

individuals interested in becoming members to assist in the growth of the organization by attending monthly meetings. (Staff photos by Janice Smith)

nesses, with proceeds from the event designated to help further the Community Center project.

Chamber of Commerce

Guest speaker Senator McCann updates members on local government and his future plans

The Dec. 13 meeting of Girard Chamber of Commerce was brought to order by President Victor Angulo, followed by Pledge and prayer by Dominican Sister Anna Marie.

Interim treasurer Dr. Todd Babcock reported on the business district sign posted at Girard's four-way stop. Some spots remain available at \$25 each, then \$50 per year for each. Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Guest speaker Senator Sam McCann addressed those attending, providing an update and views on state government and school funding reform. A question/answer session followed, with Chamber/city councilman Randy Gray asking if McCann plans to run as an independent on the ticket in the race for governor, McCann stating serious consideration is being given, a

matter to be discussed with his family. McCann previously announced he will not seek re-election for the Republican Senate seat. Questions were also fielded from Byron Berry of Pharmacy Plus, commending McCann for his efforts to find solutions and questioning the climate for an independent candidate; and from Sister Anna Marie, questioning McCann's accessibility for public forums, such as the morning meeting, to reach and teach young adults on the issues at hand.

Miss Girard Madalyn Robi-nette attended the meeting, reporting on holiday activities and appearances lined up for herself and Little Miss, Mister; Randy Gray announced the Toys for Tots campaign is underway, with anyone wanting to donate may contact Girard Police Chief Dave Campbell.

Todd Babcock gave an update on the Community Center construction, major projects completed with the exception of the kitchen. Fundraising continues, with Babcock estimating \$10,000 to \$15,000 in additional funds will be needed for that portion of the project. Commemorative bricks are still available for purchase for those interested.

Previous minutes were unanimously approved, followed by a report from Peggy Giles as Nominating Committee member. Giles stated additional membership and involvement for the Chamber is needed, commending the organization and its efforts toward the community. The search continues for a treasurer, with Todd Babcock currently serving as interim. Other nominations included Randy Gray

as president, Darrin Burnett as vice president and Deb Burnett as secretary.

Sister Anna Marie, accompanied by Sisters Miriam, David Marie, Mary Stephen and Emanuella, addressed the Chamber on their mission and progress on their monastery building, moving to the area and purchasing property on Greenridge Road approximately three years ago. The Dominicans agreed they wish to become a vital and active part of the community.

A sign-up sheet was passed for sponsorship of each Chamber breakfast meeting, followed by a report on the Girard Fire District by President John Earley. Earley announced a Northwestern Fire District is being formed and efforts are underway to ensure proper coverage is met by each surrounding District, careful to not overlap in coverage. Earley

stated the Girard District has been busy providing mutual aid to neighboring Districts.

Darrin Burnett reported on the Festival of Doors event at Pleasant Hill Residence and Village, commending District #34 Schools, Dr. Jay Goble and Principal John Downs for students participation in decorating the doors; Randy Gray gave the City Council report, which included Route 4 culvert installation and related city sewer issues within the project, presenting great expense to the city.

John and Jeanette Earley sponsored the morning breakfast, with the next meeting set for Jan. 10, 2018.

Also attending the meeting: Deb Burnett, Dr. Jay Goble, Bill Giles, Sydney Gray, Millie Burgess, Nadia Berry and Janice Smith.