

Clay County Republican

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VOLUME 135 LOUISVILLE, ILLINOIS 62858 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020 OFFICIAL CITY AND COUNTY NEWSPAPER

Bulletin Board

The Clay County Republican will close at Noon on Dec. 23 and remain closed until 8:30 a.m., Dec. 28. It will also be closed Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Christmas closings:
CC Courthouse and CC Farm Bureau Dec. 24 & 25, Village of Louisville, Wabash Telephone, Louisville Post Office at noon on 24th & all day Dec. 25th.
Flora Chamber Announces

Yearly Awards

The Flora Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the numerous people who submitted nominations this year for our Annual Awards.

There were many excellent candidates to choose from, and after careful review of the nominations we are happy to announce the Annual Award winners.

The Citizen of the Year Award winner goes to Nancy Gibbs Mills.

The Business of the Year Award winner goes to Stanford Marketing.

The New Business of the Year Award winner goes to Matt Pyatt - Edwards Jones.

The Flora Chamber of Commerce Annual Award's Banquet will look a little different this year by being a virtual recognition.

It will be scheduled for Jan. 30 and will be recorded at the Flora Depot with the award winners and directors of the Chamber of Commerce in attendance.

Watch the Flora Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page and website for more upcoming details on how you can view the recognition ceremony.

Congratulations to all these worthy recipients! The Chamber hopes residents are able to view the ceremony for these well-deserving award recipients.

Contact the Chamber office for more information at 662-5646, or stop by the office at 223 W. Railroad St.

Bridgegroom (Matthew 9:15); Only Begotten Son (John 3:16); Immanuel (Matthew 1:23); Son of Man (Matthew 20:28); Dayspring (Luke 1:78); The Amen (Revelation 3:14); King of the Jews (Mark 15:26); Prophet (Matthew 21:11); Redeemer (Job 19:25); Anchor (Hebrews 6:19); Bright Morning Star (Revelation 22:16); The Way, The Truth, & The Life (John 14:6).



Jeff Workman, Clay County Health Department Administrator, took possession of the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine (above) on Dec. 16 from ESDA Coordinator Steve Lewis and ESDA Member Collin Mosley. (John Bayler Photo) (Below) Clay County Hospital Employee Regina Wyatt was among the earliest of voluntary vaccination for Covid 19.



Two More Classes Of 'Letters To Santa Claus'

Those which were lost have now been found and will be shared with the readers of the Clay County Republican.

These two classes of the Letters To Santa Claus were misplaced last Wednesday, but now draw front page coverage.

Mrs. Krutsinger's FES Third Grade Class

Dear Santa,
Do you like Sophia, my elf? I have been nice. I kiss my sister, and I always help mom. I believe in you! My Christmas wishes are a coloring book, dolls, and a sled. I want a coloring book because I love to color. I want a doll for my sister, and I would like a sled for Cody. I love you and Mrs. Claus. Merry Christmas to you both!

Your friend,
Jaedyn Arther

Dear Santa,
What type of cookies do you

like? Would you prefer chocolate chip or something else? I have been nice! My mom, sadly, broke her leg. So, I have been helping her. I like grabbing her drink for her, and I like to help carry her crutches. I want a new Xbox 1X for Christmas and a RC car that goes fast. My last two wishes are a bike with training wheels for my little brother, and I would love a puppy! I want an Xbox 1X because my Xbox broke, so I need a new one. I've always wanted to have a fast RC car, and my brother wants a bike so he can ride with me. Who doesn't love puppies? I think they are so cute! I hope you have a good Christmas.

Your friend,
Lyric Bray

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer? I have been nice. I always help with the cats. My Christmas wishes are a Hoverboard, perfume, and a Go Glam Kit. I have wanted a Hov-

erboard for a long time because I think they are neat. I need more perfume because I want to smell nice. I want a Go Glam Kit because I like jewelry. I hope you have a great Christmas!

Your friend,
Harper Buck

Dear Santa,
How are your reindeer doing? I have been nice. I help my brother when he falls down. He is very nice, and I bet he will get some presents. My Christmas wishes are a new bunny and new shoes. My other bunny got lost and is in a cornfield. I need new shoes because mine are all torn up. I hope you have a good Christmas and get to eat lots of cookies!

Your friend,
Tasha Browning

Dear Santa,
How are the elves? I have been nice because I follow all the rules. My Christmas wishes are makeup, nail polish, and toys. I

have wanted makeup for a long time, and I want my nails to look nice. I want toys because I need new ones. I hope you have fun on Christmas.

Your friend,
Bella Byers

Dear Santa,
How is my elf, Hailey? I have been a nice girl. I have paid for my mom and Aunt Lexi to get their nails done. My Christmas wishes are a Hoverboard, new pajamas, and a camo hat. I have wanted a Hoverboard for 2 years, and I don't have a lot of pajamas. I like looking like a country girl, so I need a camo hat. I hope you like my present to you.

Your friend,
Piper Caswell

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I have been nice. I love you, Santa. I am hoping for a \$39 tablet for Christmas. I also really would like to see my brother and get a new rug. I have been wanting my brother to come home. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

Your friend,
Mattie Foster

Dear Santa,
I have been nice. I like my mom and dad. I would like to have a puppy for Christmas. I like dogs and puppies. Labs are my favorite dogs. I hope you have a nice time.

Your friend,
Easton Glasscock

Dear Santa,
I want a drone and a stuffed bullfrog for Christmas. I have been nice because I am very sweet to my teacher. I wish that I will get a drone, and I wish that I could have a puppy. I am really hoping to get to go hunting with my dad! These Christmas wishes would make me have a lot of fun. Tell Rudolph that I love him.

Yours truly,
Garrett Greenwood

Dear Santa,
How are you? I think I have been a nice girl, but sometimes I get mad. My Christmas wishes are to have a puppy, a stuffed animal fox, and some toys. I only want a fox because they are cute. I hope everyone has a great Christmas.

Your friend,
Trinity Hemrich

Please Turn To Page Seven

Clay County Churches Send 2,127 Boxes To Operation Christmas Child a Success

By Beth Fancher

The amazing numbers of shoeboxes filled for Operation Christmas Child in Clay County, shows the dedication local coordinators and all those involved, have for their mission.

According to coordinator Vickie Simpson, at the Assembly of God, Flora, there were 22 churches who filled shoeboxes for a total of 2,127 shoeboxes and 11 individuals who brought 23 shoeboxes, totaling 2,159. The Christ's Church, Flora, total shoeboxes were 1,732.

Full Armor Academy, Louisville filled 1,166 shoeboxes. Coordinator Shannon Galloway said they had a goal of 1,100 and surpassed it this year.

"We've already started our shoebox drive for next year," Galloway said.

The 2020 total shoeboxes for Clay County was 3,931.

Clay County began their shoebox project in 2003, with Jodi Pride/drop off coordinator at the Flora First United Methodist Church. Tammy Martin took over as coordinator in 2013, at the Flora Assembly of God and in 2018, Vickie Simpson became Drop off Coordinator at the Flora

Assembly of God.

In 2018, total shoeboxes for Clay County was 1,203 and in 2019 total shoeboxes for Clay County was 2,033. Operation Christmas Child began in 1993 by Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham who was asked to be involved with the program for children in war-torn Bosnia. He contacted Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church, Charlotte, NC, to see if he could help. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes filled.

"Out of every 100 shoeboxes packed, represents 21 children who accept Jesus," coordinator Shirl Biley said. "This is a vehicle we use to spread the word of Gospel and provide needed items for children. Some of the children have never had a gift and many can't go to school unless they have school supplies. Simple things like a pencil or a toothbrush that they don't have to share with six other children in an orphanage is what we hear about. The shoeboxes are never sent to the same children, which shows me the need for this project."

Biley explained that more 178 million children in more than



Vickie Simpson, Flora Assembly of God, Shirl Biley, Church coordinator/media relations and Shannon Galloway, Full Armor coordinator, holding shoeboxes.

150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them an expression of God's love.

There are eight regional processing centers where shoeboxes are prepared for international delivery. Boone and Charlotte, NC; Dallas, TX; Denver, CO; Fullerton, CA; Atlanta, GA; Bal-

timore, MD; and Chicago.

More than 100 countries receive the shoeboxes which includes 53 hard-to-reach countries. Boxes are delivered by boat, planes, camel, canoes, walking,

crossing rivers, climbing mountains, etc. Shoeboxes have been delivered in the United States to Indian reservations.

The boxes do not include candy, toothpaste, gum, used or damaged items, war related toys, chocolates, food, seed, drink mixes, power drinks or liquid lotions, medications, vitamins or breakable items.

According to the website about Operation Christmas Child, there is so much more about Operation Christmas Child touching lives, salvation and the greatest journey which is a course offered to the children to learn more about Jesus, graduation and receive New Testament in their own language; overseas volunteers...it just goes on and on. Operation Christmas Child is about sharing the love of Jesus through one simple gift - a shoebox filled with love from people they do not even know. Spreading love. Every 24 hours, 29,106 children hear the Gospel at shoebox gift outreach events.

For every 100 shoebox gifts, 21 children report decisions for Christ through The Greatest Journey. Every 14 seconds, a child becomes a follower of Jesus Christ through The Great Journey.

Clay County Hospital Medical Clinic Blood Drives Dec. 29, 30

Clay County Hospital will host blood and plasma drives with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) on December 29 and 30. The blood drives will be held from noon until 4 p.m. on the MVRBC Donor Bus outside the Medical Clinic (929 Stacey Burk Dr., in Flora). Schedule an appointment for donation, call (866) 448-3253, schedule online at www.bloodcenter.org, or via the Blood Center's mobile app (www.bloodcenter.org/app). For online scheduling, use sponsor code 10974.

ONGOING NEED FOR DONORS

MVRBC reminds donors that blood donation is an approved, essential activity even as government bodies urge citizens to limit trips outside the home to contain the spread of COVID-19. Blood donation has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic because transfusions are given on an ongoing basis at hospitals throughout our region.

"People still have car accidents; people still have emergency liver transplants and emergency heart surgery. People with cancer still have their chemotherapy and need to be supported by blood transfusion," said Dr. Louis Katz, Chief Medical Officer. "So having a pandemic doesn't make the need for blood go away."

COVID-19 CONVALESCENT PLASMA

The Blood Center is seeking traditional, whole blood donors as well as plasma donors who have recovered from a COVID-19 infection. These donors can provide doses of COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma, a treatment option for patients currently fighting a COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma donors must be recovered from COVID-19 symptoms for 28 days before donating. For information on donor eligibility and scheduling, see www.bloodcenter.org/cp.

DONOR PROMOTIONS:

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The Blood Center is providing all presenting donors with a voucher to redeem for their choice of a blood donor T-shirt or \$10 gift card. In addition, each time a donor registers to give, they will receive points to use in the Blood Center's online Donor Loyalty Store. On select dates, double or triple points are offered. Points are redeemable for exclusive donor gifts such as apparel, drinkware, phone accessories, and more. For more information, see www.bloodcenter.org/promotions.

MAINTAINING A SAFE, HYGIENIC ENVIRONMENT FOR STAFF AND DONORS

MVRBC has taken steps to ensure blood drives remain an acceptable activity under federal, state, and local public health guidelines. All donors are required to schedule an appointment for donation and all staff, donors, and volunteers are required to wear a mask. The Blood Center is not taking walk-in donors to help staff at its Donor Centers and mobile blood drives manage donor flow and maintain appropriate social distancing between staff and donors.

To maintain a safe, hygienic environment at Donor Centers and blood drives:

- All staff and donors are now required to wear a face covering while inside Donor Centers or participating in a mobile blood drive. Paper masks will be provided for those who arrive without their own mask or facial covering.
- Donors are now required to make appointments for donation. To maintain social distancing and appropriate donor flow, walk-ins will only be accepted when an appointment slot is available.
- Please do not give blood if you are experiencing any symptoms of a COVID-19 infection or have in the last 14 days been within six feet of someone who has the virus or is being tested for the virus for greater than 15 minutes without use of personal protective equipment.
- Prior to donation, donors are screened for symptoms of illness (body temperature, heart rate, blood pressure, and hemoglobin level all are checked, and the donor completes a pre-donation Donor History Questionnaire).
- When possible, donors are asked to complete the Donor History Questionnaire online on the same day as their donation (see www.bloodcenter.org/EarlyQ)
- Staff have added space between chairs in screening areas and in the post-donation refreshment area. Between donations, staff wipe down chairs and surfaces to maintain a safe, hygienic environment.

About Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center: Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center (MVRBC) is the exclusive provider of blood products and services to more than 115 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin, including Clay County Hospital in Flora. The Blood Center's service region extends from southwestern Wisconsin to St. Louis, Missouri and from Danville, Illinois to Chariton, Iowa. For more information, see www.bloodcenter.org and visit the Blood Center's social media channels: www.facebook.com/MVRBC, www.twitter.com/willyougive, www.youtube.com/MVRBC, and www.instagram.com/willyougive/.



Clay County ESDA was presented with Personal Protection Items from the District Rotary Club. Taking part in the presentation were (left to right) Flora Rotarian Norman Phillips and ESDA Assistant Coordinator Alan Huff; Past District Governor Joe Miller representing the District Rotary Club; and ESDA representatives Coordinator Steve Lewis and Collin Moseley. (John Bayler Photo)

Library Sponsors First Annual Basic Needs Drive

The Flora Public Library in cooperation with the Clay County Cares will be a drop off point for their Basic Needs Drive.

Local individuals have united to start a faith-based project called Clay County Cares. The purpose of the project is to provide hygiene and personal care items to individuals in need. CCC is having a drive to get items donated. The group will then prepare and distribute the items.

The initial drive will begin Thursday, December 10 and continue until December 31. Drop off points will be Flora Junior High School (outside container in the circle drive), Flora Public Library, Priceless IGA, Dollar General, ACT Automotive, and 2 Glitzy Girls Boutique. Receipts will be placed at each location to receive donations.

For more information, please contact/message Amy Herdes or Donna Corry.

Items needed are: Toothbrushes; Toothpaste; Mouthwash; Dental floss; Deodorant; Bath soap (for men, women and babies); Bath wash (for men, women and babies); Shampoo (for men, women and babies); Washcloths; Lotion; Combs; Hairbrushes; Pony tail holders; Diapers (all sizes); Pull-ups (all sizes); Adult incontinence items (all sizes); Ladies feminine products (all types); Wet wipes-small individual packs; Gallon Ziploc bags; Two gallon Ziploc bags; Cloth or plastic draw string bags.

It's All About The Food

By Debby Devore

Merry Christmas everyone! The big day is upon us and soon the floors will be covered with strewn paper and the sinks will be full of dishes. I have especially enjoyed Christmas this year and I'm sad it's over. Even though almost all the parties were cancelled, didn't go shopping much at all, less baking, etc., etc., it was a whole lot less stressful. The only stress I had was wondering if my package that I ordered on Black Friday would come. It did, 19 days later. So much for two day shipping. All right, that's enough sad, bring on spring!

David and I drove to Teutopolis to pick up a gift last week and were fortunate to be able to eat at a dine-in restaurant. I had hopes of finally eating at Brickbat Bar and Grill, a pub next to Weber's Jewelry, since last summer. It is open and I'm not sure why it wasn't the day we were there. Everyone I talked to was surprised Brickbat was closed but did suggest that we go to Kountry Kitchen instead. We were happy we did. I'll start by saying that Kountry Kitchen was a hopping place! We arrived just before noon and the tables were full. We scored a booth and it didn't take long to discover why Kountry Kitchen was so busy. This restaurant was amazing. I think the whole town showed up for lunch. Lots of families, co-workers and even a small ladies group were enjoying mealtime together.

The two specials of the day were fried chicken and bbq ribs. They were served with mashed potatoes, corn, jello or a salad and a hot roll. David ordered the fried chicken special which came with two pieces of chicken. He said it was very good and a lot of food to eat. The surprising part? It was only \$6 for that huge plate of food. I ordered the roast philly sandwich for \$4.50 and added an order of fries for \$1.50. Both were extremely hot and delicious. So hot in fact, that it had to have been served seconds after it was cooked. The three servers practically ran from table to table the entire time we were there. They all waited on each other tables and worked quickly and efficiently together to take care of the customers. I was very impressed with the outstanding service everyone was getting, including us.

Besides the specials, they have the usual assortment of sandwiches and the entire menu is very budget friendly. They serve breakfast from opening until 10:30 a.m. I loved their breakfast menu so much, I would have a hard time deciding what to order if I would have been there at breakfast time. I talked to our server, Jackie, for just a quick second. She has been working at Kountry Kitchen for the last 40 years. Jackie was originally the owner before she sold the business to her niece, Stacy Kemmen. Stacy was busy running the kitchen and I didn't get to visit with her. I would have told her that she had a wonderful restaurant and our food was great.

Kountry Kitchen is located at 105 East Main Street in Teutopolis, right next to Wessel's Grocery. They are open 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday to Saturday. Their phone number is 217-857-3948, if you'd like to order ahead. Should you be in the area, stop in and taste some of their home-cooked food. My guess is you'll love it!

I wish you and yours all the best of Christmas wishes and pray that next year will be a healthier and happier year for us all. **I pray that we all remember the reason for the season, Jesus Christ was born! Until next year, stay safe, stay well and happy eating!**

Clay City News

By Jean Taylor

This year has went by fast and it's been a rough year for all.

Humor
Little girl I was babysitting asked if I had a boyfriend. I said not anymore and she said Boy-friend are waste of time. Then she turned to her brother and told him

Recipe
One quartered red potato in large pan covered with water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat cook 10 minutes longer. Add one cup of chopped cauliflower cook un-

You're a waste of time.

My little sister discovered we have different dads, now she's trying to say we're just friends..

My grandmother sewed and crocheted until she was in her 90s and her hands just couldn't do it any longer. So don't expect me to be putting this phone down anytime soon

til tender. Drain and add 2/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese, 1/4 cup sour cream and 1/4 tsp salt. Serves 4.

Sympathy goes to families of Judith Stoll, Sandra Hatcher, Maxine Connerly, Nancy Spieth, Irma Krutsinger and everyone else who lost a loved one. Prayers to all.

We need your news.
Stay safe, wear your mask wash your hands.
Until next time; God bless the USA and everyone. Pray for all

Drive By Party For Walter Hale Christmas Day

Walter "Pappy" Hale will be 100 years young on Christmas Day. He one of the few World War II veterans living in Clay County.

Walter is residing at The Burge House in Flora. There will be a drive by celebration 1-3 p.m., on his birthday, on the west of the Burge House. Walter will be sitting where he can see vehicles drive by.

Due to COVID-19, Walter can't have visitors, but he can receive cards.

His address is:
Walter Hale
c/o The Burge House
424 Worthy St.
Flora, IL 62839
The goal is 100 cards for his 100 years.

Edward Jones | INVESTMENTS

Investment Lessons from 2020

As the year draws to a close, it's fair to say that we've all learned something about the social, political, physical and environmental forces that have affected everyone. And, in some ways, our lives will be changed, perhaps permanently. But as an investor, what lessons can you learn from 2020?

Here are some to consider:

The markets look ahead. Here's something many investors discovered in 2020: Investment prices don't always move in the same direction as the overall economy. This might not have seemed apparent right after the COVID-19 pandemic struck in mid-February, as the overall economy and the stock market took big hits. But just about five weeks later, the markets began a rally that lasted several months. During this time, the economy also recovered somewhat, but still remains on weak footing.

What can explain this discrepancy between the markets and economic activity? Essentially, economic numbers, such as the unemployment rate and gross domestic product (GDP), reflect what's happening today, but the markets are always looking toward tomorrow, which means they are anticipating a stronger economic recovery and the results that come with it, such as greater corporate earnings in 2021. No one can say for sure what the future holds, but you can usually know the market's opinion by its performance.

Opportunities will always exist for investors. Although the coronavirus seems unprecedented, the equity markets have rebounded from many crises before it. From war to global financial meltdowns, the market has seen it all. But even at the height of these events, when the markets might be most affected, individual segments or industries can do well.

For example, in the current environment, when many people have been forced to work and shop from home, and get their entertainment online, it's probably not surprising that some parts of the technology sector have seen their economic activity grow, along with their stock prices. Here's the key point: Investment opportunities always exist, especially in times of market stress – and smart investors will find them and incorporate them into their portfolios in a way that's appropriate for their goals and risk tolerance.

Patience and discipline can pay dividends. As mentioned above, the stock market dropped sharply in the weeks immediately following the pandemic, but then gained steadily for months afterward. Investors who tried to "cut losses" and exited the market likely did so at the wrong time and missed out on the beginning of the upturn. Unfortunately, this is not uncommon – investors who overreact to market declines often find themselves on the investment sidelines just when a new rally begins. Rather than being reactive in this way, you may be better off sticking with a long-term investment strategy, and buying and selling investments only when it makes sense for your situation, such as when you need to diversify your portfolio.

For many reasons, it's unlikely that we'll see anything exactly like 2020 again. But some of the investment lessons we learned are applicable in every year – so keep them in mind for 2021 and beyond.



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DID

is a word of achievement;

WON'T

is a word of retreat;

MIGHT

is a word of bereavement;

CAN'T

is a word of defeat;

OUGHT

is a word of duty;

TRY

is a word each hour;

WILL

is a word of beauty;

CAN

is a word of power.