



# Town Talk

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## Moultrie County assigned tentative multiplier for 2018

Moultrie County has been issued a tentative property assessment equalization factor of 1.0196, according to Constance Beard, Director of 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 Moultrie County are at 32.69 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 tentative 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 requested 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.

## Senator Rose sworn into office Jan. 9

State Sen. Chapin Rose (R-Mahomet) was sworn into office on January 9 at the Statehouse during the Illinois Senate Inauguration.

"I want to thank the people of the 51st Senate District for entrusting me to represent them in Springfield," Rose said. "It's an honor to serve and be their voice at the Statehouse. I look forward to working on legislation and reforms this legislative session that can help the people of central and east-central Illinois. I encourage anyone who has a question, comment, or needs help with a government-related issue to reach out to my office."

Rose's last vote of the previous General Assembly, that occurred just two hours before the new General Assembly was sworn in, was a vote against legislation that would give 15 percent raises to certain state government department heads and positions that already pay six figures as requested by the new Democrat supermajorities.

"Despite Illinois' improved economy, our state budget is not in a position to handle pay raises for department heads--and certainly not ahead of increases for developmental disability providers, higher education, K-12 schools, or other worthy causes," Rose said.

Rose, who represents all or portions of Champaign, DeWitt, Douglas, Edgar, Macon, McLean, Moultrie, Piatt, Shelby, and Vermilion counties, is also an assistant Republican leader for the Senate Republican Caucus.

Rose's office contacts:  
—Champaign County District Office: 510 S. Staley Road, Suite D, Champaign, IL 61822; Phone (217) 607-1853.

—Macon County District Office: 5130 Hickory Point Frontage Road, Suite 103, Decatur, IL 62526; Phone (217) 330-

I'm looking forward to the new business.

This is not a new business but an older business in downtown Arthur that has started serving breakfast: Angela's Food and Spirits is serving breakfast from 6 to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday. Stop in and check it out.

Also on the breakfast side of things is Café at the Barn (as in Arthur Sale Barn) who will be fixing breakfast from 5:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Of course, both places have lunch hours, and Angela's has evening hours as well.

Get out for some good food, great company, and enjoy two of our several Arthur area eateries.

**Good Luck, Ashley!**

I'm sharing this piece from the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Facebook page because it sums up the upcoming weekend perfectly and because I wrote it in the first place.

The Moultrie - Douglas County Fair family wants to wish our 2018 Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen Ashley Mattingly good luck during next week's Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant.

The event is held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield from Thursday to Sunday, January 17 to 20.

Ashley's interview will be conducted on Friday, January 18, and her preliminary round will be at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 19.

The final 15 contestants will take the stage at 4 p.m. on Sunday. The competition starts all over again at that point. Tickets are \$15 at the door.

Ashley has been an awesome representative for our two counties since she captured the title last July.

We wish her all the best in Springfield!

**Prom Dress Sale**  
Miss Moultrie-Douglas Fair Queen Pageant is hosting a Prom Dress Sale at Tuscola Outlet Mall on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, January 25-27, in store location A1100.

The hours are 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

If you wish to sell a dress or dresses, you can drop off your item(s) from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, January 21 to 23.

You can direct any questions about the sale to Sandy Hoke at (217) 493-3583.

## Miss ALAH Pageant 2019

We are on a royal roll in this week's columns with all sorts of pageant and pageant-related information. Last weekend's snowstorm threw the plans for the Miss ALAH informational meeting into a snow drift, so here is the new info.

The meeting for the pageant will be on Friday, January 18, at the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School cafeteria. The Little Miss meeting will start at 6 p.m., and the Junior Miss and Miss ALAH meeting will follow at 6:30. Parents can park in the east side circle drive.

This year's Miss ALAH Pageant will take place at 6 p.m. Saturday, March 9, in the east gym at ALAH HS.

**Go Eagles!**

I don't mean the Philadelphia kind either! I am talking Eastern Washington University Eagles who just played for the FCS Championship. They lost a tough one 28-14 to perennial power North Dakota State.

Of course, there is a connec-

tion to our town and to our neighboring town to the north as well. Bodie Reeder, EIU graduate Class of 2010, is the offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach for the national runners-up. He is in his second year at EWU in that position. He was at Oklahoma State as an assistant for three years prior to going farther west.

Bodie is the son of Dalene (Kinney) Reeder and Jerry Reeder. Dalene is a graduate of Arthur High, and Jerry is a graduate of Atwood-Hammond High School. I'm sure the family is very excited about Bodie's success in coaching.

I'll have to talk to the Reeders at some point to get more information.

**Take the Limo to McDonald's**

Several Arthur Grade School students will get a special treat soon. The Arcola McDonald's, thanks to owners Mr. and Mrs. Matlock, will be hosting the limo-chauffeured group from AGS for students who met their

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## Condill to be contact person for AAEDC

Arthur Area Economic Development Corporation has announced that new AAEDC president Mac Condill, will be the contact person for now as the organization plans to move forward without the services of the late Bob Doan, Community Development Coordinator.

"You can still reach us at (217) 543-2232 with any questions or if you need assistance of

any kind," said Condill. "We appreciate everyone's patience as we take the time to evaluate the best way to proceed."

The AAEDC is already putting the final touches on their annual meeting which will be held in late April.

Josh Benitone of Crown Brew Coffee Company located in Carterville, Illinois, will be the guest speaker.



MR. AND MRS. LUST

## Leland, Delores Lust to celebrate 70th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Lust will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary with their family.

Leland and Dolores Askew were married January 22, 1949, in Decatur.

They are the parents of Ted

Lust and wife Danita of Tuscola, Carol Randall and husband Rod of Arthur and Debbie Gentile and husband Mike of Hammond.

Cards may be sent to 175 N. 900 E. Road, Hammond, IL 61929.

### Good Riddance, Rodents.

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**Did you know?**

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

Two-thirds of all the world's geysers are found in Yellowstone National Park.

Theodore Roosevelt's daughter, Alice, had a pet snake. She liked to carry it around the White House in her purse and take it out at unexpected moments.

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