

Wise and Otherwise



What are you doing New Year's Eve?

By KENT A. STOCK
Staff Writer

Since many of you are probably reading this in 2019, the question should be what did you do New Year's Eve? Party all night long, see in the first sunrise of the New Year, and/or ask yourself if you had a good time because you can't remember most of it?

Not these days, buddy, as many of my age or even younger have hung up their all night ways. Maybe not entirely because God has given us short term memory loss so we go out there and, despite being mid-50s, we try to act like we are in our mid-20s.

Life will remind you the next day or several days, that is definitely not the case; trust me on this one. God has a sense of humor, you know.

Today, it is more like, "Honey, are we staying up to watch the ball drop?" The spouse doesn't answer, and you are like, "Yes! Bedtime!"

Does snoozing together in your respective recliners count as a celebration? I'll allow it. The snoring can be like your own noisemakers welcoming in the next year.

Our family gets together and plays games, eats, watches some sort of sporting event, eats, tells stories, eats...I think you get the picture. We adults do our best to keep each other awake until mid-

night.

Our tradition is at the stroke of twelve on New Year's Eve, we go outside of our house to bang on pots and pans. Thankfully, we have lived for decades near these people, and they know of our noisy tradition. They put up with us anyway. No one has shot us yet. Let me emphasize yet, please and thank you.

Just like noisemakers or party horns, it is supposed to scare away the evil spirits from the old year.

Tradition also says you are supposed to come out one door, make your ruckus, and then go back in another door because that will confuse any evil spirits that might not have been scared off by all the noise.

If that is the case, evil spirits are just plain stupid.

It is normally a quick trip out of doors because, well, we live in Illinois and quite often it is a balmy four degrees below zero on December 31.

The evil spirits probably aren't even there those nights because they are in their nice, warm home watching Dick Clark's Rockin' New Year's Eve.

We end up by trying to sing "Auld Lang Syne," which, out of all the noise we make, is probably the most likely thing to scare off most anything!

Happy New Year 2019!
Hope you made it until midnight!

Zion News

Thought for the day: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—they must be felt with the heart." —Helen Keller

Christmas lights are one of the favorite things about Christmas for many people—getting to turn the tree on each evening and have the soft glow of the lights fill the room, or getting to drive around the Arthur community and see all the houses bright with lights. It's pretty sad when January rolls around and it's time to pack away the tree and all the decorations.

The lights at Christmas are actually a great reminder about another light, a light called "The Light of the World." This Light is actually a person, and we celebrate his coming into our world at Christmas.

As the Light of the World, Jesus is not a flashing, dancing reindeer display, nor is He hung on a tree to decorate it. But He does make a huge display of His love for us and that is most clearly seen when he was hung on a different kind of tree, the cross, and died for the sins of the world. At that moment when Jesus died for us, we see how He is the Light of the World. He brings the light of the gospel and salvation to us and allows us to be freed from the darkness of sin and death.

On many of the December 19 Arthur Graphic newspapers there was an ink blotch over part of the Zion News that was about "Something to remember for Christmas." The information then offered is just as important for a New Year as well, "A person must hold an image in their mind for at least twenty seconds for it to become a long-term memory." Hopefully, in 2019, you will take many 20-second opportunities to make wonderful long-term memories.

God is in the business of answering prayer. We often only stress prayer "requests," but it is also a joy to share "answers" to prayer. Mary Fern Carlyle is doing much better after surgery to repair a broken hip. She is now recuperating in the Arthur Home.

Another answer to prayer was our Christmas Eve service at Zion. We had a full church, old friends and family of the church came, and new friends were made. We all worshiped together in a Lessons and Carols Candle-Lighting Service. Many had not met Rev. Gartung and his wife Ruthie. It was a great joy and a beautiful service.

An interesting thing for us was that, since this type of service was first used in 1918 in

England, traditionally the local mayor or magistrate would read the lessons which were scripture passages. So, we were true to form as Arthur mayor, Rod Randall, was involved in the service. Ramona Carlyle and others provided awesome music for the service.

Please mark your calendars. There will be a Blood Drive at the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 128 E. Illinois Street in Arthur on Thursday, January 10 from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00.

Arthur Ministerial Association is planning a Pulpit Exchange on Ecumenical Sunday, January 20, 2019. Rev. Bruce Weiman of Arthur United Methodist Church will speak at Zion, and Rev. Gartung will speak at the First Baptist Church of Arthur.

Our prayer concerns continue to include Paul Knobloch, Katana Ponder, Jerry and B J Hale, J B and Jean White, Todd Martin and his family, Bobby and Reagan Miller, Jim and Jackie Tholen, Sharon Parsano, Donna Schultz, Jeff Romine, Ben Valerio, David Walker, Elsie Windings, Betty Sawyer, Wilmer and Lela Otto, LaVerne Smith, Jim Dycus, Marvin Helmuth, Henry Schrock, Charlotte Eagan, and Lane Drake and his family.

Chuckle for the day (and maybe good advice for the New Year): "I find television very educational. Every time someone turns it on, I go in the other room and read a book." —Groucho Marx

Rev. Gartung welcomes your calls and email. You may reach him at 460-1892 or at dennis@gartung.me. He and his wife, Ruthie, would be glad to visit with you. Just give them a call or send an email.

Zion's worship service starts at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday with various Sunday School activities following at 10:30.

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Moultrie County Courthouse News

Moultrie

(Editor's note: The following is a report of the traffic tickets, criminal charges, and law and divorce cases filed within the past week at the office of the Moultrie County Circuit Clerk in the Courthouse, Sullivan.

Tickets and cases covered were issued to or filed against residents of Douglas, Moultrie, and Piatt counties and towns within the circulation area of this newspaper.

Real estate transactions listed below were filed in the office of the Moultrie County Clerk during the same weekly period.)

Traffic Tickets

Alyssa F. Heady, 24, of Lovington was ticketed December 18 for failure to yield at a stop sign on Route 32 at Route 133 in Lovington. Ticket was filed December 20.

Veronic J. Martin, 21, of Springfield was ticketed December 14 for speeding 75 mph in a 55-mph zone westbound on Route 121 at County Road 1675 East. Ticket was filed December 19.

Kolton R. Rose, 20, of Sullivan was ticketed December 15 for speeding 80 mph in a 55-mph zone southbound on Route 32 at County Road 700 North. Ticket was filed December 19.

Anthony A. Vaultonburg, 30, of Mattoon was ticketed December 20 for speeding 73 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 121 at County Road 850 East. Ticket was filed December 20.

Brandon W. Neeley, 22, of Decatur was ticketed December 20 for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 121 at Dunn. Ticket was filed December 20.

Mikalan C. Evans, 20, of Mt. Zion was ticketed December 12 for speeding 70 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 121 northeast of County Road 600 East in Sullivan Township. Ticket was

filed December 20.

Brandon W. Neeley, 22, of Decatur was ticketed December 12 for speeding 78 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 121 north of Route 32 in Sullivan Township. Ticket was filed December 20.

Jaleigh K. Golladay-Parker, 17, of Dalton City was ticketed December 12 for disregarding a stop sign on Route 121 at Route 128 southbound in Dora Township. Ticket was filed December 20.

Alan G. Fedrigo, 58, of Shelbyville was ticketed December 12 for disregarding a stop sign on Route 121 at Route 128 in Dora Township. Ticket was filed December 20.

Adam C. Yoder, 29, of Tuscola was ticketed December 14 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Vine Street at Second Street in Arthur. Ticket was filed December 19.

Ricky Garrett Derby, 24, of Sullivan was ticketed December 19 for operating a motor vehicle with only one headlight, driving under the influence of alcohol, and illegal transportation of alcohol, open container of alcohol (driver) on Mattox Street at Patterson Street in Sullivan. Tickets were filed December 20.

George L. Burrell, 29, of Sullivan was ticketed December 19 for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, operating motor vehicle with expired registration, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Route 121 at County Road 825 East. Tickets were filed December 21.

Brian L. Kauffman, 19, of Lovington was ticketed December 20 for speeding 86 mph in a 55-mph zone northbound on Jonathan Creek Road at County Road 1900 North. Ticket was filed December 21.

Teri J. Jarvis, 28, of Sullivan was ticketed December 20 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle and improper traffic lane usage northbound on Route 32 one-half mile south of County

Road 2000 North. Tickets were filed December 21.

Armonda C. Thompson, 39, of Decatur was ticketed December 21 for speeding 71 mph in a 55-mph zone on Route 121 at Okaw River Bridge. Ticket was filed December 21.

Criminal Petitions

Nicolas T. Danko, 39, of Mahomet has been charged with stalking, a Class 4 felony carrying a maximum fine of \$25,000 and one to three years in Illinois Department of Corrections. Danko is accused of engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person on or about December 11 that the defendant knew, or should have known, would cause a reasonable person to fear for his or her safety by committing acts that violate a "no contact" order: specifically, sending flowers and a note to the protected person and by sitting a parked car facing the residence of the protected person's mother in Bethany, at a time when the protected person was present. Charge was filed December 21.

Dissolution of Marriage Judgments

Ronnie Elder, 73, of Bethany on December 19 was granted a dissolution of marriage from Ruth Elder, 65, address not listed. Dissolution was filed December 19.

Marriage Licenses

A marriage license was issued December 21 to Andrew Isaac Frost of Sullivan and Kristina Elizabeth Burford of Bethany.

Real Estate

CoBank ACB granted Top-Flight Grain Cooperative Incorporated a partial release for a parcel in SE 11-15-4.

Chris Sims, Moultrie County Sheriff, and Kevin Ellis Et Al granted Federal National Mortgage Association a sheriff's deed for multiple parcels in Allen Clore's First Addition, Lovington.

Bruce I. Thompson, independent administrator of Irvin E.

Thompson Estate, granted Freda I. Thompson and administrator's deed for multiple parcels.

First Mid Bank and Trust N.A. granted Janson Investment Company a release for SE 9-13-6.

Prairie State Bank and Trust granted Ryan Gagnon a release for multiple lots and blocks in W.W. Daum's First Addition, Kirksville.

Esther Bontrager granted Esther Bontrager, trustee of Esther Bontrager Trust, a deed in trust for multiple parcels.

Rebekah K. Bern granted Veronica I. Contreras a warranty deed for Lot 1 in Block 1 of L.G. Hostetler's Second Addition.

Veronica Contreras granted Fifth Third Mortgage Company a mortgage for Lot 1 in Block 1 of L.G. Hostetler's Second Addition.

Anna Mae Schrock, Irene E. Schlabach, Katie Fern Schrock, Martha Lucille Yoder, Barbara Ellen Helmuth, Lonnie E. Diener, Esther Marie Helmuth, and Paul Eugene Diener granted Glenn D. Schlabach and Irene E. Schlabach a warranty deed for a parcel in NE NE 21-15-6.

First Community Bank of Moultrie County, Lovington, granted Amber Kauffman and George Kauffman a release for a parcel in NW 33-15-5.

First Community Bank of Moultrie County, Lovington, granted Amber J. Kauffman and George K. Kauffman a release for a parcel in NW 33-15-5.

George Kauffman and Amber Kauffman granted Robert A. Riley and Christine C. Riley a warranty deed for a parcel in NW 33-15-5.

Robert A. Riley and Christine C. Riley granted First Community Bank of Moultrie County a mortgage for a parcel in NW 33-15-5.

James A. Bell Revocable Trust, Dona Joyce Bell Revo-

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Piatt County Courthouse News

Piatt

(Editor's note: The following is a report of the traffic tickets, criminal charges, and law and divorce cases filed within the past week at the office of the Douglas County Circuit Clerk in the Courthouse, Tuscola.

Tickets and cases covered were issued to or filed against residents of Douglas, Moultrie, and Piatt counties and towns within the circulation area of this newspaper.

Real estate transactions listed below were filed in the office of the Douglas County Clerk during the same weekly period.)

Traffic Tickets

Roger Lee Canfield, 61, of Brazil, Indiana, was ticketed December 14 for log violations. Tickets were filed December 20.

Justin T. Greer Jr., 22, of Bement was ticketed December 20 for driving while license is suspended and operating an un-

insured motor vehicle. Tickets were filed December 20.

Justin P. Lewis, 38, of Arthur was ticketed December 19 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 20.

Sean M. Olson, 33, of Monticello was ticketed December 22 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 26.

Richard A. Meyers, 65, of Atwood was ticketed December 21 for speeding 21 to 25 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 26.

Rickey La Shawn Murff, 29, of Austin, Texas, was ticketed December 22 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 26.

Robert W. Bryson, 32, of Champaign was ticketed December 22 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 26.

Laur A. Lotzgesell, 57, of Urbana was ticketed December 22 for speeding 21 to 25 mph

over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 26.

Jaylen R. Dillow, 19, of Bement was ticketed December 22 for driving while license is suspended. Ticket was filed December 26.

Marriage Licenses

A marriage license was issued December 20 to Jordan Rhett Fay and Kitrina Colleen Hayner, both of Monticello.

A marriage license was issued December 20 to Jackie Eugene Roberts and Mary Margaret Rose Roe, both of Mansfield.

Real Estate

Brian D. Waibel and Wendy K. Waibel granted Philip K. Dreste and Leah K. Dreste a warranty deed for Lot 4 in Block 1.

Arnold Roland Cooper and Deborah Ann Cooper granted

Sherry Pfister a warranty deed for Lot 70.

Donald W. Ashcraft and Pamela K. Ashcraft granted State Bank of Bement a mortgage for parcels in SW 7-17-6 and NW 18-17-6.

Eli W. Beachy granted Morton Community Bank a mortgage for Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 in Block 1. Dennis Lawrence Christ, trustee of Walter V. Christ Revocable Trust, granted Levi E. Yoder a trustee's deed for a parcel in SE 35-16-6.

Levi E. Yoder and Gloria A. Yoder granted Farm Credit Illinois a mortgage for a parcel in SE 33-16-6.

Richard Harold Hoffman and Diana Lyn Hoffman granted First State Bank a mortgage for Lot 2 in Block 2.

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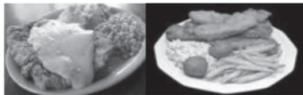
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