

# MOUNT CARMEL REGISTER

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## Chamber looks forward to 2019

BY JAKE BETHEL  
THE REGISTER

MOUNT CARMEL — Each year, organizers at the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce look to build upon the previous year with the organizations activities and events.

This includes adding new events, of which there will be

a few in store for 2019, according to Chamber Director Lesley Hipsher. “Every year I think we learn a little bit about what works and doesn’t work,” she said.

One such new event will be what Hipsher calls “Chamber lunching and learning” events. With the first event of this style potentially set for March, Hip-

sher intends to make the event both fun and informative, with both beginners and experts in local business able to get something out of it.

Topics could be related to social media for the first event, Hipsher revealed, because of its burgeoning use as a business tool. “That’s really where you can

publicize events and specials,” she said.

People would share their experiences at these lunching and learning events, telling other attendees the things that worked for them and the things that didn’t.

Something else Hipsher revealed was the planned expansion of the Uptown holiday

decor. She said people will see new things Uptown during the 2019 holiday season, but that also means an increase in funding will be necessary.

“We will be doing a fundraising campaign this year to boost

SEE CHAMBER/PAGE A3

## CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES



Jake Bethel / The Register

With the project under a roof, crews worked inside The Villas of Holly Brook on Tuesday and moved dirt with excavators outside. Mayor Bill Hudson reported the project as coming along smoothly at the final city council meeting of 2018.

## Ex-priest named as abuser fired by city of Springfield

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The city of Springfield has fired a City Water, Light and Power employee whose name appeared on a list of Catholic priests credibly accused of child sex abuse.

The State Journal-Register reports 62-year-old Joseph D. Cernich was stripped of his priestly title in June 2003 and began working for the city five months later.

The Diocese of Springfield has refused to say which parishes Cernich had been assigned to as a priest or what

he was accused of doing.

Human Resources Director Jim Kuizin says Cernich was dismissed in December after an investigation into his hiring and employment. Kuizin declined to reveal the reasons for Cernich’s firing. The State Journal-Register reports there is no record of complaints or disciplinary action.

A request for comment from Cernich wasn’t answered. He can appeal the city’s decision to dismiss him through the Springfield Civil Service Commission or arbitration.

## Pritzker seeks higher salaries to attract top Cabinet talent

BY JOHN O’CONNOR  
AP POLITICAL WRITER

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois lawmakers on Monday backed initiatives pushed by Gov.-elect J.B. Pritzker, including giving approval to a change in state law to increase salaries by 15 percent for Cabinet members he hopes to hire.

The Democrat doesn’t take office for another week. But a Democratic-controlled House panel still passed the plan that would boost salaries. The transportation secretary and prison system directors, for example, would

be paid \$172,500 a year instead of the current \$150,000. Pritzker said current salaries are not competitive.

The Executive Committee also voted unanimously to allow Pritzker to replace all current members of the Illinois Tollway board, citing questionable spending and contracting.

The Cabinet-level salary bump is necessary to entice competent leadership to a state still smarting from billions of dollars of debt and other struggles in recent years, said

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### Daily Prayer

Dear Lord, may our eyes always be open to your abundant blessings. Amen.

### Inside

Comics	B5	Heloise’s hints	A5
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### Weather

Wednesday: 40/21 — Sunny  
Thursday: 33/22 — Partly cloudy  
Friday: 36/29 — Mostly cloudy



## Welcoming New Patients at Wabash General Hospital Primary Care

Levi McDaniel, MD, is currently accepting new patients at Wabash General Hospital Primary Care. Dr. McDaniel specializes in Internal Medicine, and is looking forward to providing quality care to the area communities.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. McDaniel, please call 618-263-4376 today.



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