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Video gaming revenues on the rise

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

If every \$1 bill placed in an Illinois video gaming machine in the past six months was laid out end to end, the currency would circle the globe more than 20 times.

The Illinois Gaming Board [IGB] reports that \$5.21 billion went into video gaming machines during the first six months of this year, roughly \$64 million more than the same period a year ago.

More wagering took place even though video gaming was suspended by executive order for the first 16 days of 2021 as result of the on-going COVID pandemic.

The year-to-year difference could be a result of dollars played, when players decided to cash out, the number of terminals open for gaming or even the pandemic pause.

At the end of June, IGB reported 43,128 terminals were in operation at 7,967 licensed establishments an increase of 3.5% and 2.3% respectively from this time last year.

The video slot and poker machines have generated \$388 million so far this year for Illinois with municipalities and counties collecting a bit more than \$66.9 million.

The amount the state and local municipalities collects is based on net terminal income [NTI]—money put in minus what is collected by the player. The state collects 29% of the NTI with 5% of that going to the towns and counties who can utilize those dollars any way they want.

The village of Diamond has been utilizing the funds to assist residents with the cost of municipal utilities, Coal City put some of its dollars into beautification and in Wilmington the funds allowed the city discontinue its vehicle sticker program.

This September will mark 10 years of video gaming in Illinois and as of last month the total generated for the state is just over \$3.3 billion with an additional \$621 million benefiting Illinois towns.

The city of Wilmington has collected \$862,344.01 since gaming went on line in 2012, the village of Diamond has received \$519,066.96. Gaming in Coal City has generated \$508,355.25 and Braidwood has benefited to the amount of \$303,355.25.

IGB reports over \$48 billion has been put into machines since 2012 with players cashing out more than \$35.6 billion.

Carbon Hill was among the first local communities to see gaming go live.

Bum's Tavern being the first to get machines up and running and since that time the establishment has increased its terminals to the maximum of six.

Bum's is one of two establishments in town where there are 11 gaming machines in operation generating \$17,908 for the town so far this year.

Since the start of the year those machines have taken in \$1.29 million and paid out \$941,422 on \$4.75 million played, compared to \$662,732 in and \$488,286 paid out in 2021.

Not all Illinois municipalities allow gaming, Coal City was almost one of them as some members of the Village Board were opposed to the concept when it was first introduced.

However, the matter was put in the hands of voters who in November 2012 said yes to gaming—1,416 to 814. Based on the overwhelming support the Village Board approved an ordinance permitting bars and restaurants licensed to serve alcohol to add gaming

SEE GAMING, PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

GREASE IS THE WORD—The T-Birds and Pink Ladies will take the stage this weekend in Small Town Theatrics production of Grease. Leading the cast are [kneeling] Kevin Soto and Riley Nevin. Along with [standing from left] Hailey Rose Kasky, Joey Fatigante, Maggie Komes, Trevor Shingler, Kaylee Groves, Stephen Byers and Zoe Smith. Shows are Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m., Sunday, July 31 in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. Tickets available at smalltowntheatrics.org. Additional photos on page 14.

Small Town, Big City Theatre

Small Town Theatrics celebrates 50 years of *Grease*

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

"Grease is the word, is the word that you heard
It's got groove it's got meaning
Grease is the time, is the place is the motion
Grease is the way we are feeling..."

The cast of Small Town Theatrics upcoming production of *Grease* is certainly feeling the message of the show as it's set to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the classic musical

written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey who earned a Tony nomination for their work.

Set in 1959 at the fictional Rydell High School, *Grease* is a musical that follows a group of teenagers in a coming of age tale set in a time of rock n roll, bobby socks, malt shops, and saddle shoes.

Inspired by his alma mater—William Howard Taft School in Chicago's Norwood Park neighborhood—Jacobs teamed with Casey on the original musical that debuted in 1971 at the former Kingston Mines nightclub in Chicago.

A year later, the show moved to Broadway making this the 50th Anniversary year of its original New York run. At the time of its closing in

1980 it was the longest running Broadway show with 3,388 performances. And, it remains one of Broadway's longest running shows.

Grease earned seven Tony nominations. There have been U.S. tours, West End productions, Broadway revivals and even a live TV musical.

Now, 50 years later, the story is played out in regional and community theaters across the country with a school version taking the stage at multiple middle and high schools.

The story's popularity was bolstered by the 1978 film of the same name featuring Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta who had played Doody on Broadway and the national tour.

The movie and musical have

their similarities and their differences.

This production will feature some of the unknown vocal tracks, as well as popular songs such as *Greased Lightning*, *Summer Nights* and *We Go Together*.

When it came time to select Small Town Theatrics summer musical there were a few titles on the table. *Grease* was a hands down choice for the creative team led by the company's founder, producer and director Jack Micetich.

The production schedule for a summer show is rather short with a group of 25 actors and actresses meeting an average of three to four

SEE THEATRE, PAGE 2

Farewell farmers market

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

It's farmers market season, however there will be no sweet corn, bouquets of lavender or alpaca socks sold in Campbell Memorial Park this summer.

In a social media post, the village of Coal City announced last week that it was putting a pause on the Market Fresh on Broadway events.

"It is with much regret that we must cancel the upcoming farmers markets of 2022. Due to the total number of vendors it was decided to pause the event in hopes of renewed interest in the future," the announcement said.

According to Linda Sula, who has overseen the vendor application process for the village, there were just three signed up to participate this

SEE MARKET, PAGE 2



File photo

THE VILLAGE OF Coal City has canceled its farmers market—Market Fresh on Broadway—for the current season due to a lack of vendors. As of mid-July there were only three vendors signed up to participate.



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Theatre

days a week over a five-week period. As Micetich points out, it takes dedication to put a musical together, especially in such a short time frame and this group has shown it in their work.

Cast members range in age from 14-47, a handful of them college students studying musical theatre and dance.

The cast represents seven communities across three counties, and includes a father and son, mother and daughter and two sets of siblings.

As a group they consider themselves family as most have worked together on previous productions with Small Town Theatrics or through school theatre experiences.

Grace Preboy, of Minooka, returns this summer in the role of Sandy Dumbrowski. She made her Small Town debut as Jane Banks in the company's 2015 production of *Mary Poppins* and was most recently seen as Maureen Johnson in *Rent*.

Delighted to take on this next role, Grace said, "Sandy is such a timeless character. I am honored to be able to reimagine Olivia Newton-John's stellar 1978 performance."

Grease is a show that takes on a multitude of issues that face teenagers—peer pressure, gang violence, teen pregnancy, rebellion and class conflict.

The stage version opens as the class of 1959 gathers for a reunion with a speech by class valedictorian Eugene Florczyk [played by Mason Natyshok] and with mention of those missing from the gathering the scene segues to the T-Birds and Pink Ladies on the first day of school 1959.

Sandy the new girl in school is introduced to the Pink Ladies—Marty, Rizzo, Frenchy and Jan.

Danny comes in to reconnect with his pals the T-Birds—Kenickie, Roger, Doody and Sonny [aka LaTierri].

Catching up on their summer adventures the ladies discover the new girl in school met a boy that is cute as can be and one they know all too well, and just outside the lunchroom where they have gathered, that boy tells his friends about his summer nights with a girl who's crazy for him.

The show takes the audience back to the 1950s, days of growing up and discovering oneself and friendships that last the test of time.

Taking on the role of Danny Zuko is Trevor Shingler, of Lockport, who said he's excited to be performing once again this summer. *Grease* marks his fifth season with Small Town Theatrics.

Taking the stage along side of him as T-Birds are Kevin Soto, as Kenickie; Joey Fatigante, as Sonny; Riley Nevin, as Roger, and Stephen Byers as Doody. All four are from Coal City and members of previous Small Town casts.

Soto started with the company in 2012 and this marks his eighth appearance with the group.

As for this company's Pink Ladies, they include Maggie Komes, as Rizzo; Hailey Rose Kasky, as Marty; Kaylee Groves, as Jan and Zoe Smith, as the Frenchy—the beauty school drop out.

Smith and Groves are both from Coal City and performed during their high school years. Komes, hails from Newark, IL and Kasky, who is also serving as assistant choreographer for the show, is a resident of Shorewood.

Matt Nevin, of Coal City, said he is living a long-time dream of performing in *Grease*. Ecstatic to be in his first musical, Nevin takes the stage in a white sequined suit as Teen Angel.

Although he's performed with a number of rock n roll bands, this is his first time acting on stage.

"These kids [cast] showed me not only how to sing, but to truly entertain," Nevin said.

Rounding out the cast are Emma Kenney, as Patty Simcox; Landen Selio, as Vince Fontaine; Madison Holcomb, as Cha-Cha DiGregorio and Dana Eisenach, as Miss Lynch, the old-maid English teacher.

The outstanding ensemble is comprised of Bryce Henderson, Elaina Patten, Isabella Byers, Mae Connor, Kilen Davidson, McKenna Patten, Mackenzie Ortega, Courtney Meyer and Victoria Eisenach.

The show is based on the original script and lyrics crafted by Jacobs and Casey with adaptations that integrate what people recall from the movie.

"It's incredible to see the songs we know and love come to life on stage," Preboy said.

There will likely be a few surprises in the show that will have audience members talking, as will the costumes and lighting.

Small Town Theatrics was established in 2010 to provide individuals of all ages with opportunities to showcase their talents, while exposing them to the diversity of the performing arts.

The mission has stayed the same since Micetich's first community production 13 seasons ago.

A non-for-profit, Small Town operates on donations and ticket sales. No one pays to perform and no one is paid to participate, it is strictly a volunteer organization that operates on the motto of, Small Town, Big City Theatre.

Grease will take the stage for three performances in the Coal City Performing Arts Center starting at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 29 with additional shows at 7 p.m., Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31 at 2 p.m.

Reserved seat tickets are available at smalltowntheatrics.org with any remaining seats available for purchase [\$15 cash only] at the door beginning one hour prior to each scheduled performance.

Local banker appointed to IBA Future Leaders Alliance Board

MORRIS—Ashley Speed, assistant vice president of Grundy Bank in Morris recently was appointed to the Illinois Bankers Association (IBA) 2022-2023 Future Leaders Alliance Board by IBA president and CEO Randy Hultgren.

As a member of the Board, Speed is charged with developing and overseeing the foundation of the Future Leaders Alliance program—a membership program dedicated to the leadership development of promising leaders in the Illinois banking industry through highly engaging educational events, increasing awareness and involvement in the legislative process, creating opportunities for com-

munity service and relationship building. "As a graduate of the Future Leaders Alliance class of 2015, I am excited to serve on the FLA Board of Directors. I had a wonderful experience when I went through the program, and I am eager to use my experience to help further develop the program for future classes," said Speed.

The Illinois Bankers Association is a full-service trade association dedicated to creating a positive business climate that benefits the entire banking industry and the communities they serve.

Founded in 1891, the IBA brings together state and national banks and sav-

ings banks of all sizes in Illinois. Collectively, the IBA represents nearly 90% of the assets of the Illinois banking industry, which employs more than 100,000 men and women in nearly 5,000 offices across the state.

Grundy Bank is a leading community bank in Grundy County that is dedicated to providing hometown service while offering big bank products to their clients. Grundy Bank is proud to say they've served Grundy County and Southern Will County for 158 years with their financial needs. For locations and information on Grundy Bank call 815-942-0130 or visit grundybank.com.

Free school supplies from Help for Hope

The new school year starts in three weeks and to help students get off on the right track, Help for Hope will be handing out school supplies.

Help for Hope's annual back-to-school supplies giveaway is set for Monday, Aug. 1 from 4-6 p.m. This will be a drive-up event outside the organization's office at 100 S. Baima St. [adjacent to Coal

City Intermediate School].

Free school supplies will be handed out to all community members in need of these items and just like all services provided by the non-profit help organization, participation is not based on residency or income.

Those participating are asked to approach the event from the north side of the

Hope for Help building, driving up to the tables that will be located in the parking lot. Once at the table tell the volunteer the grade level or levels of the student or students items are needed for, once items have been provided exit slowly from the south side of the parking lot. Again this is a drive-up event so those attending should stay in their

vehicles—there will not be runners going to cars.

Help for Hope was established in 2014 to assist those in need by providing basic life necessities and access to community services regardless of income status or residency. The organization is available 24/7 when an emergency arises.

Gernenz earns degree at UW Oshkosh

The UW Oshkosh 148th spring commencement—with a pair of ceremonies May 14—recognized the accomplishments of students from all three of its campuses, Fond du Lac, Fox Cities, Oshkosh. Nearly 1,500 students earned bachelor's, master's, associate and doctoral degrees, and joined the ranks of more than 100,000 UW Oshkosh alumni.

Among the graduates was Abbey Gernenz, of Mazon, College of Education and Human Services, Bachelor of Science in Education, Elementary Education.

Rezin hosts Ag Advisory Committee

YORKVILLE—Local farmers and agricultural industry leaders came together July 13 for Illinois Senate Deputy Minority Leader Sue Rezin's Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting at Stewart Farms in Yorkville to discuss agricultural-related issues with the Senator and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello.

"Agriculture is the foundational rock of Illinois' economy and the largest driver of jobs within the state," said Rezin. "The members of my Agriculture Advisory Committee have first-hand experience and knowledge on what issues

and policies are impacting our agricultural community and industry. As an elected public official, there is nothing more valuable than speaking with the people who are directly impacted by the policies that you are tasked with setting."

Rezin's Agriculture Advisory Committee was organized to give local farmers, farm bureau representatives and other agricultural industry leaders within the 38th Senate District an opportunity to ask questions, discuss issues and offer proposals on how lawmakers in Springfield can create better agriculture policy.

Receive emergency alerts by text

Area residents who would like to receive emergency alerts from the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency can sign up at www.nixle.com and type in your zip code.

Emergency alerts include weather, traffic, criminal activities and more in the Grundy area. You can also text your zip code to 888777 to opt in for emergency notifications.

Gaming

machines.

As of last month there were seven establishments operating 38 terminals, up from 34 terminals one year ago.

In the first half of the year, \$3.8 million has been put into the machines generating plays of \$11.4 million. Players have collected \$2.87 million and Coal City's take comes out to \$48,629, an increase of just over \$10,700 for the town.

Emmy's Cafe ranks as the top among the six establishments with \$1.3 million in funds going in and \$1 million cashed out from \$3.8 million played.

Emmy's Cafe also ranks as the city of Braidwood's top grossing gaming establishment out of six.

The 32 video slot and poker machines there have recorded \$8.9 million played on \$2.8 million input. \$2 million has been cashed out and the city's take so far this year is just over \$36,748.

The year-to-date totals are up a bit from the same time last year when IGB reported \$7.9 million played from an initial \$2.49 million.

As of June 31, the village of Diamond has received \$53,582 from gaming revenues in its community.

The town has 26 terminals in five establishments, down from the prior year when 32 terminals were in operation.

However, the reduction did not have a negative impact.

Despite fewer terminals, so far this year \$11.7 million has been played on an initial input of \$3.7 million, last year those figures were \$11 million and \$3.37 million.

And, players have cashed out \$2.6 million compared to \$2.4 million in 2021.

When it comes to video gaming, the city of Wilmington out paces neighboring communities.

With 19 licensed establishments operating 103 gaming terminals, the city has received \$106,778 in gaming revenue since the start of the year. That's \$24,159 more over the same six months in 2021, a 30% increase.

From January to June, \$25.86 million was played from an initial \$8.26 million. Players cashed out \$6.1 million—\$1.36 million from the 10 gaming machines found within the city's TA Operating location at Lorenzo Road.

New to the city's gaming scene is Birdies Cafe and its six terminals have generated player payoffs of \$854,711.25 in just five months—they opened in February—based on an initial input of \$1.13 million.

As for figures reported by other local counties and communities:

• Will County—\$36.89 million played from an input of \$11.8 million on 115 terminals with a payout of \$6.65 million.

These figures represent establishments in unincorporated areas of the county including Snookers Sports Bar & Grill. The county's share so far this year amounts to \$159,163.66.

• Grundy County—\$7.5 million played from an input of \$2.4 million with a payout of \$1.8 million. The county has 29 terminals in five establishments including Gippers II Sports Bar and the Goose Lake Association. In total, the county has received \$29,947.26 to date.

• Symerton—There is one establishment—Symerton Tap—operating five terminals that generated \$2,995.63 for the village. \$348,760 was input into the machines that generated \$973,731 in play with a cash payout of \$288,847.

• Godley—The six terminals here generated \$10,084 for the town. The reported figures show \$2.2 million was played from an input of \$696,423 with a payout of \$494,735.

• Essex—The town's three licensed establishments have 17 terminals that resulted in \$3.5 million being played on an input of \$1 million. Players cashed out \$775,689, The town's take \$14,156.63 through June.

• Braveille—There are five terminals in town that have generated over \$846,000 in play from an initial input of \$276,363. Players have taken home \$190,716 and the village has received \$4,281.82.

Market

summer—Albo Acres, Perkins Farm and Wills/McIntire Sweet Corn.

"We would like to thank all of our participating vendors for being part of our market," the village stated.

The market was set to open for its sixth season this Saturday with four additional dates in August and September.

The market opened in 2016. The idea of starting a market had been on the Coal City Park Board's agenda for close to two years, initially stemming from a programming conversation.

In order to take the idea from concept to reality, the Park Board set up a committee comprised of village residents, local business owners and community leaders. Each member of the group was assigned a task from establishing regulations and applications to marketing and entertainment.

To further boost the village's understanding of how successful markets work, a

small group attended a workshop at Northern Illinois University and brought back ideas that were put into practice in those first few years.

The inaugural market season found 13 vendors set up in the park offering fresh produce, jams and jellies, farm fresh eggs, local honey and homemade pies. There were fresh flowers, gourmet

popcorn, soaps and fancy pet treats.

The markets also provided live entertainment, story hours and physical fitness classes. As well as a place for non-profits and food vendors to sell their burgers, biscuits and gourmet tacos. Many Saturday events serving as fundraisers for local causes and groups including the

town's police force.

However, over time the number of vendors fell and it became harder to get people to participate in the summer markets.

Sula said the village intends to revisit the market concept next year. For now, Market Fresh on Broadway is on a pause with the hope it can be revitalized and return

SMALL TOWN THEATRICS'

GREASE

CAST

Danny Zuko	TREVOR SHINGLER
Sandy Dumbrowski	GRACE PREBOY
Kenickie	KEVIN SOTO
Sonny LaTierri	JOEY FATIGANTE
Roger	RILEY NEVIN
Doody	STEPHEN BYERS
Betty Rizzo	MAGGIE KOMES
Marty	HAILEY ROSE KASKY
Jan	KAYLEE GROVES
Frenchy	ZOE SMITH
Patty Simcox	EMMA KENNEY
Eugene Florczyk	MASON NATYSHOK
Miss Lynch	DANA EISENACH
Vince Fontaine	LANDEN SELIO
Cha-Cha DiGregorio	MADISON HOLCOMB
Teen Angel	MATT NEVIN
Ensemble	BRYCE HENDERSON,
	ELAINA PATTEN, ISABELLA BYERS, MAE CONNOR,
	KILEN DAVIDSON, MCKENNA PATTEN, MACKENZIE
	ORTEGA, COURTNEY MEYER and VICTORIA
	EISENACH.

CREATIVE TEAM

Producer/Director	JACK MICETICH
Producer	ANN GILL
Vocal Director	SHANAN D'AGOSTINO
Choreography	KIM SCERINE
Asst. Choreographer	HAILEY ROSE KASKY
Scenic Designer	STEPHEN MENARD

CREW and FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Derek Carlson, Addey Connor, Sophiya Williams,
Joe Watson, Buddy Widlowski, Morgan Reibenstein,
Jill Larson, Brenda Kreiger, Melody Kinder
and Haleigh Eisenach

Award Winner

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Final step taken in housing rehabilitation program

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The village of Coal City was one of 13 communities selected back in 2020 to share \$6.3 million in federal funds to rehabilitate homes, an investment in the town that is now complete.

Ten homes within the town's designated project area received new roofs, windows, bathroom and kitchen remodels. In total, over \$500,000 was spent to improve the homes of qualified low to moderate income residents.

Mayor Terry Halliday called the program, "fantastic."

Working with the North Central Illinois Council of Governments [NCICG], the village submitted a funding application to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO] in August 2019. Several months later, the village was announced as a recipient of the funds made available from the federal governments Community

Development Block Grant [CDBG] program.

The funds are available to residents within the defined project area that included east of Broadway and south of Division Street stopping on the east at North Lincoln Street and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad track. The eastern border includes homes on both sides of South Vermilion Street south to East Elm Street and the southern border stopping on the west at South Broadway.

Along with the \$500,000 awarded by DCEO, the village of Coal City contributed \$15,000 and the Community Foundation of Grundy County pledged an additional \$5,000. Along with the granted funds, Kendall-Grundy Community Action stepped in with additional improvements for the homeowners in the amount of \$46,000.

NCICG office manager, Shug Grosenbach told the Village Board last week that \$427,350 of the grant award went directly to finance the rehabilitation of homes, with \$34,188

covering the cost of grant administration and \$38,462 for a construction inspector who worked on the project from beginning to end.

Grosenbach's report to the Board was a necessary and final step in the grant process, as a close out public hearing was required as part of the award.

During that hearing, Grosenbach retraced the steps of the program from application to the final dollar spent. And, she joined Halliday in making note these improvements came at no cost to the homeowners. The only caveat is they must live in the home for a period of five years upon completion of the work.

"I think there were some citizens that maybe missed out and if we can get this going again will next time realize this is for real," Halliday said.

Grosenbach noted that is exactly what happened in some of the other communities NCICG has worked with, "the second round, they were like this is really true, they're not lying to you."

NCICG works with area govern-

ments to strengthen communities, the housing rehabilitation program is one of the many projects the agency has assisted the village with in the past several years.

Coal City submitted an application to expand the program into another project area—essentially focusing on old Eileen. An area east of Lincoln Street north of Division to Sixth Avenue which is the eastern edge of Coal City.

However, as reported last month, the village's application was not selected for the current year.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz has already shared with the Board some thoughts on ways to improve a future funding application.

Town officials have indicated they would like to get the old Eileen area funded in the future.

Fritz took note of the support provided by the town's public works crew who assisted with a few necessary improvements along the way to ensure Coal City residents could maximize their investment potential.

And, he pointed out the extensive

work conducted by NCICG on behalf of the village and its residents, specifically calling out the work of NCICG's Connie Buchanan, who administers the program.

"In the end, it was Ms. Buchanan who makes sure everything makes sense from property submitting an application to approving invoices allowing the contractors to be paid to ensuring federally-qualified inspections take place to properly estimate what improvements should be planned at each qualifying household," Fritz said.

Halliday also took time to thank the Ottawa based agency, as well as those providing additional support to the program and residents.

"At the time it seemed to good to be true, and it ended up being really good," the mayor said of the program.

"It's great programming. I'm glad our office decided this was worthwhile because it truly is, and I'm glad we jumped into it for our span from Grundy to Stark county. We think this program is going to be fantastic for our region," Grosenbach said.

Lifegaurds lauded



Courtesy photos

EACH MONTH DURING the summer beach season the Coal City Area Club recognizes the outstanding efforts of its lifeguards and for the month of June Colleen Feeney was selected as Lifeguard of the Month for her willingness to step up when needed, her cooperation and great personality.



CONNOR HOUSTON IS in his first season as a lifeguard at the Coal City Area Club and in recognition of his enthusiasm, cooperation and keeping communications going, he was selected as Rookie Lifeguard of the Month. Get to know Connor and his fellow lifeguards who will be assisting with the sandcastle building contest on the beach this Saturday, July 30.

Cici Bean Photography files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on July 6, A.D. 2022, 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 Cici Bean Photography, located at 847 E. Jefferson St., Morris, IL 60450.
Dated this 6th day of July, A.D. 2022.
Kay T. Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 13, 20 and 27, 2022.

CC Zoning Board to consider appeal for variance for chicken yard

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 15th day of August, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:
To consider: variance to allow a chicken yard less than 75 ft from neighboring structures.
At the following address: 325 Elizabeth Dr.
Legal description of property: The south 57.54 ft. of lot 12 in Mar-leen subdivision fourth addition as per plat recorded August 15, 1991 in plat cabinet F, slide no. 187 as documented No. 310068 in Grundy County, IL. Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Dayna Maggiore Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection therefor.
Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 21st day of July, 2022.
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 27, 2022.

Coal Bin to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, a sale or other disposition of property by Coal Bin Storage, Inc., will be held online at www.BID13.com, auction ending on Aug. 3, 2022, 1 p.m., to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, Yasmine Owens, 215 S. Kankakee St. Godley, IL, Unit D58, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$355 plus attorney fees and costs.
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 20 & 27, 2022.

Attorney Gallo files Depratt estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOHN A. DEPRATT, Deceased; No. 2022PR62
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of John A. Depratt of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 8, 2022 to Eric Holloway, 16502 S. Mueller Circle, Plainfield, Illinois 60586, whose attorney is John S. Gallo, Tracy, Johnson & Wilson, 2801 Black Road, second floor, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 20th day of January, 2023 and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Eric Holloway, Independent Executor
John S. Gallo
ARDC # 06191231
TRACY, JOHNSON & WILSON
Attorneys for Eric Holloway
2801 Black Road, Second Floor
Joliet, Illinois 60435
Phone No. (815) 723-8500
Email: jgallo@tracylawfirm.com
Published in the Coal City Courant, Wednesday, July 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 2022.

Welter, Rezin to host Kids' Safety Expo

State Rep. David Allen Welter invites local families to attend a free Kids' Safety Expo and Diaper Drive to benefit We Care of Grundy County from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6 at Morris Elementary School, located at 2001 DuPont Ave., Morris.

The Kids' Safety Expo, sponsored by Welter and State Senator Sue Rezin, features over 35 state and local agencies, non-profit organizations and local businesses covering a wide range of educational, health and child care, recreational and community services for families and children.

Special attractions include the popular Touch-A-Truck exhibit featuring over a dozen trucks located in the parking lot and the Superior Air medical heli-

copter landing at 10 a.m.

There will be child I.D.'s from the Illinois Masonic Family I.D. Program. Free kids' haircuts will also be offered just in time for back-to-school.

"The countless organizations in our community that offer programs and services to help kids grow, learn, and explore many interests are incredibly valuable," said Rep. Welter. "Our Kids' Safety Expo showcases the tremendous resources and activities available to kids right here in our own backyard, not to mention, it will be a ton of fun! I encourage every local family to stop by and check it out."

Admission to the event is free with refreshments and a drawing for giveaways.

Drive-thru collection for Help for Hope

Coal City Girl Scouts are joining forces once again to assist a local non-profit help those in need as part of a Girl Scout Gold Award project.

The scouts and Help for Hope will hold a drive-thru collection drive to benefit the local service agency on Sunday, Aug. 7.

The no-contact collection drive will run from 1-3 p.m. outside Help for Hope, 100 S. Baima St., Coal City.

Items to be collected include personal hygiene items including toilet paper, body soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant and feminine products. Baby products such as diapers, wipes, baby wash and powder.

As well as cleaning products like laundry soap, dish-

washing soap, garbage bags and multi-purpose cleaner.

Additionally, non-perishable food items will be accepted during the drive.

All donations—preferably in a bag—should be placed in the trunk of the donors vehicle and delivered to Help for Hope during the designated times.

Vehicles need to enter from Division Street and exit on to Baima/Church streets.

Once at Help for Hope donors are to stay in their vehicles and volunteers will collect the donations from there.

All donations will go to assist those in need.

Porterfield applies for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In re the Petition to Change the name of: Hayden Ray Porterfield to Hayden Ray Clark
No. 22 MR 21

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, Jason Clark on behalf of his minor child, Hayden Ray Porterfield shall appear in Grundy County Court, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 on the 22nd day of August, 2022 at 9:15 a.m. before the Judge assigned to hear said matter and then there present a Petition requesting the name of Hayden Ray Porterfield be changed to Hayden Ray Clark.
Signed: Jason Clark
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 20, 27 and Aug. 3, 2022.

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 13 and 27, 2022.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.
Tenant: Krystal Finefield 111 W. Waupansie St. Dwight, IL 60420. Unit 327 & E-58.
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by July 30, 2022 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 13 and 27, 2022.

Foreclosure notice of 1320 Emington Ln.

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

CALIBER HOME LOANS, INC., Plaintiff, vs. KEVIN MITCHELL AKA K MITCHELL, CHRISTINE MITCHELL AKA C MITCHELL AND LAKEWOOD TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, Defendants. CASE NO. 22-FC-34
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1320 EMINGTON LN MINOOKA, IL 60447

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, Christine Mitchell aka C Mitchell, Defendant, this case has been commenced in this Court against you and others, asking for foreclosure of the Mortgage held by the Plaintiff on the property located at 1320 Emington Ln, Minooka, IL 60447, more particularly described as:

Lot 524 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 as amended by Certificate of Correction recorded July 12, 2005, as Document Number 450570, in Aux Sable Township, Grundy County, Illinois
Permanent Index Number: 03-14-105-011
Commonly known as: 1320 Emington Ln, Minooka, IL 60447

YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT. By order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on August 19, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Law Library at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450. A lender representative will be present along with a court appointed mediator to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification.
YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE GIVEN OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

UNLESS YOU FILE your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450 on or before August 12, 2022, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT FOR FORECLOSURE.

CLERK OF THE COURT
THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Julie Beyers (#6217185)
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 740
Decatur, IL 62525

Send Notice/Pleadings to:
Veronika J. Miles (#6313161)
Email: Non-CookPleadings@hsbatlys.com
Telephone: (217) 422-1719
Facsimile: (217) 422-1754
8130-925095
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, July 13, 20 and 27, 2022.

Augustana College graduates

Augustana College, Rock Island, held its commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 22. U.S. Senator Dick Durbin delivered the address. The graduating class totaled 508.

Local students graduating were: Logan Pierard, of Coal City and Ariana Pullara, of Morris. Both were recognized with a major in Biology.

Rivera named to dean's list

Eusebio Rivera, of Coal City, is among the outstanding undergraduates who have been named to the Millikin University dean's list for the spring 2022 semester.

Students who attempt 12 graded credits during a fall or spring semester and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn dean's list honors.

Coal Bin to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois, a sale or other disposition of property by Coal Bin Storage, Inc., will be held online at www.BID13.com, auction ending on Aug. 3, 2022, 1 p.m., to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, Brittany Bush, 88 Chaucer Dr., Gardner, IL Unit A24, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$430 plus attorney fees and costs.
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 20 & 27, 2022.

Attorney Schmidt files estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
No. 2022-P-64
In the Matter of the Estate of Karen Sue Fritchtnitch, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Karen Sue Fritchtnitch. Letters of office were issued on July 13, 2022 to Michael C. Fritchtnitch as independent executor, whose attorney of record is Charles L. Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Courthouse, PO Box 707, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Charles L. Schmidt
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 20 and 27 and Aug. 3, 2022.

Scaggs requests map amendment for Meadow Estates property

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 15th day of August, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:
To consider: A map amendment changing property from C-3 to RM-2.
At the following address: Lot 92 Meadow Estates.
Legal description of property: Meadow Estates Sub. PH 1 amended plat Lot 92, part of Section 2, Township 32, North, Range 8 East of third principal meridian.
Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Mark Scaggs.
Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection therefor.
Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 22 day of July, 2022.
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 27, 2022.

Attorney Harrop files Reed estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of ERNEST D. REED, Deceased. Case No.: 2022 PR61

CLAIM DATE NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN OF the death of Ernest D. Reed, and Letters of Office were issued on the 27th day of June, 2022 to James D. Reed, 300 E. Spencer, Lot 80, Dwight, IL 60420 and Jeffrey S. Reed 10650 Oak Lane, Morris IL 60450, as Independent Successor Co-Executors whose attorney is JOAN N. HARROP, 220 West Main Street, Suite 300, Morris, Illinois 60450.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Grundy County Court House, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 13, 2023. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

James D. Reed
Jeffrey S. Reed
Independent Successor Co-Executors
Joan N. Harrop, #6237262
GOMIEN & HARROP, LTD.
First Midwest Bank Building
220 West Main Street, Ste. 300
Morris, Illinois 60450
(815) 942-0071
joanharp@sbglobal.net
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 13, 20, and 27, 2022.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

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.

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.

No to everything

BRAIDWOOD— Does Commissioner Fay Smith know any other words other than no? No matter what comes before the city council, he votes against it. What exactly does Mr. Smith support, because his answer to everything in Braidwood is just a resounding NO!!

Alaska on notice

COAL CITY—For those who aren't concerned about Putin's savagery against Ukraine, be aware that Putin is threatening us too. Russia is filled with billboards claiming that Alaska belongs to Russia and Putin plans to take it back. Does that sound unbelievable? That's what the people of Ukraine said when our intelligence warned them of the buildup of Russian tanks at their border. Yes, Putin has lost touch with reality and is capable of crazy. And if Trump gets re-elected, the Donald would probably tell his good friend Putin to help himself to Alaska and would he like Hawaii too while he's at it? After all, remember when Trump described Putin's initial strikes against Ukraine as "genius" and "very smart"? Kurt K.

Stupid Joe

SHADOW LAKES— If Biden was governor of Illinois he would beg Indiana for Lake Michigan water because he wouldn't want to use Illinois water. Eddie

Slimy politics

WILMINGTON—So now after the primary election it is reported how Illinois billionaire Gov. J.B. Pritzker gave some \$24 million to a Democratic PAC which spent millions on Republican candidate Darrin Bailey. It just seems so slimy that Pritzker would buy his way to re-election by supporting one of the weakest of five Republican opponents. Bailey will be on the ballot as the Republican for governor in the general election and Pritzker knows Bailey doesn't have a chance at winning. I guess when you're a billionaire born with a silver spoon in your mouth you pay whatever it takes to win. Never mind running on your own merits, just buy your way in. Pritzker is as sleazy as Trump. Next he'll try buying his way into the White House if sleepy Joe doesn't last.

God help us

COAL CITY—On the war in the Ukraine. I have held off writing to this newspaper about what I think about Russia's war on these innocent people. The latest murder of a little child has me in tears. To see a really happy moment in this little girl's life become the victim of the horror committed by an apparent madman, add to this atrocious act of indiscriminate bombing of old people, women and children. My heart goes out to the families that have to endure this tragic event in their life. All this because a madman wants more land and natural resources of their neighbors. It looks like most of all of the Ten Commandments are being violated by hundreds of millions of Russian people by not stopping this work of a madman. They all are culpable in this madness.

Hoping for light

COAL CITY—The street light on the corner W. Daisy Place and S. Linda St. in Coal City has been off for four months. Is ComEd ever going to fix it? I sure hope so.

It's murder

BRAIDWOOD— V. Thou shall not kill. Abortion is murder.

Being honest

SHADOW LAKES— As Thomas Paine once said, "if you are afraid to offend you are not honest." Dan Hill

The woke

SHADOW LAKES—WOKE/wok /informal. USA. (adj.) A state of awareness only achieved by those dumb enough to find injustice in everything except their own behavior. Always, Margot Lane

Don't drink the water

BRAIDWOOD—I went to my local grocery store and the first thing I see is pallets of bottled water sitting outside in the hot sun. The American Medical Association has posted documentation that plastic water bottles that sit in the sun give off cancer causing agents. When I mentioned this to the manager his response was "we don't have any place to put the pallets." Being a cancer survivor, I will not be buying any water from there.

Costing us billions

WILMINGTON—A recent sound-off submission entitled Man Without a Face stated that President Trump should use his skills to talk sense into Putin rather than praise him as a genius. Trump is not the President. Why don't you ask the current president to talk sense to Putin? This is a political, deadly and terrible war that did not have to happen. There is much disinformation given to us regarding this war which is costing U.S. taxpayers billions while our border is wide open, drugs coming in and inflation going up which directly affects our food and gas prices.

The next burden

WILMINGTON—President Biden is not going to change his border policies as he has allowed two million illegals to enter the U.S., 700,000 got-aways was the estimated number since he took office, 190,000 unaccompanied minors. Be prepared for longer commutes, larger class sizes, more extended waits in your local emergency rooms, higher state and local taxes, even more inflated housing costs. Now we have our first Polio case in the U.S in New York. Illegals are all unvaccinated. Thanks Joe

Articles on target

A Diamond resident that signs her articles Sharon had two excellent honest articles in last week's sound-off column, Critical race theory and Illinois exodus. Both articles are well worth the time to read. We look forward to the Sound-Off page to read weekly. Dan Hill's article about liberal politicians of both parties, Democrat and Republican closing all the 70's mental institutions was a right on bad decision.

Going to pot

MORRIS—I read the legalization of marijuana is ushering in a crime wave that has law enforcement officials very concerned. So far 19 states and the District of Columbia has legalized the adult use of marijuana for recreational and medical purposes, an additional 19 allowing it for medical use only. The growing and selling part is attracting drug cartels, street gangs, sex traffickers and other miscreants who are raking in millions of dollars through illicit wheeling and dealing backed by brutal violence, kidnapping, torture and murder. Now the Chinese Mafia, Russian crime rings and Mexican cartel groups have come in to the pot business. Car crash deaths in the U.S. involving cannabis doubled between 2000-2018. Fifty percent of people who died have greater odds of also having alcohol in their system. In 2020 the U.S. had more than 48 million marijuana users. Today's marijuana is 10 to 40 times stronger than 40 years ago. Another big political mistake legalizing pot. DIA Hippies are now governors.

Political theater

WILMINGTON—The Sept. 6 committee hearings on most TV media channels are nothing but political theater for the Democrat party yet most channels won't cover two million illegals crossing our southern borders.

Footing the bill

COAL CITY—Who paid for the postage for the three mailings everyone received regarding the proposed Coaler Community Center?

Who gives a darn

SHADOW LAKES—I guess Democrats love sympathy. I'm watching Biden's trip to Israel and what is he talking about? He's talking about his first aneurysm, his second aneurysm and his embolism and a nurse coming in and whispering in his ears and rubbing his face. Who the heck gives a darn? He is the leader of the American nation. People in Israel certainly don't give a darn about that because he rejects Israel. Dan Hill

It's a scam

SHADOW LAKES—Well I'm glad to see they finally found the murder of Captain David Dorn, retired from the St. Louis Police Department, who was murdered during the BLM Antifa riots while protecting a store in St. Louis. But now, what about all the other BLM and Antifa rioters who burned and destroyed businesses which people didn't really have any insurance against that if you read your policies. What about them? But no, the Democrats did nothing about it, but yet they hold the Jan. 6 protesters in jail who were actually let in by the capital police. It's a scam. You know it and I know it. Louis knows it. Dan Hill

Supported Putin

DIAMOND—On his first day in office,



Biden closed the Keystone Pipeline and recklessly restricted oil and gas exploration and development. He followed that by lifting our energy sanctions on Russia and let Vladimir Putin make billions in oil and gas revenues. Then, in May of 2021, Biden began buying Russian oil, nearly 700 million barrels day refusing to let the USA use its own oil. As a result, our tax dollars are funding one of the world's greatest terrorists, Vladimir Putin. Sharon

Fear of change

WILMINGTON—I've noticed that there are two principles that guide conservatives. First they say they are for small government, low taxes, a strong defense and traditional values. You will notice that other than defense they don't have to spend money on those issues. But for the most part, conservatives prefer to be against things. Even Mitch McConnell when asked about the Republican agenda responded "I will tell you when we take power." Here's a small list of things conservatives are against: Knowledge, science, facts, history, abortion, gay and trans adults, gay and trans children, poor people, black people, brown people, non-Christians, Democracy and even the separation of church and state. It's ironic that these people are also against critical race theory even though they can't define it correctly. The other trait they share is measuring everything by an arbitrary standard of monetary value. Instead of reading proposed legislation they will only ask what it will cost. Remember, money isn't the root of all evil, it is the love of money. In conclusion no matter how much conservatives shakes their fists and stamp their feet the future keeps coming on. The grand unifier of conservative thought is fear, especially fear of change. Grow up people. Penny Lane

Thank you Marty!

WILMINGTON—I thank Marty Orr for his 24 years of leadership of the Catfish Days Committee. He stepped up to the plate for 24 years and led the committee so that Wilmington could always have a successful Catfish Days celebration and he did an outstanding job. I assume the person who takes over the role of chairman will also do an amazing job. Marty was blessed to have many volunteers and a committee of people who worked under him from different organizations and parts of the city. They all did an amazing job. For many years I was fortunate to be a member of the committee as well. I didn't bring many things to the table and many times I felt out of place but I tried to do a good job and help out in ways I was able to help and felt comfortable in doing but I always felt like I didn't do enough. So I would like to announce that I will no longer be helping with the Catfish Days committee either for personal reasons I will not go into but I truly enjoyed being a part of the committee and helping out in ways I was able to. I wish the new chairman of the committee and all the members the best of luck. Sherri Michaels

Erasing our southern border

DIAMOND—Joe Biden turned our southern border into an open wound. Hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants pour into our nation with impunity. They move to sanctuary cities where they're sheltered from immigration authorities. Every step of the way the rule of law is trampled. Sharon

Letter to the editor

Our democracy is at stake so cast a ballot

To the Editor:
The January 6th attack on our nation wasn't a random act by a handful of sore losers, but a premeditated and organized insurrection. Now, thanks to the hearings, there's overwhelming evidence that Trump and his allies were at the helm of it.

We heard from former members of the Trump administration and Republican state officials about how Trump illegally pressured the Vice President, the Department of Justice, and state legislatures to overturn the election he knew he lost. And when it didn't work, he summoned an armed mob to march on the Capitol Building in a final, violent attempt to stop the peaceful transfer of power.

These insurrectionists haven't gone anywhere. In fact, more than 100 of them have already won their primaries. It's up to us to do our part and vote to make sure they don't win this fall.

Should these dangerous candidates win their elections, we could have election deniers in key seats of power ready to overturn whatever election results they don't like.

Our democracy is at stake. If we want to hold onto our freedoms to vote, to have our votes decide elections, and to rely on elections to keep our leaders in check, then we have to cast our ballots during the midterms this year on Nov. 8.

Regards,
George Langlotz
Channahon

Ruining our economy

DIAMOND—Inflation is skyrocketing, ships holding needed goods sit wasting away in our harbors. Americans are feeling the financial pinch yet Biden wants a record tax hike to "build America back better." That's after he finishes tearing it down.

CBS news polls

DIAMOND—Even the left-wing establishment CBS couldn't ignore these bad Biden policy poll numbers. Inflation: Approve 31%, disapprove 69%. Economy: Approve 37%, disapprove 63%. Immigration: Approve 38%, disapprove 62%. Crime: Approve 39%, disapprove 61%. CBS commentator on TV said "Biden doesn't fare much better on the other issues as he has a minus 26 net rating on the economy with 63% disapproving and 37% approving. Further, people who say the economy is bad blame it on inflation 86%, gas prices 82%, shortage of products and services 69% and distrust of the Biden administration 50%". Read those last words again. "Distrust of the Biden administration." Sharon

None admire Putin

DIAMOND—Regarding "Without a face," by Ralph D. in sound-off July 20. Your first sentence "When will the Ukraine War finally end and Putin's thirst for blood be quenched?" Good question shared by most Americans. Then you said "Trump should use his bargaining skills to talk sense into Putin rather than praise him as a genius." Presently President Trump has no more authority to bargain with Putin than you or I do as ordinary U.S. citizens. When President Trump said that Putin was a genius that was a quantitative assessment of an adversary's mental faculties. We should all know the strengths and weaknesses of our enemies. You then said "But Trump is indifferent to the suffering of the Ukrainian people." That is an assumption or supposition not based on fact. "And considering how Republican white Evangelicals admire Putin's rise to the dictatorship of white nationalist Russia." A rather broad presumption Ralph. Not all Republicans are white nor evangelicals. Republicans are various colors and ethnicities, some are indeed evangelicals, some Catholic, some Protestant, some Christians, some nothing. I happen to be both Republican and white evangelical who disgusts Putin with various colors and religious persuasions. None of us admire or value Putin. He is our enemy. I doubt very much if Putin has ever favored Senator Ron Johnson or Senator Chuck Grassley, however Joe Biden disapproves of both of them as they have studied the six hours of interviews that Tony Bobulinski did with the FBI. He is Hunter Biden's former business partner and it's a trove of financial information about the Bidens. White Evangelicals might well have conventioned in Russia considering a place to share the Good News of the Gospels. Protestantism is based on loving and sharing the faith. The non believers then have the choice to accept or not to accept and believe. What is extreme about that? It's certainly not unconstitutional. Congress cannot make a law respecting establishment of any religion, however Congress cannot prohibit the free exercise thereof. Republicans do stand against Putin as well as any group proselytizing socialism/communism. Republicans want to stay in the mold of freedom founded by our forefathers. Methinks Ralph, you are the pot calling the kettle black. Sharon

Blood donors needed Tuesday

D'Orazio Ford, located at 1135 S. Water St. in Wilmington, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, August 2 from 3-7 p.m.

To schedule a preferred time to donate blood call 1-800-786-4483 or register online at www.versiti.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before donating. Consider giving blood - one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Pick up some great summer deals from Berkot's!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!



Experience the Berkot's difference
Fresh. Friendly. Focused on you.

**Sales valid
7/27/22-8/2/22**

STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM

ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY.
QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED.
NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

Makes The Best Pulled Pork!
Fresh, All-Natural
Pork Collar
\$2.99
LB

Fresh, Never Frozen
Atlantic Salmon
Full Fillets
\$7.99
LB



69¢
PER LB

Locally Grown
Zucchini or Yellow Squash

3 FOR \$5

Extra Large Avocados

\$2.99
PER LB

Premium Seedless
Red or Green Grapes

\$2.99
EACH

Michigan
Blueberries- pint

99¢
PER LB

Locally Grown Michigan
Green Beans

\$5.99
EACH

Limited
Quantity
Available!

Black Diamond Watermelon

\$3.99
PER LB

Extra Large Washington
Cherries



USDA CHOICE
USDA Choice
Semi Bone-In New York Strip Steaks

\$8.99
PER LB



Fresh, All-Natural
Boneless Pork Chops

\$2.99
PER LB



Fresh, All-Natural
Boneless Pork Chops

\$2.99
PER LB

Berkot's has all your favorite *top-quality* meat!



\$4.99
PER LB



\$2.99
PER LB

Save more money with Berkot's amazing weekly grocery steals

Sugardale
Regular or Thick
Sliced Bacon- 1 lb



\$4.99

Absopure
Purified Water
24 pk



4/\$11

Powerade or
Powerade Zero
28 oz



88¢

Entenmann's
Donuts- 15-17.5 oz
Single Price: \$6.29



BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

Basic Joe
K-Cups- 80 ct



\$9.99 LIMIT 2



ORCHARD FRESH PEACHES COMING SOON!
Fresh peaches direct from Hildebrand Fruit Farms orchards in Michigan
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Try this prohibition cocktail, the southside cocktail

This 2022 edition of the Northside vs. Southside Chicago baseball debate looks like it's going to be won by the Southsiders. The Cubs will more than likely be sellers at the trade deadline while the White Sox are still alive in the AL Central race and in the AL Wild Card.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Chicago's Northside/Southside rivalry goes back much further than the 2022 baseball season, and the rivalry was much deeper than sports.

During the height of prohibition, rival gangs made literally truckloads of money running the liquor trade in speakeasies and illegal gambling establishments on opposite ends of town.

It turns out that the Northside gin was of a higher quality than the Southside gin, but the Southside bartenders had an equalizer: the Southside Cocktail. Before we go too far down this path, I would like to acknowledge that the origins of this drink are a bit hazy, as is the case with many classics.

Several establishments claim to have "invented" this cocktail during prohibition, perhaps they did. Sugar, lime juice, and mint were common ingredients used by bartenders in the early 20th century, so it is highly likely that prohibition bartenders used similar combinations of these ingredients in order to make their local bathtub gin palatable.

In some parts of the country you were lucky if your gin came from a bathtub, let that sink in. Back to the story. Capone's crew had a problem: they had plenty of gin, but quality control was nonexistent. The Southside gangs were at a disadvantage when it came to gin because the Northside gangs had ties to Canada and could smuggle legitimate spirits across the Canadian border.

The Southsiders had two options: buy whatever they could from whomever they could, or make it themselves. Legend has it that the Southside gin was pretty rough stuff. What do you do with those "rough around the edges" spirits? Add something sweet, something sour, and hope for the best.

In this case the best came to be, and the result was the incredibly refreshing Southside Cocktail. If you didn't know any better, you would swear that this drink came from the Caribbean. In many ways it's a Mojito, swapping the rum for gin.

Due to the underground nature of bar service in Chicago during this time, it is impossible to piece together an authentic "original" recipe for this cocktail. The Southside recipe likely varied from speakeasy to speakeasy, in fact some early recipes call for lemon juice which essentially makes this cocktail a gin

sour with added mint. Chicago folklore also has it that the man himself, Al Capone, was a fan of this drink. The Southside starts with a hefty 2 oz. pour of gin, same as a Martini. You are going to taste the gin, so I recommend using a quality London dry gin. Beefeater, Tanqueray #10, and Bombay are all excellent in the Southside.

When it comes to citrus, fresh is best. Squeeze your lime juice from limes as opposed to the green plastic squeeze bottle.

The recipe calls for mint leaves, and the type of mint is a matter of personal preference. In the Mojito and most other mint-flavored cocktails, the mint of choice is a sweet mint. Sweet mint has more mint flavor and less menthol than spearmint, but if you have fresh spearmint in your herb garden, use spearmint.

It is not necessary to muddle the mint in the Southside, although it certainly wouldn't hurt. If you choose to muddle your mint in the simple syrup and lime juice, do so gently.

The best way to "wake up" mint for cocktails if you are not muddling is to simply place your mint leaves in the palm of your hand and "clap" your hands together once. This will express the oil in the leaves without releasing bitter flavor from the tannins.

By the way, "waking up" the mint absolutely works. Next time you have a few leaves of mint, place them in your hand (wash your mint before using) and smell the mint leaves. Then, give the leaves a slap and smell them

again. If your mint is fresh, you should notice a difference in the aroma due to the expression of the oils.

The simple syrup in the Southside is standard simple syrup, equal parts cane sugar and water.

Be sure to strain, or even fine strain this drink into your glass. After shaking there will be pieces of mint leaves in your drink, best to strain them out.

The Southside Cocktail is not as "stiff" as its classic counterparts. In fact, the Southside is a light, airy, and fragrant mix of gin botanicals, herbal mint, sugar, and citrus that makes the drink sophisticated enough for evening cocktails and light enough for brunch.

If you see the Southside Cocktail on a Chicago bar menu, give it a try. Many restaurants and bars have spent years working on their house specialty Southside recipes and serve them with pride.

As for my beloved Chicago Cubs, I'll say "next year" just as I have done every year of my life, except one.

The Southside Cocktail is built in a shaker and served in a chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

Combine in shaker:
2 oz. gin
1 oz. fresh lime juice
3/4 oz. simple syrup
6-8 fresh mint leaves
Shake with ice, then strain into a chilled cocktail glass
Garnish with single mint leaf

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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First United Methodist Church

Fall Preschool 2022

The First United Methodist Church Preschool Program has open registration for Fall 2022-2023 school year.

Preschool classes meet 3 times a week.
Monday - Wednesday - Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to Noon. Preschoolers 2 years (by August 1) to 5 years of age may enroll.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Thurs., Aug. 18 from 6-7pm

First day of class tentatively Aug. 22 @ 9am

Information and registration forms about our program can be picked up at the church office or can be found on the church website www.fumcwilm.org. Contact Mrs. Paula through the church office at 815-476-5474.

Morris Hospital brings advanced MRI technology

Morris Hospital is offering patients the latest in MRI technology with its new Magnetom Altea 1.5T MRI system from Siemens Healthineers. In addition to enhancing patient experience and image quality, the \$3 million MRI system has many advanced features that will bring additional testing capabilities to Morris Hospital.

Using a powerful magnetic field, radio waves and a computer to produce detailed pictures of the body's internal structures, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a non-invasive diagnostic imaging modality that is used at Morris Hospital to evaluate the body for a variety of conditions, including diseases or injuries to the spine, joints, liver, abdomen, breast, brain and blood vessels.

For patients, the wider and shorter bore, or opening of the new MRI, offers a more comfortable environment during MRI tests, particularly for claustrophobic patients. The new MRI system also offers patients improved arm support, positioning aids, and noise reduction.

As the result of a special feature called Biomatrix technology, MRI technologists at Morris Hospital will be able to position patients for their test more quickly. Another feature called Turbo technology speeds the imaging time and allows multiple scans to be obtained simultaneously. Overall, the amount of time patients spend lying on the table is reduced by about 40%.

Enhanced patient comfort and shorten scan times also mean patients are less likely to move during their exam, resulting in better quality images and fewer re-scans.

"More room, less noise, shortened exam times, and enhanced comfort make it easier for patients to relax so they can remain motionless during their exam," explains Liz Bates, Director of Imaging Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "The less the patient moves, the better the images."

For Dr. Furqaan Isa, a radiologist on the Morris

Hospital Medical Staff with Grundy Radiologists, high quality images from an MRI enhance a physician's ability to diagnosis medical conditions.

"For most clinical questions that need to be answered with an imaging test, MRI is often a final step," said Dr. Isa. "So when we do an MRI study, we have reached the point of really needing a definite diagnosis. We want to do this using the best modality, the best scanner, and a system that is going to produce the best quality images with more detail. That's what the new Siemens Magnetom Altea system offers."

One feature of the new MRI that Dr. Isa says will be important during scans of the brain is susceptibility weighted imaging (SWI).

"The technology is much more sensitive in detecting micro-bleeds of the brain which can often go unnoticed.

This is very important for patients with concussion symptoms as a result of an accident or injury," explains Dr. Isa. "SWI sequencing will also help us detect old bleed, which is a stroke that occurred in the past but went unnoticed because it wasn't significant enough to cause any symptoms."

The new MRI will also detect iron deposits on the liver, which is very important for patients with a liver condition called hemochromatosis, as well as any condition that can result in increased iron deposits. Previously, patients had to be referred elsewhere for liver lab studies. Dr. Isa said certain small structures in the toe and finger joints will also be easier to see with the enhanced images produced by the new Siemens Magnetom Altea MRI.

The new MRI replaces a system that was installed at Morris Hospital in 2011.

WHS graduate interning at Circuit Clerk's office



NATALIE VAN DUYN (back, left) of Wilmington, is among five college students working in the Will County Circuit Clerk's Office as a Deputy Circuit Clerk Summer Intern. According to Andrea Lynn Chasteen, Will County Circuit Clerk, the internship program provides students with an opportunity to work with the different teams within the Circuit Clerk's Office on tasks including greeting customers, answering their questions, checking them in, printing out forms, looking case information up and assisting them with the e-filing process and copy requests. In addition, they help with processing paperwork, filing papers, pulling files, organizing court calls, and ensuring that digital images are verified and correct. VanDuyne, a 2021 WHS graduate, is studying physiology at the University of Arizona. She is the daughter of Billie and Joe VanDuyne.

Donation helps fund more cameras for Elwood Police

Elwood Police have received a \$5,000 donation for Flock Safety automated license plate reading (ALPR) cameras to help solve and reduce crime in the city.

The donation was made by Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow and will be matched by Elwood Police Department utilizing drug asset forfeiture funds.

This public/private partnership is intended to expand Elwood's existing camera system, strengthening the safety and security of the city. Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow has donated money for cameras to several Police Departments in the area.

Elwood Police already have 3 Flock Safety cameras throughout the village.

The Flock Safety ALPR cameras help law enforcement investigate crime by providing objective evidence of vehicles such as license plates and vehicle characteristics.

The cameras send a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a state or national crime database is located in the vicinity of a camera. They can also send alerts if a vehicle associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Silver Alert is detected.

The cameras will be used to solve and reduce property and violent crime and are not intended for minor traffic or parking violations. They do not contain facial recognition or capture speed.

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Dransfeldts celebrate 60th wedding anniversary



Bob and Cheri-Belle Dransfeldt

Bob and Cheri-Belle Dransfeldt, of Wilmington, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 14, 2022. They were married on July 14, 1962.

Upcoming programs at Will Co. Preserves

Upcoming Forest Preserve District of Will County programs feature a scavenger hunt for the District's mascot, a birding program on Zoom and building a summer diorama. Where's Willy Scavenger Hunt: 8 a.m.-sunset Aug. 1-Aug. 31 at four preserves. Find a cutout of the Forest Preserve's furry woodchuck mascot while you explore Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Hammel Woods, Hickory Creek Preserve and McKinley Woods, in Channahon.

Clues will be posted on the District's website: www.reconnectwithnature.org. Upload photos of him at all four sites to receive a kite.

Free, all ages. Diorama Days of Summer: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 2, 3 and 4, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. Create a diorama based on a self-guided hike at the preserve. Supplies and tools will be provided; bring your own shoebox. A shoebox alternative will be provided if you do not have one. Free, ages 5 or older.

Birding in the Preserves (Zoom Webinar): 7-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4, online. Enjoy this virtual bird hike through this month's selected preserve. Learn how to get to that preserve, what trails to take to find birds and how to become a citizen scientist. Register online for the Zoom link.

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Wanted: Your engagement or wedding announcement

There is no charge to submit an engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement with a photo in this newspaper. Forms are available at 111 S. Water Street, Wilmington; 271 S. Broadway, Coal City; or at www.freepressnewspapers.com -> Submit-> (choose your form).

Include a color photo with your announcement or even "then and now" photos.

The deadline for Family Page announcements is noon on Monday. We'd like to have wedding announcements and photos within six to eight weeks of the ceremony, if possible.

Submissions can be emailed to news@fpnusa.com or stop in at one of our business offices for an announcement form, or call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315 to have a form faxed to you.

Explore evening sounds program coming July 29

Forest Preserve District of Will County will be hosting Explore the Outdoors - Evening Sights and Sounds held 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, July 29, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Look and listen for evening sights and sounds. Free, all ages. Register by July 28 on the event calendar at www.reconnectwithnature.org.

One solution to food price spikes - reduce waste

BY DANIEL GRANT FARMWEEK

Consumers should think twice before throwing out those last few pieces of bread, lightly bruised fruit or milk barely beyond its sell-by date.

Food waste and loss is a key contributor to sub-optimal diets, environmental issues and inflationary pressure currently gripping most countries in the world - some more severe than others.

USDA recently forecast grocery store prices could increase another 3% to 4% this year while eating out at restaurants could take another 5.5% to 6.5% bite out of Americans' food budgets. This after the consumer price index (CPI) jumped 8.5% from March 2021 to 2022.

"Food prices are going up around the world," said Rob Vos, director of markets, trade and institutions division for the International Food Policy Research Institute. "It could cause millions of poor people to fall into hunger or food shortages."

Vos and other food industry experts discussed the growing concern of food price inflation, malnutrition and widespread food waste and loss during an online panel discussion hosted by the Farm Journal Foundation.

Recent issues accelerating food price inflation include the war in Ukraine, which could reduce global supplies of some commodities, and the outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the U.S. Wholesale wheat prices are projected to rise

12% to 15% while USDA predicts poultry prices could climb 6% to 7% this year.

But, a long-term issue contributing to food shortages in some areas remains waste. Patrick Webb, professor of food policy at Tufts University, reported about 14% of all food is lost and another 6% is wasted globally each year. Other estimates suggest up to a third of all food is lost and wasted annually.

"Food waste and loss represents a significant contributor to planetary challenges of nutrition (and environmental concerns)," Webb said.

"It's really, really important to focus on this low-hanging fruit. It (the issue of food waste) still isn't receiving the traction it deserves," he noted. "The goal is a food system that nourishes people and the planet."

Some of the reasons for food waste differ depending on the country. More food losses generally occur due to inadequate storage and transportation issues in developing countries while some waste in high-income countries occurs due to discarding beyond sell-by dates and excess purchases. But, regardless of the cause, the rate of overall food waste is eerily similar in all countries across the world.

"I was surrounded by hunger (growing up in Alabama). It's always so shocking for people to hear in America," said Olivia Fuller, Alabama Cooperative Extension agent. "It's important we realize this is a domestic situation. It's not just something happening in developing

countries." On the bright side, there's many steps people can take to reduce food waste, even if it doesn't diminish food price inflation in the near-term.

Webb suggested improving access to infrastructure and markets, upgrading storage technologies and handling to reduce food damage and spoilage, improve packaging to keep food fresher, make cosmetic standards more amenable to selling "imperfect" food with irregular shape or blemishes and improve access to storage facilities.

Tim Fox, fellow and chair of The Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, reported about 70% of food in U.S. supermarkets was transported there via a climate-controlled cold chain process.

There are opportunities to improve refrigeration efficiencies in the U.S. and add those opportunities elsewhere. He noted up to 40% of fruits and vegetables are lost due to spoilage in India, where there's a deficit of about 53,000 refrigerated trucks to move products.

"We need a better, integrated food supply chain," Fox said.

Webb agreed as he noted, "the quality of food matters as much as the quantity. If it's not good, it's not contributing to good nutrition."

On the farm, Fuller believes it's important to take advantage of research and resources so farmers can grow the most food they can with the least amount of resources.

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Local students to attend Palmer

Ashleigh Coster, of Wilmington and Cameron Lander, of Morris have been accepted for enrollment for the summer 2022 trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College's Main campus in Davenport, IA.

NIU spring dean's list

Northern Illinois University announces its spring 2022 Dean's List of students who had a grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Local students include: Stormi Ham and Alicia LaRouch, both of Coal City; Caitlyn Painter, of Diamond; Reyna Carreno and Alicia Hrvatin, of Elwood; Alex Gernenz and Zoe Noonan, of Mazon and Allison Neumann and Nicole Neumann, of Morris.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Bendel

WILMINGTON—Barbara Bendel, 72, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, July 25, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born June 12, 1950 in Joliet, Barbara Jean was a daughter of Robert and Evelyn (Canney) Anderson. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and on Oct. 24, 1970, Barb married Daniel Bendel in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. She worked for more than 20 years at Whitmore Ace Hardware in Wilmington and was a member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge #241.

Survivors include her husband, Dan; two daughters, Bobbi Lynn Adams-, of Phoenix, AZ and Kim Bendel, of Wilmington; five grandchildren and one sister, Margaret Bendel, of Safford, AZ.

Barb was preceded in death by her parents, and one brother, James Anderson. Per Barb's wishes, cremation rites have



been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, July 28, 2022 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Inurnment will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barb's memory to the Wilmington Fireman's Benefit Association, P.O. Box 245, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Barb's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Mike De Lucas

CUSTER PARK—Mike De Lucas, 82, of Custer Park, passed away Friday, July 22, 2022 at his home.

Born Aug. 9, 1939 in Chicago, Michael Paul was a son of Paul and Sophie (Migliore) De Lucas. He was raised in Chicago and began working construction as a teenager. Mike worked his entire life as a carpenter and retired as a member of Carpenter's Local Union 54 in Bridgeview.

Besides carpentry, he spent 28 years as a steer wrestler and participated in the International Rodeo Association (IRA) and Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). Mike won his last buckle at the age of 70 and competed in Team Roping until the age of 77. He also scuba dived for 15 years; was a member of the Grand Prairie United Methodist Church in Herscher and belonged to the Will County Trail Riders.

Mike had a life-long love of horses, and his first job at the age of nine was a stable boy in Chicago. He will be remembered as always building and working on a project, and was extremely proud of his home and farm in Custer Park, which he built with his own hands. Outside of home and work, Mike in addition volunteered at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, as a handyman.

Survivors include his wife, Patricia "Trish" De Lucas, who he married July 12, 1980 at the Marley Community Church in Marley, IL; three children: Sally (Rob) Cronholm, of Lockport; Michael Paul Jr. (Pam) De Lucas, of North Carolina and Colette "Jodi" (Doug) Rigoni, of Lockport; three step-children: Bret (Julie)



Andrysiak, of Allegan, MI; Wendy Andrysiak, of Carbon Hill and Dawn (Rob) Borowski, of Zeeland, MI; 14 grandchildren: Ryan (Jen) Cronholm, Rachel (Jeff) Turner, Regan (Zach) Devore, Roberta (Kevin) Kozubowski, Joni De Lucas, Anthony De Lucas (Liz Rath), Sally, Giavanna and Rocco Rigoni, Sarah (Jordan) Koenig, Anna (Christian) Keene, Shane Borowski, Holly Johnson and C.J. Johnson; 13 great-grandchildren, two brothers, Paul (the late Geri) De Lucas, of Selma, AL and Robert (Pam) De Lucas, of Glen Ellyn, IL; one brother-in-law, Michael Gordon Maxson, of California, and several nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 10 a.m. until funeral services at 12 p.m.

Those wishing to participate in Mike's service virtually are invited to join the live stream service beginning at 12 p.m. or watch on-demand following the services. A link for the event can be found on Mike's memorial page.

Per his wishes, cremation rites will be accorded following funeral services, and he will be laid to rest in the Florida Keys.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Mike's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Rhea Lee Dummitt

MORRIS—Rhea Lee Dummitt, 75, of Morris, sadly passed from this world on April 30, 2022 surrounded by her husband, Peter and daughter, Selina.

Rhea was a loving wife and mother who enjoyed cooking, sewing and art. She was dearly loved and will be dearly missed.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Peter Dummitt; daughter, Selina Dummitt; two younger sisters, Sue Benson and Cherie (Doug) Prosser; younger brother, Richard (Buz) Chouinard; brother-in-law, Pat Rooney; close family friend, Leslie Ambrose; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Rhea was preceded in death by her parents, Darlene and Richard "Riz" Chouinard and one older sister, Diane Rooney.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The



family will receive friends on Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022 between the hours of 9 and 10:30 a.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., in Morris with memorial services taking place at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Brian James Lilly will officiate and inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made as gifts in Rhea's memory to the American Heart Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book and share Rhea's memorial page via social media.

Memorial services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Home, Ltd. in Morris. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Rosemary Norton

MORRIS—Rosemary Norton, 92, of Morris, passed away peacefully following a brief illness on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

A celebration of Rosemary Norton's life will be held on Thursday,



July 28, 2022 beginning at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. A reception in her honor will follow Mass.

Gary L. Michaels

JOLIET—Gary L. Michaels, 70, of Joliet, formerly of Lowell, IN, passed away Friday, July 22, 2022 at the Parc of Joliet.

Born Sept. 12, 1951 in Texas, Gary Lavern was a son of Harold and Eula Mae (Sellers) Michaels. Growing up in a military family, his family moved often and he lived in six different states and three different countries. Gary graduated from high school in Brookwood, AL, and following his graduation he served in the United States Army from 1972 until his honorable discharge in 1974.

Gary was self-employed as a special needs advocate for those with mental and physical disabilities. His work gained access to many in need of special assistance to care for themselves and their loved ones. Gary enjoyed being outdoors and spending time by the lake, and will be remembered as a great fan of the Alabama Crimson Tide football team.

Survivors include three daughters: Julie (Brent) Brockman, of Wilmington; Kari (Michael) Ehlers, of Tinley Park, IL and Melissa (Dave) Hahn, of Minooka; eight grandchildren: Jaxsen and Brayden Brockman, Korie Poe, Kyla and Kinsley Ehlers, and Miranda, Gianna and Dominic Hahn; two brothers and one sister:



Louis (Pam) Michaels, of Peterson, AL; Raymond (Jackie) Michaels, of Brookwood, AL and Danna (Gary) Spaulding, of Dwight; as well as numerous nieces and nephews, and his dear friend, Dan Crull.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents and two daughters, Crystal and Jessica Michaels.

Per his wishes, cremation rites were accorded.

Family and friends will gather at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City on Thursday, July 28, 2022 by 8:45 a.m. A funeral procession will depart at 9 a.m. for Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where inurnment will full military honors will take place at 10 a.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Gary's memory to: Shady Oaks Camp, 16300 Parker Road, Homer Glen, IL 60491.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Gary's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Donna K. Williamson

WILMINGTON—Donna K. Williamson, 71, of Wilmington passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, July 23, 2022 at Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born July 25, 1950 in Joliet, Donna Kay was a daughter of Glenn and Mary (Pavich) Gibson. She was raised in Wilmington and educated in the Wilmington Public Schools. One of Donna's first jobs was at the Launching Pad Drive-in, and she later made her career in skilled care. She retired as the director of the Alzheimer Unit at Aperia Care in Wilmington following 20 years of dedicated service.

Donna loved antiques and couldn't pass by a flea market. She took pleasure in reading; loved her flowers and gardening, and enjoyed the arts through watching movies, and attending plays and musicals. Throughout the years, she bowled on a league in Wilmington, and was proud to be a second generation Elvis enthusiast. What Donna will be remembered for is her dedication to Alzheimer's, and this was only second to her love of family. She adored her grandchildren, and they could do no wrong.

Survivors include her husband, Earl Williamson; three children: Larry Weaver Jr., of Braidwood and Michael (Therese) Weaver and Tina (Tim) Zlomie, both of Wilmington; eight



grandchildren: Alyssa and Breanna Parrish, Zachary Weaver, Brianna and Owen Weaver, Tori (Jeremy) Bailey, Alexander Zlomie and Matthew Frazee; two great-grandchildren, Kaden Cragg and Walker Michael Bailey; two aunts, Rose Stoiber, of Joliet and Ann Blinstrup of Lockport, and her special cousin, Connie Evans, of Lockport.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Glenn Gibson Jr. (1968) and her step-daughter, Gloria Williamson.

The family will receive friends for an open house, memorial visitation to celebrate Donna's life at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donna's memory to her family for their distribution to local charities of their choosing.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Donna's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Carole Wills

COAL CITY—Carole Ann Wills, 80, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at the Gardens of Park Pointe in Morris.

Born April 19, 1942, Carole Ann was a daughter of Frank "Cal" and Marie (Votta) Vilt. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1960. On June 8, 1963, Carole married Arden Wills in Assumption Catholic Church, and he preceded her in death on Jan. 2, 2013.

A visitation is being planned for Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m.

Funeral services will follow Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022 at 10 a.m. in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church,



245 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Josh Miller presiding, and Deacon William Dunn assisting.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Carole will be laid to rest with Arden.

A complete obituary can be found on the funeral home website, and will be published in next week's newspaper.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs and share Carole's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Theresa A. Slanicky

BRACEVILLE—Theresa A. Slanicky, 83, of rural Braceville, passed away Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

Born Oct. 12, 1938 in Chicago, Theresa Ann was the daughter of Thomas and Anne (Hajcak) Buban. She attended St. Rose Grade School in Wilmington; St. Francis Academy in Joliet, and was a proud alumni of the College of St. Francis class of 1960.

Theresa pursued a career as a teacher in elementary education, first teaching at Bradley West Elementary School and then moving on to Brodnicki Elementary School in Justice. Locally, Theresa was a substitute teacher at St. Rose School, Braceville Elementary, Goodfarm School, Coal City Elementary and Gardner Grade School. It was from Gardner Grade School that she retired as a full-time teacher's aide in 2002 after being at the school for 15 years.

Theresa was a long-term parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood. In addition to being a very devoted mother, she loved to read and do word searches. Theresa was dedicated to her Catholic faith, praying the Rosary daily. Theresa loved to be with her children and loved even more making and sending "care packages" to her grandson, Nickolas.

Surviving are three children: John and



Michael, of Braceville and Rosanne Whyte, of Chico, CA and one grandson, Nickolas Whyte, who was the light of her life; one brother, Tom (Linnea) Buban of rural Braceville and the father of her children, Kenneth Slanicky.

Theresa was preceded in death by her parents and an uncle, John Vdovka.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Theresa's wishes.

The family is planning services to be held on Aug. 18, 2022 in Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S. School St., in Braidwood. Rev. Joshua Miller and Rev. Stanley Drevniak will preside. Inurnment will follow in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Braidwood.

A complete obituary with service times will follow in the August 10 edition of the newspaper.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials in Theresa's memory may be made as gifts to a food pantry or animal shelter of the donor's choice.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Theresa's memorial page via social media.

Cremation and memorial services are being made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Jerome Rose

DWIGHT—Jerome "Jerry" Rose, 86, and lifelong resident of Dwight, passed away Sunday, July 24, 2022 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born Sept. 24, 1935 at Dwight Community Hospital, Jerry was a son of James and Sophie (Kunis) Rose. He was raised in rural Dwight and graduated from Dwight High School with the class of 1953. Jerry worked on the family farm before being drafted into the United States Army in November of 1958. On May 23, 1959, he married Laura Jean Elsner at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Dwight, and together they would live for a time in Germany while he was stationed there in the military. Jerry was honorably discharged from military service in September of 1960 and returned to Dwight where he and his wife would live and raise their family. He gained employment with Ambler's Texaco in Dwight as a mechanic before pursuing a career as a meat cutter. Jerry would work at several grocery stores, including the A&P Grocery Store in Pontiac, IL; SuperValu in Dwight, and Chipains Fresh Market in Lemont, IL before he retired at the age of 62.

He was a member of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Dwight and a past member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 182 in Pontiac. Jerry was always a mechanic at heart and took great pride in working on his own cars. He was always tinkering with something and always on the lookout for his next project. He was a devoted family man and was a wonderful caregiver to his children. Jerry was a social man who loved catching up with his friends and going out for coffee. He leaves behind a legacy of hard work and kindness, and will be missed dearly by all who knew him.



Survivors include his son, David J. (Lucie) Rose, of Saint Charles, MO; two grandchildren, Joshua (Angela) Rose, of Saint Peters, MO and Heidi (Darryn) Rose-Fiscus, of San Antonio, TX; three great-grandsons: Caden, Everett and Griffin; two sisters, Ann (the late Chester) Kuta, of California and Marjorie (Lester) Hansen, of Dwight; as well as many cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and his wife; two children, Douglas and Christina Rose and nine brothers and sisters: Walter, Thomas, Leo, Harold, Joseph, Donald, Rita, Irene, and Marie.

Per Jerry's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, 126 W. Mazon Ave., in Dwight on Friday, July 29, 2022 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 11 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Chris Haake presiding, and burial with full military honors will follow at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Dwight.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jerry's memory to: Alzheimer's Association - Illinois Chapter, 8430 West Bryn Mawr Road, Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60631 or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, www.michaeljfox.org

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Jerry's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Sharefest III returning to WHS campus Aug. 6

Volunteers needed leading up to the event

Sharefest, which returns to the campus of Wilmington High School on Saturday, Aug. 6, at 9 a.m., is an opportunity for just about everyone in the Wilmington area.

Many families here have need for help in meeting some of their daily needs. For those folks, Sharefest III is an opportunity to receive that help. We also have families who don't have any current unmet needs, and for them it is an opportunity to volunteer and donate their time, money, and useable items which still have some "useful life" in them.

In August of 2019, the community organizations and churches of Wilmington, pooled their energy, money and ideas to stage the first

annual Sharefest on the grounds of Wilmington High School.

That day, through the generosity and efforts of several dozen volunteers, several hundred families received free food from Kuzma Cottage, Midwest Food Bank in Normal, IL and the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

The Caring Closet clothes ministry on First Street, provided free gently-used clothing and shoes for whoever showed up with a need in that area.

Sharefest III will include all of those features and many more. Some things will be "tweaked" to make them better, such as much of the food being given away will be pre-boxed, and much of the clothing will be pre-sorted for sex-specific and age-specific children.

In addition, about 40 reconditioned bicycles will be given away, and several social

service agencies, such as the Coalition for a Healthy Community, WIC (Women, Infants & Children), the Senior Services Center of Will County will all be present to provide assistance and counseling.

Many of the local churches will have their pastors available to listen to questions and help counsel those who feel the need for guidance.

In addition to give-away of groceries (which will be distributed at 11 a.m.), if the kids need back-to-school haircuts, they will be available for free for persons 12 and under.

Whitmore Ace has donated 300 smoke detectors with batteries to be given away FREE, one per household.

For persons who are currently unemployed or underemployed, there will be several employers on hand (e.g. Harbor Freight, Workforce Solutions, NEXUS Employment and National Tube Supply and others), who are anxious to hire folks. Some will be for part-time work and others for full-time employment.

Two members of the Joliet Slammers professional

baseball team will be on hand to sign autographs.

The Bag Lady Outreach program has provided give-away items for the first 300 adult women who attend the festivities.

For those who meet with any of the social service agencies or church representatives, they will receive a free hot dog or hamburger. Free bottled water will be available to everyone who attends.

There will be disposable diapers and baby-wipes given to those who need them.

Nothing will be "for sale" at Sharefest III, so there is no need to bring money. You should bring identification documents. Sharefest of Will County (Gary Cheney) is helping acquire the food through the Midwest Food Bank in Normal, IL.

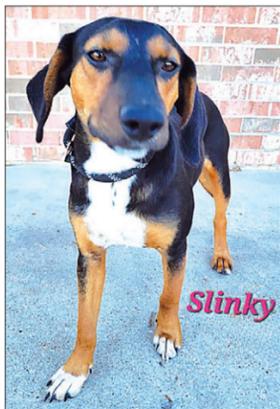
Sharefest is not just about giving away lots of free stuff. There is also an enormous need for volunteer help that day. If you (and/or your kids) can be available for as much as two hours to help at Sharefest or in the couple of days during that week before, you can contact (sign-up genius) OR (your

local pastor). You can also volunteer to work using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054AADA92BA4F94-wilmington1>.

If you cannot help personally, but would like to donate any amount to help cover costs, it would be greatly appreciated. You can send your donation to: Sharefest Will County, 22014 Howell Drive, Unit #1, New Lenox, IL 60451, or you donate on-line at: https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_buttoned_id=NC6SKRA588AN2.

Sharefest is an accredited 501(c)(3) organization by the IRS, so your contribution qualifies as a charitable deduction on your income tax return.

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MEET SARAH, Sarah and Slinky come in a pair and these sweet girls are just over 1 year old and are beagle mixes. They are only 30 pounds and calm in their kennel. They are very sweet but shy with new things. They warm up quickly and love to snuggle. Adoption fee for each of these girls includes his spay, rabies, distemper, microchip, fecal exam, heartworm test. We do prefer they stay together as they are a bonded pair. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today athopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

Pedaling for Parkinson's

Morris Hospital and the Morris Community YMCA are offering a free Pedaling for Parkinson's class that is designed to help individuals with Parkinson's disease optimize their physical function by improving their gait, balance, speech, handwriting, and overall endurance.

Taught by Morris Hospital Wellness staff with support from physical therapists, classes meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-2 p.m. at the former LivFit studio, 109 E. Jefferson Street, Morris. Participants must receive approval from their

doctor prior to attending.

Research conducted at the Cleveland Clinic found that individuals with Parkinson's can experience a 35 percent reduction in symptoms by riding an indoor stationary bicycle for one hour three days a week. While cycling is not a cure for Parkinson's disease, there is compelling evidence that shows pedaling a bicycle at a rapid pace may change the life of someone living with Parkinson's disease.

To register, call the Morris Community YMCA at 815-513-8080.

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209U gives update for going back to school

Fee Days for returning Wilmington School District 209-U students who have not pre-registered or paid their

school fees will be held Wednesday, Aug. 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Parents are asked to report to their child's attendance center, beginning with the oldest child, to complete on-line registration. Complete school physicals for students entering pre-school, early childhood, kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades should be presented to the school nurse during these times.

Fees not paid by Aug. 5 will be subject to a \$25 late fee. Students registered after Aug. 3 are not guaranteed bus service for the first week of school. Any Kindergarten student that did not pre-register must call Bruning Elementary School after Aug. 3 at 815-926-1706 for an appointment.

Physical exam and immunization requirement

Early Childhood or Project Sunrise (program pending grant approval): Must have a physical exam completed by an Illinois physician within one year prior to the date of entry into school, completed evaluation for lead poisoning risk and up-to-date immunizations.

Kindergarten: Must have a physical exam which includes a social & emotional screening completed by an Illinois physician within one year prior to the date of entry into school. Students must have completed an eye exam within one year prior to the first day of Kindergarten - due by October 15, 2022. Completed evaluation for lead poisoning risk. Dental exam - due by May 15, 2023 and up-to-date immunizations.

2nd Grade: Dental exam - due by May 15, 2023

6th Grade: Must have a physical exam which includes a social & emotional screening completed by an Illinois physician within one year prior to the date of entry into school,

Also a dental exam - due by May 15, 2023 and up-to-date immunizations.

9th Grade: Must have a physical exam which includes a social & emotional screening completed by an Illinois physician within one year prior to the date of entry into school. Up-to-date immunizations and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) booster within past ten years

12th Grade: Meningococcal (MCV4) required after age 16.

A completed IESA/IHSA sports form can not be accepted as proof of a physical examination for mandated physicals (EC, Project Sunrise, Kindergarten, 6th Grade or 9th Grade). The Department of Human Services Health Examination form must be thoroughly completed by both the physician and parent/legal guardian to be valid.

If a student is entering an Illinois school at any grade level from out of state, the child must have:

- A physical exam which includes a Social & Emotional Screening (SB 565, Public Act 99-0927) completed by an Illinois physician within one year prior to date of school entry
- Immunizations must comply with the State of Illinois requirements
- Transfer students have 30 days from date of entry to comply with physical and immunization requirements
- Dental and eye exams.

All students in the 2022-2023 school year who wish to play extra-curricular sports, must still receive a sports physical.

Parents/guardians of students (Grades 1-12) new to the district should call the individual schools after Aug. 3 for an appointment to register as follows: Bruning (Pre-School-1) - 815-926-1706; L.J. Stevens Intermediate School (2-5) - 815-926-1689; Wilmington Middle School (6-8) - 815-926-1687; Wilmington High School (9-12) - 815-926-1752.

Two documents to prove residency in the district, legal guardianship, and appropriate immunizations will be required to place students in classes for the 2022-2023 school year.

An Open House/Meet the

Teacher Night will be held at each school on Monday, Aug. 15.

Bruning School 4-5 p.m. Pre-school, Kindergarten, 1st grade
L.J. Stevens Intermediate School 4:30-5:30 p.m. 2nd through 5th grade
Wilmington Middle School 5-6 p.m. for grades 6-8
Wilmington High School 6-7 p.m. for freshman and new students only.

The first day of class for all students in grades Pre-K-12 will be Wednesday, Aug. 17. Bus transportation for those students in grades K-12 will also begin that day. There will be no transportation on August 17 for Preschool. Preschool parents are asked to attend school with their student.

School lunches will be served starting Aug. 17. The school lunch program is fully automated with only prepaid lunch cards accepted instead of cash. Parents are urged to prepay for lunches during Fee Days or prior to the first day of school in the individual school buildings.

If you have questions regarding bus transportation, please call Illinois Central at 815-476-6300. A letter will be mailed to each house with bus number and information in August.

School Improvement Days early dismissal

There will be five dates when students will be dismissed for In-service/School improvement days.

Dismissal times will be Bruning-11 a.m.; L.J. Stevens Intermediate-11:20 a.m.; Wilmington Middle School-11:20 a.m.; Wilmington High School-11:15 a.m.

Dates include Sept 14, Oct. 31, Nov. 16, Feb 8 and April 19.

Early release days

Bruning-1:30 p.m.; L.J. Stevens Intermediate-1:50 p.m.; Wilmington Middle School-1:50 p.m.; Wilmington High School-1:45 p.m. on the following dates:

- Sept. 23 - Homecoming Parade
- Nov. 9 - Parent Teacher Conferences
- Dec. 21 - Last day before Winter Break
- May 31 - Last day of school (tentative)



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Area gas prices vary after 50¢ drop

Monday morning gas prices were a surprising \$4.48/gallon at the Circle K in Wilmington after averaging \$4.99 the week before.

But not all stations took a 50¢ plunge for the week as average prices varied from a high of \$4.92 in Braidwood to a low of \$4.25 in Bourbonnais on Monday, according to GasBuddy.

Wilmington's average price of \$4.67 for most stations was lower than the \$4.79 average in Morris and \$4.88 average in Coal City.

Gas prices are expected to drop even more as long as conditions remain stable.

"Gas prices continue falling coast to coast, with the national average last week declining for the sixth straight week, or 40 days in a row. The national average is now down an astounding 70 cents in that timeframe," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum

analysis at GasBuddy.

The lowest price in Illinois dropped to \$3.71/g in McLeansboro, IL but it may take a couple of weeks before area prices drop under \$4.

"I have no reason yet to expect the decline won't reach seven straight weeks, as gas stations still have plenty of room to decline as oil prices remain under \$100 per barrel. However, should the tropics become more active, the decline could eventually reverse. In addition, this week we'll see GDP data for the second quarter, and if it's better than expected, we may see oil rally, slowing the descent. For now, nine states are seeing average prices under \$4 per gallon, a number that will rise this week, with over 40,000 stations under that level, keeping \$266 million per day in motorists' wallets versus mid-June," De Haan said.

Jumpstart to Genealogy Program at the Library

The Wilmington Public Library wants to help you find your ancestors' stories on Monday, Aug. 1, at 6 p.m.

In this introduction to genealogy, they will discuss the value that census records, vital records, and obituaries bring to your family history research.

Learn about which genealogy databases will be the most helpful to you as you're getting started and how to keep all your research organized once you find it.

Speaker Jaymie Middendorf is a public librarian who specializes in genealogy and local history. She has a passion for helping people discover their ancestors and loves to see people excited about their family history.

She holds a Certificate of Genealogical Research from Boston University and is the owner of Good Omen Genealogy. To register, please stop by the library or call 815-476-2834.

Support group helping caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter would like to invite anyone caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia to a monthly Caregiver's Support Group held the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist

Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Rt. 113 in Coal City. The church is located one mile west of Coal City on Highway 113.

This meeting is for caregivers only. For more information, contact Becky Halderson at 815-791-2658.

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Multi-Family Sale @ TWO homes - 1220 & 1340 South Berta Rd, Coal City. Thurs. & Fri., July 28-29 from 8am-3pm and Sat., July 30 from 8am-1pm. Lots of tools, household, antiques & collectibles, Boys 0-Adult, furniture, including Minnie Mouse toddler bed, toys, Melissa & Doug, Disney, Little People, games, puzzles, electronics, and misc. Rain or Shine. cc30

Multi-family garage sale, 1408 N. Kankakee St., Wilmington, Thursday & Friday, July 28-29 from 9am-4pm. Furniture, knick knacks, seasonal & household items, clothing: toddler to teen, men's & women's. cc30

Whole house sale - 2025 Lakewood Dr., Wilmington. Thurs., Fri., & Sat., August 4, 5 & 6 from 8am-5pm. Attic is empty & house is open. Antique mancave & she-shed items, jewelry, women's clothing size 12 & up, women's shoes size 8.5, furniture, wall art, glassware, tins, wicker, kitchen items, fishing, holiday decorations, books, textiles, many antiques. ca30-31

CUSTER PARK

35635 Linden Lane, Custer Park, Friday, July 29, 8am-4pm and Saturday, July 30, 8am-noon. Huge variety. Household items, tools, camping needs, clothes, furniture. ca30

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For more information, call Anita or Erin at 815-476-5405.

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

LOTS FOR SALE

Lot for sale, 712 Sandburg Drive, Manteno, IL. Call 312-316-3866. ca30-33.

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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics



The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$58,275.00

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P)

Applications will be available to qualified candidates July 11th - August 12th, 2022 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:00 pm on August 12th, 2022. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: August 12th, 2022 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: August 17th and August 22nd, 2022.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
 501 N. Main Street
 Wilmington IL. 60481

Proudly serving our community since 1868

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COALER SPORTS

Kuder's dominant performance helps Rhino Baseball win

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Coal City left-handed pitcher Caden Kuder was recognized by Prep Baseball Report this past week for his dominant pitching performance on Saturday during a Rhino baseball victory.

The 6-0, 160-pound southpaw dominated batters as he paired his fastball with his curveball and kept batters off-balanced, taking a no-hitter into the seventh inning.

Kuder's fastball is not one that is going to blow batters away but when on target can be tough to hit. He sat at 80-83 mph and touched as high as

84. His breaking ball was something PBR described as a 1/7 meaning the ball broke from one o'clock all the way down to seven which is close to being a perfect curveball or a 12/6 which breaks straight down from the 12 to the 6 o'clock position.

These two pitches together helped him work seven innings, giving up just a run on two soft hits while fanning eight batters and walking only two.

Kuder led his team to a 3-1 win over Windy City White during the Rock Summer Championships held in Franklin, WI.



COAL CITY'S Caden Kuder has been lighting it up on the mound for his Rhino Baseball travel team. In his most recent start, Kuder pitched six no-hit innings to lead Rhino Baseball to a 3-1 win over Windy City in the Rock Summer Championships held in Franklin, Wisconsin.

Like what you see?
See more game photos at
freepressphotos.
smugmug.com

The most dominant conferences in state of Illinois

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

In the spirit of the fall sports season, last week we analyzed the most winningest team of all. Now, we're taking a look at which conference has been the most dominant in fall sports over the years.

In football, there's a couple different ways to measure dominance. One could measure it in the playoff percentage, meaning the conference that sends the most playoff teams each year. If that's the case, it's a tie between the Big Northern Conference, the Heart of Illinois Conference, the Illinois Central Eight (formerly the Interstate Eight), the Illini Prairie, the Metro Suburban and the Apollo.

The Big Northern Conference houses some of the most impressive teams in the northern part of the state including Byron, Oregon, Genoa Kingston, Poplar Grove (North Boone) and Stillman Valley, who have all been legitimate contenders in their conference for the last 21 years. Byron has been the most dominant team in this conference, qualifying for the playoffs 16 out of the last 21 years. It's been Stillman Valley who has been the best team in the conference but not over the last couple years. They've qualified for the playoffs 17 out of the last 20 years. Oregon has qualified 12 out of the last 20 years--the same with Poplar Grove while Genoa has qualified the 10 times in the last 20 years.

The Heart of Illinois features five very good teams that make the playoffs almost every year. Gibson City-Melvin Sibley is a team that has qualified 17 times in the last 20 years. Deer Creek Mackinaw is next with

16 while Downs Tri Valley is after them with 13. Fieldcrest and Tremont are also a part of a solid Heart of Illinois Conference. Both have qualified 10 out the last 21 years.

The Illinois Central Eight Conference features five consistent teams in Coal City, Herscher, Lisle, Peotone and Wilmington. Wilmington has made it 21 times in their last 20 seasons while Coal City has 19 and Lisle has qualified 11 times in that span. Peotone has qualified 10 times while Herscher has gone nine times in that span.

The Illini Praire features five teams in Bloomington Central Catholic (15) Prairie Central (14) Chillicothe (10) Monticello (14), Tolono Unity (20) and St. Joseph Ogden (20) who have qualified at least 10 times in the last 20 seasons.

The Metro Suburban has some of the toughest teams in the state of Illinois but even with those teams, this conference still seems to send at least five to the playoffs each year.

The conference includes IC Catholic, who has qualified 14 time in that span. Bishop Mac has qualified 16 times while Wheaton St. Francis and Wheaton Academy are also tough teams within the conference. St. Francis has qualified 14 years while Wheaton adds five more.

The Apollo includes five legitimate contenders in Effingham (14), Mahomet Seymour (16), Mattoon (11), Mt. Zion (17) and Taylorville (17).

Another way one measures dominance is what those conferences do with those opportunities to go to the playoffs. How many of them are actually successful at that point?

One could go off of the individual team's success in the playoffs. Byron has had a lot of that with two state titles and two second place trophies in the last 20 years. Oregon has a second place at state while Stillman has had five state championships in the last 20 years.

One could also go by how the entire conference has done in the playoffs. For example, the Big Northern had five teams in last year, who thanks to Byron's 5-0 record, performed admirably going 8-3 as a conference.

If one was going by that standard, the Heart of Illinois Conference had five playoff teams last year who went 5-4 as a conference in the playoffs. Overall, they've had GCMS win state twice while D-Mac and Tri Valley have won it each once. Tri Valley also has a runner-up finish.

The ICE had five teams make it and altogether also with the help of Wilmington's perfect season, they went 8-4. Wilmington has won state twice while Coal City has a second place finish in the last 20 years.

The Illini Prairie went 5-3 as a conference with Tolono leading the charge with their runner-up finish. That's one of five runner-up trophies they've captured in the last 20 years. St. Joe Ogden has three while Prairie Central has another. Bloomington Central Catholic has the conference's lone state title.

The Apollo Conference usually has around five playoff teams. It had two in last season and they had two wins with two losses. Overall, it's not the most successful conference as no team has won state but Taylorville has been down there quite a bit.

The Metro Suburban Conference with IC Catholic's Semifinal appearance, went 7-5 as a conference with five teams in. They've had IC lead the charge with five state titles while Aurora Christian has had two state titles. Bishop Mac and Wheaton St. Francis has added another. Bishop Mac and Aurora have also earned a second place finish.

Of course, there is another way to measure dominance and it's the simplest. You can measure it by overall conference record and winning percentages of the teams within the conference. Out of those five conferences, the Illini Prairie has been the overall toughest conference with a .57 winning percentage and a 3,290-2,469 record all-time.

Out of all that information, it's difficult to speculate which is the most dominant conference.

They are all worthy of it in their own ways. The Illini Prairie has by far the best winning percentage but the Big Northern has more success in the playoffs on a year-to-year basis. Don't forget about the Metro Suburban, who keeps piling state trophies up. Of course, no one could forget about the ICE, who has two of

the most dominant teams in the history of the state playoffs.

Volleyball

In volleyball, if one was measuring the same way they did for football, there are several conferences that have powerhouse teams but there is no conference like the Metro Suburban. And that comes as no surprise with it being anchored by the Wheaton St. Francis, who bolsters 18 state trophies, including 12 state titles with over 1,000 wins in program history.

We're not saying the rest of the conference is a slouch. They're definitely not. IC Catholic has 1,762 match wins with six state trophies which includes a state title.

Palos Heights is arguably the best team behind St. Francis and IC. They have captured five state trophies which includes a state title, two second place medals, a third and a fourth place medal. They've also been running through their regional, capturing 15 regional titles with eight sectional belts.

Elgin St. Edward is another team that would be one of the best if it were not for those three powerhouses. They have two state trophies with 297 career wins.

Elmhurst Timothy Christian has almost 800 career wins with a third place trophy.

It's not like with football when there are clear obvious winners of the conference. This conference has a battle every year and there is more push-back from all the teams in the conference.

No outside team wants to play these teams and that's what dominance is about.

The ICE was a close fifth in volleyball because they gar-

ner four state trophies but in the Illini Prairie, Tolono Unity has four state trophies alone. That's not even adding in the three other state titles owned by Bloomington Central Catholic (1) and St. Thomas More (2). BCC also has two third place medals while St. Thomas More and St. Joe Ogden add a third place medal. Unity and Ogden have a runner-up trophy each.

That's not even bringing up the Cahokia Conference, who is easily the second-most dominant conference in the state. They're headed by Breese Central, who garners seven state trophies with three state titles. Freeburg has four state titles while Columbia has a runner-up trophy. Red Bud has a third place while Valmeyer and New Athens both have earned a fourth place trophy. That's 15 state trophies for the Cahokia Conference.

Deer Creek Mackinaw has also put their conference, the Heart of Illinois, on the map with two state titles to go along with a third and fourth place medal. They own two of four state titles in the conference. Eureka and Heyworth have the other two while Flanagan adds a fourth place.

Boys Soccer

In soccer, the Independent School League takes the cake. The Independent School League is a conference that features three powerhouse soccer programs in Chicago FW Parker, Chicago Latin and Chicago University.

Latin and University have both captured state titles while FW Parker has been close with two thirds and a fourth. Along with those schools Chicago Morgan Park and Winnetka (North Shore Country Day)

add fourth place trophies.

Arlington Heights (St. Viator) and the East Suburban Catholic are a close second. St. Viator has racked up the state trophies over the years with two first place, a second, three thirds and two fourth place medals in nine chances at state.

Lisle Benet has four trophies of their own, including three state titles and a third place while Mundelein Carmel adds a third and Chicago St. Patrick chips in two fourth place medals.

The Metro Suburban, a conference that is led by Wheaton Academy, is next. They have captured two state titles, two third place medals and two fourth place medals while Elmhurst Timothy Christian also has earned two state titles, two runner-up trophies and a fourth place. Elgin St. Edward chips in a second and a third.

The ICE is well below those top two conferences but are somewhere in the middle because of Herscher and Lisle's outstanding play on the field. The Tigers have a second and a third while Lisle adds a state title, and a runner-up trophy at state.

In terms of wins, it's the ICE who leads all soccer conferences with 2,130 wins with a .57 winning percentage. However, it's the East Suburban Catholic Conference, who has a combined 1,881 wins and leads all conferences winning 59% of their games in program history.

Next, it's the Independent School League, who has earned 1,574 wins with a .58 winning percentage.

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Photo by Ann Gill

HAILEY ROSE KASKY will take the stage as Marty this weekend as Small Town Theatrics presents *Grease* in the Coal City Performing Arts Center.



Photo by Ann Gill

SHE'S THE BEST dancer at St. Bernadette and she's dancing with Danny. Trevor Shingler and Madison Holcomb will showcase their dance moves in this weekends performances of *Grease*.



Photo by Ann Gill

NO MORE SANDRA DEE—Grace Preboy takes on the role of Sandy Dumbrowski in Small Town Theatrics production of *Grease*. This year marks the musical's 50h Anniversary.

Grease is the Word



Photo by Ann Gill

THE T-BIRDS will take the stage in Small Town Theatrics production of *Grease*. The Small Town T-Birds are [from left]: Riley Nevin, as Roger; Stephen Byers, as Doody; Trevor Shingler, as Danny; Joey Fatigante, as Sonny, and Kevin Soto in the role of Kenickie.



Photo by Ann Gill

THE PINK LADIES of Small Town Theatrics production of *Grease* are [from left]: Maggie Komes, as Betty Rizzo; Kaylee Groves, as Jan; Hailey Rose Kasky, as Marty, and Zoe Smith, as Frenchy, the beauty school dropout.



Photo by Ann Gill

KENICKIE WORKED ALL summer to earn the money for car, and in these scene from *Grease* he shares the name of his pending vehicle with his pals Roger and Doody. See Riley Nevin, Kevin Soto and Stephen Byers in Small Town Theatrics production taking the stage this weekend in the Coal City Performing Arts Center.

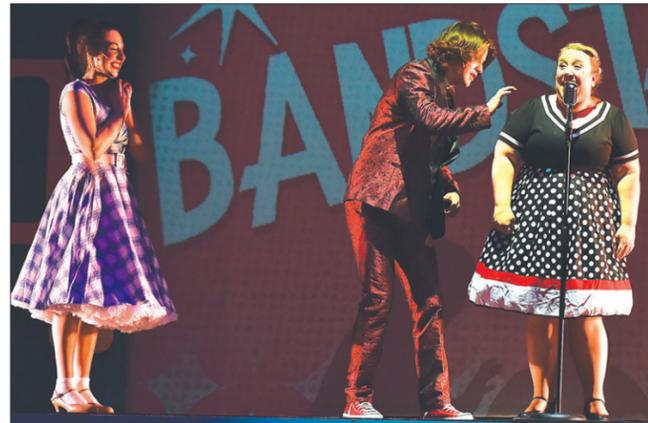


Photo by Ann Gill

YEARBOOK EDITOR AND cheerleader Patty Simcox [Emma Kenney] shows her excitement over a visit from Vince Fontaine [Landen Selio] who takes over the microphone from Miss Lynch [Dana Eisenach].



Photo by Ann Gill

FRENCHY, THE BEAUTY School dropout [Zoe Smith] receives a visit from the Teen Angel [Matt Nevin].



Photo by Ann Gill

RYDELL HIGH STUDENTS played by Landen Selio and Elaina Patten.



Photo by Ann Gill

THOSE SUMMER NIGHTS—Sandy [Grace Preboy] shares her adventures at the beach with the girls of Rydell High and they discover the new girl in school met a boy that is cute as can be and one they know all too well,