Or do you have any ideas or plans you could impart to the governor so as not to suck. Maybe one of you should run for office instead of using a crude insult that changes nothing.

Destroying freedom

SHADOW LAKES—Some people in the USA that decided to cast their hatred against a man that brought plenty back to the USA and decided that the American citizen should come first before any individual in any other country. They had no real reason for their hatred but acted like spoiled brats that want the government to be mommy and daddy so they can get everything free. If everything is free to everyone who is going to fill the shelves or do any of the work? That answer is people from foreign lands that will take over the USA. It was not really hated but a plan to take over the USA and destroy freedom. The people that went along with the hatred and propaganda did not seem to be able to look past the idea of receiving everything free. When everything they already have is free and that's called freedom not government control of freedom.

Thank You!

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

Thanks A Million For Your Contributions

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 would like to thank all of the merchants and members of our communities for their donations to our drive to assist people with Intellectual Disabilities. We also thank all of those who helped in any way to make this past year's program successful. Thanks again for the help. We especially thank the following Businesses for their support.

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THE ON BROADWAY Dancers from Broadway Dance Center in Coal City will present the company's 8th annual Christmas show this weekend. Due to the on-going pandemic, the dance company filmed the production and invite the community to drive-in to see the show on their big screen located in the Ace Hardware parking lot at 2025 E. Division St. Ticket information can be found at showtix4u.com/event-details/42677. The show was filmed at various locations in the villages of Coal City and Diamond.

Courtesy photo

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

On Broadway Dancers to host drive-in Christmas show to benefit families in need

STAFF REPORT

The letters are signed, sealed and ready to be delivered, but it will take a visit from Santa's elves to ensure the jolly old elf gets his letters on time.

As a kick-off to the holiday season, the On Broadway Dancers are taking their annual Christmas show to the screen to share a story of coming together as a community.

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered," is an original production that puts a spotlight on the community as two elves arrive in town to pickup the letters addressed to their boss who has been deemed non-essential due to the pandemic.

The tale they tell makes it clear their boss—a key symbol of the season—is essential.

Determined to get the message of Christmas out and do their part to spread a bit of holiday cheer, the On Broadway Dancers are taking a new direction by presenting their annual Christmas show as a drive-in movie.

As a result of the on-going pandemic, the dancers were unable to have live audiences in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. So with the guidance of studio owner and artistic director Kim Scerine, they set out to put their show, "on film."

"It's something different and allows people to get out



THE LETTERS ARE ready to be delivered, but it will take a visit from Santa's elves—Jake Scerine and Caleb Swick—to ensure they arrive to Santa in time for Christmas. On Broadway Dancers annual Christmas show "Signed, Sealed, Delivered," will be presented Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

and do something while still remaining safe," she said.

The dancers and actors that narrate and help tell the story have been filming scenes throughout the community since mid-October. The final touches were being added this week ahead of the show set for Saturday, Nov. 28.

The dancers will appear throughout the 60-plus minute show that highlights a number of local businesses, as well as a few surprise cameo appearances.

Area residents have likely seen a couple of elves roaming the streets and playing in the Hope Helps All-inclusive Park, or maybe Snoopy and Olaf fighting in front of Campbell

Memorial Park. The process to put the show together has found the dancers visiting area businesses after hours and even shutting down a portion of South Broadway Street for an evening.

When traditional plans are no longer an option, Scerine said, "you look for other opportunities, and find a way to do it."

It took a village to get the show from page to screen, and everyone involved in the dance company notes how grateful they are to the business and community leaders who helped make it happen over the past eight weeks.

"Everyone has been so wonderful providing access to

their facilities, and being workable. What we all have in common is that we are all in this together," Scerine said.

Even when changes come at the last minute, you adjust and move forward and that's just what she did when the state's new Tier 3 Resurgence Mitigation's went into effect and forced her to move the drive-in from the high school parking lot.

The drive-in will be held in the parking lot of Ace Hardware, 2025 E. Division St., located directly behind the dance studio. Shows are at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. and tickets can be obtained at showtix4u.com/event-details/42677, a link to the site is also available on the studio's social media page at Broadway Dance Center. A limited number of tickets are still available.

All proceeds from this year's Christmas show, along with any donations received will go to support local families in need this holiday season. To date, the shows have generated over \$37,000 that has been put toward food, clothing and gifts assistance to area residents.

Scerine said the annual Christmas show is always a highlight of the year for the dancers and studio staff, and seeing first had the impact the shows have on those who come to watch and those who benefit from the generosity of audience members.

Promfest hosting virtual Festival of Trees



Courtesy photo

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY for Coal City Promfest's annual Festival of Trees and due to the on-going pandemic, the popular event will be virtual this year. The annual fundraiser is presented by the Promfest Committee. Several decorated holiday trees will be up for raffle along with holiday decorations and gift items including a flat top grill. The virtual raffle will be open Dec. 2-6 and the link to the raffle items will be available through the Promfest's Facebook page at [facebook.com/CoalCityFestivalofTrees](https://www.facebook.com/CoalCityFestivalofTrees).

A new way to reflect and remember

STAFF REPORT

An Angel of Hope stands in the center of Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park, a place for reflection and remembrance.

For 14 years the angel statue has served as a symbol of hope for all parents whose children have become angels, a place for bereaved parents to find peace, comfort and healing.

The local statue was brought to the community by Angels of Hope, Inc., and each year on Dec. 6, they invite the community to gather around the angel for a candlelight remembrance vigil.

As the day of remembrance approaches, the organization's board of directors has announced its decision to cancel this year's vigil in light of the on-going coronavirus pandemic.

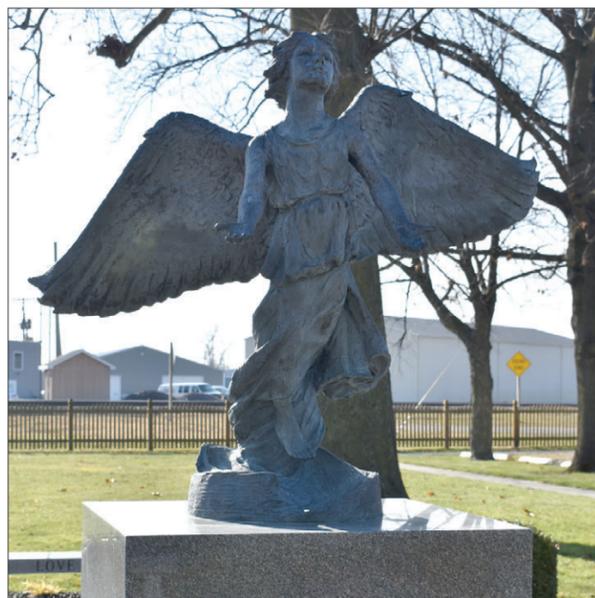
"Our priority has always been and will continue to be a beacon of hope to those that have lost a child, but we must take into consideration the health and safety of our guests, supporters and community," said Angels of Hope board member Nicole Lusson.

"We recognize that many look forward to Dec. 6 every year as a time to reflect, remember and celebrate the memory of a child," she noted.

Although the traditional evening ceremony will not be held, the organization's members encourage the public to continue with the tradition of placing a single white flower at the base of the angel in honor of a lost child.

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

The concept for the angel



statue is taken from Richard Paul Evans' best-selling book, "The Christmas Box," in which an elderly woman grieves the loss of her daughter at the base of an angel monument. Although the story is mostly fictional, the monument once existed and is believed to have been destroyed by floods. A statue was later commissioned by the book's author in response to accounts of parents seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal.

Coal City's statue is the 69th nationwide and was dedicated to the community in October 2006.

"Although there will not be an organized event this year, Campbell Park remains a place for you to reflect, remember and cherish the memories of our children in the days and years to come. We wish you faith, love, grace and most of all hope," Lusson said.

Santa's mailbox going up in Campbell Memorial Park

The Letters to Santa mailbox will appear in Campbell Memorial Park on Monday, Nov. 30 and remain there until Dec. 18.

Santa's elves will collect all of the letters and forward them to Santa, who will reply back to the children. Parents are asked to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelop to assist Santa in getting a response letter back to their child.

Santa's mailbox has been a project of the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club for more than 30 years.

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Illinois expecting 400,000 initial doses of vaccine

Reader poll indicts half reluctant to get vaccinated

STAFF REPORT

SPRINGFIELD — After Pfizer submitted its application for a COVID-19 vaccine to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week, Illinois public health officials have continued preparing locations to store and distribute the vaccine that could be released to frontline hospital workers in a matter of weeks.

Pfizer announced Friday, that it planned to submit its COVID-19 vaccine application for emergency approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration — a process that could take between two and four weeks, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said.

On Friday, Ezike said she expects the state will receive about 400,000 doses of the vaccine in the first round of distribution.

“That is the number that we’re working with to identify how we will partition that out for the first phase,” she said.

The big question is whether Illinoisans will show up to get vaccinated.

The Free Press

Newspapers polled readers and found that 50% said even if they were offered the vaccine free today, they would avoid getting a shot. That comes at a time when the daily positivity rate for the coronavirus is setting record increases. Among the 31% who said yes was a retired nurse who said she’d be the first in line under the advice of infectious disease doctors. Another 19% in the survey said they would wait three months to see if there are any side effects.

“Hell no,” responded a long-time subscriber. “There’s not been enough research on side or long term effects or effectiveness. Remember thalidomide?”

Most agree more research is needed on long-term effects, among other aspects of the vaccine.

General Gustave Perna, chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, which is the Trump administration’s national program to manufacture and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine, said that as soon as FDA approval is granted, the next day they would start shipping out vaccines.

Dr. Moncef Slaoui, Operation Warp Speed’s chief science adviser, said hopefully people will start to be immunized within 48 hours from the

approval. Under the state’s COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide released in October, the first vaccine doses released will be given to front line hospital workers and first responders.

Ezike said the hospital workers set to receive the vaccine in the first rounds include staff who are not health care professionals, such as the cleaning and food staff.

Essential workers outside of hospitals and at-risk individuals, including people 65 years of age and older, will be next in line to receive the vaccine in the first phase of distribution when limited doses are available, according to the vaccination planning guide.

Ezike said the initial doses of the vaccine will be distributed through hospitals in each of the 11 regions of the state.

State public health officials are also identifying freezer storage locations, since Pfizer’s vaccine must be kept at 94 degrees below zero.

“We’ve also ordered 20 separate contraptions that can hold vaccines at that ultra-cold level. So those 20 freezers, if you will, will be placed in all of the 11 regions to make sure that there is access for every part of the state to the vaccine,” Ezike said.

Pharmaceutical company Moderna could seek emergency approval for its COVID-19 vaccine application with the FDA by the end of the month, Slaoui said.

Unlike the vaccine under FDA review from Pfizer, Moderna’s vaccine can be shipped and stored long-term at standard freezer temperatures of 4 degrees below zero, for six months.

On Saturday, the FDA also issued emergency approval for a second anti-body therapy treatment for mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infections in adult and pediatric patients.

During Monday’s news conference, Ezike said the government has already provided the state with about 8,500 doses, and that the treatment is meant to be given early in the infection to help prevent hospitalization for high-risk and older individuals.

“We have teams that are working right now to discuss the equitable distribution of this very important resource. We are going to make sure that, in terms of communication, the public is aware of this resource and who are the appropriate candidates,” she said.

Sarah Mansur of Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report.

Coronavirus versus flu: how to tell the difference

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you explain the differences between the coronavirus and seasonal flu? I’m 70-years-old, and usually get a standard flu shot, but would like to find out what else I can do to protect myself this winter.

Worried Senior

Dear Worried,

Great question! Because of the dual danger of Influenza (flu) and COVID-19, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently warned that this fall and winter could be the worst ever for public health. Understanding this, knowing the differences and similarities between the viruses, and knowing what you can do to protect yourself is the best way to stay healthy and safe through this difficult time.

Flu vs COVID

Because many of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, so testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis. With that said, here are some similarities and differences you should know.

For starters, seasonal flu symptoms come on pretty quickly, whereas COVID-19 develops gradually over a period of a few days and then either fades out or gets worse. Common shared symptoms include fever, sore throat, muscle aches, cough, headache, fatigue and even chest pain. Pinkeye and a dry cough are associated with COVID-19, while it’s now thought that a fever is more likely with the flu, as are diarrhea and nausea.

Many people are having their temperatures taken these days before entering public spaces. But fever occurs in only half of COVID-19 cases. Fever does not rule out COVID-19, but the absence of fever makes flu unlikely.

You’re also unlikely to have a runny or stuffy nose with the flu, but you may with COVID-19. What sometimes happens within the nose with COVID-19 is loss of smell and, often as a consequence, loss of taste, too.

To learn more about the similarities and differences between flu and COVID-19, visit the CDC website at

CDC.gov/flu/symptoms/flu-vs-covid19.htm.

How to protect yourself

While there is currently no vaccine available yet to prevent COVID-19, the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. So, stay home as much as you can. If you have to go out, wear a mask and keep at least 6 feet away from other people. And every time you come home, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

There’s also evidence that suggests that people who are deficient in vitamin D may be at higher risk of getting COVID-19, than those with sufficient levels. So, make sure you take in around 800 to 1,000 international units (IUs) of vitamin D from food or

supplements daily, and get outside as much as you can.

And to help guard against the flu this year, you should consider getting a flu shot that’s specifically designed for people 65 and older. The “Fluzone High Dose Quadrivalent” or the “FLUAD Quadrivalent” are the two options that provide extra protection beyond what a standard flu shot offers. You only need one flu shot, and if you haven’t already gotten it, you should do it now because takes up to two weeks to build immunity after you receive it.

Pneumonia vaccines

If you haven’t been vaccinated for pneumonia, you should also consider getting the pneumococcal vaccines. Both flu and COVID-19 can lead to pneumonia, which hospitalizes around 250,000 Americans, and kills around 50,000 people each year. But these numbers could be much higher this year.

The CDC recommends that all seniors, 65 or older, get two vaccinations – Prevnar 13 and Pneumovax 23. Both vaccines, which are administered one year apart, protect against different strains of the bacteria to provide maximum protection. Medicare Part B covers both flu and pneumonia shots.

To locate a vaccination site that offers any of these shots, visit VaccineFinder.org and type in your location.

State’s first time unemployment claims drop

The Illinois Department of Employment Security reported 46,800 first-time unemployment claims for the week ending Nov. 14. That’s a decrease of 20,358 from the week prior. Nationally, there were 742,000 first-time claims for the week, an increase of 31,000 from the previous week.

IDES reported the state’s unemployment rate fell 3.6 percentage points to 6.8% for the month of October, prior to increased mitigations taking effect. The September unemployment rate was revised upward from the preliminary report, from 10.2% to 10.4%, according to IDES’ release of data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state’s unemployment rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than the national unemployment rate of 6.9% for October. The nation-

al rate decreased 1 percentage point from the previous month.

Gov. JB Pritzker said Thursday, Nov. 19H that although state workers prepare to work from home amid Tier 3 mitigations, it shouldn’t affect staff at IDEs, who “continue to whittle down any backlog” in unemployment claims.

“We’re trying to have similar rules for state government as we have for offices, for example, in our mitigation plans,” he said. “There obviously are certain circumstances where you can’t ask people to do that because we have a duty to serve people in our state. So, we don’t expect that there will be any ramping down of people who are serving those who are seeking unemployment benefits.”

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Deck your halls sipping on a Hot Buttered Rum

Over the weekend we decided to break out the Holiday décor, and decorate. A quick glance at my Facebook feed confirms that my wife and I are not the only ones that have made the decision to deck the halls a bit earlier than usual.

It's time to hang the outside lights, setup the tree, and arrange the garland on the mantle. While you are decking your halls, reach all the way to the back of the spice cabinet where the Christmas spices are hiding. It's time for the first Hot Buttered Rum of 2020.

This year's Holiday season is going to look a bit different than previous Holiday seasons, but that doesn't mean that we can't treat ourselves to delicious Holiday cocktails. The Hot Buttered Rum is a Christmas classic that nearly everyone has heard of, but not everyone has tried.

A reason that many revelers shy away from Hot Buttered Rum is that many of the recipes online are too labor intensive and are simply overkill in terms of ingredients. At the end of the day, the only ingredients that need to be in a Hot Buttered Rum are rum, butter, sugar, and your choice of holiday spices.

Hot Buttered Rum is not nearly as popular as it was a generation ago. Visit any thrift store in America and you will find a selection of old mugs from the 60's and 70's with the words "Hot Buttered Rum" printed on the side. The fasci-

nation with this drink goes back further than that.

In fact, this love affair began over 200 years ago in the Colonial US. The ingredients in Hot Buttered Rum are representative of the trade routes of the time, all coming together in a delicious warming drink.

One place that Hot Buttered Rum has remained popular is New Orleans. Mardi Gras is held during a season that can resemble what most of know as winter, and some years it will be rainy, windy, and even downright cold.

Every bar and restaurant in New Orleans will have their own take on Hot Buttered Rum on the menu for the patrons that come in out of the cold. It may not be the first drink that you think of when you think of New Orleans, but if you find yourself there in the fall or winter, order a Hot Buttered Rum. You will be pleasantly surprised.

More than likely, you're not going to New Orleans for Christmas. Neither am I, at least not this year. Let's take a look at what we're going to need to elevate our Hot Buttered Rum game at home.

We will start with the butter. Use a "soft" butter, preferably real butter. Real butter melts into the drink leaving a



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

warm, rich texture. Sometimes margarine and other altered butter substitutes leave an odd taste when melted, and will not give the consistency that you need.

The ideal sugar in Hot Buttered Rum is brown sugar, or demerara sugar. Cane sugar can be used, but it lacks the depth and the complexity of darker sugars. The right sugar will melt into the butter leaving you with a perfect butterscotch/caramel flavor.

A good rule of thumb for Hot Buttered Rum is to use "baking" spices as opposed to sugar from a packet that is meant for tea or coffee.

Speaking of baking spices, this one calls for both cinnamon and nutmeg. Don't skimp on either one, especially the nutmeg. After all, nutmeg is one of those spices that "tastes like Christmas" and also happens to pair well with aged rum.

Vanilla extract is extremely potent, start with a few drops and work your way up from there. The vanilla notes should complement the other spices, not overpower them.

Allspice is also potent, so go easy. Don't skip the allspice though, I promise you will miss it if it's not there.

Last but not least, the rum.

Any dark rum will work in the Hot Buttered Rum, but some will work better than others.

Dark Jamaican rum is best suited for Hot Buttered Rum, look for Appleton Estate, Myer's Original Dark, or Coruba. Aged demerara rums will also work, such as El Dorado 12 Year, or Pusser's Navy Rum which is a blend of demerara and Jamaican rums.

Steer clear of light rum, as well as high octane over-proof rums in this one.

Keep the preparation simple. Start with a warm mug, add the butter and spices. Mix or muddle the spices into the butter, it's even ok to partially melt the butter at this point. Once the spices and butter are mixed, add the rum. Give it a quick stir, then top with hot (but not boiling) water.

Hot Buttered Rum is built and served in a preheated tempered mug.

Combine in mug:
1 small slice soft butter
1 teaspoon brown sugar
1 dash ground cinnamon
1 dash ground nutmeg
1 dash ground allspice
Vanilla extract to taste (start with 2-3 drops)

Muddle spices and butter in mug

Add 2 oz. dark rum
Add 5 oz. hot water
Stir and serve
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Driver service facilities close again

Secretary of State announces license extensions

If your driver's license is about to expire don't panic because you've been given an automatic extension.

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White announced last week after closing drivers license facilities that expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID cards will be extended until June 1, 2021. This extension also includes those who have February, March, April and May 2021 expiration dates.

White is encouraging the public to take advantage of online services while offices are closed due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic. Drivers facilities are scheduled to reopen Dec. 7.

Commercial drivers license [CDL] holders and commercial permit holders are excluded from this extension due to federal requirements.

"The health and safety of employees and the public remains paramount and face-to-face transactions potentially increase the further spread of the virus," White said. "We have extended expiration

dates to assist people during this difficult time. I am also encouraging customers to consider using online services which are available for many office transactions."

Transactions that can be conducted online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com include:

- Renewing a license plate sticker;
- Renewing a valid license for qualifying drivers;
- Renewing a valid ID card for those age 22-64 [seniors 65 and older have free, non-expiring IDs];
- Obtaining a driver record abstract;
- Filing business service documents, such as incorporations and annual reports; and
- Customers with issues involving administrative hearings may contact adminhearings@ilsos.gov

Those who are eligible for online driver's license renewal will receive a letter from the Secretary of State's office with a PIN necessary for online renewal. Those whose driver's licenses or ID cards expired between Feb. 1, 2020 and Jan. 31, 2021, who qualify for online renewal should receive their PIN letter in December 2020 or January 2021.

Those whose driver's licenses or ID card expire after Feb. 1, 2021 will receive their PIN letter approximately 90 days before their expiration date.

White noted that 18 CDL facilities will remain open for CDL written and road exams and include the location at 1111 Blatt St., Bradley.

"Commercial truck drivers provide essential services by ensuring goods can be transported safely and efficiently throughout the state and country during this pandemic," White said.

CDL driving tests are be appointment only by calling 217-785-3013.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been the only government agency open statewide offering in-person transactions. We have remained committed to serving the public. Protecting the health and safety of our residents is my top priority, and this is the guiding principle of our decision making," White said.

All other Secretary of State departments are open to serve the public. Check www.cyberdriveillinois.com for more information.

St. Rose C.C.W. meetings to resume

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women will resume its regular meeting schedule with the next meeting planned for Monday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

Unfortunately, the Christmas party cannot take place due to current restrictions.

Please enter at the rear outside door of the gym for check-in procedures. All current safety precautions will be

observed and enforced.

Following a winter break in January and February, regular meetings will be held March 2, April 6, May 4 and June 1 which will end the meeting year.

Anyone with questions can contact any officer including Laura Rusiniak (630) 302-2681; Pat Stromquist (815) 476-6199 or Marlene Akins (815) 476-6186.



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The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) invites you to learn more about and comment on the alternatives considered to improve the interchanges of Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois Route 129 (IL 129) in Will County. Instead of hosting a regular public meeting, IDOT will share details on the project and encourage public participation until December 14 through a new interactive website.

The website is available now through December 14, 2020 and can be accessed at:

I55LorenzoiL129Outreach.org

Purpose of the site is:

- To present and discuss the alternatives carried forward
- To obtain public input on the alternatives carried forward and potential impacts

At the new interactive website, the public can watch a video about the project, view exhibits, and leave comments. In addition to the website, IDOT's outreach efforts will include a newsletter mailed to impacted residents and the opportunity to ask questions to IDOT staff over the phone by calling (847) 705-4569. Comments received by December 14, 2020 will become part of the official public outreach record.

Individuals without internet access may contact Anna Kutryn, P.E., Project Manager, at (847) 705-4569 for more information about the project.

All written correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
Bureau of Programming
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Email: LorenzoiL129Study@gmail.com
Project website: I55LorenzoiL129Outreach.org

The conducted outreach will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact the Project Manager as noted above. Persons who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681. It may take at least five (5) days to provide accommodations.

OBITUARIES

Richard R. Malone

COAL CITY—Richard R. “Bob” Malone, 66, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Nov. 19, 2020 at Morris Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer.

Bob was born on Feb. 6, 1954 in Joliet to Richard K. and Dorothy J. (nee Stark) Malone. His parents were both deaf and as a result, sign language was Bob's first language. He served proudly in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam Era and was stationed several places, including Okinawa, Japan. He married Christine M. Cherven, who was his friend's sister, and who he had known since they were kids, on June 16, 1979 in Joliet. Known as “Bob the Builder” to many, Bob was a Building Official at different times for both the city of Braidwood and the Village of Coal City.

A lover of the outdoors, Bob relaxed by going fishing and camping. He was very social and enjoyed sitting in his beloved garage with the door open visiting with anyone who passed by or drove up. He was an avid amateur pool player and won many trophies over the years. He went to Las Vegas for a pool tournament and met many professional players which he took delight in. He lived on Diet Pepsi, chocolate milk shakes and brownies. He made the most amazing pineapple dip to share. Bob was very family oriented and was a devoted husband, dad, papa and brother. Because of this, Christmas was his favorite holiday. He adored decorating his and Christine's home to the



limit, and with his full beard, he made a very convincing Santa Clause. He was a Chicago Bears Football fan and was known to wear their jersey every game when they were on a winning streak until they lost no matter how dirty the jersey got. Bob's sense of humor is what his family will always treasure.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Christine Malone; his daughter, Amanda (Emily) Wiczorek, of Braidwood; his son, Steven (Tinley) Malone, of Coal City; his grandchildren, William “Zeke” and Isabelle Malone; his sister, JoAnn (Bruce) Bauer, of Midland, TX; numerous nieces, nephews and cousins and his best friends, Donny Ellis, Darrell Olson and Bob Davis.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Dorothy Malone.

Memorials in Bob's name may be directed to the American Cancer Society, 17060 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60477.

Funeral Services will be held privately for the family. Those wishing to participate in Bob's services will be able to view a video on the Ferrari Funeral Services Facebook Page. Bob will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Henry A. Marshall

MISSOURI—Henry A. Marshall, “Hank,” 80, of Stoutsville, MO, passed away Nov. 11, 2020 in Stoutsville, MO.

He was born in Wilmington on May 6, 1940. He attended St. Rose School and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1958. He attended Quincy College (now Quincy University) and received an associate's degree from Joliet Junior College. He also received All American Honors for football as a running back for JJC in 1960. He earned a bachelor's degree in general and physical sciences from Northern Illinois University. He also studied at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks.

Hank taught at New Lenox Junior High from 1963 through 1968 and coached the boys basketball team through many undefeated seasons. He also taught at Wilmington High School from 1968 through 1974 where he coached varsity boys basketball and fresh-soph football. Hank was one of the founding fathers for the Wilmington Pop Warner football program (Wilmington Bobcats) in 1970. He was also instrumental in starting the Ritchie, IL chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Hank ran Marshall Construction Company from 1968 through 1974. He joined Carpenter Local Union #1092 in Seneca, IL in 1974, worked out of Millwright Local Union #722 in Salt Lake City, UT, and retired from Millwright Local Union #2158 in Moline, IL. He spent numerous years working as a Craft Labor Supervisor for Westinghouse performing maintenance outages on steam turbines at nuclear power plants throughout the



country. Hank retired to Stoutsville near Mark Twain Lake where he purchased the Dry Dock Sportsman's Lounge, Steakhouse, and Motel in 2002 and operated it along with his wife, Kanyarat (Tanya) through present. He also purchased land in 2007 and developed the Dry Dock Campgrounds in Stoutsville which now boasts 95 campsites on 27 acres. Hank spent his last few years splitting his time between Stoutsville and Hua Hin, Thailand.

Hank is survived by his beloved wife of 13 years, Kanyarat; his three sons with Anita Huston (nee: Vandermark): Jeffrey, of Paris, MO; Steven (Erika), of San Jose, Costa Rica and David (Candise) of Paris, MO; his three step-children; Rathnok, Naracha and Nattasorn, all of Thailand; sister, Irene Heselton (Gerald), of Encinitas, CA; brother, Frank (Tami), of Rembert, SC and sister, Patricia Weiger (Mark), of Naperville, IL. He was adored by his 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by both his parents, Hiram and Catherine Marshall, formerly of Wilmington; his sister, Anne (Richard) Fine and his brother, Robert. He was also preceded in death by Kelly Dougherty (Jeff's wife).

As per Hank's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials may be made to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481 or Senior Citizens Community Center, 112 E. Marion St., Paris, MO 65275.

Michael Fritz

GENEVA, IL—Michael Anthony Fritz, 40, of Geneva, IL, passed away peacefully Nov. 20, 2020.

He was born in Geneva to Virginia Marie (O'Connor) and Leonel Carl Fritz on June 6, 1980.

Mike loved watching Jimmy Stewart movies, Home Alone, The Little Mermaid and Back to the Future. He enjoyed listening to Elvis and the Glenn Miller Orchestra. He often announced his presence at his brothers' sporting events or plays with an exuberant yell or laugh. His nieces and nephews fondly remember playing “dodge Uncle Mike's swinging arms” whenever he came over to visit.

Mike's favorite restaurant was Corfu which he enjoyed after mass at St. John Neuman's of St. Charles. He attended prolife rallies and living rosaries with his mom. Mike also spent many Saturdays working with his dad at JA Air Center of DuPage Airport laughing at any “choice language” he overheard.

The last eight years he resided and flourished at the Marklund Hyde Center of Geneva, IL surrounded by friends and his second family. He loved riding a bike, camping, swimming, or attending movies with his Marklund friends and almost always with his friend, Bobby Hilsabeck by his side.



The youngest of four boys, Mikey was adored by his brothers: Carl (Heidi) Fritz, Tim (Gina) Fritz and Matt (Traci) Fritz. He was a beloved nephew to Donald (Teresa) O'Connor, Tom, Maureen (Tom L.) O'Connor, David (Martha) O'Connor, Pat (Rose) O'Connor, Gene O'Connor, Kathy O'Connor, A. Joseph (Carol) Fritz, John (Gloria) Fritz, Leon (Teresa) Fritz, Donna (Gerald) Bernicky and Robert Fritz and was a wonderful uncle to Colin, Samuel, Molly, Eli, Amelia, Wyatt, Theo and Henry. Mikey will fondly be remembered by friends, family and all who encountered his joyful smile. Mike's light is impossible to extinguish and his loss will be felt by all.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Leonel Carl Fritz.

Services will be private
In lieu of flowers, donations in Michael's name to Marklund Children's Home, 1 S. 450 Wyatt Drive, Geneva, IL 60134 would be appreciated (www.marklund.org/get-involved-2/make-a-donation/).

Friends and family are welcome to sign his guestbook at www.clancy-gernon.com.

Arrangements have been made by Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee.

Lorraine M. Cody

ST. LOUIS, MO—Lorraine M. Cody 90, of St. Louis, MO, formerly of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020 at Delmer Gardens-West in Town and Country, MO.

Born Oct. 4, 1930 in Coal City, Lorraine Mae was the daughter of Joseph J. and M. Bridgid (nee Ryan) Testa. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1948. On Nov. 24, 1957, Lorraine married Edward A. Cody, of County Carlow, Ireland at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City. Lorraine held employment for many years at Dierberg's Market as a bakery clerk. She was a member of St. John Bosco Catholic Church in St. Louis and Local 655 of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union.

Survivors include her two sons: Kevin (the late Cheryl) Cody, of Overland Park, KS and Brian (Jeanne) Cody, of Chesterfield, MO; five grandchildren: Kaitlyn Cody and Lauren Cody, both of Overland Park, KS; Noel (Sarah) Cody, of Brooklyn, NY; Lea Cody, of Arlington, VA; and Bridgid Cody, of Salt Lake City, UT; one brother, John (Linda) Testa, of Port Washington, WI; three sisters-in-law: Arlette Testa, of Morris; Rhoda Cody, of England and Eithne Cody, of County Carlow, Ireland and nieces and



nephews: JoEllen (nee Testa) Fish, Claudette (nee Testa) Schmitt, Edward Testa, Mike Testa, Mark Testa, Shawn Testa, Jennifer Swincicki (nee Testa), Peter Cody, Mary Cody, James Cody, Cecilia Chisolm (nee Cody), Emily Cody, Michael Cody, Colman Cody, Caitriona Cody, Muireann Cody, Justin Cody, and Philip Cody; as well as numerous cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Edward; brothers: Joseph (Rose) Testa Jr., James Testa and brothers-in-law: Patrick (Maureen) Cody, Seamus Cody, Michael Cody and Gerald Cody.

A private family interment will be held at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery where Lorraine will be laid to rest with her husband, Ed.

In lieu of flowers the family requests preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Lorraine's memory to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

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

Frances Rolando

COAL CITY—Frances Rolando, 93, of Coal City and formerly of Goose Lake, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2020.

Born April 1, 1927 at the family home in Rockville Township, Kankakee County, Frances Eloise was a daughter of Arthur and Ina Pearl (Rice) Anderson. She was raised and educated in Ritchie before moving to Custer Park with her family. At the age of 16, Fran went to work at the paper mill in Wilmington during World War II. On Nov. 15, 1946 she married Clarence Rolando in Morris, and together they made their home in Goose Lake. Clarence and Fran opened the Western Auto store of Coal City in 1960, which they owned and operated for the following 30 years. Today the business continues to be operated by the family as Rolando's Furniture and Appliances.

Fran was an active member of Coal City United Methodist Church, and belonged to the Evening Star Circle. A woman of strong work ethic, Fran kept active until recent years maintaining her home and yard, as well as assisting in raising both her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In her free time she enjoyed working puzzles and took pleasure in wine tasting.

Survivors include her children: C. Donald (Deb) Rolando, of Braidwood and John (Sherry) Rolando and Cathy Smith, both of Coal City; four grandchildren: Craig Smith (Shelley Fieldman), of Dwight; Kelly Smith, of Marion, IA; Lindsey Rolando (Chris) Baron, of Riverview, FL and Hannah Rolando, of Coal



City; six great-grandchildren: Mackenzie and Zach Smith, Elijah Smith and Camden, Emma and Alex Baron, and brother-in-law and sisters-in-law: William (Dorothy) Rolando, of Mazon; Ruby Green, of Wilmington; Florence Mitchell, of Morris and Shirley Rolando, of Diamond, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur Anderson and Pearl Cooper; step-father, Thomas Cooper; husband, Clarence; sister, Marion Brown and her son-in-law, Gene Smith.

The family will gather at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 from 9 a.m. until the time of private services at 11 a.m. Reverend Brad Shumaker from Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington where Fran will be laid to rest with her late husband, Clarence.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Fran's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416

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

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

Helen Drechsler

MORRIS—Helen Louise Drechsler (nee Lane), 100, passed away peacefully on Nov. 19, 2020 at Park Pointe Place in Morris.

She was born Sept. 6, 1920 on a farm in Sullivan, IL, owned by her parents, Bert and Lovica Lane. Louise, as she was known, was a devout Christian, wife, mother and grandmother who was quietly outspoken. She began her academic and music education by walking miles to “country” schools in the Sullivan area with her sister, Wilma where they took piano lessons together, at ages 8 and 10. Both became very proficient playing the piano and or the organ.

Louise graduated from Sullivan High School in 1937, went on to Northern Illinois University then transferred to and graduated from University of Illinois in 1942 with a degree in music education. She could play many instruments, beautifully sing any song and had the innate ability to develop those talents to her children and future students. Louise met Russell Drechsler at U of I at an Interfaith Convention at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet, IL. Russ was a United Church of Christ member while Louise belonged to the Christian Church. They were married Aug. 15, 1942 and served their churches throughout their lives. Russ was drafted by the US Army in the fall of 1942. Louise followed Russ to his military base assignments, located mostly on the West Coast where she worked a variety of jobs, including the infamous Harry and Davids. Russ went overseas mid 1943 and while overseas, their first daughter, Janet, was born on Sept. 9, 1944. Russ came home to his family on Christmas Day, 1945. The Drechsler family grew while residing in the Buckley-Loda, IL in 1945 where Linda was born in '47, Vern in '49 and Diane in '53.

In 1963, they all moved to Braidwood. In addition to being a great mother, Louise chose



to substitute teach, gave piano lessons, lead the musical programs at their churches and ultimately be a fulltime music teacher while at Reed-Custer School system in Braidwood, where Russ was the school administrator.

Louise and Russ relocated to Atlanta as Russ contracted long term ALS. Janet and Linda, both medical nurses, lived in Atlanta and could offer great assistance in caring for Russ. Louise continued to be a substitute music teacher, a typist at a large insurance company and again, organized and lead the musical program at the Methodist Church. Louise pursued a handicapped van, after Russ was confined to a wheelchair, to take him everywhere all the time. It was amazing to watch her commitment to his happiness. Russ passed in 1995.

Louise continued to live and flourish in Atlanta until 2007 when she moved to Morris, where she lived with her daughter, Diane and husband, Neil Romines for 10 years. In Morris, Louise played the piano for various functions including nursing homes, and was a volunteer at Morris Community Hospital. Louise was the last living member of both her and Russ' family.

She is survived by her children: Janet (Carl Basmajejan), of Sioux Falls, SD; Linda (Jim Collier), of Stone Mountain, GA; Vern and Patty Drechsler, of Neenah, WI and Diane (Neil Romines), of Fairfield Bay, AR; also 8 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. Her life's philosophy was: “I always felt that God would not give me more burden that I could handle.” She handled it well.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private services were held.

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

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

James K. Grady

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

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

Jimmy enjoyed living at his lake home and was a perfect host to family and friends. His home was a gathering place where he could share the beauty of the outdoors with those he cared for. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. He was known affectionately to many as “Moe.”



With his bright white hair and beard, Jimmy was an excellent Santa Claus at Christmas time and played him at many local events.

He is survived by his sister, Kathleen Grady, of Coal City; his nieces, Tama (David) Kovar, of Coal City and Kelly (Douglas) Fite, of Morris; and his great-niece and great-nephews: David Kovar Jr. and Alysia and Daniel Fite.

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

Funeral services will be private. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Patricia Kelly

WILMINGTON—Patricia Rose Kelly, 74, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 at her home.

Born Feb. 25, 1946 in Joliet, Patricia was a daughter of Robert and Harriet (nee Beebe) Alexander. She was raised and educated in Joliet, and graduated from Joliet Central High School. Patricia married Donald Eugene Kelly, and they were blessed with five children. She devoted her life to being a loving wife and mother, and later took great joy in being a grandma and great-grandma. Patricia enjoyed going to casinos and playing bingo, traveling with her husband, and loved going to McDonalds for two apple pies for a dollar.

Survivors include two children, Donald (Bonni) Kelly, of Wilmington and Tina (David) Gombosi, of Monroe, WI; five grandchildren: Austin (Ashley) Kelly, of Woodridge; Dustin and Ashley Kelly, both of Wilmington; Kimberly (Dustin) Helgestad, of Janesville, WI and Chase Gombosi (Karissa Studer), of Lakewood, CO; two great-grandchildren, Henry and Harper Helgestad; three brothers: Jack (Stevie) Alexander, of Crest Hill; Donald (the late Delores) Alexander, of Wilmington and Charles



(Pam) Alexander, of Arizona; several nieces and nephews, and two grandpuppies: Ashes and Gaby.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Donald; three children: Donald Jr., Tracy Lynn, and Kimberly Ann; one granddaughter, Skylar Marie, and six brothers and sisters: Robert Alexander, Eunice Loomis, Barbara Meyer, William Alexander, John Alexander and Thelma Grzincic.

A private family visitation will be held, and cremation rites will be accorded. Patricia will be laid to rest with her husband and daughter at Woodlawn Memorial Park I in Joliet at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made as gifts in Patricia's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Patricia's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

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

OBITUARIES

Lavern Lutz

 MORRIS—Lavern (Levy) Roy Lutz was called home to our Lord on Nov. 18, 2020 at Morris Hospital. He passed away receiving kind and compassionate care, with his wife, Jackie, at his side. They were together and comforting one another every day of their 67 years of marriage.

Levy was born on March 18, 1928, in Morris to Frank and Agnes (Dick) Lutz. He was the middle son of German immigrants, and he took pride in the hard-working spirit of his family. As a child of The Great Depression, Levy learned to value hard work and frugality. He led by example in these areas, always working to provide the best possible life for his wife, Jackie, and his four sons: Lawrence, David, Stephen and Michael. He later went on to teach his granddaughters about saving money and being thankful for what they have, telling and retelling stories about gardening with his mother instead of grocery shopping, eating "ketchup soup," and catching squirrels to survive the depression. He led a life of hard work and diligence, and his example and lessons will live on for generations.

Beginning in 1951, Levy served in the United States Army and spent two years as a private first class stationed in Germany. He drove tanks for the army and had the unique experience of being able to return to the country from which his parents had come and act as a peacekeeper and as a rebuild. He also loved telling of his adventures in the army – driving tanks down the Autobahn and hopping trains to Switzerland on his nights off to see original productions of the Sound of Music.

Upon returning to Morris after his time in the service, Levy married the love of his life, Jacquelyn (Jackie) on May 10, 1953. They went on to be married for 67 years. They faced the wonders and the challenges of life together, side by side. Here in Morris, they raised four sons. The wrangling and guiding and teaching required to nurture Larry, Dave, Steve and Mike should be all you need to hear to understand the strength of Levy and Jackie both as individuals and as a couple.

And nurture and raise them well, they certainly did. Lavern took great pride in his four sons, the men they grew into and the successes they achieved. He loved spending time with his boys. In 2010, Levy and all four sons were blessed to travel to Germany together. Together they were able to visit extended family and tour the country that meant so much to their father. Levy kept in contact and relationship with his German extended family all throughout his life. His German heritage was important to him, and he was so thankful to be able to share it with his sons. All four sons showed love and dedication to both of their parents all throughout their lives.

In his later years, upon becoming a grandpa to six girls, a softness came into his life and into his heart that Levy embraced with open arms. While he was never one to gush, he was the first one to show up at a basketball game, no matter how far away, or at every performance of a theater production. He took so much pride in his granddaughters, and he gave his girls confidence by encouraging their ideas and their talents, cheering for them, and pushing them to grow.

As his great-grandchildren came into the picture, he loved getting to know them, spending time showing them his garden and his flowers. He spent hours looking through old pictures of past fishing exploits, describing the fish in detail, answering as many questions as each child asked.

During his working years, Levy worked at The Federal Paper Board in Morris for 36 years. He then went on to work at Commonwealth Edison, where he worked for 10 years before his retirement. During these 46 years, he worked hard and took pride in his work. Everyone who knew him, knew that his work ethic was strong and that he could be trusted to be responsible and excellent.

Throughout his life, Levy was an avid fisherman. He loved spending time in his fishing boat, usually with his sons, out on the water, and would proudly come home to describe his many, impressive catches. These amazing catches earned him the nickname "Levy Lutz the Living Legend." With his catches, Levy hosted fish fry nights for his extended family, and he cooked up beer-battered walleye that would make anyone's mouth water. He was a master of his craft.

Levy also took great pride in his both his vegetable garden and his flower gardens. The gardens flourished, and he was happy to be able to share what he grew. The flowers in his yard were beautiful and brought smiles to the faces of all who went past. In fact, they were so beautiful, they inspired his daughter-in-law, Molly, a second-grade teacher, to create a field trip every fall and spring, walking from the Immaculate Conception School three blocks away to view Mr. Lutz's beautiful flowers. He looked forward to these visits every year.

Levy is survived by his four sons: Larry (Toni) Lutz, Dave Lutz, Stephen (Paula) Lutz, and Michael (Molly) Lutz; his six grandchildren: Sarah (John) Musick, Erica (Chris) Haan, Stephany Lutz, Michelle (Colton) Kelly, Kate (Brit) Andros and Kristen (Chris) Madigan and his 10 great-grandchildren: Ava Haan, Colin Haan, Zachary Haan, Mason Haan, Elijah Musick, Benjamin Musick, Anthony Andros, James Andros, Clare Madigan and Keira Madigan; he is also survived by many cousins and countless friends.

Lavern was preceded in death by his mother and father, Frank and Agnes (Dick) Lutz; his elder brother, Frank Lutz Jr. and his younger brother, John (Johnny) Lutz. And Levy and Jackie have left behind a strong, tight-knit unit as a testament to their love of family.

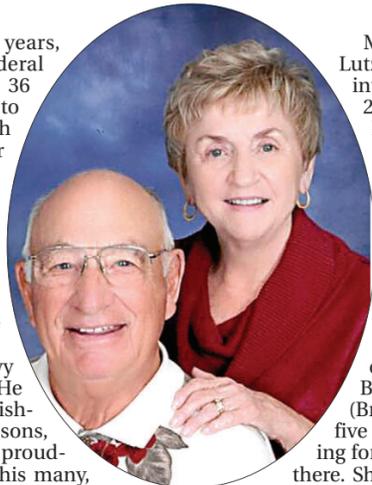
His loss will be deeply felt by both his family and by many in the community of Morris, of which he was such a proud member.

Private graveside services will be held at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, where Levy will be laid to rest with his wife, Jackie.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wanting to honor Lavern's memory can make donations to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, where Lavern was a devoted, lifelong parishioner, to the Christian Youth Center of Morris, which Lavern supported during his life, or to the Joliet Area Community Hospice, who cared for him so beautifully at his passing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Lavern's memorial page by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com

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



Jacquelyn Lutz

MORRIS—Jacquelyn (Jackie) Lutz (nee Button) went home into the arms of Jesus on Nov. 20 at Joliet Area Community Hospice, with her sons by her side, and her loving husband, Lavern having passed just two days previously. Jackie and Lavern lived their lives together for 67 years, and they were called home together to be with our Lord.

Jackie was born Dec. 2, 1930, in Morris and was the daughter of Charles Earl Button and Dorothy Button (Brooks). She was the eldest of five children, and her love of caring for others, of mothering, began there. She loved her siblings: Patricia (Patsy), Charles (Sonny), William (Bill) and Deborah deeply, and she intentionally stayed connected to her brothers and sisters all throughout her life. She eagerly looked forward to their visits and phone calls because she wanted to know they were well and hear their news. Jackie led a life defined by her infinite ability to love. To know Jackie was to be loved by her, and to feel that love tangibly and deeply.

Jackie began her own family when she married the love of her life, Lavern (Levy) Lutz on May 10, 1953. She was a devoted wife and then became a devoted mother to her four sons: Lawrence, David, Stephen and Michael. Her four beautiful, talented, and highly spirited boys gave their mother a run for her money, but Jackie was more than up to the task. She was strong and spirited herself, teaching and guiding and nurturing her boys into four strong men.

Jackie was one of the rare souls who can honestly say she lived her dream because her dream was to have a family and love them deeply every day of her life. Her pride in her sons knew no bounds. She was their biggest fan. She wanted to hear every detail of their sporting events and their days at work. She wanted to celebrate their successes and sympathize with them through their setbacks, and she was always there when they needed her. Jackie was a servant in exactly the way Jesus calls us to be. She loved her boys endlessly, and they knew that she did, and they were equally devoted to their mother.

As her sons, Stephen and Michael began families of their own, Jackie was blessed with six granddaughters, and these girls were given the gift of being loved by Jackie. She was fiercely and ruthlessly on their side in every situation. If one of them fell and scraped her knee on the sidewalk, she would scold that sidewalk for daring to hurt her granddaughter. If one of them was called for a foul in basketball, the referee and every spectator would get an earful. In her eyes, her girls could do no wrong.

When her granddaughters were little, she rocked them to sleep singing "Big Rock Candy Mountain," and she would feed them all the treats grandmas are supposed to sneak for their grandkids. As her granddaughters grew, she hosted sleepovers and shopping trips and spent long hours talking, watching sports, painting nails, and investing herself into their lives. Her investment was deep, and it has paid rich dividends. Jackie's ability to love unconditionally has been passed to each of them, and her legacy of love will continue on through many generations.

As her great-grandchildren came into the picture, Jackie was overjoyed to be able to hold the sweet babies and get to know them. No one,

not a single soul, loved babies more than Jackie. She would hold them and rock them and sing to them, and you were hard pressed to get a turn holding them once she had her great-grandbabies in her arms.

Jackie was also so much fun. She had a fantastic sense of humor and loved to laugh with people. And man, did she have a great laugh. It was infectious and joyful, and it was just another way she showed love, by brightening people's hearts. She was also a fantastically generous gift-giver. When Jackie gave a gift, her face would light up as she watched them opening the present, eagerly waiting to see the happiness she knew the gift would bring. She wanted everyone to be happy. Whether it was with a joke or a Christmas present or the perfect chocolate cake with vanilla icing or a listening ear, Jackie was there to raise spirits and soothe hearts.

In addition to loving her family, Jackie's light shone onto her community and her friends. She was involved at her church, the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, and valued doing her part to create a strong community for her children and grandchildren. Jackie was also very social. She made friends easily and loved them. They shared bowling nights and bridge clubs and lunches. She was intentional about scheduling time to see her friends, showing them that she cared.

During her working years, Jackie worked at the Grundy County Sheriff's Department, and she also worked as a beautician. She had a beautician's chair in her basement all throughout her life, and she gave haircuts to clients and family and friends. Her skill as a beautician stemmed from her love of caring for others, combined with her own elegant and classy style. She had impeccable taste, and she shared her style and grace with those around her.

Jackie is survived by her four sons: Larry (Toni) Lutz, Dave Lutz, Stephen (Paula) Lutz, and Michael (Molly) Lutz; her six grandchildren: Sarah (John) Musick, Erica (Chris) Haan, Stephany Lutz, Michelle (Colton) Kelly, Kate (Brit) Andros, and Kristen (Chris) Madigan; her 10 great-grandchildren: Ava Haan, Colin Haan, Zachary Haan, Mason Haan, Elijah Musick, Benjamin Musick, Anthony Andros, James Andros, Clare Madigan and Keira Madigan; her siblings: Sonny Button, Bill Button and Deborah Komer (Button); many beloved nieces and nephews and countless friends.

Jackie was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Levy; her mother and father, Dorothy and Charles Button and her younger sister, Patsy Sterritt (Button). And Jackie and Levy have left behind a strong, tight-knit unit as a testament to their love of family.

The loss of Jackie will be deeply felt by her family and by many in the community of Morris, of which she was such a proud member.

Private graveside services will be held at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, where Jackie will be laid to rest with her husband, Levy.

In lieu of flowers, anyone wanting to honor Jackie's memory can make donations to the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Morris, where Jackie was a devoted, lifelong parishioner, to the Christian Youth Center of Morris, which Jackie supported during her life, or to the Joliet Area Community Hospice, who cared for her so beautifully at his passing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Jackie's memorial page by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. In Morris.

Marsha Barnes

VIRGINIA—Marsha Barnes, 60, of New Port News, VA, passed away Nov. 18, 2020 in Newport News. She was born March 19, 1960 in Joliet, IL to Ethel and William Neese Sr. Marsha was a housekeeper.

She is survived by her loving husband, Keith; her parents, William Sr. and Ethel (nee Howard) Neese; three sons: Clayton (Abigail) Barnes, of Florida; Erick (Michelle) Barnes and Curtis (Katie) Barnes, of Newport News; four granddaughters: Kaylee and Hannah Barnes of Newport News; Emma Barnes, of

Bradley, IL and Grace Barnes, of Alabama; one brother, Richard Neese, of Symerton, IL; one half-sister, Stephanie (Tony) Hildy, of Morris and two sister-in-laws, Diane Neese, of Bradley and Jessica Neese, of Essex.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Avia and Golden Howard and Rosalee and Herman Neese and two brothers, William Neese Jr. and Steven Neese.

Private services were held on Monday, Nov. 23, 2020 in Newport News where she was placed in a mausoleum.



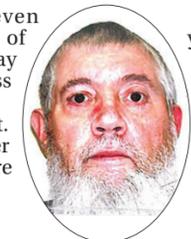
Steven D. Basham

 WILMINGTON—Steven D. Basham, 66, of Wilmington, passed away Aug. 30, 2020 at Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet.

He was born Dec. 2, 1953 in Joliet. He worked for the ICG Railroad, Fisher Auto Parts in Wilmington and Tire Tracks in Wilmington.

Survivors include his wife of 43 years, Linda; son, Jeremy Basham, of Cumming, GA; daughter, Kristine Basham, of Coal City and grandson, Jonathan Voigt, of Coal City.

Steve was laid to rest on Oct. 16, 2020 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood with full military honors.



Keith O. Michael

 WILMINGTON—Keith O. Michael, 77, of Wilmington, formerly of Brookfield, IL, passed away Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020 at his home.

Born June 12, 1943 in Berwyn, IL, Keith Orville was a son of Orville and Milda (nee Graunke) Michael. He was raised and educated in Lyons, and graduated from Morton West High School with the class of 1961. Following high school, Keith served honorably in the United States Air Force from 1961 until his discharge in 1965. On March 16, 1963, Keith married Judith Ann Pszczola at Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons. He and Judy made their home and raised their family in Brookfield until they relocated to Wilmington 16 years ago.

Keith worked as a tool and die maker for Electro-Motive Division in McCook until his retirement after 39 years of service. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons and the Lyons Mustangs Athletic Club. Keith was a very active man that took great pleasure in sports. He coached and played softball, enjoyed going bowling and golfing, and practiced Aikido martial arts. Keith was an accomplished scuba diver and volunteered with the Lyons Underwater Recovery Team. He also liked to spend his time outdoors fishing and camping. Above all else was Keith's love of family and being able to be with them as much as possible.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Judy Michael, of Wilmington; four daughters: Michele Lantvit, of Bolingbrook; Pam (Rich)

Tworek, of Wilmington and Sheri (Brandon) Evans and Colleen (Robert) Henderson, both of Plainfield; 11 grandchildren: Nicholas Capozziello, Tyler Lanvit, Christopher Tworek, Morgan Lanvit, Madyson Lanvit, Nathan Tworek, Sydney Henderson, Ethan Evans, Payton Henderson, Nora Evans, and Lucy Evans; two great-granddaughters: Alivia and Sylvia Capozziello; numerous step-grandchildren and step-great-grandchildren, mother-in-law, Norma (the late Casimir) Pszczola, of Wilmington; one brother and two sisters: Nadine (the late John) Pankow, of Lyons; Donna (the late Wayne) Holous, of Lemont and Duane (Karen) Michael, of Lyons, and several nieces and nephews.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Norine in infancy, and one brother-in-law, Raymond (Stefa) Pszczola.

Per Keith's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made as gifts in Keith's memory to the Parkinson's Foundation or to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

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

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



Pedestrian killed on I-55

Traffic on southbound Interstate 55 near mile marker 269 in Will County was shut down Monday after a man crossing the roadway was struck and killed.

Illinois State Police report the incident happened just after dark, at approximately 5:20 p.m., when Renold Bean, 58, of Romeoville, entered the southbound lane in an attempt to cross the roadway.

Bean was hit in the left lane by a 2018 Silver Chevrolet being driven by Mark S. Bouchard, 62, of Plainfield, IL.

Bean was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased. The roadway was reopened at approximately 6:39 p.m.

Have you been injured on the job?



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Feds indict Madigan's closest associates

On Page 9 of last week's federal indictment of four people accused of conspiring to bribe House Speaker Michael Madigan with favors from ComEd is this heading: "Defendants and Relevant Individuals."

But the first person listed is not one of the defendants. "Public Official A was the Speaker of the House of Representatives," the list begins.

The feds don't just throw these things together like some college freshman who's late with a term paper. Indictments, particularly in political cases, are often carefully crafted in order to send a message. So, it obviously ain't good when you're at the very top of the government's defendant list and you're not even a defendant.

It's also not exactly great when your former consigliere and most trusted friend Mike McClain is indicted along with other once-powerful people in your orbit for conspiring to bribe you.

And that's a big reason why we've seen so many House Democrats declare in the past several days that they will not vote to reelect Speaker

Madigan. Quite a few people, including attorneys I've spoken with, appear to agree with McClain's lawyer that the feds are "attempting to rewrite the law on bribery and criminalize long-recognized legitimate, common, and normal lobbying activity into some new form of crime."

They may have a valid legal point. McClain and the others might be able to beat this rap. I don't know. I've seen others make that claim and fail.

But, c'mon, the stuff in the indictment isn't "common" or "normal," at least outside Madigan's 13th Ward.

The amount of time spent obsessing over 10 summer internships for kids in Madigan's ward (some of whom didn't even qualify) bordered on farce. My "favorite" part of the indictment was when ComEd was essentially warned not to count those interns against the number of patronage jobs the company was doling out to the ward.

And how many political organizations successfully install precinct captains into no-show contract jobs in this day and age? Also, how many

state legislators think they can install someone on a utility's board of directors?

Like any unfettered, unquestioned bureaucracy, they took their mission to an absurd extreme. And, this time, it resulted in indictments.

Up until now, Madigan has been the most adaptive and adept politician I've ever seen. You don't stick around for 48 years by remaining stagnant, I suppose.

He began his career as a typical tough-on-crime, socially conservative, Southwest Side Irish Catholic. He's since become pro-choice, voted for both gay marriage and to abolish the death penalty and backed up the Black Caucus in its difficult years-long effort to block criminal penalty enhancement legislation. He spent years defending the

rights of trial lawyers, then pushed through a medical malpractice reform bill when the issue started hurting his members. He went after the public employee unions over their pensions when he felt he had to, then united all unions like never before when the state elected an anti-union governor.

At his most recent low point, Madigan quickly committed to "change the culture" in the House during the 2018 sexual harassment scandals. He saved his own skin at a time when lots of folks thought he wouldn't make it through.

But he has insisted since the ComEd scandal broke that he believes it's not only his right to help people find jobs and contracts, it's actually his duty. There would be no change to that particular cul-

ture he created. There'd be no "evolving" as he'd done on so many other issues. And for good reason.

Madigan's machine is old school. It runs on patronage. And he needs a lot of patronage to keep his huge machine humming. He's always on the hunt for opportunities, and his people love him for taking care of them and are fiercely and forever loyal.

But patronage is supposed to be a means to an end of running successful political campaigns, and it unfortunately appeared to become an end in and of itself.

The favors culture Madigan created led to

ComEd's deferred prosecution agreement, and that DPA led to last week's indictments of his close associates, and those indictments led to an even larger member revolt which appears, as I write this, to be about to remove the gavel from Madigan's hands.

The old-timers said that Dan Rostenkowski, George Ryan and others got themselves in trouble because they didn't change with the times. Madigan was supposed to be different. And he actually was for many years. Until now.

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



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Braidwood Lions to collect used Christmas lights

The Braidwood Lions Club will be collecting used/non-working strands of Christmas lights starting Sunday, November 15th.

Collection bins will be located inside Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City, and inside Braidwood City Hall until January 31st. The strands of lights will be recycled by the Lions of

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Those doing their holiday shopping will notice Chamber of Commerce's Elf Contest donation boxes at 33 local business checkouts.

The boxes are decorated with photos of local children who are helping raise money for the Christian Help Association.

The CHA is helping over 1,000 needy people this Christmas.

Proceeds from the Elf Contest go to the CHA to use for 300 families who are less fortunate in the 60481 zip code. Elf box donations purchase fresh produce and meat for Christmas food bags and any presents needed to complete the gift tag project.

The CHA is thankful to the elves' parents for teaching them that children of any age can help raise money for a great cause.

Donations may be placed in the boxes. Everyone is encouraged to vote many times and stuff the boxes. A penny counts as a vote and the three elf boxes containing the most money will generate prizes in Chamber gift certificates.

Residents are asked to give spare change now through Jan. 5 to help make a local impact. The goal is to raise over \$6,000 this year, surpassing the all-time high goal set in 2007.



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Lady 'Cat coaches pick volleyball dream team featuring the best of the best

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

They made their mark on the volleyball court at Wilmington High School.

This week, The Free Press Advocate contacted three Lady 'Cat coaches to help put together a dream team of past players and here's who made the list.

Former coach Chris Van Buskirk-Hoelster, who led the 'Cats to a 110-76-2 record including a regional championship in her four years, said she was fortunate to have some very good athletes.

"I was very lucky the teams in 2000-2003 were loaded," said Van Buskirk-Hoelster. "They were rock-stars."

Dana Florian

Dana Florian was one of the top hitters in Wilmington girls volleyball history.

"She was one of the first really athletic middles," Van Buskirk-Hoelster noted. "She was one of the kids who started early playing club volleyball and playing at a really high level. She made a really big difference for us. She was a big reason that we won our first regional championship in 20 years. I think she had like 20 kills that night. Manteno couldn't solve her. I think that was before Ratley scoring, where they play sets to 25. That group was fantastic."

Florian went on to play volleyball at Arkansas Tech University where she still is eighth in all-time kills, hammering 1,297 from 2005-08. She had 69 double-figure kill contests while she was there, good for sixth all-time. Dana is also second in career blocks, knocking away 498.

Nikki Antle

Antle was another stand-out outside hitter on the same team as Florian. She was just as solid and both were tall and able to block anything.

"She also played club volleyball for me at Uno. She could play both outside and middle and she was fantastic."

After high school, Antle played college volleyball at the University of St. Francis.

Danielle Niehls

Niehls was a short scrappy outside hitter who packed a lot of punch.

"She was only like 5-4 but she was a beast," said Van Buskirk. "Nobody worked harder than her. She played outside (hitter) and she was just a smart volleyball player and she just played her butt off. She was everywhere."

Sam Helfrich

Another outside and right

side hitter was Sam Helfrich.

"She was just super solid all the way around. She was a great blocker and very unselfish. She would have been great on the left side but as a right side she...we just really needed her to put up a big block and she really just gave us punch from that side."

Kathleen York

York was next off the list and while she was good as a basketball player, she was even better at volleyball. York was a middle blocker.

"She was a presence in the middle. She was about 6-2, just a real presence. I had a lot of tall girls but also really athletic girls."

She went to play volleyball at Kankakee Community College and Chicago State.

York is the career leader in blocks with 516 at KCC.

Jessoni Plese

Plese played under Van Buskirk one year but she made an impression on her coach.

"She was very solid with her passing and her defense. She was another aggressive kid. Great server."

Kathy Maertin

Another really solid hitter. Maertin was one of the go-to girls who graduated in 1999.

"Kathy Maertin was really good too. She was a middle. She was one of the go-tos."

Former coach Paula Wilkinson, from 1996-99, said Maertin picked things up fast.

"She was so very coachable," said Wilkinson. "She was very smart and very consistent. I taught her how to do a side serve that had a mean drop to it and she caught on and had a lot of success with it."

Also earning a spot on Van Buskirk's dream team was Ashley Geiss (OH) and Jessica Walter (MH), who led the first regional championship team in 2003.

"That class was a part of the team that won the first regional in 20 years," said Van Buskirk.

Karen Machalek

Machalek was a top-knotch setter for Wilmington. She played on the same team as Maertin.

"She was primarily a volleyball player and a club player," explained Van Buskirk. "She was really good. She did both. She was a very good setter and hitter. Good all-around player. She was a great hitter but the team needed her to set but she still provided a lot of offense from that spot. Karen ran the offense but her and Kathy Martin were both solid players."

Wilkinson added she was a really solid pplayer.

Also named to the dream



WILMINGTON VOLLEYBALL COACH Laura Wakefield chose Lexi Plese to be one of her outside hitters on the Wildcat volleyball dream team.

team was Jackie Rader, who was a middle hitter.

"She was strong and quick," said Wilkinson.

Samantha Roark & Hayley Helfrich

Van Buskirk praised setters Roark and Helfrich who were skilled at placing the ball for the outside hitters.

"Roark was a big reason that we were successful," said Van Buskirk. "Her and Helfrich were setters. Without a good setter, you don't have much else so without them, I don't think our teams would have been as strong."

Other standout athletes included: Jenny Mills (outside hitter, 2004) and Amy Thael (defensive specialist, 2004).

Dan Drye, who coached the 'Cats to a regional and sectional championship from 2007-11 with an overall record of 102-40 (.718), picked two of the top outside hitters to lead them.

Carley Florian & Alexis Zouganelis

The start of Drye's lineup featured Zouganelis and Carley Florian, who were different players but they did a lot of good things together.

Carley was dominant on the court and made her game better in her senior year that enhanced the team's success.

"Carley was just tall, a good athlete and she was just a force of nature on the court," said Drye. "If she was on, she was unstoppable. She often-times made the game look easy when she was hitting but a really big difference from her junior year to her senior year is she really committed to be a back row player in her senior year which really helped us. She was still a really good hitter and would just take over games at times and it was a sight to see but she really worked hard in the back row which made us that much better."

Zouganelis started as a freshman and right away Drye knew she was going to be one of his top players. Both Florian and Zouganelis led the 'Cats to an Elite Eight appearance during their 32-4 campaign in 2008-09.

"She was unphased by the pressure playing with kids that were obviously good players on a once-in-a-lifetime team," explained Drye. "And she was able to match their intensity and play with composure. She filled a spot we didn't have anybody else for and if we didn't have her, we would have had a weak spot there and after Carley left, Lexi jumped right into that number one outside hitter role and really made a name for herself as a player too."

Zouganelis leads in all-time kills, smashing 963 while C. Florian had 781, registering 20 kills in a match multiple times, a record.

Florian continued her career at Arkansas Tech University where she challenge her sister Dana's records.

Renee Enz & Ashley Richards

Both were setters for Drye who would most likely split time.

"Renee could set any ball from anywhere. She could literally get to anything. It didn't matter. She could turn a bad pass into a good set and she had amazing hands and she set almost every ball for three years. She was just phenomenal, so smooth on the court and a graceful player."

The thing that set Enz and Richards apart was their level of intensity.

"Ashley was a different kind of player," continued Drye. "She was a bulldog. She was a competitor in the locker room kind of player. She was very determined to win, almost headstrong at times and she was just a really tough kid. Ashley wouldn't hesitate to get into your face if you weren't getting the job done."

Enz and Richards are number one and two on the assist list at Wilmington.

Enz leads Richards with nearly 1,700 (1,691) assists. Richards just trails her with 1,565 career sets. They both were very good at getting the ball up to get whacked. They both had very good hitters and even if they got it even remotely close to them, they'd hammer down a kill.

Ashley took her playing career to University of St. Francis while Renee continued playing at Olivet Nazarene University.

Richards is currently second on the all-time assists list at St. Francis with 5,456 career sets for the Fighting Saints. Richards was also named to the NAIA All-America Team in 2012. With those statistics in mind, she was named the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference Setter of the Year, leading the Saints to a 37-8 season.

Enz is fifth on the list for assists at ONU, delivering 4,008 sets from 2012-15.

Diggers

Drye chose Ashley Strong, Erin Murphy, Jacqueline Mann and Liz Alberico as defensive specialists.

"Ashley Strong was really good but she didn't just play defensive specialist," said Drye. "She would also hit some. It depended on the year. She was really good. Erin Murphy was really good playing up as a sophomore. And the other one would probably be Jacqueline Mann. Those three are probably hard pressed the best. Jacqueline was the starting libero on the team that went to the Elite Eight. Liz was very versatile like Ashley. She played back row and some defensive specialist."

Dig leaders Kristina Antle (561) and Kaylee Shell (543), who played for Coach Beth Mosier, also deserve a men-

tion.

Kristina Antle is the career leader in digs for a defensive specialist, scooping up 561 while Kaylee Shell wasn't far behind her with 543. Strong and Liz Alberico finished with 343 and 297, respectively.

Current WHS coach Laura Wakefield has led the 'Cats to a regional championship and 59 wins in five seasons. While she knows forming a dream team is premature as she continues coaching, she was eager to pick players from her past.

"It was actually challenging and fun to look back into the rosters from previous years," said Wakefield. "And to look back at some of the accolades and awards that players have received."

Abby Chamberlain

The first setter she chose was Chamberlain, who knew the game inside and out.

"She is very intellectually sound when it comes to volleyball," added Wakefield. "She just an all-around gamer and she has a really good serve."

Carly Wilkerson

A setter to switch in and out would be Wilkerson, who played on the 'Cats from 2016-19.

"She had a high volleyball IQ and could really run the court very well."

An honorable mention in the setting position would be Chloe Sanford, who was really starting to come on strong after subbing in and out with Carly.

"I definitely would have loved to have a longer season because toward the middle end of it, Chloe was really strong on the right side and you could see she was becoming a solid block and a solid attack."

Hailey Huml

Huml, who played on the 2015-16 regional team, was sneaky with the way she picked up kills. She'd be in the first outside hitter spot.

"She was very clever with her shots. Very smart with that and just an all-around person you could rely on to put the ball away."

Lexi Plese

Wakefield slotted Plese as the other outside hitter. Plese was very versatile.

"I had a hard time putting her in a position because she's one I could put in the middle or as an outside. In this case, I decided to put her as an outside. Front row, back row player. She was definitely the type the team could rely on to get a kill for the team."

Maysie Feil

At the first middle blocker slot is Feil, who was tall and could club opposing shots down.

"She was definitely coming on strong during the middle end of her career. She was very smart and she could've played outside a little bit as well but she's got a strong block and she's able to read the opponent really well."

Claire Rink

Rink, who just graduated, would fill the other middle blocker role but she could have played outside too.

"She's just a solid player. The opponents that we played knew to keep an eye out for her so we had to keep getting creative with how we used her and how we set her to keep the opponents on the court because she definitely hit hard and brought a lot to the team."

Megan Mann

Mann, who was the libero on last year's team, would fill the slot on Wakefield's dream team.

"Megan really came on strong with the reading of the court. She was genuinely able to read and make her defensive moves from that and she was more comfortable taking the second ball if the setter took the first one. She would be my libero."



Giving Tuesday

December 1st, 2020

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