

# The Virden Recorder

A lively newspaper, the pulse of a growing area

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## Spotlight

Thayer celebrated its Centennial Saturday with a parade and full schedule of events. Shown above is the Parade Grand Marshall, Elizabeth Jane Baines, Thayer's oldest resident.

## Thayer marks centennial

Hundreds lined Thayer's streets Saturday as the village celebrated its 100th year with a parade and full day of activities.

Following the parade which featured 40 entries, Village President Brian Wood thanked all for coming as Thayer marked its 100th anniversary.

"Those of us on the village board and other citizens who helped put this together have enjoyed doing it, but this is our biggest joy -- watching you all being here and celebrating our existence with us. This town was formed as a coal mining town. The only reason it was here was because the coal company came and sunk a shaft here. But when the mine closed in 1920, most towns that were formed that way disappeared.

"Our city has thrived and survived for 100 years which is fairly rare in those kind of conditions. I think it's because the main things that have drawn us here is that it is a residential community. The things we like here and the reason we like to call this home is because of friends, family, neighbors and community.

"One of the reasons that we have survived is because we are between three other little towns that are basically our school system, our economic shopping base nearby, so we're really just a bedroom community but it's still a good place to live

and an enjoyable place to call home."

Wood acknowledged the reputation Thayer had in years past — during prohibition it was known as "Poodock" and "we were a wild city."

"We're not as wild as we used to be but we think we still know how to throw a party," Wood continued. "So we welcome you here and thank you all for coming. Please enjoy the games, the food and everything else we have planned for the day."

In introducing Rep. Gwenn Klingler, Wood said she was instrumental in helping Thayer get a public sewer system as well as improve its water system.

Rep. Klingler presented Mayor Wood a proclamation which stated: "The House of Representatives acknowledges the Village of Thayer in recognition of the Centennial Celebration; enjoins the commemoration of the effort, dedication and hard work that led to success and further expresses its best wishes for happiness in future achievements."

She congratulated Thayer and said she was delighted working on the community's behalf. She said when she first came to the Thayer Community Center eight years ago it did not have a handicapped accessible ramp and also had problems with the roof. "We were able to get a grant to fix up the community center." She said she will be glad to continue working on village improvements in the future.



Rep. Gwenn Klingler from the 100th District presents a State of Illinois Proclamation to Thayer Village President Brian Wood recognizing the community on its 100th anniversary. Other elected officials in the audience included Rep. Raymond Poe from the 99th District, State Senator Larry Bomke, and Sangamon County Sheriff Neil Williamson.



Two-year-old Natalie Bednar won first place in the Thayer Centennial Celebration costume contest Saturday. Natalie is the great-granddaughter of Elaine Bednar of Thayer, granddaughter of John Bednar of Thayer, daughter of Tony Bednar and Amanda Lowe.



Thayer United Methodist Church was among those participating in the Thayer Centennial Parade Saturday with the theme, "Watch Us Grow." Their initial church was built in 1902 but they were forced to level the building last week due to structural problems. Currently they have raised \$83,000 toward their goal of \$200,000 for a new church.



Virden Sons of the American Legion provided the Color Guard Saturday for Thayer's Centennial Parade. Shown above are Brian Willoughby (left), Dave Wargo, Jimmy Coppinger, and Bill Bruce.

## Church of the Brethren offers lunch, country bakery Nov. 3

Members of the Virden Church of the Brethren have scheduled their annual Luncheon and Country Bakery

for Sat., Nov. 3, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at 344 West Dean, Virden. The luncheon will feature a variety of dishes