

Diamond damage investigated



Summer projects underway



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Unit 1 spending to top \$39.5 million

Tentative budget includes 9% jump in revenue

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Unit 1 School District entered into a new fiscal year on July 1 and five days later it placed on file a budget that, in its tentative form, puts expenditures at \$39.5 million, an increase of 4.52% from the prior year.

Revenues for fiscal year 2024 are projected at \$38.7 million, an increase of 9.1%. The figures reflected in the financial plan are guaranteed to change prior to the budget adoption in

September.

As the district's chief school business official Jason Smith told the Board of Education, "This year is probably a little bit different than previous years because there are several things going on that will impact what the final budget looks like compared to this," Smith said.

Two key items that will factor into the final figures are collective bargaining and capital improvements.

The contract between the Coal City Community Unit 1 Education Association [CCUEA], the union representing the district's certified teaching staff, and Board of Education expires this year.

The two sides are negotiating terms including salary adjustments. "Negotiations with the teacher have an impact on how the final numbers adjust out,"

Smith said.

Additionally, the district has engaged in a facility improvement project and there is a cost to that.

The Board is currently considering its funding options and according to Smith, "based on the funding discussions this Board has, and decisions they make about some of the capital projects, it might involve some bonding particularly where certain expenses and revenues come from based on the timing of things."

There are a number of projects on the improvement list including a renovation of the high school stadium and that could come with in the next fiscal year.

And, as always there are finals adjustments that come between tentative and final budget. Revenues reflected in the tentative budget

show \$35.4 million is to come from local sources—\$17 million coming from a negotiated tax agreement with Constellation Dresden Generating Station.

State funds are projected at \$2.4 million and federal dollars received should be around \$860,000.

The majority of all funds received go to support the education fund and in the coming fiscal year spending from that fund is projected at \$26.2 million.

Since the education fund is where salaries and benefits are paid, that is one line item that will certainly change prior to September. There is already a 7.39% increase reflected in the education fund from what was budgeted the prior

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2



SITE WORK IS underway for the Jewel-Osco that will anchor the new Diamond Marketplace Shopping Center at Route 113 and Will Road. The 62,000 square-foot grocery store will include a pharmacy and Starbucks.

Images courtesy of Albertsons Companies

Diamond's new Jewel

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Blue jeans, boots, pharmacy and food—four key items the mayor of Diamond has been working to secure for the village.

In the past year, Kernc and the Diamond Village Board have secured two of the items that have been written on a white board in her village hall office—food and pharmacy.

Village officials announced last fall that after nearly two decades of coaxing, Jewel-Osco is moving forward with plans to construct a 62,000 square-foot grocery store on the southeast corner of Route 113 and Will Road.

The store—complete with a pharmacy and Starbucks—will serve as the anchor of the new Diamond Marketplace Shopping Center, a site the mayor expects will begin to develop now that Jewel is under construction.

The site includes five outlots of a little over one acre that front Route 113. There is enough space for another anchor type store.

"I have some meetings coming up with [with potential businesses] and it's going to be really exciting if it happens," Kernc said.

The level of excitement inside the Village Hall is at a high as the mayor watches



Images courtesy of Albertsons Companies

THE OSCO WILL be located on the west side of the 62,000 square foot building and include a drive-up window. The store is slated to open in the first quarter of 2024.

the Jewel-Osco take shape.

Earth-moving work began last month, a project that comes at price of more than \$1 million.

Initial site work includes grading, construction of a retaining wall, multi-use paths and access points.

Ingress and egress from the store will be along Will Road and that requires enclosing the deep ditch running along the east side of the roadway.

Crews have cleared the ditch in preparation for the

installation of a 4-foot by 8-foot culvert that will extend south from Route 113 along the property line.

The entire 40 acre site was acquired in 2004 by TBS Development Services Group, Inc., for Albertsons, the parent company of Jewel. Even with changes in the company's corporate structure over the past two decades the concept of operating a store in Diamond never wavered.

The company's investment in Diamond is around \$30 million and it did receive

an incentive package from the village that includes tax increment financing funds and sales tax reimbursement, as well as the ability to utilize economic incentives that come with the village's enterprise zone such as sales tax exemptions on purchases of building materials and manufacturing equipment.

The village also committed funds toward site development.

Construction of the building will commence once

SEE JEWEL, PAGE 2

\$41 billion plan to repair Illinois roads

Local projects include bridge replacements, I-55 interchanges

STAFF REPORT

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Transportation unveiled a plan on Friday for spending nearly \$41 billion in federal, state and local funds over the next six years to repair and upgrade roads, bridges, airports, rail lines and other infrastructure throughout the state.

The state has earmarked \$143.7 million for interchange reconstruction and bridge replacement along Interstate 55 at Route 129 and Lorenzo roads and the village of Coal City is set to received ADA upgrades estimated at \$500,000.

The latest version of the plan, which IDOT updates annually, is the largest multi-year plan in state history. It's driven by the state's 2019 Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure program. The initial six-year Rebuild Illinois plan included \$33.2 billion for transportation, funded largely by annualized increases to the state's motor fuel tax and increases to driving-related licensing fees that took effect in 2020.

"Over the next six years, we're investing over \$40 billion to improve all modes of transportation across our great state," Gov. JB Pritzker said at a news conference in Springfield. "And that means better roads and bridges, modernized transit and aviation, and expanded and faster passenger rail service."

More than half of the plan, \$27 billion, will go toward road and bridge projects, including \$4.6 billion in the current fiscal year. That will fund repair and reconstruction of 2,866 miles of roadway and 9.8 million square feet of bridge deck on the state highway system, along with another 738 miles of roadway and 1.1 million square feet of bridge deck in systems maintained by local governments.

The project list includes a variety of improvements across Grundy and Will counties including replacement of

the two bridges that carry Interstate 80 over the DesPlaines River.

The bridge replacement is part of an estimated \$1 billion improvement that begins at Ridge Road in Minooka and extends east along the interstate to US Route 30 in New Lenox.

The improvements set for the year 2025-2029 include Interstate 55 at Route 129 and Lorenzo Road for interchange reconstruction and bridge replacement, reconstruction and utility adjustments, construction of auxiliary lanes, widening and resurfacing of 2.5 miles of highway. The \$160.5 million project also includes engineering for design, location and environmental studies, land acquisition and construction engineering.

The ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] sidewalk improvements slated for Coal City will extend along Route 113 from DeWitt Place east to Lincoln Street.

"This is a major corridor for Coal City and we invite any investment in the community," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

The area slated for improvement is also a main access for children who walk and bike to school, and the administrator noted it will enhance safe routes to school.

"So to have ADA sidewalks will be greatly appreciated," Fritz said.

Additional projects for Grundy County include bridge improvements on Interstate 55 southwest of Gardner Road, a \$2 million bridge replacement on Route 117 east of Reddick, reconstruction Route 6 from Lakewood Drive to Route 47 in the city of Morris and bridge replacement on Tabler Road over the I&M canal.

The multiyear plan also earmarks \$13.96 billion for other modes of transportation, including \$9.85 billion for transit systems, \$2.67 billion for freight and passenger rail, \$1.25 billion for aviation projects, and \$190 million for ports

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 2



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Coffee with a cop

Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim will be handing out cups of coffee at McDonald's next week and Grundy County Sheriff Ken Briley will be there to lend him a hand.

The Coal City Police Department and Grundy County Sheriff's Office have partnered with Coal City McDonald's for the Coffee with a Cop event. It is a chance for the two law enforcement agencies to connect with the community over a cup of joe, and that cup will be provided at no cost.

Everyone who attends the Thursday, July 20 event will be treated to a free small hot or iced coffee between 9 and 11 a.m. They will also get a chance to chat with the law enforcement leaders and maybe an officer or two.

Harseim will also be handing out some specialized police department merchandise to those who stop by.

"This is going to be a cool event," Harseim said.

Budget

year.

If the final figure does not change the balance in the fund at the close of FY 24 would be \$15.6 million.

The second largest expense fund for the district is operations and maintenance where spending will be \$5.3 million with \$4.4 million in revenue.

Overall revenues, at this time, fall short of planned expenditures by just over \$822,500.

Jewel

the site work has been completed, and recently released images from the company provide a view of what is forthcoming.

"They want it under roof by winter, so they are doing everything they can to make that happen," Kernc said.

The construction timeline has the project at 10 months with a completion date in the first quarter of 2024. From all indications, construction is moving along as expected.

Kernc said she is in regular communication with the company's president, "he is just as excited as I am. We just can't wait [for competition] they are going to be great partners."

For Kernc the goal has always been to provide for the residents and that means securing the services they need and want.

"If they don't want to leave town to go to Joliet, Morris or Kankakee and just want to get their food and pharmacy here in Diamond they are going to be able to do that. If they want to go to the doctor's office here in Diamond, they can do that," Kernc said.

In checking off two of the four items on her list, Kernc said she's added a few more.

"I am not one to settle, so if we can embellish on that goal and do more for residents then we continue," Kernc said. The next item that may be added to the list is a hotel.

"We have the space and incentives in place to start bringing these things in," she said.

Projects

and waterways.

Transportation Secretary Omer Osman said the \$41 billion six-year plan represents a 10% increase over the previous multiyear plan, and the money earmarked for the current fiscal year represents a 25 percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Through four years of the Rebuild Illinois program, IDOT has completed \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide, including 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges, and 762 other safety improvements.

Peter Hancock of Capitol News Illinois contributed much of this story.

Grundy County seeking bids to replace windows and doors at sheriff's office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County Sheriff Office Window and Door Replacement Project

Sealed bids will be received for the replacement of eleven (11) windows, and option to replace up to three (3) Doors for the Grundy County Sheriff's Office. Sealed envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior "Sheriff Office Project" and contain three (3) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee or agent for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

All work includes a BASE BID plus pricing for all optional work that the County of Grundy may require the Contractor to perform during the contract period.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., July 21st, 2023 at the office of the Grundy County Purchasing Manager ATTN: Alec Macdonald, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At that time, sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Walk-through will be held at 111 E. Illinois Ave. Morris, IL 60450 on June 30th, 2023; at 10:00am.

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy Purchasing Manager, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundycountyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp or online at www.demandstar.com/app/agencies/illinois/grundy-county/procurement-opportunities. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive technical errors or informalities in bids.

Chris Balkema

County Board Chairman

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, June 14, 21, 28, July 5 and 12, 2023.

Foreclosure sale of 1304 Burns Lane

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

BMO HARRIS BANK NA; Plaintiff, -v.- FELICIA L. BARNES; LAKEWOOD TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; Defendants, 22 FC 10

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

That part of Lot 600 in Lakewood Trails Unit 2B being a subdivision of part of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 14 and part of the North Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 14, all in Township 34 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded March 1, 2005 as Document Number 445379, and amended by Certificate of Correction recorded July 12, 2005, as Document Number 450570, described as follows:

Beginning at the Southeastly corner of said Lot 600; thence South 68 degrees 39 minutes 03 seconds West, 117.92 feet; thence North 00 degrees 19 minutes 59 seconds West, 65.93 feet; thence North 89 degrees 47 minutes 28 seconds East, 116.16 feet to a point on a curve; thence Southerly along a curve nontangent to the last described line being concave Easterly having a radius of 60.00 feet and a chord bearing of South 14 degrees 14 minutes 06 seconds West a distance of 24.32 feet to the point of beginning, in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois.

P.I.N. 03-14-103-025.

Commonly known as 1304 Burns Lane, Minooka, IL 60447.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Number 22-000341 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13224206

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, July 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Vocational students commended

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

At this month's meeting of the Unit 1 Board of Education, Superintendent Chris Spencer called out the success of vocational education students—specifically those enrolled in the Grundy Area Vocational Center's health occupations program.

Spencer noted that 99% of the center's health occupations students who took the certified nursing assistant [CNA] certification exam passed.

"They did a remarkable job," Spencer said, going on to state that 100% of students passed the certified medical assistant [CMA] and EKG testing.

"You look at these numbers and they are just amazing. What a great program," Board president Ken P. Miller said.

Students enrolled in the

health occupations program represent high school students from the center's feeder schools including Coal City High School.

"Hats off to [instructor] Jen Shell and her staff. I thought this was something that definitely needed to be mentioned," Spencer said.

In other matters from the July 5 meeting:

- Jennifer Kenney, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, reported summer curriculum work has concluded with teachers logging more than 740 hours of paid work between May 26 and June 26.
- Among the main accomplishments were the development of curriculum for new courses at the high school and the adoption of new math materials across all grade levels.

"Thanks go out to the

department leaders that make this process run smoothly and are always working on improvements in their subject areas," Kenney said.

- Coal City Theatre Department director Jack Micetich presented the Board with an overview of the drama club's educational trip to New York City during spring break 2024.
- The four-day trip, funded by students, will include workshops with actors and theatre professionals, Broadway performances and theatre focused tours.
- Board members approved a high school band and chorus performance trip to Disney World during spring break 2025.

The trip, coordinated by vocal music director Michael Kren, will include instructional and performance time in the park.

- Board members approved filing the dropout report for the quarter ending May 24 with the Regional Office of Education.
- Jason Smith, the district's chief school business official, was once again appointed as the district's Title IX and non discrimination coordinator and sex equity hearing officer.
- Luke Kripple, director of special populations, was appointed liaison of student records for the Department of Children and Family Services.
- The Board approved entering into a three year lease agreement with American Capital Financial for ViewSonic Interactive Board at an annual cost of \$48,798.12

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Aug. 2 with a study session on July 26. Both meetings are held in the district administration center beginning at 6 p.m.

Teaching staff in place for new academic year

STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 School District has its teaching staff in place ahead of a new academic year.

"I feel we have good candidates for our spots," Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

The district will welcome 10 new teachers in August with the recent hiring of Nicole Wiltz, third grade special ed co-taught teacher; and Willow DeKruiff, deaf and hard of hearing teacher.

In order to have a full staff in place prior to the start of the school year, the Board of Education authorized Spencer to hire as needed. There are still aides and paraprofessional positions that need to be filled.

The superintendent commended the work of the district's principals, assistant principals and director of special populations in finding quality candidates.

"Right now we are staffed fully with our teachers and we are excited about that. You never know what's going to happen between now and then, but as of now we are fully staffed," Spencer said.

Unit 1 teachers return to school in one month and, following two institute

days, will welcome students.

The district's new staff will begin the year with three days of orientation starting Aug. 7, including time working with their assigned mentor.

Spencer approved the list of teacher mentors which includes Kim Sondergroth, Keith Kiper, Amy Siefken, Amanda Patten, Robin Fincher, Sharon Swink, Sarah Veronda, Rianne O'Donnell, Cealy DePersia and Katie Sobin.

Sobin has also been named as the special services department leader.

In other personnel matters announced at the Board of Education's July 7 meeting:

- Based on an administrative recommendation, the Board approved the termination of custodian Juan Guerrero.
- Lindsey Watters will transfer from the elementary school to the early childhood center as a special education co-taught teacher.
- Jennifer Munsterman and Pam McMurtrey have been named middle school student council sponsors; Kerry Yedinak, middle school club green sponsor; and Robin Fincher to the sixth grade before school assistance program.
- Emily Hayse, with use of accumulated sick time, was granted a 30-day paid

maternity leave from the start of the school year through Sept. 25. She was also granted a 60-day unpaid leave. She is expected to return to her high school classroom with the start of the second semester on Jan. 8, 2024.

Additionally, Hayse submitted her resignation as the high school Scholastic Bowl coach.

- A 28-day paid maternity leave was granted to sixth grade teacher Valerie Clark from approximately Sept. 18 to Oct. 26 and a 38-day unpaid family medical leave [FMLA] through the end of the first semester. She plans to return to work in Jan. 8, 2024.
- The Board received and granted seven retirement requests.

Terese Bruzzino, physical education teacher at the elementary school; Sharon Swink, eighth grade English teacher; and high school English teacher Greg Wills are all set to retire at the close of the 2025-2026 school year.

And, Michelle Painter, middle school guidance counselor; Michael Kostbade, high school science teacher; and middle school physical education teachers Ryan Bunton and Mark Masters will close out their careers at the end of the 2026-2027 school year.

Stepping off the big parade



Photo by Bill Bomba

ST. JUVIN POST 1336 members prepare to mount up on the lead unit for the Carbon Hill Homecoming Parade Earl (Shorty) Fatlan, junior vice commander Jim Richards, scholarship finalists Anabell Ehrman and Carley Morris, life member Jack Micetich and founder of the Post scholarship program, life member Mike Lareau and commander James "Hoppy" Phillips.

vice commander Jim Richards and Earl "Shorty" Fatlan manned the beer garden on Saturday, June 24 as part of

their community service commitment and have been doing so for the past few years.

Additionally, St. Juvins Post members staffed the veteran's information tent at the entrance to the Homecoming grounds.

The Carbon Hill Homecoming, a long running

family friendly event, is complete with carnival rides and concessions, bingo and softball games and a closing fireworks display was a well attended event and the parade route lined with hundreds standing for the passing of the flag.

Just Bee Massage Therapy files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on July 7, A.D. 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Just Bee Massage Therapy, located at PO Box 314, Coal City, IL 60416.

Dated this 7th day of July, A.D. 2023.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Garfield Township makes audit available

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Garfield Township Annual Audit Report Available for Public Inspection

An Audit of the funds of Garfield Township for the year ending March 31, 2023 has been completed by the audit firm of Mack & Associates, P.C., certified public accountants. A copy of the audit report has been filed with the Grundy County Clerk, and is available for viewing upon request.

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 12, 2023.

Petition for name change of Stoudt Minors

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS, COUNTY OF GRUNDY, SS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the petition to change the name(s) of NAOMI LYNN STODT to the new name of NAOMI LYNN RODRIGUEZ and ROBERTO MANUEL STODT to the new name of ROBERTO MANUEL RODRIGUEZ and LEO ADAM STODT to the new name of LEO ADAM RODRIGUEZ and SARA EILEEN STODT to the new name of SARA EILEEN RODRIGUEZ, Case No. 2023 MR 13

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the request of: Megan Lynn Stoudt to change the names of minors, Naomi Lynn Stoudt, Roberto Manuel Stoudt, Leo Adam Stoudt and Sara Eileen Stoudt, who shall appear in the Grundy County Court, Room W, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450 at 9:00 a.m. on the 1st day of August, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the names of NAOMI LYNN STODT be changed to NAOMI LYNN RODRIGUEZ, ROBERTO MANUEL STODT be changed to ROBERTO MANUEL RODRIGUEZ, LEO ADAM STODT be changed to LEO ADAM RODRIGUEZ and SARA EILEEN STODT be changed to SARA EILEEN RODRIGUEZ.

/s/ Megan L. Stoudt
Petitioner

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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon

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E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Summer improvements for Unit 1 schools

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The most visible improvement being undertaken this summer is the construction of a new access road at Coal City Middle School. But that's not the only project on the school district's to-do list.

Big ticket items like the roadway and new and reconfigured parking lots at the middle school and renovations to the high school weight room are included in the district's facility improvement plan.

Based on teacher and public input during the district's strategic planning process last summer, the Board of Education directed its architectural firm to complete a facility improvement plan.

The multi-page document, drafted with input from district stakeholders, was presented to the Board in December and by March projects were underway.

Improvements to the high school weight room are expected to be completed in early August, just in time for the start of a new school year.

The work included opening up the weight and fitness rooms into one space, new flooring will be installed, electrical upgrades completed and new workout equipment.

Construction of the road and parking lots commenced late last month and when finished will serve to ease traffic congestion and increase parking for those attending school events.



A FLOORING PROJECT has been completed at Coal City Middle School. The tile floor was removed and replaced.

"It's exciting to see the progress on the road and progress is being made every day," Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

D Construction was awarded the \$920,000 contract. The local contractor will also complete \$368,238 in parking lot paving projects.

Spencer commended the company for its work to get the projects completed in a timely manner.

"They are here in the morning before most of us and they are here when we leave at night," the superintendent said.

Along with the projects taking place outside of the building, work has been going on inside.

A middle school flooring project aimed at fixing moisture issues in some portions of the building commenced at the close of the academic year and has been completed at a cost of \$284,405.

The work consisted of changing out the tiles for a concrete flooring surface.

"We are very happy with the way it turned out. It looks sharp and is a lot better than the tile that was there" Spencer said.

Items outlined in the facility improvement plan for each of the district's five school buildings remain under review by the Board of Education and that low level discussions on financing options that are expected to be presented to the board members in the coming months.

Projects outlined for consideration including building additions, new roofs, reconfiguration of classroom spaces and renovation of the high school stadium that could include an expansion of the running track and installation of a turf playing surface.

Wills will be back in the dugout for the Coalers

Rivera to head middle school wrestling program

STAFF REPORT

Greg Wills will be back in the dugout with the varsity Coalers baseball team next spring.

After resigning his position in 2022, Wills will reclaim head coaching duties—at least for up to three more seasons.

Jerry McDowell, a hall of famer who coached the district's middle and high school teams for 22 years, came back to oversee the team when the position opened.

"I want to take a minute and thank Jerry McDowell for stepping up when we needed someone," Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

The contract between the Coal City Unit Education Association [CCUEA] and Board of Education allows the district to employ a non-association member to an extra-curricular post for a period of one year or less if no qualified association member applies.

The intent was for McDowell to continue coaching the Coalers, but per contract language the position was opened and interest was expressed within the association's membership.

"We are happy with the job [McDowell] did. However, contract language leads to what we have to do sometimes and this is one of those times," Spencer said.

Spencer praised McDowell for the time and commitment he has given to the program.

Wills took over following McDowell's retirement

in 2017 and led the Coalers for five seasons prior to announcing his plans to not only step down from coaching, but to retire at the close of the 2025-2026 school year.

A few months later he rescinded his letter of retirement, however he resubmitted his letter this month and with the Board of Education's acceptance of that it means he will have just three more years with the district.

Wills was on the field this spring coaching the junior varsity squad and has been coaching at the middle school level for several years.

In other coaching matters addressed by the Unit 1 Board of Education:

- Joey Rivera was named the head wrestling coach at the Coal City Middle School.

Rivera was a state champion wrestler for Coal City at both the middle and high school levels and continued at the collegiate level while attending Millikin University.

He succeeds Brandon Peterson who stepped down from his coaching duties at the close of the 2022-2023 season.

Rivera, a fourth grade teacher at the Intermediate School, is beginning his second year coaching at the middle school level.

- At the recommendation of athletic director Dan Hutchings,

Kassandra Marsala was named B softball coach at the middle school; Nick Peters, seventh grade boys basketball coach, and Michelle Painter, assistant varsity volleyball coach at the high school.

- The extra curricular resignation of assistant girls tennis coach Belinda Egan was accepted.

Damage in Diamond

STAFF REPORT

A rash of criminal damage to property reports have recently been made in the village of Diamond, namely in the areas of Diamond Estates, Burt Estates and along Will Road.

The most recent damage reports were made Monday with a series of broken windows.

A week earlier, sometime between midnight and 3 a.m. on July 4, someone damaged benches located on the bike path adjacent to McGinty Street. The benches were constructed and installed as part of a Boy Scout Eagle project.

As village officials report, this incident followed a string of vandalism and criminal activity conducted by unknown subjects.

During the month of June there were reports of spikes in the roadway, residents doors being kicked, battery and disorderly conduct, incidents that come with a financial cost to residents and the village.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office is seeking information on the vandalism and ask individuals that have video or



BENCHES INSTALLED ALONG the bike path in the village of Diamond were damaged over the Fourth of July holiday. Mayor Terry Kernc said the village will seek the prosecution of the offenders.

anything that would help identify the suspects to contact them. Additionally, they ask that any criminal activity be reported to their office.

Mayor Terry Kernc commended the sheriff's office for its responsiveness and efforts to combat to criminal activity in the village.

New student registration begins Thursday

The Unit 1 School District will host in-person registration for students new to Coal City schools.

New students registering for classes in the fall need to complete the pre-registration form on the district's website at www.coalcitieschools.org.

Registration is set for Thursday, July 13 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, July 18 from 4-6 p.m. in the district administration center.

The cost to register a student is pre-kindergarten \$50, kindergarten to fifth grade \$70, middle school \$85 and high school \$100.

It's been a hot, dry summer

Grundy County five days of temperatures over 90 degrees during the month of June. The peak temp was 93.7 degrees on June 24 based on data collected by the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency's weather data division.

The daily high combined with the daily low—46.3 degrees on June 12—resulted in an average monthly temperature of 71 degrees.

Precipitation, however, was down from the prior month and the prior year. Total rainfall was 1.73 for June bringing the total precipitation for the year to 14.05 inches, a difference of nearly 4 inches from the same time in 2022. There were eight days with

measurable rain last month with the most in a 24-hour period being just .79 inches. The peak wind gust for the month occurred June 25 at 40 mph.

The monthly weather data is recorded and kept on file at the GCCEMA's office in the Grundy County Administration Center in Morris.

freepressnewspapers.com

Raffle winner



COAL CITY LIONS Club President Dennis Wills awarded the 50/50 raffle winner, Wayne Bulthuis, of Diamond his prize of \$1,260 at the Carbon Hill Homecoming.



Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner



Cameron Lovell

Winner of a large 2-item Pizza, carry-out only

Must redeem by July 17, 2023

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 38 years!"

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

Youth sports camps coming up

The Unit 1 School District is offering youth athletic camps with instruction in baseball, softball and soccer coming up next week.

The cost to participate is \$35. A link to the online registration is located under the athletics tab on the district website at coalcitieschools.org.

Youth Baseball — Grades 6-8, July 17-21 from 9-10:30 a.m., high school baseball field.

Youth Softball — Grades 4-8, July 17-21 from 10:30 to noon, high school softball field.

Youth Soccer — Grades 6-8 [COED], July 24-28 from 6-8 p.m., high school soccer field.



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Opinion vs. fact

CUSTER PARK—This is in response to the sound off “Support your department”. I would like to start this out by saying I have been to meetings in the past and actually several times have been one of the very few that actually attend. Secondly I would like to call you out in several things you said that are not factual and are merely your personal opinion. Facts #1: The residents are paying for a ambulance service and if you attend the meetings you would know that multiple times they have moved money from the ambulance fund to the general fund to cover their expenses. Fact #2: Braidwood has, from my understanding, five people on duty 24/7/365 and Custer has a unknown amount of people on duty 24/7/365, but yet our tax rate is higher than the Braidwood residents. Fact #3: You stated in your article “I fully support the department and will move out before I ever agree to have Braidwood come to my town and have my taxes raised.” The current Braidwood tax rate for the Fire District is at a lower rate than ours. So if there was a merger our taxes would actually decrease. Finally I will add you stated “Instead of bashing the Custer Park Fire District as an anonymous person” but yet you posted your article anonymously? Seem hypocritical, just a little bit. Please do some actual research before sharing an uneducated opinion.

Investigate his own

WILMINGTON— Trump vowed at his South Carolina rally this past weekend that he would appoint a new special counsel to probe the Biden family if elected president. I wonder if he will also appoint a new special counsel to probe how daughter Ivanka made millions in China and son-in-law Jared made billions from the Saudis while Trump was president the first time around?

Beautiful flowers

COAL CITY—The flowers on Broadway look gorgeous. Thanks for adding color to our small town. Keep up the good work.

More political lies

MORRIS—President Biden has ordered another \$500 million gifted to the war in Ukraine. Does anyone know how the billions already gifted from the U.S.A. are being spent by whom and what for? We as a nation are trillions in debt. Our children and grandchildren's future looks rather gloomy. Also President Biden claims all is well across the country. Recent news is 150 Walgreens stores are closing across the U.S.A. More and more political lies. God bless our Supreme Court with the last couple of rulings at least some have good common sense on school issues especially doing away with student loans for free. President Biden is angry about the rulings, so be it.

Insane idea

MORRIS—NASCAR races in downtown Chicago, another insane idea with an outrageous cost, plus traffic revisions would be mad-dening. As insane as the \$1 billion cost for railroad's high speed rail between Chicago and St. Louis, saving 15 minutes less time. Our Illinois tax dollars at work. Thousands more illegals being shipped to our sanctuary state and Chicago sanctuary city from 130 different countries. Supplying food and health care all free of charge to illegals the cost will end up in the billions. Are we dealing with stupid or who cares? Many don't speak English. Thanks, Joe.

Biggest eyesore in town

WILMINGTON—To the Wilmington mayor, city council and city lawyer. You guys are so hell-bent on campers in Wilmington, but yet you fail to see what's going on in town. I feel so sorry for all the travelers coming to Wilmington to the Launching Pad to see the Gemini Giant, only to find a junk car sitting in front of it. Don't we have an ordinance in town for eyesores? Also just west on the south side the junk house. It's been there forever. Is it livable? How long do we have to look at it? Is there an ordinance to take care of that or somebody sitting on their hands. My wife and I raise three children here and now I pay over \$6,000 in taxes. What does Wilmington have to offer families in this town? We have one grocery store (The other one is up for grabs). Your going to lose three car dealerships soon. I remember years ago when I first moved here we had a real mayor and real council members and a real city lawyer. What happened? Maybe you need to start pushing to clean this town up, all your aldermen are sitting on their hands. If you can't get somebody in there to do their job, find somebody who will. We need young people who want to make a name for themselves. Take time and drive through Coal City, Diamond, Braidwood see if you find junk cars, junk houses and dealerships gone. There is no reason why Wilmington should look this way. I think the Free Press should do an article on why the junk car is in front of the Gemini giant and why that house has been abandoned for so long for the taxpayers of Wilmington.

Be aware

GARDNER—"Moms For Liberty" coming

to a school board near you. Please be aware of this group claiming to be just a bunch of moms for liberty and the well being of children. They are actually a front for the Oath Keepers and Proud Boys who want to take over your school boards. I saw they were trying to infiltrate Will County and failed (so far), but it will only be a matter of time before they come here if they haven't already tried. They want books banned, history revised and not taught. They are not for liberty and freedom. They're for violence, White Christian Nationalism, and the teachings of Hitler. The Republican party has shamelessly embraced this group and other right-wing, fascist militias. We have to be vigilant and protect our Democracy and freedom. Be smart, be aware and vote.

A happy wish

WILMINGTON—I'd like to wish a happy 4th to the people who didn't take the 5th about the 6th.

Always smiling

COAL CITY—Hi, I just wanted to thank Nancy at The Dollar Store in Coal City, she is so helpful and always smiling. Thank you very much, Cathy B. Braceville.

Cocaine found

DIAMOND—On the news July 5th, it was stated while the president and his son were at Camp David there was cocaine located on the West wing of the White House. The White House has now become a drug dealing sanctuary. So which member of the White House is involved in a top level drug dealing and will the people involved in illegal drugs in the White House be prosecuted like any other American citizen? Or will the Department of Justice overlook more crimes by this administration? Is this administration controlled by criminal element when crime seems to be the complete agenda. While they deprive American citizens of legal rights in the U.S.A. Will a deal be made by the Attorney General that is just as crooked as any crime family. It is doubtful that anyone will be prosecuted for this crime. How long has it been snowing indoors at the White House?

Plight of the poor

WILMINGTON—This is directed to the caller in Diamond who accused Democrats hypocrisy as it pertains to the rule of law. As a Democrat, I can say I'd encourage an investigation and prosecution of any Democrat accused of sexual assault and rape and obstruction of justice in an election interference. If any Democrats encourage insurrection and treason I would hope we would investigate. I don't know if it's a crime to give aid to immigrants but I know those buses and airplanes hired by Abbott and DeSantis were paid for with tax dollars. I do know that ignoring the plight of the poor is a crime against Jesus. So if you call yourself a Christian you might want to re-examine your faith.

The big push

BRAIDWOOD—I can't for the life of me understand what the big, fast, push is for Braidwood to suddenly want control of Custer's Fire House. Then I took a look at the website for the new solar farm that is going in this year in Custer's Township. Don't believe me, take a look for yourself. It states the tax revenue for this project is \$300 million. Now it all makes sense. Since Braidwood is soon to be losing its gravy train from Exelon, it would make sense they would be snooping elsewhere for money. It states right on Acciona's website in the key points for the project that it is “expected to generate millions in local tax revenue over the life of the project.” I suppose there is the answer for the big push to have the IGA signed, sealed and delivered as soon as possible. Wouldn't want an opportunity like this to slip by Braidwood. You know our best neighbor ever.

The sign

CUSTER PARK—I have been watching Facebook blow up over the last couple of weeks regarding the Custer Park Fire Department. What got me is that there seems to be a witch hunt for some guy who put up a sign to “Save” the fire station. When I saw it, I instantly thought there is some patriot willing to stand up for this town when people from my own town of Braidwood are treating it like it's the coming of the anti-Christ. The last time I checked, there is still a First Amendment and what he did falls under that. From all the posts regarding the position of where it sat, it stated it was right on the highway in front of the fire department. I take that road to work every day from Braidwood and even I know that it is a state highway and he has every right to put it on a state highway. The next thing I see is that someone is actually posting photos of the poor guy like he is someone wanted for murder. Let me make this simple for everyone reading this. He had the right to his opinion just like the other sign on 113. It makes y'all look like little kids trying to hide something. He reminds me of my grandfather who fought in WWII who wasn't afraid to stand up for what he believed is true and I am embarrassed to live in a town that bullies a patriot.

lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.



Unite, stay strong

CUSTER PARK—It seems to me the group of bullies that ousted the elected mayor in record time have drifted east to yet another victim. I am disappointed to call Braidwood my hometown when I read about their latest power grab for Custer Park's Fire Station. Instead of always trying to control everything, why don't you “assist” Custer in trying to get their ambulance up and running. They have been trying in vain to get the license for months. If you are really the great neighbor you are stated to be, help them. There is no need to overtake them. They have the building, the volunteers and the equipment. I hope the people of Custer are aware and ready to stop this.

Good point

CUSTER PARK—Regarding the Custer Fire Department. If Braidwood's “generous” offer was on the up-and-up, why are you so bothered the taxpayers of Custer Park want to put up a sign? They obviously smell a rat and you guys are guilty as heck.

So loud

COAL CITY—What is up with all the teenagers around here? Some of them are so loud and they yell at each other downtown and don't get me started on their trucks and cars.

Poor got poorer

WILMINGTON—Just a reminder, under the Trump administration and Trump-picked Justices, the wall hasn't been built, Mexico did not pay for the small part that was built, jobs were lost, the national debt increased, women lost abortion rights, the rich got richer and poor got poorer. But somehow, it's the Democrats fault.

It's worth it

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood Fire Department, we fully support you providing Custer Park with your ambulance services. As residents of Custer Park for over 50 years we absolutely appreciate the Custer Park Fire Department but it's time to make a change for the safety and well being of all residents. Anyone who opposes this needs to think about

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with “soundoff” in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com. -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

if they have a family member or they themselves need an ambulance right away and waiting 30 minutes to an hour for help to arrive may end in tragedy. Yes, taxes will got up but isn't the life of your spouse child, parents worth it?

Do look nice

COAL CITY—The cement flower pots along Broadway look beautiful and obviously are very well taken care of. I still agree we didn't need so many of them but they sure do look nice.

After dark

DIAMOND—It's sad there has been so much vandalism recently, especially when it seems to be a young group of kids out after curfew. What's even worse is when the parents of the kids attack the police for doing their jobs instead of keeping better track of their kids out running around at such late hours of the night. I'm just afraid something terrible will end up coming from this with so many people having conceal and carry permits and they catch these kids on their property.

Another smear campaign

WILMINGTON—The Republicans have a history of dirty tricks. Do you remember G Gordon Liddy whose job with Nixon was to commit crime to make Democrats look bad? That being said I think the cocaine found at the White House was another attempt by Republicans to smear the Biden family. Or maybe it was left behind by Don Jr.

He'll burn the GOP

Every prominent Republican and his brother have announced that they are running for president. All of them realize that front runner Trump will never beat Joe Biden. But I hope Trump stays in the race because he will burn down the Republican Party in his campaign.

A stupid move

SHADOW LAKES—Thank you China Joe Biden for telling the world we are out of ammunition.

Obediently yours: Margot

Commentary

Finding your Forest mode

BY ASHLEY MILLER

When was the last time you felt truly present in the moment?

No notifications. No emails. No to-do lists, errands to run, or chores to complete. Just you, the people you are with, and the sights, scents, and songs of the world around you.

Hold that moment in your head. Where are you?

For so many of us, these moments are found in forests. From their towering trees to sweeping vistas and majestic waterfalls, these places remind us to enjoy the moment that we are in.

And yet, these places can feel disconnected from our daily lives. It can be hard to find time to get away, and when we do, the forest can feel like a separate world, detached

from the places where we live and work.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), the U.S. Forest Service's congressionally chartered non-profit partner, has made it their mission to let people know how interconnected the health of our communities and National Forests are. National Forests:

- Improve air quality by absorbing harmful pollutants,
- Purify and provide water for more than 3,000 communities across the United States,
- Mitigate the effects of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide,
- Provide important natural resources for industry and communities, and
- Support the local economies of gateway communities.

Each year during the second full week of July, the NFF hosts National Forest Week to

raise awareness of the incredible 193-million-acre National Forest System and the benefits it provides.

This year's theme, Forest Mode, encourages us to think about how we make the shift between the hustle and bustle of our daily lives to being present in the moment. What does it look like to be aware of the benefits that forests provide, even when we can't be there ourselves? How can we savor the moment we are in?

Find your Forest Mode. Let yourself discover the juicy delight of finding wild blackberries on the side of the trail, the simple joy of wading in a creek on a hot summer day, or the wonder of stargazing long after your campfire has died.

Ashley Miller works in the Office of Communication for the U.S. Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

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Drought limits corn height in many areas of Illinois

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

If you can still easily look across entire cornfields because the plants are so short, you're not alone.

Despite recent rainfall in the northern portion of the state, the height of corn has been greatly limited in many areas of the state by the severe lack of moisture so far this season.

The majority of the state (92.7%) was in drought, according to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor released June 29, while the remainder, mostly in southern Illinois, was rated abnormally dry.

This includes a pocket of extreme drought in western Adams, Hancock and Pike counties along the Mississippi River and the very western edge of Schuyler County. Meanwhile, most of the northern two-thirds of the state was in severe drought as of June 27. The latest Drought Monitor was released just hours before a widespread derecho pummeled a large portion of the state June 29 and provided some much-needed relief.

"We've been drier since planting than 1988 or 2012," Lance Tarochione, DeKalb/Asgrow technical agronomist, told FarmWeek hours before the storm. "Things don't look good."

"If you have early-planted corn on good soil, it's held up the best," he noted. "But, if you have later-planted corn, corn on lighter soils or compacted soils, that stuff looks pretty tough."



Photo by Catrina Rawson

LACK OF MOISTURE in Illinois has limited the height of corn in some areas of the state.

There's lots of scary-short corn and lots of nutrient deficiency symptoms."

But, while much of this year's corn crop might not grow to the height of a professional basketball player, many farmers can still score some respectable yields if the recent return of regular showers continues. And the June 29 storm, despite wind and hail damage, was a good start in many areas.

"There's a lot of concern about height. There's going to be a lot of corn 6 feet tall fully tasseled," Tarochione said. "And it's not going to grow much after it tassels."

"But there's really no correlation between height and yield, although there is some correlation with leaf area and yield (which can affect sunlight capture and photosynthesis)," the agronomist noted.

Just 26% of the corn crop and 25% of soybeans were rated good to excellent statewide as of June 26, down dramatically from 70% and 66%, respectively, as of the same date last year.

The key, of course, is the weather pattern for the upcoming pollination season.

"The height of corn is determined in June, but the corn yield is determined in July," Tarochione said. "This crop still has far more potential than crop insurance levels, but we need a lot of rain soon. If there's not much rain soon, then it won't pollinate well and there could be a lot of kernel abortion."

Soybean growth also remains limited, although that crop has more time to recover this season as yield potential isn't usually set until August, the agronomist noted.

Rainfall activity increased in the state during the last week of June.

"We got three-tenths (Wednesday, June 28) afternoon, which was our biggest rain in two months (followed by much heavier downpours Thursday, June 29)," Tarochione said. "The forecast is at least more optimistic."

Moisture deficits reached 8 to 10 inches in much of the state through late June, according to Trent Ford, state climatologist with the Illinois State Water Survey. Statewide, topsoil ranked 89% short to very short as of June 26.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Electronics dropoff event Thursday in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, July 13, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

Illinois storm chaser to speak at WPLD

The Wilmington Public Library will be hosting a program with Illinois Storm Chaser, Nick Bartholomew, on Wednesday, July 19, at 6 p.m.

Bartholomew will be covering severe weather, local climatology, past tornadic events and storm chasing and

will include photos and videos of his encounters.

Registration is necessary, space is limited. To register, please call or stop by the library. Questions can be directed to adult services at 815-476-2834.

55th class reunion for WHS graduates

The WHS 55th class reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 23, at Haydens Crossing, 107 N. Water St., at 5:30 p.m. You will be responsible for your drinks and if interested in eating, they have a restaurant on the other side.

This is Homecoming weekend and the football game will be on Friday night. The varsity game should start around 7 p.m.

If you would like your information added to our 55th class reunion booklet, please email Marilyn Matlock at mmatlock6549@gmail.com and she will send you the questionnaire. This information must be returned by Aug. 15.

If you are in contact with other classmates that won't see article, please pass along this information.

Small Town Theatrics to present "Next to Normal"



SMALL TOWN THEATRICS, a community theatre company based in Coal City, will present the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning musical "Next to Normal." A contemporary family drama, the musical focuses on one woman's struggle with mental illness and the impact it has on her family. The cast features [pictured] Wyatt Onsen and Shannon Baer. Additional cast members are Hannah Babyak, Alec Ludacka, Derek Carlson and Jack Micetich, the theatre company's founder. Shows will be held July 21-23 in the Coal City Performing Arts Center, 655 W. Division St. Reserved seat tickets are available at www.smalltowntheatrics.org.

Coal City United Methodist Church to host community blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church (located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City), will host a community blood drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Aug. 16, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you would be willing to donate blood, please contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or register online at versiti.org/il.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating.

Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

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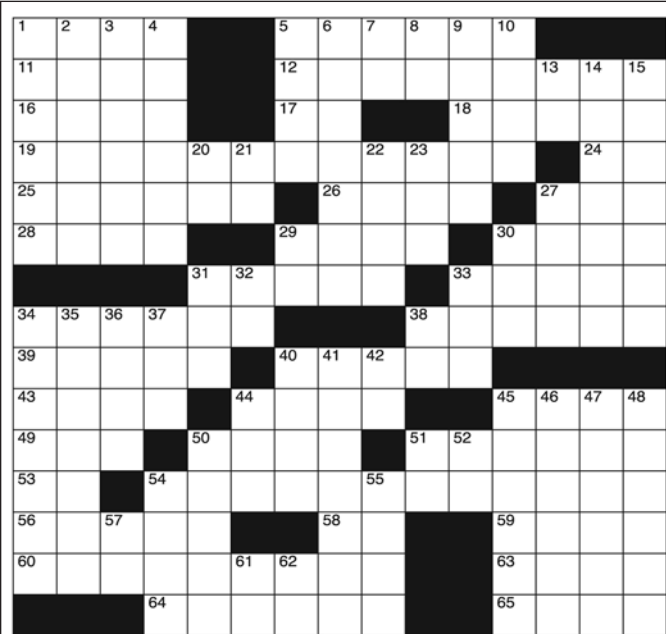
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CLUES ACROSS

- Database management system
- Medical procedures
- ___ Clapton, musician
- Defender
- Exert oneself
- Indicates position
- Prevents river overflow
- Atrocities
- Mister
- Ends
- Slope or tilt
- Taxi
- The very ends
- Actor Sean
- Japanese persimmon
- Sours
- Beneficiary
- Baseball official
- Muddy, boggy ground
- Not worldly
- Actress Lathan
- Soil
- ___Cola
- Asleep
- ___ Angeles
- Give birth to a child
- Beach shelter
- Commercial
- Taste property
- Local jurisdictions
- It cools your home
- Dismounted from a horse
- Charge with a crime
- Close in
- Spoke
- Famed garden

CLUES DOWN

- Draw a scene
- Its sultan is famous
- Unlucky accident
- A way to ski
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Saw
- "Westworld" actor Harris
- Belonging to me
- Shoelace tube
- Takes to court
- Early multimedia
- In a way, produces
- Bowlers
- Of I
- Equally
- Gets some sun
- A place to stay
- Town in Galilee
- Aronofsky film
- Klingon character, "Star Trek"
- Equal to 100 square meters
- Atomic #58
- Arrived extinct
- Loosen grip
- A distinctive odor that is unpleasant
- Membranes
- Some is poisonous
- Partner to Pa
- Small brown gray rail
- A salt or ester of acetic acid
- Sodium
- Military official (abbr.)
- Lighted
- Took off
- All
- Ohio city
- More abject
- A radio band
- Controversial tech product (abbr.)
- Monetary unit
- Passed with flying colors
- A way to win a boxing match
- The Golden State
- Home of the Longhorns

Clark named to dean's list

Coe College is recognizing its highest performing students as members of the Dean's List, including Kaitlyn Clark, who is currently among this elite group.

Clark, of Custer Park, has been named to the prestigious Spring 2023 Dean's List at Coe in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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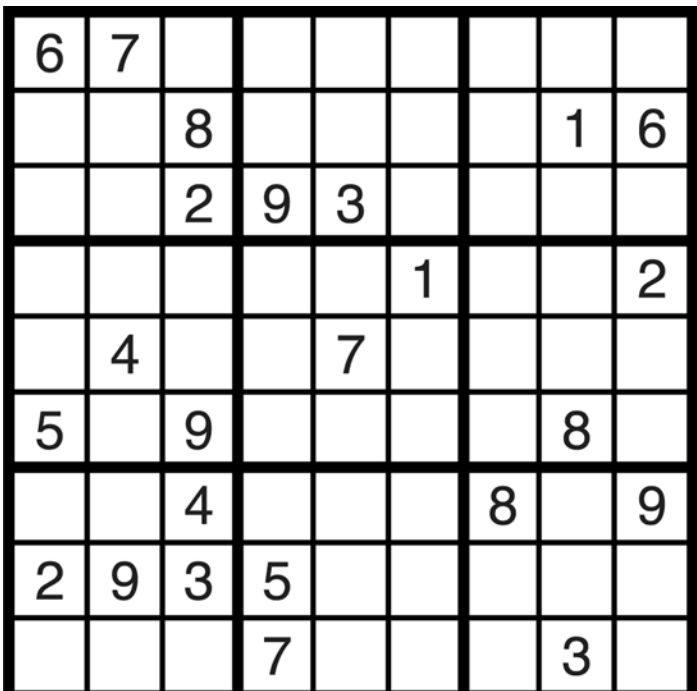
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SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.



Thank You!

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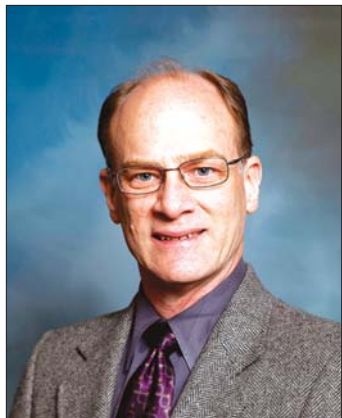
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And to the men & women of the Custer Fire Protection District and all the volunteers that made our fundraiser a big success!

Dr. Vermillion joins Morris Hospital

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has announced that Dr. David Vermillion, a member of the Morris Hospital medical staff since 1993, has joined its Healthcare Centers group. Dr. Vermillion's office will remain at the Business and Technology Center located at 1802 N. Division St., Suite 201, Morris, with the same phone number, 815-513-5625. Phone calls will be answered by a Morris Hospital patient service representative. Patient appointments are temporarily unavailable in order to transition the office from Duly Health and Care. Patients with June appointments have been contacted by Morris Hospital to reschedule their appointment. Patients needing a medication refill should contact their pharmacy and ask the pharmacy to fax a refill request to the office. With the transition, Dr. Vermillion will be a participating provider in the same health insurance plans as Morris

Hospital. A list of plans can be found on the Morris Hospital website by going to morrishospital.org/insurance. Patients will be asked to fill out a records request at their next appointment in order to facilitate a transfer of medical records from Duly Health and Care to Morris Hospital. Board-certified in internal medicine and pediatrics, Dr. Vermillion provides primary care for patients of all ages. He attended medical school at the University of Illinois, College of Medicine - Rockford and completed his residency at Loyola University Medical Center. With the addition of Dr. Vermillion, Morris Hospital now provides primary care and specialty physician services at 26 office locations in



Braidwood, Channahon, Diamond-Coal City, Dwight, Gardner, Joliet, Marseilles, Mazon, Minooka, Morris, Newark, Ottawa and Seneca. For more information, go to morrishospital.org.

Morris Hospital Foundation awards Healthcare Scholarships

The Morris Hospital Foundation recently awarded 12 scholarships to area students who are pursuing education in healthcare-related fields. Local recipient of the \$1,000 Relucio Family Healthcare Scholarship established by retired Morris Hospital surgeon Dr. Ed Relucio and his wife, Marizon, are: Veronica Wreck, of Wilmington, who will begin a bachelor of science in medical laboratory science at Illinois State University in the fall. Additionally, the Morris Hospital Foundation awards three \$1,000 scholarships annually to Morris Hospital employees and their dependents who are pursuing an education in healthcare. This year's local recipient is: Jenna Emmons, of Coal City, who is currently completing a bachelor of science in nursing at University of St. Francis in Joliet. Emmons is currently a Rehabilitation Assistant at Morris Hospital. The Morris Hospital Foundation awards the healthcare scholarships annually. Applications for the 2024 scholarships will be available in February 2024.

Will County to host sessions on going solar

The Grow Solar (Solarize) program is returning this year as Solar Switch! In partnership with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, Citizens Utility Board, and local partners and neighbors, Will County is hosting free informational sessions on the environmental and financial implications of residential solar energy. Solar Switch also vets qualified installers and leverages group buying power to lower the price on solar installations. Interested participants can receive free, no-obligation personal recommendations for solar on their properties at a discounted cost. Check out solarswitch.com/WillCounty for more information.

Local students named on Lewis Univ. dean's list

Just about 1,300 students were honored on the Lewis University Dean's List for the 2023 Spring Semester. To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester with a grade point average of at least 3.5 and with no "D" or "F" grades. The following local students were among the honorees. Kristy Rhodes, of Braidwood; Ryleigh Christensen, Jessica Leasure, Victoria Miller, Jevin Reed and Brooke Willard, all of Coal City; Cain Headrick, of Custer Park; Nicole Wiltz, of Diamond; Jaden Christian, Haley Crescenti and McKenzie Marcum, all of Wilmington.

Millikin dean's list

Millikin University is pleased to announce the names of the outstanding undergraduates who have been named to the dean's list for the spring 2023 semester. Students who attempt 12 graded credits during the semester and earned a perfect 4.00 grade point average earn high dean's list honors. Local students Aidan Kostbade, of Coal City and Chris Hill, of Braidwood, have both made the high dean's list for spring 2023.

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OBITUARIES

Clifford Cragg

FESTUS, MO—Clifford Melvin Cragg, 85, of Festus, MO and a former resident of Wilmington, passed away May 19, 2023 at his home surrounded by family.

Born Oct. 29, 1937 in Coffeen, IL, Clifford Melvin was a son of Martha (Chumley) and Warden Cragg. He moved to Wilmington as a young child when his parents went to work for the Joliet Ammunition Plant. As a child, Cliff excelled in football, baseball, basketball and track, and went on to graduate with the Wilmington High School class of 1956. Cliff married the love of his life, Billie Strong in 1958, and together they raised two children, Vicki and Tim. After the kids were grown, Cliff and Billie moved to Florida, and later Arab, AL before settling in Festus.

Cliff was employed as an electrician and worked for Mobil Oil before moving to Florida where he went to work as an electrical supervisor for a power plant. While living in Wilmington, he coached baseball and Bobcat Football, and served as a board member for youth baseball, as well as Little League. Cliff was Worshipful Master (1980) of the A.F. & A.M. Wilmington Lodge and belonged to the Scottish Rite and Shriners. Throughout his life, Cliff enjoyed fishing, hunting and trapping, and following his retirement picked up the hobby of painting.

Cliff is survived by his wife of 65 years, Billie; two children; Vicki and Mike Vaughn, of Crystal City, MO and Tim and Sue (Brooks) Cragg, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Jennifer (Peter) Manso and Curt (Amy) Brooks, of Festus, and Kyle, Josh and Kalee Cragg, all of



Wilmington; great-grandchildren: Kayla Underwood, Abby, Jaelyn and Lexi Brooks; Malachi Manso, and Kaden Cragg; one sister, Nancy Nelson, of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Randy (Donna) Strong, of Joliet; Roy Strong, of Wilmington; Lyla (John) Girsch, of Chillicothe, IL; Virginia (Jim) Penrod, of Virginia and Sara Jane Weilmienster, of Decatur, IL, and many nieces and nephews.

Cliff was preceded in death by his parents, Martha and Warden "Rusty" Cragg; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Edward and Grace Strong, and brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Gene Strong, Edward Strong and Bob (Linda) Strong.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Family and friends are welcome to gather at the Wilmington Masonic Lodge, 311 N. Main St. in Wilmington on Thursday, July 20, 2023 for full Masonic Rites, which will be conducted at 11 a.m.

A private inurnment will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Cliff's memory to the Wilmington School District Foundation for Excellence, 209 Wildcat Drive, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Cliff's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Charles C. Foster

WILMINGTON—Charles C. Foster, 84, of Wilmington, IL passed away Friday, July 7, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Jan. 26, 1939 in Blairsville, GA, he was the son of Robert and EllaRee (nee Wilson) Foster. Charles retired from Pace Suburban Bus as a supervisor after serving over 45 years of employment. In the past, he had a love for woodworking and hand painting his finished products. He also had a passion for vegetable gardening, but most importantly he was a family man who enjoyed every moment spent with his loved ones.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 55 years, MaryJean (nee Pedersen) Foster, of Wilmington, who he married Oct. 28, 1967 in Harvey, IL; loving daughter, Holly (Bill) Romba, of Elburn, IL; two dear granddaughters, Shannon and



Rachael Romba; sister, Faye (Ralph) Dayhuff, of North Fort Myers, FL and many beloved nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Robert and EllaRee and five brothers: Edmund, Billy, Bobby, Jim and Donald Foster.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Friday, July 14, 2023 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial services at 11:30 a.m.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Thomas E. Kahler

WILMINGTON—Thomas Edward Kahler, 81, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully Friday, June 23, 2023 on the same property he was born at.

Born Aug. 8, 1941 in Wilmington, he was the son of Eugene and Anna (nee Mercer) Kahler. He was a Veteran of the United States Navy. Tom formerly worked at Dresden Generating Station in Morris. He married Sandra Begler on May 18, 1963 at St. Rose Catholic Church. Tom enjoyed golfing, gardening, bird watching, and playing with his grandkids and great-grandkids.

Surviving are two children, Thomas J. (Donna) Kahler, of Front Royal, VA and Jennifer (John) Urban, of Wilmington; four grandchildren: Nicole (Andrew) Roth, Sarah (Alexander) Whipp, Jonathan Urban and Christopher Urban; two great-grandchildren, Katelyn Roth



and Benjamin Roth; one sister, Linda Brickey, of Braceville.

Preceding him in death were his parents; wife, Sandra Kahler; three brothers: Floyd Meredith, Eugene Kahler Jr. and William Kahler and one sister, Ruth Kunkle.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Wednesday, July 12.

Cremation rites were accorded following services. Inurnment was private.

Memorial donations may be directed to Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, was entrusted with arrangements.

Ethel G. Neese

WILMINGTON—Ethel G. Neese (nee Howard), 82, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully, Friday, July 7, 2023.

Born March 19, 1941 in Wilmington, she was the daughter of William Golden and Avia Ellen (nee Mansfield) Howard. Ethel was an avid volunteer, who enjoyed serving as a Girl Scout leader, helping at the Kuzma Food Pantry, and donating her time with the American Red Cross. She was a Certified Nursing Assistant, formerly working for Embassy Care Nursing Home in Wilmington. Ethel loved handwork crafts, such as painting, sewing and scrapbooking.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Kelly Neese, of Wilmington; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, two sisters, Mary Jane (the late Joe) Schmidberger, of Dwight and Nancy (the late Albert) Calhoun, of Wilmington and numerous nieces, nephews and their families.

lies.

Preceding her in death were her husband of 57 years, William Edward Neese Sr., who predeceased her July 12, 2021; two sons, William Neese Jr. and Steven Neese; one daughter, Marsha Barnes; two sisters, Ann Surtasky and Martha Scholey; four brothers: Wesley, Donald, George and Larry Howard; and many sisters and brothers in law.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Interment followed in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

Memorial donations in her name may be directed to Uplifted Care Hospice.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was in charge of arrangements.

Jimmy Ward

MORRIS—Jimmy Ray Ward, 54, formerly of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, July 6, 2023 at his home in Morris, surrounded by family.

Born Nov. 6, 1968 in Joliet, Jimmy Ray was a son of Brenda (Don) Riley, of Morris and Fred (Oshia) Ward, of Tennessee. He was raised in Morris and Wilmington, and worked as a laborer throughout the years in construction and excavating. Remembered for his love of everything outdoors, Jimmy enjoyed fishing, hiking, camping, and hunting for morels.

Survivors include his parents, four children: Natasha Ward, Steven Ward, Bailey Ward and Damon Ward (Gabby); seven grandchildren, one sister, Stacy Ward; step-sisters: Sue (Mark) Castanier, Laura (Bob) McCullough and Jennifer Riley; his uncle, Ron Jones and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his brother,



er, Brian Riley; aunt, Donna Jones and grandparents: Floyd and Josephine Jones and Pearley and Dovie Ward.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and a Celebration of Life is being planned.

Jimmy will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jimmy's memory to his family for their distribution.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jimmy's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Margaret Crosman

BRAIDWOOD—Margaret "Jean" Crosman (nee Crane), of Braidwood, passed away on Sunday, July 9, 2023 at Morris Hospital.

Born on Oct. 10 at her Grandma Super's house in Dwight, she was the daughter of Frank and Margaret (nee Super) Crane. Jean was known to be a volunteer and was always willing to lend a helping hand. She was a past member of the Business and Professional Women's Association and served on the United Way Committee. For many years she served as a surrogate parent for the Illinois Department of Corrections Juvenile Division. A member of Immaculate Conception Parish, she taught CCD classes for many years and served on the Mt. Olivet Cemetery Board. She worked for the federal and state government and retired from the Diocese of Joliet, Immaculate Conception Church.

After retirement she volunteered at Morris Hospital. Jean enjoyed her winters at Holiday Shores in Largo, FL, leaving many good friends behind there and in Braidwood. She enjoyed dancing, playing cards, baseball (both Cubs and Sox), golf and to watch the neighborhood kids grow up. More than anything Jean loved her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them.

Surviving are her husband of 40 years, David Crosman, of Braidwood; daughter, Linda (nee Erickson) Lyman, of Mesa, AZ; daughter-



in-law, Sue Erickson, of Beloit, WI; five grandchildren: Scott (Rachel) Lyman, Sean (Emilia) Lyman, Holly Erickson, Brian (fiancé Jessa Brockmiller) Erickson, and Betsy (Juan) DeSalas; six great-grandchildren: Xavier Lyman, Lilliana Lyman, Brady Lyman, Kameryn Lyman, Kaia Lyman, Jack Erickson, and one due in September; brothers, Bob (Linda) Crane, of Mazon; Tom (Pat) Crane, of Horseshoe, NC; brother-in-law, Jim (Debbie) Crosman, of Mesa, AZ and sister-in-law, Mary (Sam) Tillman, of Oglesby, IL along with many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was her son Michael Erickson; brother, William; sister, Donna; brothers-in-law: Don (Donna) Crosman, Roger (Janine) Crosman, Bob (Helen) Crosman and sister-in-law, Leola (Dale Bauer) Dvorak.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial visitation will be at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 from 4-7 p.m. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood. Inurnment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be directed to the charity of the donor's choice.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements.

William "Buzzy" Smith

DIAMOND—William "Buzzy" Smith, 84, of Diamond, passed away Sunday, July 2, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born June 18, 1939 in Morris, William Dale was a son of William Edward and Velma (Albrecht) Smith. He was raised in Coal City and attended Coal City High School. On Oct. 8, 1960, Buzzy married Patricia A. Smith at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, and together they made a home and raised their family.

Buzzy's employment entailed working at Stonebridge in Wilmington, Peabody Coal Company, Caterpillar Tractor Company, and Amoco Chemical. He drove a truck for various trucking companies, and retired from A&R Trucking in 2003. He served as a volunteer with the Coal City Emergency Squad and Coal City Fire Department; was a member of the Coal City Area Club, and held an interim position as Mayor of Diamond.

One who enjoyed a varied genre of music from AC/DC to Linda Ronstadt, Buzzy also took pleasure in watching Westerns. He was the first to pitch in to assist anyone in need of a move, and will be remembered for his creativity at the stove as the "Omelet King."

Buzzy was a devoted husband, father and 'Bumpa.' A hard worker and a lover of all people, he was a friend to many and a stranger to none. Buzzy never seemed to have a hard time meeting new people and making everyone he met feel comfortable in his presence. His wonderful sense of humor and genuine interest in having fun will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Pat;



four children: Amy Neal, of Decatur, IL; Bill (Lisa) Smith, of Coal City; Susan (Dan) Alsip, of Diamond and Scott (Jean) Smith, of Overland Park, KS; grandchildren: Meghan (Scott) Hodgen, of Coal City; Marcie (Craig) Ewenson, of Ottawa; Brett (Patti) Smith and Alec Smith, both of Coal City and Brandon (Ana) Neal, of Richardson, TX; great-grandchildren: Addison and Averie Hodgen and Hudson and Bryson Smith; one brother, David (Linda) Smith, of Diamond; sister, Paula (Bob) Runty, of Covington, LA and two sisters-in-law, Cathy Mahaney, of Mt. Carroll, IL and Jane (Skip) Rader, of Loves Park, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Buzzy was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Jack (Carol) Smith and two sisters: Betty (Max) Cullum and Velma (Ron) Doty.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 6, 2023 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.

Burial was in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington. Pallbearers were: Brett Smith, Alec Smith, Craig Ewenson, Scott Hodgen, Dan Alsip and Dennis Smith, and Brandon Neal was an honorary pallbearer.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Buzzy's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Buzzy's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Dennis F.M. Schapmire

OZARK, IL—Dennis F.M. Schapmire, 43, a resident of Ozark, IL, formerly of Custer Park, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in Metropolis, IL.

He was born July 21, 1979 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee, the son of Nicholas and Shirley (Street) Schapmire. Dennis was a 1998 graduate of Reed-Custer High School in Braidwood. Following his graduation from high school, Dennis resided in Wyoming for two years. He attended college in Cheyenne and worked as a welder employed by Ensing U.S. Drilling in Casper. Dennis held a C.D.L. and was a truck driver. He also had been employed as a laborer by E.T. Simonds Construction Company.

Dennis was a member of the Masonic fraternity. He became a mason at Stonefort Masonic Lodge # 495 A.F. & A.M. He later affiliated with Blazing Star Masonic Lodge # 458 A.F. & A.M. in Carrier Mills, IL and Wilmington Masonic Lodge # 208 A.F. & A.M. Dennis attended the First Baptist Church in Marion, IL as well as the Ozark Pentecostal Church. He became interested in rodeo and bull riding while in high school and continued riding during the time he lived in Wyoming. Dennis also enjoyed fishing. He loved his horse, Dakota.



Dennis is survived by his mother, Shirley Schapmire, of Ozark; two brothers, Nicholas L. "Nick" Schapmire, of Stonefort, IL and Jason L. Schapmire, of Tennessee; nieces and nephews: Dusty Schapmire, serving in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Arlington; Mikaylah Schapmire, of Benton, IL; Cody Schapmire and Cayden Schapmire, both of Stonefort, IL; aunts and uncles: Louise McWhorter Davis, of Clarence, IL; Anna Lou Matheny, of Ozark; Irene Jones, of Golconda, IL; Roger Street, of Harrisburg, IL and Ray Street of Ozark.

In addition to his father, Dennis was preceded in death by an uncle, C.W. Street.

A graveside service honoring the life of Dennis Schapmire was conducted Monday, July 10, 2023 at Zion Cemetery, east of Ozark. Pastor Jeff Treat officiated. Interment followed.

Memorials may be made to the charity of the donor's choice or to assist the family with expenses. Memorial donations may be sent to Bailey Funeral Home, PO Box 695, Vienna, IL 62995.

To share a memory of Dennis or to leave an online message of condolence for his family, please visit www.baileyfh.com

Arrangements were entrusted to Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna.

Forest Preserve warns trail users to slow down, use caution this summer

As you venture onto Forest Preserve District of Will County trails this summer, make it a point to slow down and look around so your outing doesn't end with an injury or worse.

Police Sgt. Dan Olszewski, who has been on the Forest Preserve police force for more than 16 years, said police will be out in force this summer patrolling in cars, on foot and on bikes to get the word out about obeying trail safety rules.

Forest Preserve police officers recently completed 32 hours of bike patrol training to increase the effectiveness of this patrol method. One of the goals is to get bicyclists who zoom through preserves in a reckless manner to slow down, Olszewski said.

"We try to explain to them the dangers of going too fast," he said. "We've been called to a lot of bike accidents through the years and have seen a lot of injuries, from minor scrapes and bruises to broken bones, dislocated shoulders and knees and a few fatalities."

Going too fast and not loudly announcing an intention to pass pedestrians is a recipe for disaster, he added.

"They're going to get in an accident," he said of those who do not heed the rules. "Our trails are not designed for fast speeds. They're designed to help you enjoy nature, get some exercise but not endanger anyone."

Bicyclists also must stop for stop signs, Olszewski added. Failing to do so could cause significant accidents

with vehicles.

Pedestrians also need to do their part, Olszewski added. Walkers and joggers can't block both sides of the trail and dog walkers can't have their pets' leashes stretched across the path, which could trip up a bicyclist.

Other trail safety measures include: do not block the trail; proceed at a slower pace when paths are in heavy use; slower traffic should stay to the right; faster traffic should pass on the left by announcing, "On your left," loudly; bicyclists should wear helmets; and dog leashes can be no longer than 10 feet.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.



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Garden club to host Dollars for Dogs

The Wilmington Garden Club will host Dollars for Dogs on Saturday, July 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Whitmore Ace Hardware, 1105 S. Water St., Wilmington.

The Wilmington Garden Club fundraises to purchase

flowers to plant in city parks including the Children's Garden in Northcrest.

The non-profit organization will be selling hot dogs and homemade bake sale goods. Community support is much appreciated.

Cans for Kuzma during CFD parade

Need never ends at Kuzma Care Cottage in Wilmington.

That's why the local food pantry is entering its empty van in the Catfish Days parade on Sunday, July 23 at 1 p.m. hoping that by the end of the parade route it is overloaded with non-perishable food items.

Cans For Kuzma is the summer campaign to restock the shelves at the food pantry. Summer isn't typically the

time when people think of donating food items so the shelves are low at Kuzma and the parade it the easiest way to replenish them.

The non-profit is asking spectators along the parade route to bring a sack or two of packaged food items. As the Kuzma van passes north on Water Street, walk your bag to the van and hand it to a volunteer. Be generous.

Grundy Bank unveils website improvements

Grundy Bank is excited to announce the release of a new and refreshed website. The Grundy Bank team has been working to create a user-friendly platform that showcases products and services in the best possible way.

With a sleek design and easy navigation, the Grundy Bank website is now optimized for both desktop and mobile devices. This new website will enhance the experience and provide all the information you need.

"We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new website! Our team has worked hard to create a modern and up-to-date template that we believe will enhance your experience with us," said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director of Grundy Bank.

"We can't wait for you to

explore its features and discover how easy it is to navigate. As we continue to prioritize our clients' satisfaction, we are excited about the new website and hope that you enjoy it as much as we do."

The new website has been organized to reduce the number of clicks needed to find what you're looking for.

Additionally, the website is ADA compliant to ensure inclusivity for all users. Users will now be able to visit Grundy's social media platforms through the website, read the newest press releases, keep up with the latest alerts, have access to the newest calculators and more.

Login information will stay the same and there won't be any disruptions as this new site is launched.

Grab a Mason on the go this summer

BY ELAINE OHLUND
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

Oh the temptations of summer. I have a better time with eating healthy while the kids are in school until summer kicks in and I cave to too many summer tastes.

Especially after the Fourth of July when I'm surrounded by hotdogs, hamburgers, potato chips, pasta salads, homemade ice cream and s'mores. I love the tastes of summer so much it seems impossible to stay on a healthy path. But what I have learned is to balance things with a trick or two to keep me on track.

Meal prepping for the week can help you stay on track. I know what you're thinking, you don't have the time to prepare meals for an entire week. I use to think the same thing until I realized it lead to me eating healthier and without guilt.

With cook outs, beach trips and camping filling up summer's schedule, I knew I would have to find a meal prep plan that was cooler-friendly and ready to eat at anytime with no maintenance. Salad mason jars have become my game changer.

I encourage you to try this Mediterranean chickpea mason jar salad. This recipe and technique is great for many reasons.

One, you are prepping four meals for the week and this recipe is cost effective. Two, they stay fresh because they are tightly sealed in mason jars. Three, the on-the-go factor, it is easy just to pull one out of the fridge and pack it in a cooler heading to the beach or camping. Four, it is a meal packed with alkaline vegetables and protein. But more importantly, it is easy to make and so delicious on hot summer days.

Ingredients
Red Wine Vinaigrette

- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 Tbs of red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon of spicy brown mustard



• 1 teaspoon of maple syrup

• 2 Tbs of water
• 1/2 tsp of dried oregano
• 1/2 tsp of fine sea salt
• Freshly ground pepper

Salad Assembly

- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 cucumber, chopped
- 1.5 cups of cooked garbanzo beans (1 15-oz. can, drained)

• 1 pint cherry tomatoes, chopped
• 1/2 cup crumbled feta (optional)
• Any type of salad you prefer, I use spinach or romaine

• Four wide-mouth quart-sized mason jars

First, prepare the red wine vinaigrette by adding the oil, vinegar, garlic, mustard, maple syrup, water, oregano, salt, and several grinds of black pepper to a small jar with a lid. (I use a small mason jar.) Shake it vigorously to combine.

Next, arrange the mason

jars on your counter for easy salad assembly. Pour 3 tablespoons of the dressing into the bottom of each one. On top of the dressing, add the diced onion, cucumber, beans, cherry tomatoes, feta, and then the lettuce, in that order to avoid soggy vegetables.

Tip: I like to roast garbanzo beans because it kind of resembles a crouton and is a healthier alternative. Spread them on a baking sheet and drizzle olive oil on them. Then I sprinkle paprika, cayenne, cinnamon and a little salt to coat them. You can do any seasonings you prefer and then roast them in the oven at 425 degrees for 25 minutes.

Tip: Because I have been trying to add more protein to my daily diet, I added Quinoa which is a plant based protein with fiber. I just following the directions on the bag and cook one cup to add in the jars after the beans.

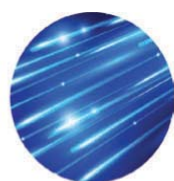
Secure the lid to make the jars airtight, then store in the

fridge until ready to serve for up to 5 days.

To serve the mason jar salad, unscrew the lid and pour the contents into a large bowl. Since the dressing is on the bottom, it will pour over the salad last, dressing all of the vegetables. Stir well to coat, then enjoy right away.

My youngest daughter loves helping me assemble the jars and I also have found that when my kids help me make something, they are usually more willing to try it. Considering our taste buds adapt and change over time, with enough tries I can train my kids to enjoy healthy foods.

So far this has been a convenient, quick way for me to staying on track. And I can't wait to pick a fresh cucumber and tomatoes from the garden to substitute with other ingredients. Anything to help me resist another scoop of ice cream.



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Mondays - noon

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Coal City - 2 BR, washer/dryer hookup. No pets. \$875/month, \$1,400 security deposit. Tenant pays utilities. References needed. Call and leave a message at 815-365-2829.

Coal City - 725 S. Broadway St. 1 BR, 2nd floor apartment for rent. Same floor washer/dryer. \$780 a month + \$1,000 deposit. Utilities included. 815-634-4319. ck27-30

Wilmington - 2 bedroom apartment. Nice location. \$800/month. First, last & security. 618-383-6330. ch27-29

AUTOS

2004 Yukon Denali. Very nice older truck. \$5,500 obo. Cash only. 815-530-6582. cr28-29

ESTATE SALES

Naomi Francois Estate Sale. 3243 S. Berta Road, Braceville. Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., July 12-15 from 7AM-6PM. Also, Wed., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., July 19-22 from 7AM-6PM. cc28-29

FOR FREE

Free to loving home, litter box trained kittens. Call or text 618-383-5870. fr27-28

GARAGE SALE

Wilmington - 900 S. Buchanan St., Wed., Thurs. & Fri., July 12-14 from 10AM-3PM. Ladies medium-large, mens 2XL, housewares, Christmas decor and much miscellaneous. Rain or Shine. ca28

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$15; 2 wks. - \$19;
3 wks. - \$22; 4 wks. - \$25
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

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GARAGE SALE

Wilmington - 407 Becky Lane. 2 family garage sale. Thurs. & Fri., July 20-21 from 9AM-3PM. Household items, tools, too much to list. cc28-29

HELP WANTED

South Wilmington CCSD #74
Notice of Vacancy District Bookkeeper/Payroll Qualifications:
1. Experience with payroll and budgeting systems.
2. Ability to organize and plan with minimal discretion.
3. Experience with bookkeeping post high school preferred.
4. Must satisfactorily pass the required background check.
Specific Duties:
1. Responsible for various reports, but not limited to: Quarterly Reports, financial aspects of transportation report, service records, W2, 1099, Substitutes, TRS, IMRF, budgets...
2. Responsible for purchase orders and payments of those orders.
3. Responsible for monthly up-to-date budget information to the Board of Education.
4. Responsible for all financial records within the district.
5. Other Duties assigned by the Superintendent/Principal.
Terms of Employment: This is an almost complete remote position. Hours may vary by month and tasks involved. Training will be provided, and the district will include all materials necessary for the position.
Please email interests to jheck@si74.org
Jeremy Heck
Superintendent/Principal
South Wilmington CCSD #74

HELP WANTED

The Coal City Public Library District is seeking a part-time (30 hours/week) Youth Services Librarian. Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in the field of teaching or librarianship. Must be creative, service oriented, have good communication skills with children and adults. Must be able to work days, evenings and Saturdays. Starting pay \$19.85/hour. Please attach a resume to the application, which is available at the library. ch28

Looking for experienced laborer or apprentice. Call Mike 815-634-3976. ca28-31

Manager needed for dog training facility in Wilmington, IL. Helping with training dogs, maintaining grass cutting of 200 acres and managing employees. 5 days a week, year round paid holidays. Pay appropriate to experience & ability. Call 630-399-4982 before 8:00 PM. cc25-28

T&J Water is looking to add an additional water/sewer technician to their team. If desired, this technician may advance into a certified operator. This position has the flexibility to be either full or part time depending on the candidate's availability. *Valid driver's license is required. Basic plumbing and electrical knowledge are a plus. If interested, please email resume and/or letter of interest to: tjwwsolutions@gmail.com. cc28-31

LOST & FOUND

Found: Diamond ring on Wood Street in Wilmington. Please call 815-476-7966 with a description of the ring.

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Braidwood: 2 BR, 2 bath, no pets. \$975 month. 815-693-9141. ck25-28

NOTICE

Notice to J.P. Ferrer. All items stored in the Goose Lake Assoc. Storage spot 70, must be removed by July 15, 2023. Failure to comply with this notice will result in all items being disposed of at your expense with any proceeds from sale of items going toward payment of over due storage rental & fees. Goose Lake Assoc. ca27-28

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2022 By Grundy County Offices.

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT

C21.COM

(815) 942-9190

C21
CENTURY 21
Coleman-Hornsby

99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS
BMO HARRIS BANK NA; Plaintiff, vs.
FELICIA L. BARNES; LAKEWOOD TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION; Defendants,
22 FC 10 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at the hour of 2:00 p.m. in the office of Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:
P.I.N. 03-14-103-025. Commonly known as 1304 Burns Lane, Minooka, IL 60447. The improvement

on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Manley Deas Kochalski, LLC, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (614) 220-5611. File Number 22-000341
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com 13224206 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., July 12, 19 & 26, 2023.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of **501 Debbie Lane, Wilmington, IL 60481** (The property is a single family. The property has a two car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is gray. The gas is on. The water is on. The property does not have a fence. The vacancy is unknown for this residency.). On the **27th day of July, 2023** to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC** Plaintiff V. **Joshua Bailey; Unknown Owners and**

Non-Record Claimants Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 0982** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE** 1 N. Dearborn Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60602 P: 312-346-9088 F:

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., July 5, 12 & 19, 2023.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. Don't let your roof get damaged from black algae. Have it sprayed, low prices.
INSULATION. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17-20

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave.
Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of **180 W. Bodine Dr., Braidwood, IL 60408** (This is a single-family home that is not completely finished being constructed). On the **3rd day of August, 2023** to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Grundy Bank Plaintiff V. Wesley P. Shats, Nicole M. Shats, James P. Veraveic, James P. Construction, Inc., Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 0980** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **GEIGER, DURKEE AND VAZQUEZ, LLC** 415 LIBERTY ST MORRIS, IL 60450 P: 815-942-5072 F: 815-942-5073 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., July 12, 19 & 26, 2023.

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit -
Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Gas Fireplace Repair
40 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. ck34-33

Looking for housekeeping jobs. Within 10 miles of Coal City. 815-388-7743. cc25-28

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted:
Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819

Job Fair Schedule 2023 Fox Developmental Center

Grow your career with IDHS!

Come and learn about career options, our amazing benefits, the application process and interact with management and human resources who will assist you on your path to success!

Open Positions:

- **Mental Health Technician Trainee - \$3328/mo**
Job offers being extended as soon as a week after applying!
- **Registered Nurse - \$5274-7155/mo**
- **Support Service Worker - \$3105-4078/mo**
- **Dietitian - \$4326-6271/mo**
- **Cook - Part time - \$3261-4344/mo**
- **Psychologist III - \$6175-9314/mo**



What to Expect:

- Overview of jobs and requirements
- Tips on completing the online application
- Apply onsite (HR will provide guidance with the application process)
- No onsite interviews

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of IDHS to employ qualified personnel; to provide equal employment opportunities in the hiring and promoting of individuals; and to administer these activities in a manner that does not discriminate against any person. Employment decisions shall not discriminate against any individual because of race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, physical or mental disability, unfavorable discharge from military service, political affiliation or sexual orientation.

Date & Time:

May 31, 11:00am - 3:00pm
July 20, 12:00pm - 4:00pm
September 21, 11:00am - 3:00pm

Address:

134 West Main Street
Dwight, IL 60420

Scan to
RSVP:



Contact Us:

dhs.Recruitment@illinois.gov

Help
is here

IDHS
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF HUMAN SERVICES

Price at the pump remains favorable

Local gasoline prices are below the statewide average after Illinois prices have fallen 5.5 cents per gallon in the last week averaging \$3.81/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. If you filled up in Braidwood or Bourbonnais on Monday you would have paid \$3.49/g, that's 32 cents under the statewide average. In Wilmington the low (Mohsen) was \$3.43 if you paid cash while most stations were \$3.68. In Coal City the price ranged from \$3.74/g to \$3.84/g.

"After declining going into July 4, average gasoline prices have struggled to find much momentum in either direction as the price of crude oil has continued to bounce around,

digesting offsetting news on both sides of the scale: supply, which OPEC+ continues to try and tighten, and weak global demand as monetary policy restrains growth," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Prices in Illinois on Monday are 14.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 134.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.79 per gallon.

"I don't see much chance of a major break out of the tight range we've held since April, but there is rising risk for hurricane season and potential disruptions as major easter Colorado State

University released its third forecast for 2023 hurricane season, showing a sharp uptick in the number of expected major hurricanes.

"Heading into the prime of summer gasoline demand, any disruptions, whether storms or unexpected outages and what might be a small challenge outside of the summer driving season, could be a larger problem, so there is some risk to gas prices going into the second half of summer."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois on Monday was priced at \$3.04/g while the most expensive was \$5.01/g, a difference of \$1.97/g.

Dinosaur World coming

Dare to experience the dangers and delights of Dinosaur World Live. This roarsome interactive show for all the family will be at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at 6 p.m. Tickets go on sale Friday, July 14 at 10 a.m.

Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures, including every child's favorite flesh-eating giant, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, a Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Microraptor and Segnosaurus!

Now an international smash hit, Dinosaur World

Live is back by popular demand following its hugely successful 2022 U.S. tour.

Don't miss this entertaining and mind-expanding jurassic adventure, live on stage.

Ticket prices: \$35, \$30, \$25, \$20 (additional fees may apply)

Tickets are available online at Ticketmaster.com.

More info at: www.rialtosquare.com

Bird viewing offered

The Will County Forest Preserve District will be offering Lake Renwick Migratory Bird Viewing, 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays through Aug. 12, at the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield. See herons, egrets, cormorants and eagles during these weekly viewing sessions.

City of Wilmington to hold hearing on amended agreement for Love's Travel Center

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON FIRST AMENDED ANNEXATION AGREEMENT WILMINGTON CITY COUNCIL, WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS

On August 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Wilmington at City Hall located at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL, for the purpose of considering and hearing testimony as to an ordinance annexing certain property and authorizing the execution of a first amended annexation agreement in regard to the annexation to the City of Wilmington, Illinois, of a tract of property comprising approximately 34.605 acres of land generally described by as follows:

THAT PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 24; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SOUTHEAST QUARTER, FOR A DISTANCE OF 300.01 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 01 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 46 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID EAST LINE, 744.91 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 41 SECONDS WEST, 517.66 FEET; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY 30.90 FEET ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT, HAVING A RADIUS OF 34.50 FEET (CHORD BEARS SOUTH 62 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 25 SECONDS WEST, 29.87 FEET) TO A POINT OF REVERSE CURVE; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY 294.76 FEET ALONG A CURVE TO THE LEFT HAVING A RADIUS OF 85.50 FEET (CHORD BEARS NORTH 44 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 08 SECONDS WEST, 169.00 FEET); THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST, 1548.80 FEET TO A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF THE GULF, MOBILE, & OHIO RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY; THENCE NORTH 06 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE GULF, MOBILE & OHIO RAILROAD RIGHT OF WAY, FOR A DISTANCE OF 695.39 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 52 MINUTES 07 SECONDS EAST, 2104.17 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN #03-17-24-400-007-0000

An accurate map of the subject property proposed to be annexed to the City and the form of the proposed annexation agreement are on file with the City Clerk.

You are further notified that the proposed annexation agreement may be changed, altered, modified, amended, or redrafted in its entirety after the public hearing.

All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Additional information on such application can be obtained from the City of Wilmington Deputy City Clerk at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL (815) 476-2175.

By order of the Corporate Authorities of the City of Wilmington, Will County, Illinois

/s/ Joie Ziller

Deputy City Clerk

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Village of Symerton annual treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF SYMERTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 04/30/2023

REVENUE SUMMARY:

Property Tax (845):	\$1,735
Licenses (321):	\$750
Garbage Billing (234):	\$8,160
AT&T Franchise (325):	\$1,381
Sales Tax (345):	\$153,906
A.R.P.A. (700):	\$6,198
Total Revenue:	\$201,151

EXPENDITURES SUMMARY:

Admin. Fees (430):	\$12,759
Street Lighting (572):	\$3,075
Maint. Serv. (510):	\$44,549
Communications (552):	\$2,334
Emergency Fund (930):	\$10,000
Garbage Dispo. (573):	\$10,165
Dues (565):	\$680
Transfer to investment:	\$80,000
Total Expenditures:	\$178,060

Beginning Fund Balance	\$120,353
REVENUES:	\$201,151
EXPENDITURES:	\$178,060
ENDING FUND BAL:	\$143,444

Park Fund	Beginning Fund Balance	\$18,146
	Revenue	\$5,624
	Expenditures	\$13,350
	Ending Fund Balance	\$10,420

Motor Fuel Tax Fund	Beginning Fund Balance	\$11,607
	Revenue	\$5,065
	Expenditures	\$0.00
	Ending Fund Balance	\$16,672

Subscribed and Sworn on this 5th day of July 2023

I, George Salaba, Clerk of the Village of Symerton, Will County, Illinois do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023.

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Bushock estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of LEONA BUSHOCK, Deceased. Case No.: 23 PR 386

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of LEONA BUSHOCK, of Crest Hill, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued July 7, 2023, to CAROL L. COOLEY, whose address is 2454 E. Cass St., Joliet, IL 60432, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of January, 2024, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Carol L. Cooley, Independent Executor of the Estate of Leona Bushock, Deceased. Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 McGrath Law, P.C. 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442 (815) 478-4020 mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on July 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Gottberg estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of GAY GOTTBURG, Deceased. Case No.: 23 PR 341

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of GAY GOTTBURG, of Manhattan, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued July 6, 2023, to STEFANIE GOTTBURG, whose address is 21314 S. Hillside Rd., Frankfort, IL 60423, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of January, 2024, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Stefanie Gottberg, Independent Executor of the Estate of Gay Gottberg, Deceased. Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 McGrath Law, P.C. 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442 (815) 478-4020 mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on July 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

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Come for Catfish Days



LIVE Music

Friday, July 21
NITELIFE
Classic Rock and More
 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

NO COVER!

Saturday, July 22
FENDER BENDERS
60's, 70's, 80's and more!
 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

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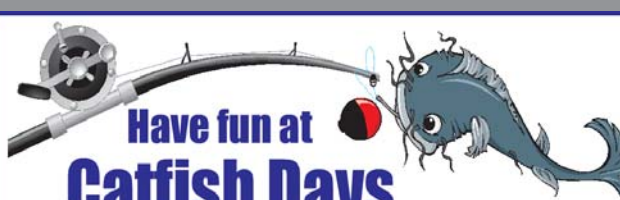


Come to VFW Post 5422 during Catfish Days *July 20-23*


BINGO Thursday, July 20 from 6pm-10pm
 Bingo in the hall

Catfish Dinners Friday & Saturday from 2pm-8pm
 Whole, Filet & Nuggets

Sunday, July 23rd, 8am-noon, Down on the Farm Breakfast Buffet
 Pancakes, biscuits & gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, fried potatoes, milk, juice, coffee. \$12-adult, \$7-kids (13 and under). Free for children 5 and under. Bring a camera and take a picture in front of backdrop and props of a farm.
Catfish dinners 2pm-6pm....Bingo 2-6pm
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Have fun at Catfish Days



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 Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

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Catfish Days

July 20th - 23rd

FRIDAY NIGHT BANDS

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SATURDAY NIGHT BANDS

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 THE LACY'S
 VANCURA BROTHERS
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 POISON'D CRUE

Serving Whole Catfish Dinners ALL 4 DAYS
includes whole catfish, coleslaw, potato wedges, &c onn on the cob.

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Entertainment Every Night during Catfish Days!

WED., JULY 19
DJ NITRO KARAOKE
 9:30 p.m.

THURS., JULY 20
ALEX HOFFER
 8:30 p.m.

FRI., JULY 21
DJ TRIP
 9:30 p.m.

SAT., JULY 22
ALEX HOFFER
 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

SUN., JULY 23
ETHAN BELL
 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
DJ NITRO
 7 p.m. - ?

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- THURS., JULY 20 - LADIES NITE
 \$1 OFF Pours for ladies!

- FRIDAY, JULY 21 - Rolling Smokes / mobile cigar lounge in the parking lot

- SUNDAY, JULY 23 - 1 to 5 p.m.
THE ARGONAUT CO.
 Pop-Up Oyster Bar
 • Take-n-Bake Crab •
 • Oysters •
 • Lobster Rolls •
 Pre-order on facebook page

- SATURDAY, JULY 22 - BABY CONTEST
 11 a.m.
 (must be registered)

ICE ICE BABY MOBILE
 Shaved Ice Trailer
 Opens at Noon

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
FIDDLE ROCK - SOLO SHOW
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HELP US FILL KUZMA'S VAN DURING THE PARADE!

Save this page for Catfish Days activities that begin July 20.

Be sure to read the July 19 issue of the Free Press Advocate for a complete listing of all Catfish Days activities—on and off the North Island Park. If you're holding an event, email the details to efisher@fpnusa.com

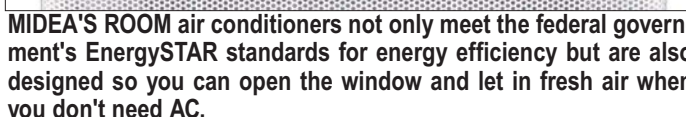
Keeping your cool while being green

Michael Korst
For the Estate of
Rosalie E. Carpentier, Deceased
Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, July 5, 12 and 19

/s/ Danielle Marie Jones
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Wednesday, June 28, July 5
and 12, 2023.

Another eco-friendly air conditioning solution gaining popularity is the use of evaporative coolers, also known as

HFOs are less harmful to the ozone layer and have a significantly lower impact on global warming. Some manufacturers have already started producing air conditioners that use HFO refrigerants, offering a greener cooling



Finally, it is essential to consider sustainable design and proper maintenance practices when using air conditioners. Optimizing insulation, reducing air leaks, and shading windows can help reduce the load on air conditioning systems.

Regular maintenance, such as cleaning filters and ensuring proper airflow, doesn't have to mean heating up the planet!

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, July 9, 12 and 19, 2020.

Our File No. 14-23-02997
NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
I3223270

2-10:30pm	Carnival Opens: Pay One Price for Unlimited Rides from 2 to 6pm Buy a wristband on Sunday and receive a chance to win one of two Bikes, Must Be Present To Win, Drawing at 6:30pm at the Midway Ticket Booth Balloon Twisting Art & Face Painting with Pete the Fun Guy & Linda the Face Painter (under the hospitality tent)
2-4pm	
2-4pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
2:30-4:30pm	"The NORMAL One" –Clowning Around with Laughs & Smiles (in the hospitality & entertainment area)
2-6pm	DJ George – Chi-City Enterprises
2-9pm	Ignite Christian Church Baby Changing/Feeding/Cooling Station & Outreach Booth (north of the hospitality tent)
2-8pm	Braidwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Booth & Equipment Displays
6-9pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
6:30-9:30pm	Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage: "The Baked Potatoes" 60's-70's-80's-90's Rock & Roll
9:30pm	ANNUAL SUMMERFEST FIREWORKS DISPLAY

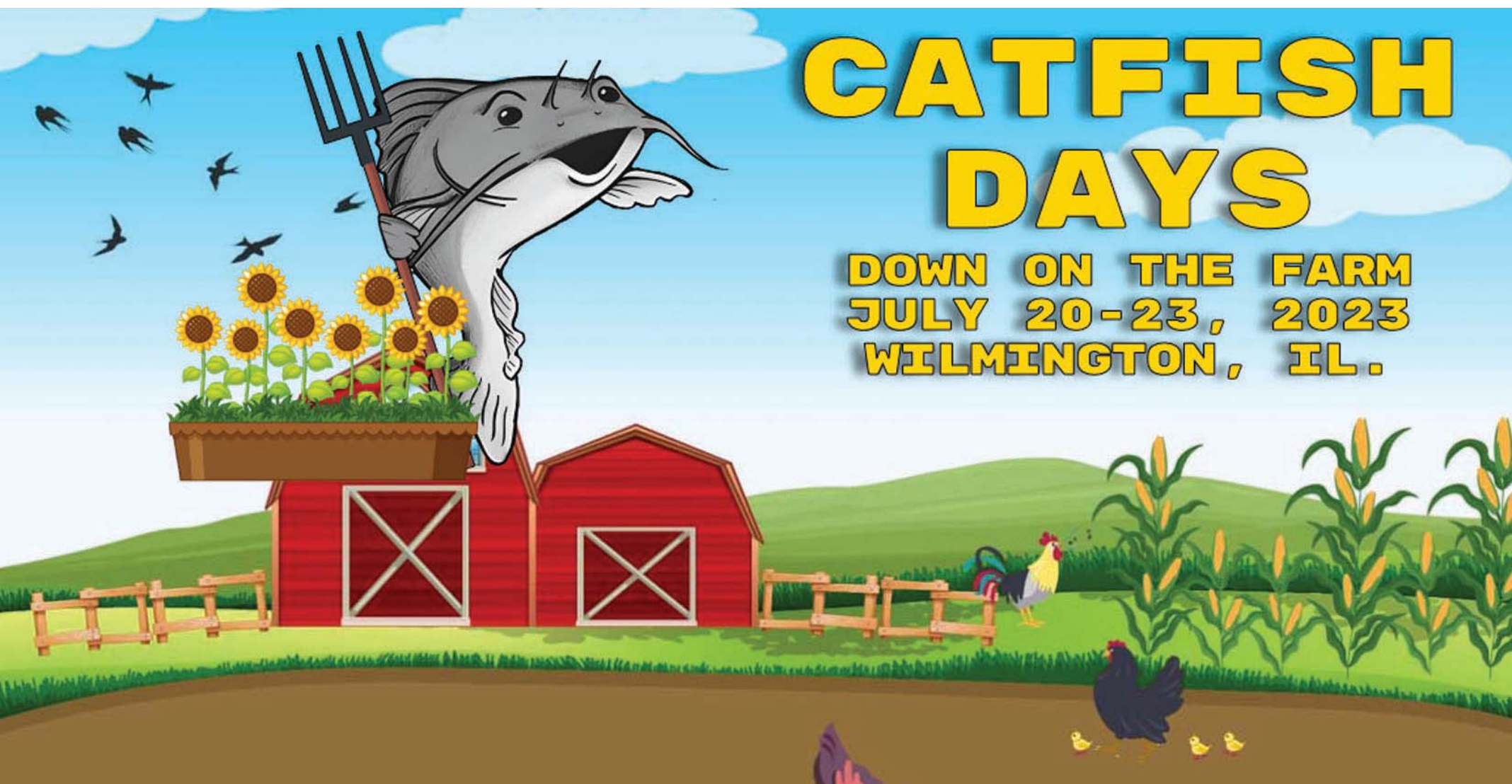
Only Certified ADA Service Dogs
Will Be Permitted.
**No Smoking Will Be Allowed
Under The Bingo Pavilion. Seating Under
Bingo Pavilion During Game Sessions Will

For Safety Reasons, **No Pets Will Be Allowed On Festival Grounds** In The Carnival Midway Food Court, Entertainment Areas, Flea Markets, Areas, Parking Lots or Baseball Field Areas. Regardless of Size, Temperament or Leash.

Only Certified ADA Service Dogs Will Be Permitted.

****No Smoking Will Be Allowed**

Under The Bingo Pavilion. Seating Under The Bingo Pavilion During Game Sessions Will Be Reserved For Those Who Are Playing**



Thursday, July 20th

Teen Night

***Sponsored by Riverfront Lanes**

- 4-7pm Wilmington Park District Farmers Market (Downtown)
- 6-10pm Carnival & Food Vendors OPEN
All you can ride wristband \$25
DJ Roy Gregory with Music & Fun
National Guard Climbing Wall & Dunk Tank
- 6-8pm Fear Factor Competition
***Sponsored by Wilmington Coalition**

Friday, July 21st

Downtown

BTI's Barnyard Builds & Equipment

- 5-8pm Barnyard Equipment Show
Make your own 'Horse' with the Park District
Balloon Art, Face Painting & Photo Ops!
- 6-7pm Cardboard 'Tractor' Races
***Sponsored by Wesley 4-H Hustlers**
- 5p-2:30am Food Vendors OPEN

North Island

- 6pm-12am Carnival, Food Vendors & Beer Garden OPEN
- 6-7pm Reptile Show by Crosstown Exotics
- 6-7:30pm Line Dancing with DJ Doug Pfaff
- 8pm Hillbilly Rockstarz on Main Stage
- 9:30pm Fireworks

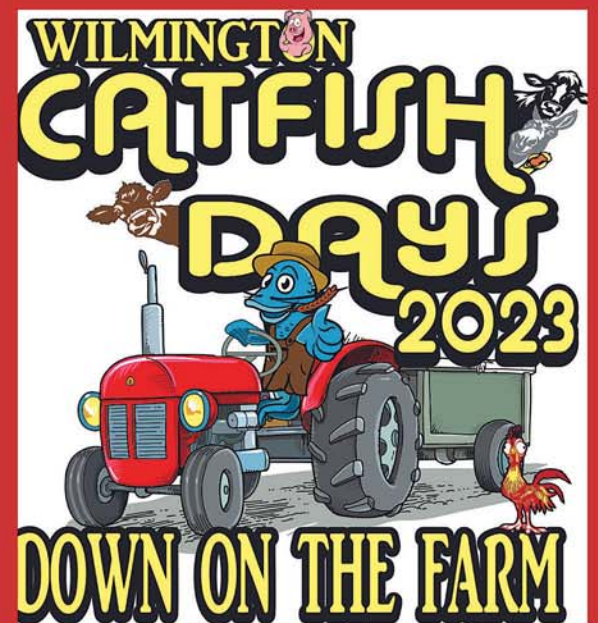
Saturday, July 22nd

- 9am-4pm Women of Wilmington Flea Market ***Downtown***
- 10:30am Skinner's Bike & Pet Parade
Jackson & North Water St.
across walkbridge to North Island Stage
- 11am-3pm Mini Horse Carriage Rides
- 12pm-12am Carnival, Food Vendors & Beer Garden OPEN
DJ Roy Gregory
- 12:30pm Circus Boy Bobby Hunt @ Main Stage
- 1:00pm WHS Spiritline Performance
- 1:30pm Park District Dancers
- 2-5pm Youth Bean Bag Tournament
- 8pm No Decision on Main Stage
- 9:30pm Laser Show



Sunday, July 23rd

- 10am Rusty Nutz Car Show
- 12pm-1pm Sensory Friendly Time at Carnival
Beer Garden open
- 1pm CFD Parade ***leaves from Steven's Intermediate School to Water St to Mill St.**
- 2pm-6pm Carnival ***All you can ride. wristband \$25***
Greg's Fender Benders on the Main Stage
- 3pm Fear Factor Finals
- 3:30pm Coloring Contest
- 5pm Pie Baking Contest
@ Veteran's Park
***Sponsored by Wilmington Pastor's Association**
- 6pm Wilmington Community Band @ Veteran's Park



OFFICIAL SCHEDULE 2023



SCAN HERE
For all the latest info!

“WE'RE GONNA PARTY TILL THE FISH COME HOME”



catfishdays



wilmingtoncatfishdays

www.catfishdays.com

All events are on the North Island unless otherwise specified
All activities are subject to change

