

# 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 Piatt County Circuit Clerk in the Courthouse, Monticello.)

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 Piatt County Clerk during the same weekly period.)

### Traffic Tickets

Adam R. Baker, 24, of Bement was issued a civil law violation on December 28 for possession of cannabis less than 10 grams. Violation was filed December 31.

John T. Riddle, 23, of Bement was issued a civil law violation on December 28 for possession of drug paraphernalia. Violation was filed December 31.

Matthew R. Dambacher, 28, of Springfield was ticketed December 31 for driving under the influence of alcohol and DUI with alcohol concentration in blood or breath equal to or greater than .08. Tickets were filed December 31.

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

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

Steven R. Jepsen, 28, of Manhattan, Kansas, was ticketed December 26 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 27.

Melissa A. Lowry, 26, of Lincoln was ticketed December 26 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 27.

Vanessa M. McClellan, 25, of Decatur was ticketed December 20 for speeding 21 to 25 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 27.

Michael Damien White, 25, of Charleston was ticketed December 20 for operating a motor vehicle with valid registration. Ticket was filed December 27.

Evan C. Menge, 22, of Monticello was ticketed December 28 for disregarding a stop sign. Ticket was filed December 28.

Danielle D. Benjamin, 50, of DeLand was ticketed December 27 for speeding 11 to 14 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 28.

Daniel A. Blazquez, 31, of Urbana was ticketed December 27 for speeding 11 to 14 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 28.

Patrick Hise, 27, of Brownsville, Indiana, was ticketed December 27 for speeding 1 to 10 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 28.

Valerie A. Light, 46, of Teutopolis was ticketed December 27 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 28.

Delbert W. Harms, 23, of Seymour was ticketed December 27 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Ticket was filed December 28.

Aaron Tochmani, 32, of Warrenville was ticketed December 27 for speeding 1 to 10 mph over the

speed limit, driving while license is suspended, and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Tickets were filed December 28.

Kenneth D. Owens, 45, of Sherman was ticketed December 29 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 31.

Megan E. Price, 22, of Normal was ticketed December 29 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 31.

Dillon J. McMullen, 19, of Champaign was ticketed December 28 for speeding 26 to 34 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 31.

Amanda K. Harris, 30, of Louisville, Kentucky, was ticketed December 28 for speeding 25 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed December 31.

Andrew T. Allison, 17, of Bement was ticketed December 28 for operating a motor vehicle on a G.D.L. with more than one passenger in the front seat. Ticket was filed December 31.

Damien C.D. Law, 28, of Indianapolis, Indiana, was ticketed December 30 for speeding 21 to 25 mph over the speed limit and driving while license is revoked. Tickets were filed December 31.

Matthew R. Dambacher, 28, of Springfield was ticketed December 31 for illegal transportation of alcohol by driver. Ticket was filed December 31.

Marissa A. Rohm, 19, of Decatur was ticketed January 1 for speeding 26 to 34 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed January 3.

Harry T. Coleman, 31, of Monticello was ticketed December 29 for operating a motor vehicle with expired registration. Ticket was filed January 3.

Irvin L. Smith, 59, of Decatur was ticketed January 2 for speeding 26 to 34 mph over the speed

limit. Ticket was filed January 3.

Theodore R. Peoples III, 55, of Decatur was ticketed December 31 for speeding 11 to 14 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed January 3.

Shantell M. Bibbs, 21, of Champaign was ticketed December 31 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed January 3.

Phillip J. Hutcherson, 40, of Tuscola was ticketed January 1 for speeding 15 to 20 mph over the speed limit. Ticket was filed January 3.

**Criminal Petitions**  
Christopher J. Seybold, 37, of Mansfield has been charged with domestic battery, a Class 4 felony. Charges were filed December 27.

**Real Estates**  
Keith W. Gaskill, Keith Gaskill, Melinda S. Gaskill, Melinda Gaskill, Frankie L. Duncan, and Piatt County Sheriff granted Moron Community Bank a sheriff's deed for Lot 12 of Subdivision 58.

Steven L. Koss; Kathleen Koss; and PNC Bank N.A., independent administrator of Scott L. Wiegel Estate, granted PNC Bank N.A., independent administrator of Scott L. Wiegel Estate, a quitclaim deed for a parcel in 6-18-6.

Steven L. Koss; Kathleen Koss; and PNC Bank N.A., independent administrator of Scott L. Wiegel Estate, granted Steven L. Koss and Kathleen Koss a quitclaim deed for a lot in Subdivision 168.

Linda Stoltz granted Sarah Geiger (one-half interest) and Mark Murphy (one-half interest) a warranty deed for Lot 34 of Subdivision 58.

Chad Dean Corum and Angela Beth Corum granted State Bank Bement a mortgage for Lots 1 and 2 in Block 15 of Subdivision 35.

Jody Rae Burns and

Jody Rae Fisher granted John Matthews a warranty deed for Lots 11 and 12 in Block 3 of Subdivision 35.

Charles A. Barre and Christy T. Barre granted First State Bank a mortgage for a parcel in SE 32-18-5.

Tammy J. Boyd and Brandon L. Boyd granted First State Bank a mortgage for a parcel in SW 25-18-4.

Joan Villa and Robert D. Webb Jr. granted Robert D. Webb Jr. and Joan Villa a quitclaim deed for Lot 5 of Subdivision 257.

Barbara Jean Busch granted Robert G. Busch and Barbara Jean Busch, co-trustees of Barbara Jean Busch Trust, a quitclaim deed for a parcel in SW 25-20-6.

Tammy L. Johnston granted Fisher National Bank a mortgage for Lots 9 and 10 in Block 7 of Subdivision 225.

Christopher C. Selz and Terri Selz granted

Peter Voss and Louetta Mae Voss, co-trustees of Peter and Louetta Mae Voss Grandchildren Trust a warranty deed for parcels in NE 9-16-6, NW 21-16-6, and NW SE 9-16-6.

Freda I. Thompson granted Jane E. Ellsworth a quitclaim deed for a parcel in NE 25-17-6.

Kiel R. Castor and Kimberly M. Castor granted Hickory Point Bank and Trust a mortgage for Lot 12 of Subdivision 403.

David Hunt, Piatt County Sheriff; Seth Knight; and PNC Bank N.A., granted Terry Woller a sheriff's deed for Lot 48 of Subdivision 394.

Willie L. High and Heather L. High granted Low VA Rates LLC and MERS a mortgage for Lot 66 of Subdivision 391.

Jacqueline Lilly granted First State Bank a mortgage for Lots 3 and 4 in Block 37 of Subdivision 183.

## Jesse White Awards Over \$1.3 Million in Grants to School Libraries

The Arthur, Bement and Cerro Gordo School District are among the 694 in Illinois to receive a school library grant from Secretary of State Jesse White. Over \$1.3 million was awarded statewide.

Funding includes:  
**Arthur:** Arthur Community Unit School District #305 - \$842.25

**Bement:** Bement Community Unit School District #5 - \$750.00

**Cerro Gordo:** Cerro Gordo CUSD #100 - \$750.00

"As a former public school teacher and administrator, I know our school libraries are very important in helping students learn and prepare themselves for the future," White said. "Illinois was the first state to implement a school district grant program, and I'm pleased that we can continue to provide

school libraries with some of the financial resources they need to produce well-educated students."

Appropriations from FY19 that were approved by the General Assembly and the Governor awarded school library grants based on a formula of \$.75 per student, with a minimum grant award of \$750.

The School District Library Grant Program is used to acquire fiction and/or non-fiction books, educational CDs and DVDs, library subscriptions to electronic resources, and to improve technology by purchasing new computers or improving Wi-Fi connectivity. Information concerning the grant program can be found at: <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/library/grants/school-percapgrant.html>.

## 2018 Piatt County Tentative Multiplier Announced

Piatt County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.0165, according to Constance Beard, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

The property assessment equalization factor, often called the "multiplier", is the method used to achieve uniform property assessments among counties, as required by law. This equalization is particularly important because some of the state's 6,600 local taxing districts overlap into two or more counties (e.g. school districts, junior college districts, fire protection districts). If there were no equalization among counties, substantial inequities among taxpayers with comparable properties would result.

State law requires property in Illinois to be assessed at one-third (1/3) of its market value. Farm property is assessed differently, with farm homesites and dwellings subject to regular assessing and equalization procedures, but with farmland and farm buildings assessed according to standards based on productivity.

The equalization factor is determined annually for each county by comparing the sales price of individual properties sold over the past

three years to the assessed value placed on those properties by the county supervisor of assessments/county assessor.

If this three-year average level of assessment is one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be one (1). If the average level of assessment is greater than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be less than one (1). And if the average level of assessment is less than one-third of market value, the equalization factor will be greater than one (1).

Assessments in Piatt County are at 32.79 percent of market value, based on sales of properties in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The equalization factor currently being assigned is for 2018 taxes, payable in 2019.

Last year's equalization factor for the county was 1.0000.

The tentative factor is subject to change (1) if the County Board of Review takes actions which significantly affect the county assessments or (2) if local officials or others can present data showing that the Department of Revenue's estimates of the average level of assessments in the county should be adjusted. A public hearing on the ten-

tative multiplier will be held between 20 and 30 days after the tentative factor is published in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

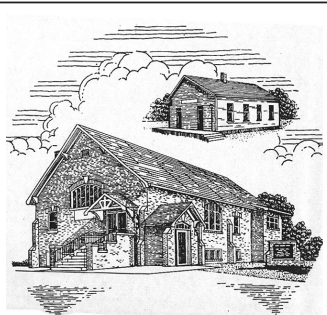
A change in the equalization factor does not mean total property tax bills will increase or decrease. Tax bills are determined by local taxing bodies when they request money each year to provide services to local citizens. If the amount request-

ed by local taxing districts is not greater than the amount received in the previous year, then total property taxes will not increase even if assessments may have increased.

The assessed value of an individual property determines what portion of the tax burden a specific taxpayer will assume. That individual's portion of tax responsibility is not changed by the multiplier.

## Lake Fork United Church of Christ

*It doesn't matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*



By BEV OBERT

This is the time of year when we hunker down. Winter is upon us and it is cold and snowy or icy outside. The children are back in school and don't seem to mind the cold. For the rest of us snuggling up in a blanket with a cup of hot chocolate or coffee seems like heaven.

Even though it is winter, we know that spring will come. Daffodils will bloom and trees will bud new leaves. During this down time people often plan for the days to come. They clean out closets, order bulbs for the garden, or look into vacation sites. Me I make lists. List of things to do, people to call or write, projects around the house that need doing like painting. Now don't ask if my lists all get done, they don't but making them helps me to plan and maybe accomplish something.

During this time in the

church year we concentrate on the life of Jesus; his ministry, miracles, parables, and journeys. We along with his disciples travel with Jesus and learn about God's will for the world. It is not an easy road. Often we stray, skipping church (it's too cold) or sleeping in. How are we to learn if we do not keep on the path of Jesus' teachings? Going to church may seem like work but it is a way to learn more about Jesus and the precious gift of forgiveness that he has given us. Yes we know the stories, but maybe this time when you hear about a lame man walking, a blind person seeing, or five thousand people being fed a new and different meaning or understanding will be given.

Here's the thing....Yes it is winter, yes it is cold, and yes we tend to slow down. But what a perfect time to read the Bible, study God's word, go to church, and learn more about Jesus.

LET US HELP PROTECT YOUR DREAMS.

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