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Four vie for two seats on Park Board



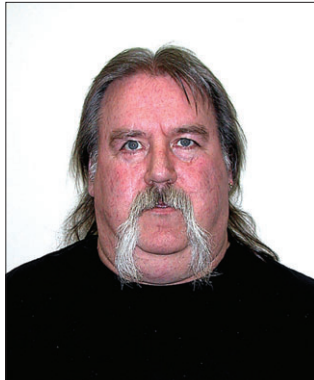
DAVE MELHORN



RANDY HILL



MIKE RUSSI



KEVIN PTACEK

Paul “Dave” Melhorn

“I want to be on the Wilmington Park Board because I have been living and working in Wilmington and the surrounding areas for 50 years and have made a lot of friendships and relationships,” says Paul “Dave” Melhorn, an incumbent candidate for the Island Park District Board of Commissioners.

Melhorn is an active member of the Wilmington VFW, treasurer of the Wilmington American

SEE MELHORN, PAGE 2

George “Randy” Hill

“Thank you for taking the time to read this. I would like to introduce myself, my name is George “Randy” Hill. I am running for park commissioner this April. Here is a little about myself:

- Residents for 30-plus years
- Work for Hicksgas in Braidwood for 31 years
- Served as a volunteer firefighter with the Wilmington Fire Protection District
- Served as a Scout

SEE HILL, PAGE 2

Michael J. Russi

Michael Russi is running for a seat on the Park District board with three main points in mind:

- He would like to improve the communications with the city of Wilmington.

“Both taxing bodies serve the same taxpayers. Without an efficient line of communication between the two units of government the taxpayers are suffering. I would work toward the Park District obtaining the right

SEE RUSSI, PAGE 2

Kevin Ptacek

From his front porch, Kevin Ptacek can see everything that happens at the Children's Memorial Park in Northcrest. He'd like to see more programs there, as well as in Wilmington's other parks.

He has a few reasons for running for a seat on the Wilmington Island Park District Board of Commissioners. He would really like to bring some new ideas to the table, and is

SEE PTACEK, PAGE 2

Library offering second chances

Career Online High School gives adults a shot at a diploma

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

Every year, the Wilmington Public Library District tries to offer one new, innovative thing it didn't offer the year before. This year, the library is offering adults a second chance to get a real high school diploma and get ready for a career. Residents who were unable to complete high school have an opportu-

nity to obtain a diploma through Career Online High School, an accredited high school that issues an actual diploma. The diploma carries more weight in the job market than a GED certification, and is more widely accepted by institutions of higher learning, explained Maria Meachum, library director.

“We consider a high school diploma essential,” she explained. “When you look at what a dropout actually costs the community through their use of social services, resources; they're unemployed, they're hard to employ, maybe they're on food stamps or welfare. Just graduating high school you make more than a non-graduate, and

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2

High School presents “Thoroughly Modern Millie”



Courtesy photo by Cristian Larios

THE STUDENTS OF Wilmington High School, under the direction of choral director Alanna Frederiksen, presented “Thoroughly Modern Millie” Thursday through Sunday, March 16 to 19. Students lined up for a cast and crew picture before the opening night performance. Pictured are (front from left) Lexi Orr, Spencer Olson, Brianna Boynton, Danielle Gibson, Theresa Overmyer and Jacob Soper. In the middle row are Gabby Calderone, Addison Friddle, Riley Van Duyne, Genavieve Couch-Votta, Ella Swick, Elliana Panepinto, Kylei Smith, Caleb Swick, Alexis Ivec, Sara Upchurch, Ashley Ivec, Kylee Battles, Autumn Switzer, Erin Overmyer, Alyssa Robus and Josh Lambert. In the back row are Joseph Snyder, Nicki Hren-Blustein, Ashley Harding, Mary Henderson, Keagan Hitz, Gabe Momper, Morgan Rickmon, Becca Cahill, Alex Hatten, Elena Singleton, Vanessa Hall, Sam Higgins, Josie Hull, Mya Gougis, Mik Kengis, Cassie Kubitz, Maddie McCann, Jeremy Banks, Isaiah Johnson, Chris Lausch, Jay Knight and director Alanna Frederiksen.



MAYORAL CANDIDATE LARRY HALL (left) waits for his turn to answer the questions incumbent Mayor Marty Orr is tackling at last Wednesday's candidate forum sponsored by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Mayoral candidates face off at forum

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

Candidates for the School Board, Park Board and mayor of Wilmington appeared at the Chamber of Commerce forum last week to state their positions on a number of issues pertinent to the unit of government they hope to serve.

We're taking a closer look at what the mayoral candidates had to say, and encourage readers to visit our website, www.freepressadvocate.com, or Facebook page, or the Chamber website www.wilmingtonilchamber.org under the “Quick Links” header to

watch the videos of all three sections of the forum.

Please note that not all candidates — Larry Hall, Marty Orr, Roy Strong and Darla Neises — were asked to answer each question. Whenever possible, we did not repeat statements that the candidates made previously in our coverage.

How many more people need to die before we stop paying out the civil lawsuits and just get rid of the dam? Orr said the city has had to conduct an extensive title search, negotiate with state officials for the transfer and obtain additional property rights, and that all work

comes to a stop each time a lawsuit is filed, because the state will not participate during those times. In addition, city officials want to eliminate the undertow, but not the dam, as it is one of the city's greatest assets.

“The challenge ... is make sure we eliminate the danger. Does that mean we have to totally tear out the dam? I hope not ... My argument has always been with the state, with the IDNR, if you've got the money to eliminate the dam why can't you use that same dollar to make it safer?” he said.

Strong said two people drowned at the dam when he was mayor, and that's

when the warning signs went up.

“If I was mayor, the first thing I was going to do, was I was going to take big rip rap and I was going to just dump it right in front. And actually the state would probably let me do that, I've talked to them before about different things, they're not that bad,” he said.

He said he has had some discussions with the railroad, which is preparing to start building a replace-

SEE MAYORS, PAGE 6



**RE-ELECT
MARTY ORR**
Mayor of Wilmington

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Wilmington, especially during the past
4 years, but there's more we need
to get done. I need your support!**
Re-elect Marty Orr April 4



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Melhorn

Legion Post 191, a member of the Wilmington Lions Club and attends the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

He has been a member of the Masonic Lodge for 48 years, and is a Past Master of the Elwood Masonic Lodge.

Melhorn was a city of Wilmington alderman representing the Fourth Ward from 2002 until 2006.

"I believe my relationship with these organizations can be an asset to the Wilmington Park District, because we all need to work together for the betterment of our community," Melhorn said.

"I would like to continue the progress we have made in the last four years

at the Wilmington Park District. I want to add more programs, such as the senior trips that are important to the growth of the community.

"I would like to see tournaments such as Bocce Ball, which I learned about this year from a resident, and it sounded very interesting and could help bring in people to our community. Melhorn wants to see the before school and after school programs expanded, with the possible addition of day care, if there are interested parents.

He would also like to have walking and bike trails through the North and South Island and connected to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie trails.

"Over the next five years, we definitely need to get the dam on the South Island corrected by the state, so we can stop these drownings," he concluded.

See a classic movie at the Wilmington library

The classic movie, "The Quiet Man" starring John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, and directed by John Ford who won the Academy Award for Best Director, will be shown at the Wilmington Public Library on Friday, March 24, at 1 p.m.

The movie is intended for an adult audience. Popcorn and beverages will be served.

The library is located at 201 S. Kankakee St.

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Hill

leader with local Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 458

- Wilmington Island Park District commissioner for 10 years, four of which were served as president of the board
- "I take great pride in the accomplishments and growth of the Park District and look forward to continuing that journey," Hill said. The district's successes include:
 - Serving over 500 members at Water Street Fitness

Library

a college graduate makes more than a high school graduate. The more [education] you get the better your lifetime earning is and the less likely you are to be a drain on society and more of an asset."

Helping adults get their high school diplomas goes hand-in-hand with the library's mission of making the community stronger and better through education.

"It's now just built in to our job description, that one of the things libraries do is help the unemployed find employment. We have found that the obstacles aren't just that, 'I can't get to a job,' but that 'I can't even meet the minimum requirement, which is a high school diploma,'" Meachum commented.

The library staff recognized that addition to their job description several years ago, and worked with the Men's Club of the First United Methodist Church to get people to the GED program in Joliet and tutoring. Meachum believes the men are still engaged in that effort.

Career Online High School is different from the GED program in that it's self paced and can be completed from home at any hour of the day, or at the library. Students can also transfer in their existing high school credits, so they aren't necessarily starting at the beginning. Although students have 18 months to complete the program, many finish in much less time, some in as little as five months.

Career Online High School offers eight areas of career study that help students prepare for a career, such as office management, commercial driving and homeland security. The curriculum includes language arts, math, social studies, science and electives in the student's chosen career focus.

The library district is offering five scholarships to the online high school, and will assume the cost of offering them, \$6,000. This price was made possible by the Reaching Across Illinois Library System (RAILS) and Gale, a Cengage Company. The participants have to be

Early voting begins

Wilmington City Hall is conducting in-person early voting for the April 4 Consolidated Election. In-person early voting began Tuesday, March 21 and will run through March 30 for all voters registered in the city of Wilmington.

Early voting hours are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon, at city hall, 1165 S. Water St.

As a polling place, city hall is a campaign free zone. Electioneering is prohibited within campaign free zones.

- Providing before and after school care for 30-plus kids each school year
- 140 family celebrations with room rental in our community room
- Toddler classes now offered in Wilmington
- Foot traffic for 2016 was 30,031 people served

"I am committed to continuing to keep lines of communication open with all taxing bodies to continue to grow and work to keep property taxes low and user fees as low as possible. My goal is — and always has been — to get the Park District and city working together to offer great parks and recreation programs to Wilmington community members," he concluded.

residents of the district, 21 or older, have a library card and go through an in-depth screening that begins with an online self assessment.

After that, they use their library card to enroll in part one of the program, a two-week pre-requisite course for the career they would like to pursue. Upon completion of the pre-requisite course, the library staff will conduct an interview that will determine if the applicant will be awarded a scholarship. Completing the pre-requisite course qualifies the applicant for scholarship application, but does not guarantee award or enrollment.

The student has to show a strong interest in getting their diploma to get into the program.

"They have to have learned that they're not going to make it without a high school diploma. 'This is what life looks like without a high school diploma,' and they have to live the pain of it before they get committed ... At that point they've kind of decided they need to get back to their original plan, and the one that works. The one that works is obtaining the certifications that they need to get the jobs that feed them, house them and can support them," Meachum said.

Participants are assigned an academic coach who supports them during the program.

"This to me is a second chance. This is us giving a second chance. The high school cannot do this for people over 21, and that's why we're picking it up," Meachum said.

"We are very excited to be able to offer this program to our community as we think it is a great opportunity for adults to finish their high school education as well as to become career and college ready," commented Carolyn Healy, the district's adult services manager, who is in charge of the program.

One district resident is already in the self-assessment, and the library director thinks the district will have its first student soon. She is looking forward to hosting a graduation ceremony, with caps, gowns and a celebratory cake.

For more information about the program, please contact Healy at the library, 815-476-2834.

Visitors to city hall are reminded not to bring campaign literature into the building, and to remove any attire including buttons, T-shirts, hats etc. that reference a candidate or referendum.

For additional information, contact deputy city clerk Joie Ziller at jziller@wilmington-il.com or 8159476-2175 ext. 228.

Russi

to use the parks, either through a long-term lease or by obtaining title to the land," he said.

- Russi will strive to establish a short- and long-term plan, with realistic goals and public input. A plan will make sure that all board members and employees are working toward the same goals.

"I would like to see the Park District plan to own a building, before the end of the current lease, with sufficient space to accommodate all of the in-house programs and allow room for growth," he explained.

"Along with this plan would be a dedicated budget amount each year, put in a separate savings account to allow the purchase of a building in the future. The district is now paying around \$6500 a month to

Ptacek

open and willing to work with all board members on new initiatives.

Ptacek feels the board needs to keep a better eye on spending and unnecessary or wasteful purchases. He thinks all purchases over \$1,000 should come before the board for pre-approval so the board knows how the public's money is being spent.

He proposes a workshop meeting prior to the board's monthly business meeting to discuss action items, so that the board is fully informed before being asked to vote.

Ptacek also believes the board members should be part of the hiring and firing process, that this task should not be the sole authority of the director.

A suggestion box or comment box should be visible and accessible for all members and residents to leave suggestions, ideas or comments, good or bad, he said.

In five years, Ptacek hopes to see new growth in fitness center membership and activities offered by the district.

"I would hope the city and Park District will have figured out an agreement to get the parks back," he commented. The Park District could update playground equipment and add new features for children with disabilities, he adds.

Wilmington man nabbed on drug charge

While investigating a report of suspicious activity on Railroad Street last week, Wilmington Police hauled a 19-year-old resident in for possession of what police believe is heroin.

Carlos G. Ortiz was arrested Friday, March 17. He was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ortiz was transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility in Joliet. Bond was set at \$50,000, of

rent its present facility. This monthly amount would be better spent going toward a district-owned property."

- Russi says the biggest change that needs to be instituted is with the elected board members becoming more active in the management of the district's finances.

"A spending limit needs to be established on the employees to limit the amount of they can spend before needing preapproval from the board," Russi explained.

"A more advanced accounting system, with updated software, will be instituted to better track expenditures. This will allow a more accurate budget to be drafted," he continued. "I also would push for a complete audit to help find any places the board could improve its management of district funds. These financial improvements will allow the Park District to track and use funds in the best interests of the taxpayers."

Ptacek

The district's five-year focus should be on increasing programs, such as bean bag tournaments and disc golf, but its 10-year plan should include capital improvements.

"I would like to think that we will have obtained the North and South Islands," he said. "We'll have to figure out where we would go when we outgrow the current building, and what we will do when we have to start replacing gym equipment."

"It would be a wonderful thing if we could have a park district like Godley, Channahon, Shorewood and other surrounding towns. We should strive to have what they have," Ptacek added.

Ultimately, the candidate would like to see children and adults have safe, friendly and relaxed recreational facilities to enjoy and be happy.

Ptacek married his wife Alecia 28 years ago. They have three children and two grandchildren. He served on the Braidwood fire department from 1979 to 1989; having participated in the department's first cadet program.

He loves all outdoor activities.


Ptacek is retired and has the time to be an active board member, and can be available to respond to residents' concerns.

"It would be an honor to represent my community to the best of my ability," he said. "I'm asking for your vote to give me that opportunity."

Decoupage a flower pot for spring posies

Get ready for spring by creating a decoupage flower pot at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, at the Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St.

There is no fee for the adult program, but registration is required. Visit or call the library at 815-476-2834.



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Teeth, eyes and technology in the 19th century



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Advances in technology affect a myriad of different industries and occupations. The health industry is one that has embraced new technologies and as a result we are all healthier.

After all, where would we be without X-rays and MRIs? One of the first branches of that industry to use machinery was dentistry. Others, such as opticians used new machinery and materials to good effect.

The first example of technology in use in the area was a dentist from Joliet. We read on April 11, 1868 in the *Joliet Republican*, "Dr. Salter, one of the oldest dentists in the city whose office is at 33 Jefferson Street, is always bound to be ahead."

"One of his latest of novelties is the smallest steam engine we have seen, which is run by one of Danforth's Super heat and Steam Generators, and used to propel lathes in the mechanical department of his office. He can now finish up work in much shorter time, and make a more beautiful finish than by the old foot lathe."

"The engine to run the machinery of the laboratory of his office has been a matter of necessity, to keep up with his business and execute his work properly, and with dispatch. He keeps at present two assistants to

assist in the office and Laboratory. He is bound to do his work promptly, and make his prices reasonable, which is a rare thing in a dentist. His rooms are conveniently located and fitted up with rare taste, and will compare favorably with any dental rooms in the State. Some of the finest work in art can be seen by calling at his rooms."

Tasteful décor seems to be a necessity in dental offices. We read of a dentist in Wilmington in 1879, "Dr. Duncan, dentist, has one of the nicest offices in this city. It is located over Banyard's store and has been thoroughly refitted and tastily decorated. The doctor appears to be doing a good business, though he does look down in the mouth occasionally."

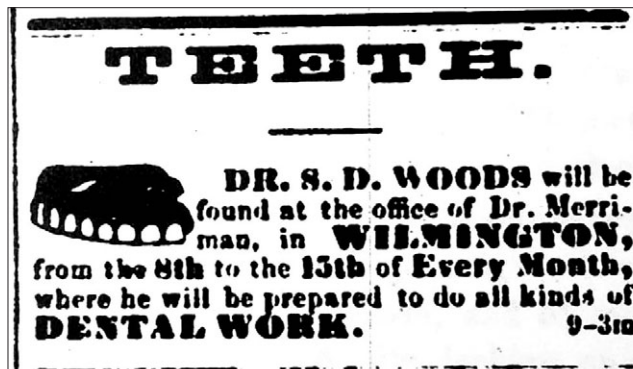
Also in 1879, a dentist in Joliet came up with a new

and interesting process.

"Dr. Cole, our popular dentist, whose enterprise is continually branching out before the public, has accomplished something in his line, that has long been talked of by the profession, but never went into effect, which is transplanting teeth, or in other words, extracting teeth, filling, and then replacing them."

"The doctor operated upon the teeth of Mrs. Harvey of Minooka and Miss Townsend of Lockport recently, and the teeth are as solid today as they ever were. In this way, the teeth can be filled much quicker, and better. About one hour constitutes the entire time in filling and replacing."

Eye doctors, per se, did not exist in this area in the 19th century. Regular doctors would treat eye diseases. But in the matter of eye



DR. S.D. WOOD advertised in the *Wilmington Advocate* in 1975.

glasses, opticians were frequent visitors. In 1880 a traveling optician came to Joliet claiming his glasses were totally different from those made by others.

We read, "Prof. Samuel W., optician, of Quincy, formerly of Cincinnati, is now stopping at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Private Parlor, No. 2 and offers to those who are suffering from weakness and defective sight, his improved crystal glass spectacles, superior to any in use, constructed in accordance with the philosophy of nature, admirably adapted to the organs of sight, and perfectly natural to the eye; affording altogether the best artificial help to the human vision ever invented, and used only by Prof. Samuels."

"The advantages of these spectacles over all others, are: They can be worn with perfect ease for any length of time at one sitting, giving astonishing clearness by candle or other artificial light, to the spectacle wearer."

"When the eyes ache or pain through the action of bright light, such as is reflected from snow, warm

weather, white paper, and in reading, writing, sewing, or in vivid colored bodies, these lenses, by softening the rays, effect a most agreeable sensation and give great relief."

"These spectacles are scientifically adjusted to every case of defective sight with unerring accuracy: whether arising from age, strains, or premature decay, by a new and exact principle entirely his own, which has seldom failed."

Actually traveling opticians were the norm well into the 20th century. We read in 1908, "Special Notice - Dr. W. Moore Thompson, the 'eye man' from Chicago, will be in Wilmington again, Saturday, September 19th. Anyone needing eye glasses fitted should see him. He tests eyes free."

And in 1910, "Dr. Hoffman, Optician, who has been coming here for the last 14 years is now at the Stewart House. If in need of glasses call and see him. Send postal or telephone and he will call on you."

Home visits from a doctor! Those were the days!

Chamber First Dollar awarded



STYLES ON 66, a hair salon at 315 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, was recently presented a First Dollar of Pure Profit Award for opening a business in the community. Chamber ambassador David Quigley of Quigley Technology Services (from left) presents the award to owner Nancy Bradley and stylist Jordan Favero. The re-located to Wilmington after their salon known as Styles on Broadway in Coal City was destroyed by fire.

Hydrant flushing to begin April 17

Spring hydrant flushing is scheduled for Monday through Friday, April 17 to 21, and April 24 to April 28, from 7:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Hydrant flushing signs will be put out on

Wednesday, April 12, and will be moved around as a pre-notice to the areas that are being or will be flushed.

Questions about hydrant flushing can be directed to Darin Fowler and/or Ryan Foster.

Volunteers needed

United Way is seeking to recruit 15 to 20 volunteers for the mobile food pantry at Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court, on Tuesday, March 28, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Volunteers will help with set-up, assist with the distribution of food and help with clean-up. Volunteers will need to be available from 3:15 to 6:16 p.m.

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 SELECTED VARIETIES LEAN CUISINE SIMPLE FAVORITES ENTREES 6 \$10	 SELECTED VARIETIES LEAN CUISINE CHUNKY OR CHUNKY ENTREES 6 \$10	 Essential Everyday Frozen Waffles 99¢ 12.3 Oz.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Sing then watch the movie on April 7

The WE-PTO will present the movie "Sing" on a big screen in the Wilmington Middle School gymnasium, 715 S. Joliet St., on Friday, April 7.

The WE-PTO has partnered with the Wilmington Park District to borrow its big outdoor movie screen.

The Wilmington Public Library will bring the movie and a karaoke machine.

Karaoke will be from 6 to 6:30 p.m. followed by the movie.

The WE-PTO will have a concession stand with water, candy, popcorn and chips.

Children are welcome to bring bean bags chairs and blankets for the gym floor to hang with their friends for the movie while parents can relax in the bleachers or bring a comfortable chair.

The cost will be \$5 per family. All families are welcome to attend.

Call Nicolle Hicks at 815-263-2804 for more information.

"The Snow White Variety Show" coming to WMS

Wilmington Middle School will present "The Snow White Variety Show" on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 9 and 10, at 5:30 p.m., in the WMS all-purpose room.

The new production was written by Brian D. Taylor from Pioneer Drama Service. The setting of the play is a television talk show.

In the show, the audience will see characters retelling fairy tales from different perspectives. The show will also include humorous commercials featuring fairy tale characters mimicking real life products.

This show is appropriate for all ages and enjoyable for families.

"The Snow White Variety" show has a cast of 35 in addition to several other students who are involved in the design crew and the set crew.

Admission will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students. There will also be baked goods available for \$1 each.

Fifth graders visit Thailand classroom

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

A large poster above the blackboard in Deborah Hackman's classroom reads: "Let learning take you around the world."

The fifth grade teacher at Stevens Intermediate School is a living example of that student inspiration. She's learned of other countries and their customs by traveling to other parts of the world and she enjoys nothing more than sharing her discoveries in her classroom.

"Teachers by nature use every experience they can to share them with their students," Mrs. Hackman commented. "This is a fun way to delve into that worldly experience."

That was apparent on a recent Wednesday night when she crowded her 18 students together in front of a computer to speak with people from 8,500 miles away that she met three years ago. They are students attending a private school in Thailand and they were eager to speak English to students from Wilmington.

"Hello from Stevens Intermediate School, in Wilmington, Illinois USA," Mrs. Hackman said when the video call projected onto a white screen. It was 7:30 p.m. in Wilmington but 8:30 a.m. a day earlier in Bangkok.

The students in Thailand smiled politely as they too crowded around a camera. It was the start of a 45-minute video call via Skype.

Hackman arranged the exchange three years ago while visiting her daughter Justina who was teaching at the school. It's a small Christian school Thai students attend to learn English.

"It's very structured and the students are just as chatty as ours but also very self-disciplined," Hackman said. "Their parents pay to send them there so expectations for learning, especially English as a second language, are high."

While their classroom size is about the same as Wilmington's, students in Bangkok are big city dwellers among a population of over 8.2 million people.

The Wilmington fifth graders prepared a script explaining the features of their community. They were proud that Wilmington is near Chicago, has a river, historical Route 66 with the Gemini Giant and state championship football team from 2014. They told how their school has about 400 students in grades 2 through 5.

After introductions from each school, the class-



"LUNCH IS MY FAVORITE" - Mrs. Deborah Hackman laughs along with her fifth grade students to the response given by one of her students to the question "What is your favorite class in school?" It was all part of an evening session when the local fifth graders had a video call with students in Thailand.

mates took turns asking questions. The students in Thailand were given the Wilmington questions in advance to help them prepare their answers in English.

The students from Thailand and Wilmington learned they had common interests when it came to video games, music, sports (soccer, basketball, volleyball and swimming) and pets.

Differences included foods (spicy in Thailand), what they do on the weekends (in Thailand they study with tutors, take music lessons and other fine arts classes outside of school) and the biggest difference—getting to school.

Bangkok has the longest average commute in the world, typically two hours or more. Traffic jams and congested sidewalks force many of the Thai students to commute four hours or more to and from school.

They were impressed that some of the Wilmington students were picked up by bus close to home and had a commute of 10 minutes or less.

The Bangkok students asked if the SIS students got to play in the snow much this winter. The response was "no," for at least this winter, but in the past they liked having snowball fights, making a snowman and riding snowmobiles. That brought a delightful response from students in Thailand.

They exchanged 18 questions before having a book discussion about "My Rotten Red-Headed Older Brother," a short story in English. The students in Thailand had absorbed it well.

After showing each other photos from around the school buildings and towns, it came time to say good-bye. They signed off, gaining awareness of students of the same age but one-third of the world apart.

Thank You from the family of Toy Hilgendorf

Our hearts are full of gratitude when we say many thanks to family and friends for all the acts of sympathy, food, flowers, donations, cards & visits regarding the passing of our mother, grandmother & great grandmother Toyoko Hilgendorf. Special thanks to Baskerville Funeral Home and Lions Club for their professional arrangements and caring service.

Toy will always be in our hearts and memories.

Meet this week's WHS seniors

BY TAYLOR HUGHES & BRIANNA BOYNTON
WHS STUDENT REPORTERS

This week of Meet the Seniors, we introduce you to Alec Beasley, Lindsey Joly and Madilyn Holman.



Alec Beasley

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan on going to JJC.

What do you do for fun? Cheer leading.

What is your favorite movie? Split.

What kind of music do you like? Mostly pop.

Do you have a favorite subject? Science or office aide.

Your favorite thing to eat is? Chicken nuggets.

What's your favorite lunch off the lunch menu? Mini corn dogs.

Most embarrassing moment? One time I wasn't paying close attention when I was driving and went straight through a red light when the green arrow turned on.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Beyonce because we have the same birthday.

Favorite thing about Wilmington? Catfish days.

Best memory from high school? Being a state champion in cheer leading.

If you were stranded on an island with clothes and three other items, what would they be? My phone, a house, and a frying pan.

Who is your favorite teacher and why? Ms. Booth because I can talk to her about anything.

Advice you would give to an underclassman? Don't spend all of your time trying to be what you think is "cool".



Lindsey Joly

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I'm going to Illinois State University to major in Special Education.

What do you do for fun? I hangout with my friends.

What is your favorite movie? I don't watch a lot of movies so I don't have one.

What kind of music do you like? I like mostly anything.

Do you have a favorite subject? My early education

class through GAVC.

Your favorite thing to eat is? I eat a lot of fruit.

What's your favorite lunch off the lunch menu? I never eat school lunch.

Most embarrassing moment? Tripping up the stairs in front of people during passing period.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? I would want to meet Lady Gaga because I think she is cool.

Favorite thing about Wilmington? The small town atmosphere and the fact that everyone knows everyone.

Funniest memory from high school? When someone streaked at a football game.

If you were stranded on an island with clothes and three other items, what would they be? Probably my phone, Madilyn Holman, and some food.

Who is your favorite teacher and why? Mr. Farrell because he is laid back.

Advice you would give to an underclassman? Stay active in school and don't get behind in classes.



MADILYN HOLMAN

subject? English with Mr. McGee.

Your favorite thing to eat is? Chipotle.

What's your favorite lunch off the lunch menu? I don't eat lunch here.

Most embarrassing moment? Sophomore year basketball, shooting the ball in the other team's hoop...but missing.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Nicholas Cage because I like his movies, they're pretty good.

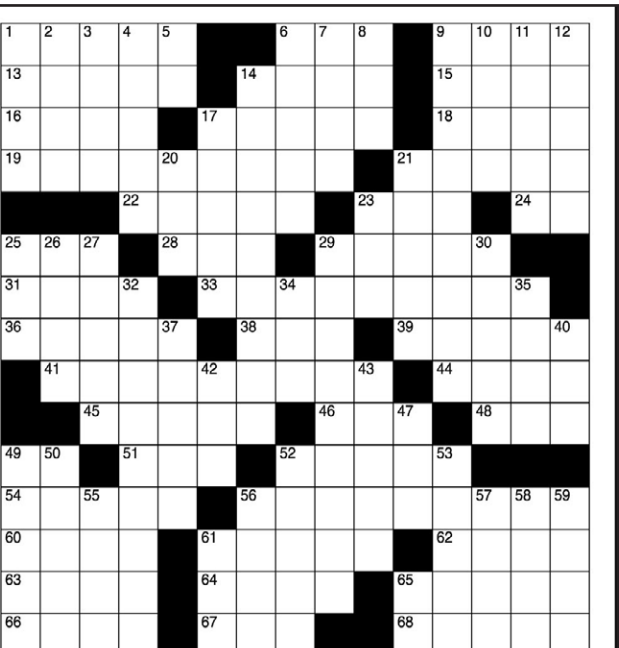
Favorite thing about Wilmington? The people are great.

Funniest memory from high school? Sophomore year basketball.

If you were stranded on an island with clothes and three other items, what would they be? A wild Lindsey Joly, food and my phone.

Who is your favorite teacher and why? Mr. McGee because he's funny.

Advice you would give to an underclassman? Try to show up to school and always try your hardest in classes.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Pea stems
- 6. Type of music
- 9. Leader
- 13. Distant
- 14. 5,280 feet
- 15. Beloved Yankee great
- 16. A female domestic
- 17. Free from alcoholism
- 18. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
- 19. Entertains with song
- 21. Wooden shoe
- 22. Female horses
- 23. Group of males
- 24. Sodium
- 25. Revolutions per minute
- 28. Neither
- 29. Woody climbing plant
- 31. Dismounted
- 33. Orbits the earth
- 36. Female parents
- 38. Separates acids
- 39. Origins
- 41. Stuffing and mounting animal skins
- 44. Rupture
- 45. Fathers
- 46. Large primate
- 48. Shape-memory alloy
- 49. Halfback
- 51. "Family Guy" daughter
- 52. Irish mountain chain
- 54. Paired
- 56. Drinks
- 60. Death notice
- 61. Skirts
- 62. Fertility god
- 63. Where a curve intersects itself
- 64. Red Sea port
- 65. Mozambique seaport
- 66. Leaver
- 67. The human foot
- 68. Crash

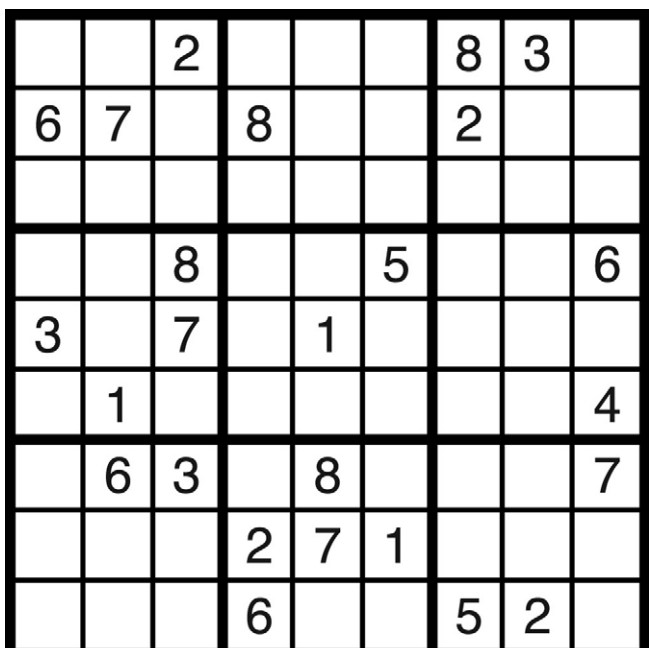
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Excessively theatrical actors
- 2. Wings
- 3. French river
- 4. Internet device
- 5. Where Tony Bennett left his heart
- 6. Flowering shrub that bears gooseberries
- 7. Brews
- 8. For each
- 9. Dictatorships
- 10. Slavic person in Saxony
- 11. Nobel laureate Shmuel
- 12. Lasso
- 14. Tones down
- 17. Lunar period
- 20. Leavened Indian bread
- 21. Military elite
- 23. One thousandth of an inch
- 25. L.A. footballer
- 26. Land plan
- 27. A satellite of Saturn
- 29. "Cat Ballou" actor
- 30. Obscure aspect of Sun God and a group of asteroids
- 32. Indicates the fare
- 34. ___ and feather
- 35. Round Dutch cheese
- 37. Begat
- 40. Relaxing place
- 42. ___ Hit'an of Alaska
- 43. Belgian city
- 47. Organ of hearing and balance
- 49. Isolated Southeast Asian people
- 50. "Power Rangers" villain
- 52. Yellow-fever mosquitos
- 53. Heavy cavalry sword
- 55. Laundry detergent
- 56. A way to wait
- 57. Mother and wife of Uranus
- 58. Justly obtain
- 59. Stony waste matter
- 61. Helps you find places
- 65. Oil company

A Good Question

Thank you to the person who asked about the Illinois Youth Survey during the March 15 Candidate Forum. Because of that, I've learned more about this survey and am now better prepared as a board member. I have researched the issue and can answer to my constituents.

Peggy Kunz
209-U Board Member



SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

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

Letter to the editor

Hoping those elected will work for good of all

Dear *Free Press Advocate* editor,

April fools day will soon be here along with our small town's election. I for one hope that our elected officials will stand on facts and not fancy. Here's to hoping their platforms of promises are kept!

Our family moved in around August and we've come to know our city officials and seen them in action. I know that the current council wasted taxpayers dollars because they couldn't figure out something as simple as passing an ordinance. I have to tell you when it comes right down to it the bottom line is this ... we are entrusting our elected officials with managing taxpayer money and if they cannot make a decisive decision on something as simple as chickens how can we expect them to perform on far more pressing issues?

This council was presented over several months with irrefutable facts, backed up with the completion of all their requests with nothing accomplished. Is this how politicians work? Is this how our small town government runs? As newcomers it stands as a testimony to gross ineptitude.

Here are the facts:

1. Wilmington is a small rural town of less than 6,000. The definition of country is rural town. As such we live "in the country." So when someone says take your chickens and go live in the country, we are!
2. We told our neighbors we wouldn't be moving in if they had any issue with my son's chickens. Our neighbors all around us were fine with our hens. Those next door were concerned that their dogs would get to the "girls" so we paid for a city building permit, and put up in a solid cedar fence.
3. Our son joined 4H, and is planning on showing his hens.

4. Chickens currently reside in the city limits, and there has never been one call to the police concerning them, that is until we moved our hens in. They were with us three days before the police showed up on a Sunday.

Who called the police? Either it was my neighbor who initially said they were fine with the hens and who was eating our fresh eggs, or the developer. Note: Our subdivision does NOT have an HOA, nor do any of the covenants say we cannot have chickens.

5. During the "process" of jumping through the city's hoops in order to bring our son's chickens home we had to get the signatures of all neighbors within 250 feet of our home. We also had to hire a vet. We did as requested, and submitted to the city officials 18 signatures of neighbors who had no problem with the girls. There was the one egg eating homeowner who changed their mind, and the developer who owns an empty lot saying no. The vet, Dr. Rodawold, gave us high marks for cleanliness and the health of our girls. He said he was also in the same 4H club our son is in and hoped that our rural town will allow us to have the hens.

6. This debacle ended up with me being threatened with a lawsuit by the developer during the Dec. 6 City Council meeting, the only meeting we were unable to attend because I was very ill. This meeting was pivotal because the majority of the City Council who were for changing the ordinance suddenly changed their minds. Only two aldermen continued to support the ordinance! Two aldermen who stuck to the facts and no matter the ranting and raving stayed on the side of truth over mud slinging and lies.

To add further insult to injury the egg eating neighbor went to the neighbors who signed our chicken petition, and to put it nicely spoke ill of me, verbally and in texts.

As a mother this whole situation was not a positive experience for our family, especially our son who was present at every meeting witnessing people yelling at me in their endeavor to control what happens to our pet hens. And the alderman who stated that they would support him in getting his pets home only to back off from that promise still bothers him.

I understand the reasoning that an alderman should do as their constituents dictates, but when it comes to common sense issues ... every alderman should engage their constituents in a conversation to clear up any, and all misconceptions using facts. No alderman should let bias rule the day! We need people who will stand upon their convictions based upon truth, not the hateful rhetoric I have come to see. Our detractors used bully tactics and outright lies and it worked on all but two aldermen on this council.

For some this is a laughing matter. The hilarity of all these ruffled feathers over a small boy's hens, but to this family it has been an ugly experience that makes us question the ability of our elected officials to handle far more pressing issues.

Here's to hoping that those who are elected work toward the good of all of us in Wilmington, not just their chosen few.

If anyone would like to get in touch with me, I can be reached at dnrhunding@yahoo.com.

Robin Hunding
Wilmington

Letter to the editor

Why would 209-U approve hiring another consultant?

Having read the six school board candidates' statements in last week's *Free Press Advocate*, I have a question for the three incumbents.

All three mentioned the fiscal and funding issues our school district faces. I also read that the school board recently hired a district office consultant.

I am not sure what duties go with this position but I am confident that the three well-compensated and knowledgeable professionals we have in the superintendent, assistant superintendent of curriculum, and a business manager can do these duties.

I don't begrudge the consultant for getting hired. I just question the existing school board if this expense is necessary with our financial situation what it is.

Todd A. Lockwood,
Wilmington



THE RAILROAD CROSSING at Stripmine Road will close at the end of the month, and will stay closed until mid-June while a second track is added and the intersection of Stripmine and Route 53 is improved.

Stripmine Road to close March 31

STAFF REPORT

The east end of Stripmine Road will be closed for nearly three months for improvements at the Union Pacific Railroad Crossing, beginning March 31.

The Illinois Department of Transportation and Union Pacific will be adding a second track and improving the intersection with Route 53.

D Construction put up the road closure signs last Thursday. Only the section between the east side of Davy Lane and Route 53 will be affected.

According to city engineer Colby Zemaitis, the new intersection for this location will no longer include the through lane from Route 53 westbound to Stripmine Road. All traffic will now have to utilize the T-intersection with the new traffic signals.

The intersection will also be shifted to the west to align with the western entrance of the Circle K gas station, although that entrance will be closed. There will be exclusive right turn lanes for each leg of the intersection.

The new traffic signals will be interconnected with the railroad crossing. The signals will come in the fourth stage of the four-stage project.

Stripmine Road is scheduled to be closed until June 15. Detour signs will go up next week directing traffic to Coal City Road.

The Union Pacific Railroad and Illinois Department of Transportation have assured the city of Wilmington that no two local railroad crossings will be closed at the same time. Improvements are also slated for the crossings at New River Road, Kankakee River Drive, Kankakee Street, First Street and Coal City Road.

Heroin dealer gets eight years for 2013 death in Wilmington

STAFF REPORT

The first drug dealer the Wilmington Police Department charged under the state's drug induced homicide law was sentenced to eight years in prison last week in the 2013 death of a 19-year-old Braidwood woman.

Joseph P. Alksnis, 26, of Dwight, pleaded guilty on Friday, March 17, to one count of drug induced homicide. Judge David Carlson, the same judge who signed the warrant for Alksnis' arrest in 2015, sentenced him to eight years in prison.

The victim, Heather Watson, was found dead inside her mother's vehicle outside an apartment complex in the 800 block of East Kahler Road in Wilmington on March 28, 2013. An autopsy revealed she died of a heroin overdose.

Officer Todd Lyons of the Wilmington Police Department was among the first responders. He said the officers investigated the case as a drug induced homicide from the start, even tracking the garbage that was in the apartment complex dumpster to the county landfill on South Arsenal Road and sifting through the detritus for hours in search of evidence.

However, it was the victim's cellphone that gave police what they needed to create a solid case. Police analyzed Watson's cell phone and discovered she had been in contact with an individual who lived inside the apartment complex. The police investigation revealed that the victim and this individual had purchased the heroin from Alksnis for \$40. They injected the heroin together, after which Watson drove this individual back to the apartment complex where she was later found dead.

Wilmington Police Department Detective Matt Kiebles sifted through mounds of technological data, including phone records, text messages and video surveillance to create a timeline of the events that led to Watson's death and proved Alksnis' involvement. The detective printed out all of the text messages and pieced them together to follow Watson's movements from before midnight when the conversation started, from when she left home in Braidwood, to getting to the apartment on Kahler, to making the transaction, until she was found in the morning.

"By collecting all the phones, we were able to piece together all of the texts that went out that night and go from there," Kiebles said.

"Had it not been for him getting all that phone information, putting it together — he literally had a date and time and what they said, the back and forth conversation and how it all tied together, that brought this guy out to actually make the delivery — with that information they were able to charge him," Police Chief Phil Arnold said. "It is a daunting task, but it's what we're going to have to do."

It sends a message to drug dealers that police can and will find a path to them and bring charges, added Officer Lyons.

The office of Will County state's attorney James Glasgow has charged 17 drug induced homicide cases since the state law went into effect in 2011.

"Joseph Alksnis is the 10th defendant to receive a prison sentence for dealing this deadly poison, while the remaining cases are pending in court," said Glasgow. "These cases are often extremely difficult to investigate, but our police departments and my office are committed to taking heroin dealers off our streets and ending this public health crisis."

The 10 defendants who have gone to prison are serving sentences that total 73.5 years for drug induced homicide or related drug

dealing charges. One case was dismissed when a key witness died before trial. Six cases are pending in court.

The state's attorney credited the Wilmington Police Department for pursuing an aggressive investigation and Assistant State's Attorneys Peter Wilkes and Erin Krone for securing a prison sentence in this case.

Alksnis will have to serve 75 percent of his eight-year sentence, with credit for the 1,164 days he's already served in the county jail awaiting trial. He will be transferred to the custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections to complete his sentence.

He also pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful delivery of a controlled substance to an undercover police officer and received a 10-year sentence that will be served concurrently with the drug induced homicide sentence.

The Will County coroner's office has confirmed 77 heroin-related overdose deaths in 2016, one of which occurred in Wilmington and two that occurred in Braidwood. So far in 2017, the coroner's office has confirmed 11 heroin-related overdose deaths in Will County.

District 209-U Board approves abatements for U.S. Cold Storage

STAFF REPORT

The School District 209-U Board of Education approved a five-year tax abatement for phases two and three of the U.S. Cold Storage facility at the corner of Route 53 and Kankakee River Drive.

The School Board agreed in 2008, when the frozen foods warehouse property was annexed, to provide the abatement.

The agreement gives U.S. Cold Storage a property tax abatement of 75 percent for two years beginning in the first full year of occupancy of each of three construction phases of the facility, followed by two years of a 50 percent abatement and a 25 percent property tax abatement in the fifth and final year.

Only the city and school district participated in the property tax abatement.

U.S. Cold Storage also made a cash contribution of \$33,300 per phase to the school district.

The School Board approved the phase two and three abatement agreement at its Wednesday, March 8 meeting. The city approved a three-phase agreement at annexation and no subsequent action was necessary.

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THANK YOU

The family of Jeffery Lardi Jr. would like to thank all of our friends and family for their kind words and support during this difficult time. Thank you to Matt Baskerville and his staff for the wonderful care of our family.

Love Kayla, Kelly, Barb, Jeff Sr.
Tony, Lexi and Bella Lardi.

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VOTE

TOM BURNES

WILMINGTON 209-U

BOARD OF EDUCATION

I wish I had conveyed my position more clearly during the forum March 15 at the Wilmington City Hall.

My reasons for running for School Board are education and welfare of our students, make sure teachers have the necessary tools to educate our children.

The Buildings should be safe and maintained inside and out. I don't like a lot of the decisions that have been made in the past. If elected I will go into the job with a positive attitude.

Tom Burnes

Mayors

ment bridge over the Kankakee River. Strong proposed that instead of the limestone pilings going to the landfill, that stone could be used as fill at the base of the dam to eliminate the boil. He believes there would be enough stone to place at least one row of blocks along the entire length of the dam, and possible two.

"That would take care of that undertow ... we would probably save a lot of lives doing that, and the cost would be very minimal," Strong commented. "And it's already in the water, so we're not contaminating the water. To me, that dam is a huge thing and we don't want to lose it."

Neises said enforcement, to help keep people out of the dam, might be her first step to address the drownings.

What's your opinion of the warehouses going up at Ridge [RidgePort Logistics Center]? Hall believes that if the city is going to have warehouses, RidgePort is a good place for them.

"It's going to bring work in for the people. Is it a premium job? Nowadays, what do you call a premium job?" he said. "... I would like to see more commercial come out there than the warehouses. Down the road maybe that will happen."

Neises would like to see better paying jobs at RidgePort.

"I'm not sure a \$15,000 a year job is what most of us would consider a good decent job. We need to see if we can bring some industry out there that's going to pay a decent wage with some benefits and not just temporary jobs ... Our people need to go to work."

She felt it unfortunate that the tax increment financing district will last so long.

Hall countered that he knows of RidgePort jobs that are paying \$45,000 or more.

Would you be in favor of working out a long-term agreement of 10 years or more with the Park District, and would you be in favor of giving all of the small parks

to the Island Park District? Strong said it's not a big deal to work out an agreement for cutting grass, but after the drownings, the district was unable to get liability insurance for the island parks, and can't own those properties.

"The rest of them, I'd be glad to let them have them and take care of them. The Park District is a taxing body, we're a taxing body, what difference does it make who runs or owns it. They're all of our parks," he said. "As far as the north and south islands, they could cut the grass and take care of it, but ownership would have to stay with us because of insurance down there."

Orr is absolutely in favor of a long-term agreement with the Park District. Historically, the city has worked with the district, even replacing the revenue the Park District received from rents at the trailer park in the South Island Park when the city decided it wasn't appropriate for it to be a landlord.

"We actually paid a fee to the Park District to help with mowing the parks," Orr said. "At the time the park commissioners said it was purely temporary, and that after a couple years they'd be able to maintain it on their own and wouldn't need the city services anymore for the revenue."

That position changed over the years, and the Park District asked the city for more than \$100,000 a year to maintain the properties, and that the city turn over ownership of the neighborhood parks after 10 years.

"That really didn't make sense ... it's like you paying somebody to mow your front yard and then after 10 years you give up your house to that same person," Orr said.

But the bottom line for the council was that privatizing mowing cost the city one third of what the Park District demanded and the city has been saving ever since.

Despite the challenges of the past, Orr encouraged the Park District to increase activities in the park rather than focus on who is doing the mowing.

If you are elected do you plan to be a full-time mayor? Neises plans to be a

full-time mayor and to keep regular office hours, not just collect a full-time mayor's pay. Hall, too said he would be a full-time mayor, and that when the staff opened the doors of city hall, he'd be sitting in his office, not leaving until the end of the day.

"I would be a full-time mayor, five days a week," he said.

"I'd be seven days a week," Neises responded.

"I have a cellphone, it's 24/7," Orr added, bringing the first laugh of the night.

Did the railroad offer the city or fire department around \$50,000 a year to use the old Central School property? If so, why wasn't a deal made? The Union Pacific made no offer to the city, but did approach the Wilmington Fire Protection District about using the former school site to store the heavy equipment and materials it will use in reconstructing the bridge over the Kankakee River. However, the site is not zoned for such an industrial use, it is residential, and material storage is prohibited in residential zoning. In addition, Orr explained that the city's streets are not designed to accommodate the overweight trucks and equipment that will be needed for the project, and the railroad did not have permission to use them.

If you were not running for mayor, which of the other three candidates would you vote for? Neises picked Hall, Hall picked Neises, Strong picked Orr and Orr picked Hall.

"There are two of us who have not been mayor ... we've already seen what's happened with Marty and Roy, and it's like Mike [Russi, Park Board Candidate] said, maybe new blood needs to be there," Hall said.

Was approximately \$10,000 of taxpayer money spent on a study to figure out what trees should be cut down on the island? Orr said a proposal to bring in an arborist to determine the condition of the forest on the islands, and to expand the scope throughout the community was presented to the council, but the council did not take action.

Do you believe at-will city employees should be given severance packages funded by taxpayers? Hall was the first to say no.

"They make good enough money while they're working there, and like the rest of us, we have our pay-outs that we have to have. We save our money and live off of that. No, I don't think the taxpayer should be," Hall said.

Orr's no was resound-

ing, since a lawsuit dealing with severance packages was how his first term in office started, after Strong tried to secure their extended employment by offering his administrator and police chief employment contracts as he was leaving office. Strong and Neises also said no.

If you are elected mayor, do you plan on bringing back Mrs. Puracchio or Mr. Imhof back? Sheryl Puracchio was the city administrator and Mike Imhof was the chief of police under Strong, who said he hadn't been in contact with Puracchio for a while, but didn't plan to bring her back. Imhof, however, he would like to reinstate as the chief of police.

"I like Mike Imhof, I think the community does, so that would be a, I would think about it. He's a good chief, a lot better than the one that replaced him ... Mike would be my first in line for replacement," Strong said.

The mayor only votes in the event of a tie, what can you accomplish as mayor that you were unable to accomplish as a city alderman? Neises said being mayor gave her authority over the budget and appointments, the checks and balances of city government.

Strong explained that the mayor runs the committee meetings, so when the members vote on an issue, the mayor has already discussed it with the aldermen and how he would like it to be.

"Sometimes aldermen think they can do this and that, and they can't, so you have to remind them what they can do legally, and what's right for the community," Strong said. "You talk to the aldermen, you get along with the aldermen, in the committee meetings, then when it comes up for a vote, usually you know how it's going to go because you've discussed it, especially the important thing."

"It hardly ever happens that you vote; I hardly ever did a tie the whole time," he added.

Orr said it's unfortunate when the mayor has to break a tie, but those come when a lot of debate and thought has gone into the subject of the vote. He feels it's important for the mayors to be involved in the discussion as much as possible, to provide his educated opinion, but what's more important is for the mayor to have the best professional staff available.

"We all sit up here, all nine of us, we're not experts in everything, but we like to gain knowledge in everything we can if we're to vote on it," Orr explained. "To put the proper people, whether

it be a city administrator or the best finance person, the best police chief, the best water superintendent, the best sewer superintendent, the best public works superintendent we can to run the daily operations of the city, they're the ones we rely a lot on. It's our paid staff who educate us and to help us understand what they're going through on a daily basis so we can make the educated decision ... for the residents we support."

Hall holds the same perspective as Strong and Orr, that the mayor has to be a leader.

"You put the people that know all about the stuff, you put them in there and try to drive them into that direction that would benefit the city," Hall said.

Why did the purchase of the Bridge Street properties cost the taxpayers so much, especially after the city administrator was saying it wasn't going to cost the taxpayers a nickel in 2012? Orr explained that the city entered into an agreement with Openlands, whereby Openlands made the purchase and held the property for up to three years while the city gathered the funds to pay Openlands Back. City officials anticipated that a grant would pay half the purchase price. The city leased a cell tower on Strip Mine Road to pay the other half. The \$252,000 grant was awarded to the city in January 2015, but later that month Governor Bruce Rauner took office and froze the funds.

Interest accumulated, Openlands' costs accumulated and state officials fought over a budget. Meanwhile, the homes at the entrance to the island were deteriorating, and the operating engineers took them down at no cost. All the city had to do was pay for disposal, which also came at a discount.

Then state officials offered a different grant program, and city officials jumped at the chance.

"We were rewarded the IDNR grant and unbeknownst to anybody, I think even the people at the IDNR, once we got awarded the grant we had to go out and get a new appraisal. So the challenge was before we had an appraisal with houses, now we had an appraisal without houses. So naturally the value goes down because you no longer have the property there. The IDNR money is less than we anticipated, but we had generated some extra revenue through sales tax and stuff we didn't anticipate to help cover that cost," Orr said.

The city closed on the purchase and now owns the property with Orr said is

good, because it's an empty canvas that provides the community an opportunity to pursue a vision.

"One of biggest challenges to face any city is to have an opportunity for a vision, and to create something out of something that wasn't there to begin with," he said. Claire's Corner was a used car lot, but the Downtown Revitalization Committee had a vision for the site's redevelopment — it is now a park that brings a little green space to the downtown business district. The mayor noted that the turn-of-the-century style lighting in the downtown, including the traffic lights at the intersection of Water and Baltimore Street, the walk-bridge over the millrace, the parking lot west of the millrace are more examples of the realization of a vision.

Is Wilmington better off than it was four years ago? Hall thinks it is, that there's been a lot of good headway made.

"Ridge out there is a good example," he said. "We brought that in, it generated a lot of money for the city. There are jobs ... I know a couple people who work out there that's making \$45,000 to \$50,000. I think we're moving ahead."

"I think we're a lot better off than we were four years ago but we have a long way to go," Orr said. "... Are we better yes, can we get better, most definitely, we need to ... We've seen our industrial growth but we're struggling residentially, we struggle commercially. But we're starting to see that residential growth come in. We had upwards of 12 homes built last year, and considering that the only homes that were being built were the school, I think that's great and I think we're going to see a lot more."

Strong noted that one of the city's biggest assets is its sales tax revenue, which outpaces sales tax revenue in the surrounding communities.

"The city of Wilmington, I don't see how our citizens have done any better," Strong said. "Our water bills keep going up ... and the semis, thank God Elwood shut that one road off, because, remember all the semis coming through town, it was a nightmare, anybody who lived on 53 you couldn't sleep ... With Ridge out there you're talking a 23-year TIF, when will Wilmington see anything out of this. I'll be dead before I'll see anything out of this, and I don't feel the citizens have done any better. The Park Board, I don't think the streets have gotten any better, so I don't see that big of an improvement — for all the growth, where's the improvement."

Tea, auction help fund mission trip

STAFF REPORT

The First United Methodist Church of Wilmington's Work Trip Mission Team will host its fifth annual tea on Saturday, March 25, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., to support their summer trip to the Red Bird Mission Settlement in Henderson, KY. In addition to silent and live auctions, the event features a talent show and refreshments.

The mission team repeatedly returns to the Red

Bird Mission in the Appalachian Mountain region of Kentucky, where chronic poverty, joblessness, poor housing and rugged terrain challenge the residents of the area to lead fuller lives.

"I enjoy the opportunity to serve Christ and helping people in some way," said Tony Merkel, who attends the work trip every year.

For the last few years the mission team has been based at the mission camp in Beverly, KY, and is assigned to projects where they're needed. They pay a

flat fee for their housing, food and materials. But this year, the team will focus its efforts in Henderson, where they will be responsible for materials as well as the cost of their keep.

Merkel said the cost balances out, and the mission team members like the idea of being able to pick the projects they'll work on — ones that match their skill set and budget. They picked some home repair projects and construction of a shed.

The 2017 trip is scheduled for June 10 through 17.

The team has a fundraising goal of \$5,000, not including transporta-

tion.

This Saturday's tea will take place at the church, 401 E. Kahler Road. The silent and live auctions include a number of baskets and gift certificates, and a good selection of entertainment opportunities, all provided by individuals and businesses in Wilmington and the surrounding area.

The mission team will be auctioning off tickets to see the Chicago White Sox and Joliet Slammers play; tickets to the Kankakee Valley Symphony Orchestra; oil changes and tire rotations; three-month memberships to Water Street Fitness; hair care products; family baskets; game and movie nights; kitchen gadgets; picnic baskets and more.

Tickets to the tea can be purchased from mission team members or at the door for \$7. Children's tickets are \$5, and those under 10 are admitted free.

Wilmington Township to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP**
Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, Residents of The Township of Wilmington in the County of Will and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 11th, 2017, at the hour of 6:01 o'clock p.m. at the Wilmington Township Offices located at 1095 S. Water St. Unit E, Wilmington, for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said township; and after a Moderator having been elected, the agenda will be to proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, to set depositions for Township funds and to decide on such measures that may in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

Dated March 16th, 2017
John G. Cairns Jr., Township Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

Jen's Cleaning Service files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Assumed Name
Publication Notice**
Certificate 31388 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County. Jennifer Risinger on March 2, 2017 wherein the business firm of Jen's Cleaning Service located at 119 N. Main Street Front, Wilmington, IL 60481, was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows: Jennifer Risinger, 119 N. Main Street Front, Wilmington, IL 60481.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 2nd day of March, 2017.

Nancy Schultz Voots
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 8, 15 and 22, 2017.

910 N. Washington St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

Guaranteed Rate Inc.Plaintiff, vs. Anthony J. Panepinto aka Anthony Panepinto; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant. No. 16 CH 0079

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 6th day of January, 2017, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 13th day of April, 2017, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

THAT PART OF LOT 55, IN NORTHCREST, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 18, 1948 AS DOCUMENT NO 646750, LYING SOUTHERLY OF A LINE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 55 THAT IS 46.75 FEET SOUTHERLY OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER THEREOF; THENCE SOUTH 83 DEGREES 25 MINUTES 17 SECONDS WEST 125.05 FEET, TO A POINT OF TERMINUS ON THE WESTERLY LINE OF SAID LOT 55 THAT IS 44.64 FEET SOUTHERLY OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER THEREOF, EXCEPTING THEREFROM SOURCE MATERIAL BENEATH THE SURFACE TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, ALL IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 910 North Washington Street, Wilmington, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Multi family
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-109-013-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours; plus, for residential real estate, a statutory judicial sale fee calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser to the person conducting the sale, not to exceed \$300, for deposit into the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC. 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563 P: 630-453-6960 F: 630-428-4620 Plaintiffs Attorney

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 22 and 29, and April 5, 2017.

Attorney Fisher files Osburn Drauden estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Elizabeth Osburn Drauden, Deceased. Case No. 17 P 150.

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Elizabeth Osburn Drauden of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 13, 2017 to Jonnie E. Kwasneske, Melissa Bushue Vilt and William N. Osburn as Independent Co-Executors.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent co-administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication of this Notice, which is on or before September 22, 2017 or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. 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 co-representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: March 13, 2017
Jonnie E. Kwasneske, Melissa Bushue Vilt and William N. Osburn as Independent Co-Executors
Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. 815-476-7635.
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 22, and 29, and April 5, 2017.

Attorney Meszaros files Campbell estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the Estate of Sherry D. Campbell Deceased. CASE NO. 17 P 00064

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to creditors of the death of SHERRY D CAMPBELL, of 870 Harris Dr. Bolingbrook, IL 60440 who died on November 16, 2016. Letters of Office were issued on February 21, 2017, to Stephen B. Campbell III, as Executor. The Attorneys for the Estate are Law Office of Patrick A. Meszaros 1100 W. Jefferson St. Joliet, Illinois 60435. The Estate will be administered without Court supervision unless under Paragraph 5/28-4 of the Estates Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates Independent Administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Clerk of the Court. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Probate Division at the Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within six (6) months from the first publication date and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Dated : March 3, 2017
Stephen B Campbell III
as Executor of the Estate of Sherry D. Campbell, Deceased

Prepared by: Patrick A. Meszaros, Attorney for Independent Administrator, 1100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435, (815) 722-4001.
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, March 8, 15 and 22, 2017.

Attorney Lynch files Picco estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH M. PICCO, Deceased; No. 17 P 117

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Elizabeth M. Picco. Letters of Office were issued to Elizabeth J. Picco whose address is 2115 East Jackson Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520 and Ronald P. Picco, whose address is 202 East Briarcliff Road, Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440 as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of Jones, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 8th day of September, 2017 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Elizabeth M. Picco, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, March 8, 15 and 22, 2017.

Wilmington Township, Road & Bridge budget hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Public Hearing
on Township and
Road & Bridge Budgets
and Special Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinances for the Township of Wilmington in the County of Will, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning March 1st, 2017 and ending February 28th, 2018, will be on file and available for public inspection at the Wilmington Public Library and the Office of the Wilmington Township Clerk.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Town will be at 6:00 p.m. on April 20th, 2017, and the public hearing on Road and Bridge will be at 6:15 p.m. on the same night.

Both budgets will be brought forth before the Board of Trustees for final approval at their regular meeting to be held at 6:30 p.m. on the same night.

John G. Cairns Jr., Township Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, March 22, 2017.

WILDCAT SPORTS

Seneca leaving the I-8, decisions will be needed

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

Seneca's announcement last week that they would be leaving the Interstate Eight Conference in 2018 has left other member schools asking what to do next.

The departure of the Irish, who have been in the conference since its culmination 38 years ago, has left athletic directors uncertain how the make up will be

now that there are 11 teams remaining.

"I am not sure we will know the total impact on the conference until we know what direction the conference goes from here," said Wilmington Athletic Director Brian Goff. "I think from a tradition standpoint, it has great impact. Seneca has been a member of this conference from the beginning. I think we all understand their situation, but

wish they didn't have to leave for the same reasons."

One of the biggest questions is if there is another team out there who wants to fill the vacancy left by Seneca. Ideally, getting back to 12 teams would allow the conference to remain balanced with Large and Small divisions of six schools each.

"The conference committee has looked at options, with the potential

of adding more teams," said Reed-Custer Athletic Director Chuck Anderson. "Next month's meeting will hopefully shed some light on a direction we will be heading. We were hoping Seneca would stay, because they are similar to our size in the conference. That had an impact."

While the conference committee already knew that Seneca was seeking other options, they had already started planning

for when this type of announcement was made.

Seneca voted 6-1 last week to leave the conference, and will now join the Tri-County Conference for every sport but football.

The Tri-County Conference is made up of Putnam County, Midland, Henry-Senachwine, Marquette, Roanoke-Benson, Low Point, Woodland and DePue.

For football, the Irish will join the Sangamon Valley Conference, which includes: Dwight, Clifton Central, Cissna Park, Iroquois West, Momence, Paxton-Buckley-Loda, South Newton and Watseka.

"We want to get to an even number, I'm sure, whether it be 12 or 14," said Coal City Athletic Director Dan Hutchings. "You just don't know. We will have a committee that gets together and explore that now that we know they're 100 percent going to be out."

In order to establish the split I-8 football conference, six teams are needed in each division. So this could pose a problem in terms of having a large division with six and a small division with only five.

"Every single conference, it feels like every year that there are more that leave," Anderson added. "Conferences up north that are stuck with five teams, and what do they do next. You need six for a football conference. We are a little larger than that in terms of being on the cutline, but you can't have a large and small in the I-8 with only

five teams on one side. We will have to wait and see what happens."

While the decision impacts the conference as a whole, many of problems lean heavily in the smaller schools' direction.

With the departure of Seneca from the small division, they are left with only a couple of choices.

It could result in a larger school moving down, and the conference adding another big school, or lead to other teams leaving the conference as well.

"There's not many small schools around that want to come in, so my speculation is a bigger school, if not middle of the pack," said Hutchings. "That will have an affect on the smaller schools, I understand that."

"In our footprint here, there really aren't very many smaller schools," added Anderson. "That was why the I-8 was so strong, because the enrollment from the smaller schools to bigger schools wasn't that much different."

Either way, the conference will change. They will face issues that arose just like in 2014-15 when Dwight left the conference and Streator was added.

The biggest question will still stand though, who will they add?

"I am sure we will have several meetings, as well as the principals, to create the best plan possible for the conference moving forward, not only in athletics but also in activities," said Goff.



MEMBERS OF THE 2017 varsity softball team include: (Front, from left) Emma Hafner, Mollie Beckman, Kiley Sowa and Aubrey Sinchak. Kneeling: Bella Egizio, Justine Reents, Taylor VanDuyne, Lorri Kucharski and Mickaela Tworek. Back: Coach Kate Welsh, coach Michelle Combes, Ava Narine, Grace Cooper, coach Floyd Combes and head coach Jack Skole.

Sowa's day at the plate not enough for Lady Wildcats

Kiley Sowa made herself known every time she came to the plate on Monday, but it wouldn't be enough for Wilmington's softball team, as they suffered their first loss of the season to Momence.

Sowa led the Lady Wildcats, going 3-for-4 with a home run, one double, and one single. She drove in three RBIs and scored one run.

She gave Wilmington the initial lead, driving in three when she homered in the first inning.

Unfortunately, Momence answered with a four-run first inning, and continued to add to their lead down the stretch, winning 10-5.

Mickaela Tworek added a double on the day, while Emma Hafner, Justine Reents and Grace Cooper each added singles.

Bella Egizio, Hafner, Reents and Megan Mann each recorded runs in the game.

In the pitcher's circle, Reents would receive her first loss of the season, put-

ting in 3.2 innings of work.

She had three strikeouts, while letting up two walks, one home run, eight hits and nine runs (four earned).

Lorri Kucharski threw for 1.1 innings, striking out one, walking two, and letting up one earned run off three hits.

Pitching the final inning was Katie Kucharski, who picked up one strikeout and only allowed two hits.

WANT TO SEE YOUR TEAM REPORT HERE?

SEND STATS TO

sports@fpnusa.com

or fax to 815-476-7002

RE-ELECT

Tim Cragg

209-U Board of Education

Endorsed by

U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger

ADAM KINZINGER

RENEW AMERICA

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN CONGRESS

Dear Friends,

I write to you today to endorse Tim Cragg's candidacy for Wilmington School Board.

As a former McLean County Board Member, I saw firsthand and understand the importance local politics have on the everyday lives of the members of the community. As a result, I care deeply that good people serve our community and that the locally elected officials serving do so honorably and professionally, while effectively executing the duties of their office for the betterment of their constituencies.

I'm confident Tim Cragg will continue to execute the duties of his office while selflessly serving his constituency and promoting an environment where Wilmington High School and its students thrive.

Tim knows firsthand the unique circumstances the school district finds itself. He understands and shares the same concerns of his neighbors about the important decisions Wilmington High School faces. At the same time, Tim's familiarity and attachment to the community coupled with his competence and professional experience give Tim a well-rounded perspective of the issues facing the school. These attributes will lead Tim to approach and continue to execute the job of President of the School Board to the benefit of the school district, and the students.

Over the years, I've had the pleasure of getting to know Tim and have seen firsthand - and can attest to - the kind of character and work ethic he possesses and his passion for public education. His character, his experience, and sense of duty to serve his community make Tim a great member of the Wilmington School Board.

I'm honored to endorse Tim Cragg and am proud to urge all residents of Wilmington to support Tim Cragg for Wilmington School Board on April 4th.

Very Respectfully,

Adam Kinzinger

Member of Congress

Also endorsed by

- American Federation of Teachers Local 604
- Local 130 Plumbers Union
- IBEW Local 176 Electricians
- Will-Grundy Central Trades & Labor Council

Paid for by Committee to re-elect Tim Cragg

★★★★★

STRONG FOR MAYOR

★★★★★

WHAT'S BEST FOR WILMINGTON

EVERY VOTE MATTERS

The last mayoral election was influenced by low voter turn out. Only about 1200 voted out of about 3600 registered voters. The last election was decided by approximately 10 votes. I encourage every registered voter to vote in this upcoming election. I ask for your support during this mayoral election, I would be proud to serve as your next Mayor.

Thank you, Roy Strong

Paid for by citizens for Roy Strong

WILDCAT SPORTS

Lady 'Cat kickers fall to Reed-Custer

BY BRENT SUMNER
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington varsity girls soccer team kicked off its season Monday, hosting Reed-Custer.

Unfortunately, the Wilmington season didn't start the way they intended, suffering a 6-0 loss to the Lady Comets.

"Right now we are still starting on the whole offensive standpoint," said WHS coach David Blackburn. "There are still some question marks on where some of our players are going to be position-wise."

The non-conference match served as a measuring stick, with the coaches spotting their strengths and weaknesses.

The Lady Wildcats held Reed-Custer scoreless for most of the first half.

While Wilmington spent the majority of the time in their defensive third of the field, they still held the Lady Comets to only one goal heading into half-time.

Reed-Custer notched their first goal with 11 minutes left in the first half, taking advantage of a direct kick. Some miscommunication on Wilmington's part led the Lady Comets taking possession in traffic and scoring the goal.

"The first goal, the coaches are taking blame for it, because we haven't spent a lot of time talking about walls and defensive formations," said Blackburn. "That's going to come with time. We still are very young with the whole playing soccer thing, so not many of our girls have a lot of experience with it."

In the second half, Reed-Custer eventually started to wear on Wilmington.



ANOTHER SAVE – Abigail Morgan finished Monday's game with 18 saves in net, as she was peppered with shots throughout the game. The Lady Wildcats wound up losing to Reed-Custer, 6-0.

The Lady Comets continued to pound away in Wilmington's defensive half, and would wind up with five more goals.

"The other goals are from things that we told them not to do," Blackburn added. "They were doing things that we are trying to



ELLIANA PANEPINTO races for the ball against a Reed-Custer defender during Monday's game. The game was non-conference, as Wilmington dropped to 0-1 overall.

avoid to do, and that kind of showed up on the scoreboard when that happened."

Reed-Custer's Abbey Cash and Lilly Kilpatrick both wound up with three goals each.

"I don't know how, but Cash over there, she's like our kryptonite," Blackburn added. "No matter what happened, the ball kept finding her foot somehow.

We would clear it, it would come back. Other than that, we just kept clearing the ball to the middle of the field, and that's where we kind of got killed. That was probably accounting for three or four of the goals."

Moving forward, Blackburn plans to work with his center midfielders, and build more of a possession mindset, as the transi-

tion from defense to offense was missing on Monday.

"We need a more possessive mindset from the center mids, and our forwards need to spread the field more, but at the same time work together," Blackburn added.

The Lady Wildcats will be back in action on Thursday, March 30, when they host Morris.



SENIOR MIDFIELDER Brianna Boynton looks for a pass after trapping the ball on Monday. Head coach David Blackburn said he will be working with his midfield this week to build more of a possessive mindset.

A case for my dad, Marty Orr

Over the past eight year as mayor, my dad has left the City of Wilmington with a great deal of potential that will be felt for decades to come. He has kept the city afloat during troubling times since the recession while still being able to bring development to Wilmington that will bring stable growth and tax revenue. Overall, he has been one of the hardest working mayors and has benefited the city more than most if not all mayors in Wilmington history.

My dad has been in city politics for the good majority of my life, so I have had a very close look and learned about what he does politically for many years. First and foremost, he is always transparent and honest in what he tells people and what he can do and what might be out of his reach for him to do. This is proven in The Free Press from a few weeks ago, where Wilmington is shown to be the most transparent city in the region. He does not give false promises, and he will follow through if he knows he can help anybody. When things reach his desk, his first thought is to how he can get the most for the residents of Wilmington. If it is bad news, he will try to find out how Wilmington can still get something out of it. For example, four years ago it almost seemed that Illiana was going to come right through, and instead of ignoring it and doing nothing, he did what no other municipality did, and while maintaining that many citizens were against its drawn up route, and asked that we at least get a portion of the toll tax.

While living in town for 27 years, my dad has done tremendous amounts of work in and around the community, even before he really started getting involved in city politics. He pushed for lighting and a swing set in Northcrest in 1995, four years before running for alderman, pushed for new architectural lighting on Water Street, has been the Chairman of Catfish Days for 19 years which brings revenue and tax revenue for the city. This does not include helping out the Coalition occasionally and just generally solving problems for people around the city. He will never boast about these things because that is who he is. He believes that the fruits of his labor will be felt throughout the people, and that is what he cares about most.

Over the past eight years, he has made so much progress and potential for this city possible. He has had to make tough decisions and unpopular ones, but in the long run everything will work right because he has had vision for this town. A few of his accomplishments over the years:

- Eliminated city stickers, an unfair tax
- Brought back weekly recycling at a reduced rate
- Investments and jobs
- A \$2 million police station with \$0 taxpayer cost
- Improved water plant
- Brought Ridgeport to Wilmington

The list can go on and on. He will never take full responsibility because he truly believes that it took all of the work of all those around him as well. With him as mayor, Wilmington can truly be the best it can. He is the most committed and dedicated candidate that will improve the city. Let's give him four more years and make Wilmington reach its full potential.

Isaac Orr

Paid for by Isaac Orr

Solid base-running gives Wildcats win over Momence

The Wilmington varsity baseball team got its season off on the right foot on Monday, as they picked up a 10-2 win over Momence.

The visitors recorded the first run of the game in the top of the first, but Wilmington responded in the bottom the frame with a run of their own, scoring on a stolen base.

From there, the Wildcats never looked back as they recorded three runs in the second, four in the third and two more in the sixth, growing their lead to eight, and securing the win.

Wilmington took the lead for good with three runs in the second inning, with Tyler Long and Matt Alexander both recording doubles, driving in runs.

The Wildcats put on a clinic when it came to running the bases, as they wound up with 11 stolen bases.

Sam Jones, Conner Dempsay

(2), Alexander (2), Brett McWilliams (2), RJ Van Duyne, Mark Youngquist and Brock Bolser (2) each finished with stolen bases.

At the plate, Van Duyne, Youngquist, Jones, Will Van Duyne, Long and Alexqander each recorded hits on the day, as Long led the offense with three RBIs.

Garrett Roth picked up the win on the mound, putting in four innings of work. He let up two earned runs off seven hits, but struck out three and walked two.

Blake Geiss picked up the save, pitching the remaining three innings. He fanned four batters and walked five, letting up no hits.

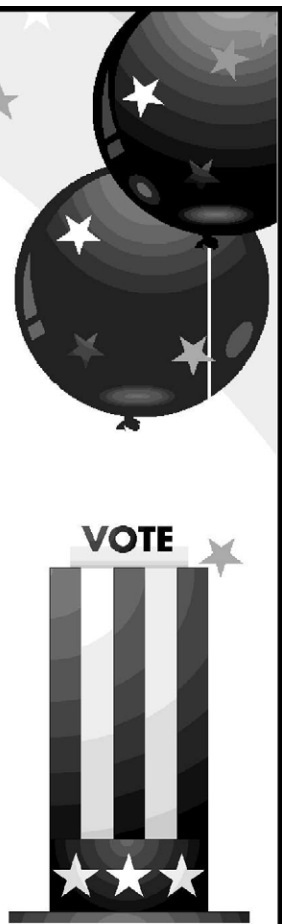
Elect
**LYN
ALLOTT**

for
**Wilmington
Township Clerk**

April 4th

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Paid for by friends to elect Lyn Allott



EXPLORING A CULINARY CLASSIC

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES WITH POTATOES

FAMILY FEATURES

Delicious and nutritious, it's no wonder potatoes are a menu staple for many. Everyone craves meal variety, and potatoes offer a perfect canvas to inspire new flavor exploration so you can enjoy something different every day. From russets, reds, yellows, whites and purples to petites, fingerlings and more, there are multiple varieties to keep dishes interesting.

You might be used to preparing this kitchen staple mashed, baked or fried, but these inventive recipes show how easy it is to incorporate flavors and techniques to create new potato dishes for any meal of the day in 30 minutes or less.

Find more meal ideas featuring a variety of potato preparations at PotatoGoodness.com/explore.



Steak and Potato Tacos with Poblano Chiles

- Yield: 12
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
 - 1 large onion, sliced
 - 2 poblano chiles, stemmed, seeded and sliced
 - 12 ounces white potatoes, quartered lengthwise then cut crosswise into 1/4-inch thick slices
 - 1 flank steak (12 ounces)
 - garlic powder
 - chili powder
 - salt
 - pepper
 - 12 corn tortillas (6 inches each)
 - chopped fresh cilantro
 - pico de gallo salsa
 - hot sauce

In heavy, large nonstick skillet, heat 1/2 tablespoon

oil over medium-high heat. Add onion and chiles and saute until tender, about 10 minutes.

Transfer onion mixture to bowl. In same skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium-high heat. Add potatoes and saute until golden brown and tender, about 12 minutes. Return onion mixture to skillet with potatoes and keep warm.

Sprinkle both sides of steak generously with garlic powder, chili powder, salt and pepper. In heavy, large skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Add steak and cook until browned on both sides, turning once, about 8 minutes total for medium-rare. Transfer steak to cutting board; let rest 5 minutes.

While steak rests, heat tortillas on griddle or over gas flame until warm, turning frequently with tongs.

Thinly slice steak. Top tortillas with steak and potato mixture; sprinkle with cilantro.

Serve with pico de gallo and/or hot sauce.

Nutritional information per serving: 167.9 calories; 6.3 g fat; 13 mg cholesterol; 19.1 mg sodium; 6.8% vitamin C; 20.9 g carbohydrates; 2.5 g fiber; 7.1 g protein; 147.4 mg potassium.

Fiesta Potato Smashers

- Yield: 8
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 30 minutes
- 5 small yellow potatoes
 - 5 small red potatoes or potato of your choice
 - 1 pint sweet mini peppers (red, orange and yellow)
 - cooking spray
 - 4 tablespoons fat-free sour cream or fat-free Greek yogurt (optional)
 - 8 sprigs cilantro, picked from stems
 - salt, to taste
 - chili powder, to taste
 - freshly ground pepper, to taste

Place whole potatoes into microwave-safe, covered dish.

Microwave on high 3-4 minutes.

While potatoes are cooking, cut mini peppers into 1/4-inch slices. Spray nonstick pan with cooking spray and heat to medium. Add peppers and saute until they start to brown. Remove from pan and set aside.

Remove potatoes from microwave and with layer of paper towels covering each potato, smash on cutting board until 1 3/4-inch thick.

Spray saute pan with cooking spray, heat on high and add smashed potatoes. Cook 1-2 minutes until potatoes start to brown.

On plate, place potatoes and layer with sour cream or yogurt, if desired, peppers and cilantro. Dust with salt, chili powder and pepper, to taste. Serve warm.

Nutritional information per serving: 50 calories; 350 mg sodium; 0.7% vitamin C; 1 g fiber; 1 g protein; 293 mg potassium.

Potato Prosciutto Waffles

- Yield: 6
Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes
- 1/4 pound thinly sliced prosciutto
 - 3 medium russet potatoes (or 3 cups mashed potatoes)
 - 1 teaspoon salt, plus additional for salting water
 - 1/2 cup milk
 - 1/3 cup unsalted butter, melted
 - 2 large eggs, beaten
 - 1/2 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
 - 1 tablespoon fresh thyme
 - 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon baking powder
 - 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Heat oven to 400 F.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper and evenly lay prosciutto on paper. Bake 10-15 minutes until prosciutto is crispy. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Peel and cube potatoes. Place in pot of salted water and bring to boil over high heat. Once boiling, reduce heat to rapid simmer and cook until potatoes are fork tender, about 10 minutes. Strain potatoes from water and transfer to large bowl. Mash potatoes with fork or potato masher.

Add milk, butter, eggs, cheese and thyme to potatoes. Stir to combine.

In separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, 1 teaspoon salt and pepper. Add to potato mixture and stir until just combined. Crumble prosciutto and fold it into batter.

Heat waffle iron. If required, grease with cooking spray.

Spoon about 1 cup batter onto waffle iron and cook according to iron's instructions until waffles are golden, about 4 minutes. Keep waffles warm in 200 F oven until all waffles are cooked and ready to serve.

Serve with touch of butter, sour cream or poached or fried egg.

Nutritional information per serving: 332 calories; 16 g fat; 109 mg cholesterol; 1,138 mg sodium; 13% vitamin C; 32 g carbohydrates; 3 g fiber; 15 g protein; 653 mg potassium.



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Who should get a CT Heart Scan?

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- Family history of heart disease
- High cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Women over age 55
- High blood pressure
- Physical inactivity
- Obesity

Call Riverside Outpatient Scheduling at (815) 935-7531 to schedule your CT Heart Scan.

CT Heart Scans are available in Coal City and Kankakee. For more information, visit riversidehealthcare.org/heart.



\$49
CT Heart Scan

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Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

Wednesday, March 22

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., AARP sponsored free tax aid, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 386 W. Kennedy Rd., Braidwood
 • 10:30 a.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Wednesday
 • 6 to 7:40 p.m., Awana Club, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, each Wednesday
 • 7 p.m., Learn to Quilt, Wilmington Lions Hall, 708 E. River St., each Wednesday
 • 7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, first and third Wednesday of each month

Thursday, March 23

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, each Tuesday and Thursday
 • 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 1:30 p.m., Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday

Friday, March 24

• 4 to 7 p.m., Lenten fish fry, Immaculate Conception Church's Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St., each Friday of Lenten
 • 4 to 9:30 p.m., Bounce Night Fun Fair, Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court

Saturday, March 25

• 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Dr., Wilmington, each Saturday
 • 11:30 a.m., Easter egg hunt, Main Street Baptist Church, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood
 • Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday through April
 • 1:30 p.m., Annual tea, First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington

• 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Saturday

Sunday, March 26

• 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, 217 Parls St.

• 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Essex museum open, 218 Parls St., guest speakers to discuss mining
 • 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Sunday

Monday, March 27

• 10:30 a.m., Island City Homemakers meeting, Island City Park District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, fourth Monday of each month
 • 1 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway

• 6:15 p.m., Women's Alcoholics Anonymous, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Monday
 • 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, each Monday

• 7 to 8:30 p.m., Wilmington Boy Scout Troop 440, Wilmington Lions Club, 805 River St., each Monday

Tuesday, March 28

• 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, each Tuesday and Thursday

• Noon, Wilmington Rotary Club meeting, Mikki's Diner, Winchester Green Shopping Center, each Tuesday

• 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., Bridge Buddies, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Tuesday

• 5:15 p.m., TOPS 2264, Main Street Baptist Church, Main and Division streets, Braidwood, each Tuesday

• 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Immaculate Conception Church, Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St., Braidwood, every Tuesday

• 7 p.m., Al-Anon, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., every Tuesday

• 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month

• 7 to 8:30 p.m., Art Hornsby Remembers Morris Businesses, Grundy County Historical Society museum, Canal Port Community Center, 510 W. Illinois Ave., Morris

Wednesday, March 29

• 7:30 a.m., TOPS IL 1024, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington, weigh-in followed by meeting each Wednesday

Friday, March 31

• 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Rummage sale, Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 W. Gould St.

Saturday, April 1

• 8 a.m. to noon, Rummage sale, Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 W. Gould St.

• 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Water Street Market, downtown Wilmington, first Saturday of each month

• Noon to 3 p.m., Wilmington Historical Society museum open, 114 N. Main St.

• 3 to 5 p.m., PBS screening of new Travels with Darley episode featuring Route 66 and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, The Mar Theatre, 121 S. Main St., Wilmington

• 4 to 7 p.m., Hallelujah soup supper, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd.

Monday, April 3

• 3 p.m., St. Rose CCW meeting, St. Rose School, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington

Tuesday, April 4

• 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., first and third Tuesday of each month

International Chinese Musician coming to JJC

The Joliet Junior College Musica Viva Series presents "East Meets West" with international Chinese musician Yang Wei on Sunday, March 26, on the Main Campus, 1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet.

To complement the concert's "East Meets West" theme, there will also be an authentic Pan-Asian and American buffet brunch. The brunch, prepared by the Culinary Arts Department, will be held in the J-Building cafeteria at 1 p.m.

Tickets to attend the bunch are \$15 per person. To make reservations for the brunch, attendees must call 815-280-2200 by March 22 to purchase tickets.

The Musica Viva concert will follow the brunch at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts

Theatre. The concert is free and open to the public. Wei, an extraordinary virtuoso of the pipa (Chinese lute), is a member of the world-renowned Silk Road Ensemble, founded and directed by the cellist Yo-Yo Ma.

"We are extremely honored to have such an internationally famous musical artist, Yang Wei, appearing on our JJC campus next month, thanks to the generosity of the JJC Foundation," said Professor of Music Philip Spencer.

"This not-to-be-missed concert for all ages and is offered at JJC in partnership with the Chinese Fine Arts Society of Chicago."

Call 815-280-2223 for more information about Musica Viva events at JJC.

Free screening of new PBS episode at the Mar

There will be a free screening of the new Public Broadcast Service (PBS) episode of Travels with Darley from 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Mar Theatre, 121 S. Main St., Wilmington.

The episode, Route 66 & Midewin, will feature Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and other sights and landmarks

along this stretch of old historic Route 66.

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions of local people involved in the production. The moderator will be Midewin archaeologist Joe Wheeler.

Respond to Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed to attend.

Quilt guild to host quilt show

Pieces From the Heart Quilt Guild is having their quilt show, A Parade of Quilts, on Fri., March 31 and Sat., April 1.

The quilt show will take place at the Channahon United Methodist Church, 24751 W. Eames St., (Rt. 6) in Channahon from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is \$5.

Come enjoy beautiful quilts on display, vendors, decorated chair raffles, a Blackhawks raffle quilt and a Quilters Boutique. A barbecue lunch will be available by the United Methodist Women.

Annual egg hunt at Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church will hold its eighth annual egg hunt and Easter event on Sunday, April 9, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Admission will be free and include an egg hunt with prizes for children ages birth to 10. Advance registration is recommended and due before Friday, March 31.

The church is located at 907 Luther Dr. in Wilmington.

Oakwood Cemetery spring clean-up

Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington will begin its spring clean-up beginning Saturday, April 1.

All grave blankets, decorations and trinkets that are not removed before April 1 will be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel.

Anyone wishing to save decorations should removed them by Friday, March 31.

Clean-up at Mt. Olivet to begin Saturday

Clean-up at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood will take place between March 25 and April 7.

Those who wish to keep any decorations must have them removed no later than Friday, March 24, or they will be removed by the caretaker.

Items may be replaced on or after Saturday, April 8. Do not place plastic flowers in the ground.

Garden Club welcomes recipes for 80th anniversary cookbook

This year the Wilmington Garden Club will celebrate its 80th year as a club. To commemorate the occasion, it will update its cookbook.

The Garden Club needs approximately 150 new recipes, hoping to add at least 10 recipes to each section.

The deadline to submit recipes is Wednesday, April 12. The Garden Club plans to have the cookbook available to sell at its plant exchange on Saturday, May 13.

Pull out your favorite recipe and share it with the public.

It is also a nice remembrance for our friends and family recipes. Dedicate a recipe or two in honor of

someone and include a few words to go with that recipe.

Recipes are needed for appetizers and beverages; soups, salads and sauces; vegetables and side dishes; breads, rolls and muffins; cookies, bars, treats and candies; and desserts.

Also, main dishes and casseroles; meat, poultry and seafood; wild game, camping and grilling; ethnic heritage kitchen favorites; kids' cooking; canning, pickling, jams and jellies; animal/ pet treats; kitchen/life poems; and this and that.

Submit recipes to Mary Belter at wags2swish@aol.com or mail to 20268 W. County Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Red Carpet Corridor Festival

Craft show and flea market

Wilmington, Illinois

Saturday, May 6

A craft show and flea market is planned for Saturday, May 6, in the downtown antique district during the Red Carpet Corridor festivities, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Set-up can begin as early as 6:30 a.m. There will be a variety of activities taking place in the downtown area, drawing a steady stream of people. The Red Carpet Corridor Festival is part of the Illinois Route 66 event: <http://il66redcarpetcorridor.org/> that attracts Route 66 enthusiasts from all over Illinois. Unfortunately, no electricity will be available.

The non-refundable permit fee is \$30 for a 10x10-foot space postmarked on or before April 15 without exception. Permit fees postmarked after April 15 will be \$40 per space. Spaces paid for the day of the event will be \$50.

Complete the contract below and return it with a check made payable to Women of Wilmington to: Women of Wilmington, c/o Brenda Craig-Cherveny, 1235 Chesson Court, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Post-dated checks will not reserve a space. Confirmations will be emailed in mid-April.

Questions can be directed to Cherveny by emailing brenniej@aol.com or call 815-476-9470.

The Red Carpet Event Committee and Women of Wilmington will not assume liability for any losses, damages or injuries sustained by exhibitors or spectators.

Craft Show and Flea Market Application

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____

Signature: _____

E-mail Address: _____

List of what will be sold: _____



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Paint job stops reproduction of General Lee cars

BY TONYA MICHALEC
SPECIAL TO THE
FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

In the 1980s it became one of the most recognized cars in American TV history. It was called "General Lee", a 1969 orange Dodge Charger featured in the television show "The Dukes of Hazzard."

But as of two years ago, reproductions of the General Lee were halted, especially as a children's toy, all due to what was painted on its roof.

The General Lee became famous for being the main get-away vehicle for the good old' boys on a popular action-comedy TV series.

CBS aired the show for six years and the car was featured in each of the 147 episodes between Jan. 26, 1979 to Feb. 8, 1985.

The White Glove found a die cast replica of the General last week while visiting What's New? Nothing! at 304 N. Main St. in Seneca. The 13-inch 1:64 replica was plucked from a massive bin of matchbox cars marked three for \$4 or \$1.50 each.

The replica was manufactured by The Ertl Company, an American toy company known for die-cast metal alloy collectibles of farm equipment and vehicles. Although based in Dyersville, IA, home of the National Farm Toy Museum, the toy company's 1981 productions, as well as many other years, took place in Singapore.

The undercarriage also states the name of the car, copyright information and year it was molded: Replica General Lee Car/Dukes of Hazzard/Warner Bros., Inc. 1981.

In 1981 the show had a No. 2 ranking on the Nielsen Top 20 TV entertainment chart. It was also a big year for The Ertl.

According to Dan Stearns, author of "Standard Catalog of Die-Cast Vehicles: Identification and Price Guide," that same year the toy company won the Toy of the Year Award for its Dukes of Hazzard series, which outsold runner up the Rubik's Cube.

In 1981 alone, Ertl sold more than 20 million Dukes of Hazzard matchbox cars, including: The General Lee,

Daisy's Jeep, Boss Hogg's Cadillac, Roscoe's Police Car and Cooter's Pickup.

But what could cause one of the country's leading entertainment companies to cease production of one of its leading memorabilia replicas after 36 years of insurmountable success? According to journalist Tyler Durden, it's all because of what made the car stand out on the road in the first place - the paint job.

Durden wrote an article "Iconic Dukes of Hazzard Car 'General Lee' Stripped of Confederate Flag: This is a New Level of P.C. Idiocy."

The General Lee was painted with the Confederate flag, making it a victim in the anti-Confederate Flag movement that lasted 150 years.

According to Durden, the movement achieved its first step toward the ultimate goal of removal of the Confederate flag after a racially driven shooting spree known as the Charleston Church Massacre occurred on June 17, 2015. The shooter, who was sentenced to death earlier this year, is a 21-year-old white supremacist named Dylann Roof who killed nine individuals during a prayer service at a Charleston, SC church.

Following the tragic hate crime, former SC governor Nikki Haley; supported by former President Barack Obama, former presidential candidate Mitt Romney and former governor of Florida Jeb Bush; pushed legislation to have the flag removed from state house grounds because of the strong racial symbolism. Her rally was won on July 9, 2015 when the vote passed in the House by a two-thirds majority, 94-20.

After she signed the bill the next day, the Confederate Flag was taken down for good at all governmental sites in South Carolina. Shortly afterwards, the governor of Alabama followed Haley's lead and banned all flag paraphernalia related to the Confederate Memorial Monument.

Southern governors and anti-Confederate Flag Movement supporters are not alone in their desire to put to rest the flag that represents the four year separa-



THE COLLECTIBLE General Lee matchbox car, discovered last week by The White Glove in Seneca, was featured in the Dukes of Hazzard television show. Production of the replica has ended since it has Rebel Flag.

tion of our great nation.

Major retailers such as Amazon, Ebay and Walmart immediately followed suit after the House ruling and removed Confederate flags from their listings. But, the stand against the flag that symbolizes division did not end there.

On June 24, 2015, Warner Bros. announced a halt of all toys and replicas of the Dukes of Hazzard iconic sports car known as the General Lee. After 36 years and 20 million toy cars, it's paint job was its doom.

For die-hard Dukes of Hazzard fans this marks the end of an era, but also a more profitable dawning of another. The price of replica General Lee cars has nowhere to go but up. Now that no more will be made, they have become more sought-after than ever.

According to multiple on-line auction sites, 1981 replica General Lee cars made by The Ertl vary greatly in price.

Those with scratches and dings, like the one found by The White Glove, fetch \$1 to \$10. But, those untouched and in its original package are worth much more.

Unopened mint condition 81' General Lee cars are currently selling for as much as \$135. The real money is in the ones that have been signed. The starting bid for one autographed by the show's two main characters, Bo and Luke, played by John Schneider and Tom Wopat, is currently \$324, or best offer.

Why that's enough to haunt old J.D. Hogg.

Contact writer Tonya Michalec at tmichalec@fpnusa.com.

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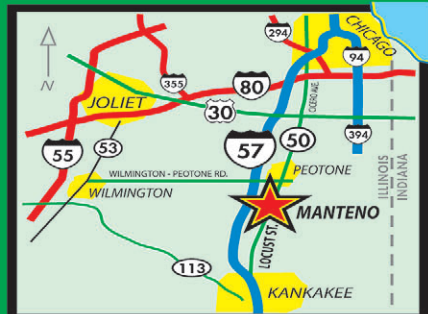
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Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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With no substance

COAL CITY—Many people in Coal City have received a post card from the Realtors in Opposition to Home Rule in Springfield. They recommend voting no stating abstract reasons when they do not live here. What is the basis of their claim? What is so negative about Home Rule that Springfield people feel the need to oppose something that affects Coal City? Maybe our local realtors can explain. This reminds me of the old fable of Chicken Little, "The sky is falling." A tale with no substance.

Attention teachers

ROCKVILLE TOWNSHIP—Research shows some students regularly receive higher amounts of homework than experts recommend which may cause stress and negative health. From kindergarten to the final years of high school, recent research suggests that some students are getting excessive amounts of homework. In turn when students are pushed to handle a workload that's out of sync with their development level it can lead to significant stress for children and their parents. Both the National Education Association and the National PTA support a standard of 10 minutes of homework per grade level and setting an actual limit on after school studying. For kids in first grade that means 10 minutes a night while high school seniors could get two hours of work per night. But the most recent study to examine the issue found that kids in early elementary school received about three times the amount of recommended homework. Published in the American Journal of Family Therapy, the 2015 study surveyed more than 1,100 parents in Rhode Island with school age children. The researchers found that first and second graders received between 28-29 minutes of homework per night. Kindergartners received 25 minutes of homework per night on average. According to the standards set by NEA and PTA they shouldn't receive any at all. There may be real downsides to kids who are pushed to do more homework than the 10 minute per grade standard. The data shows that homework over this level is not only not beneficial to children's grades or GPA but there's really a plethora of evidence that it's detrimental to the attitude about school, their grades, their self confidence, their social skills and their quality of life.

What are they thinking?

COAL CITY—They're at it again. What are they thinking? What's wrong with that board allowing one person to do two important jobs? I don't get it. There are other people that could take one of those jobs. \$109,000? Are you kidding me? Hats off to Mary Gill. Our board sure needs to be cleaned up. She is such a strong person and I am so proud she voted against this.

Lots of spaghetti

BRACEVILLE—I have an idea that could be worth millions. I have a fantastic spaghetti sauce to include in a kit. A gallon of my special sauce in a gallon can and five pounds of spaghetti to cook. I will also include a special garlic butter to use on loaves of bread you can purchase locally. This could be a gold mine for all the fundraising spaghetti suppers that may be needed. If the Republicans do away with Obamacare and provide their plan to give more tax breaks to their wealthy friends, a fund-raiser may be the only means available to help those in need. Some of the older and working class people and their families will lose or not be able to afford medical care. If there is a problem with something I believe we should make changes to improve the program, not do away with it. Some of us care about people, others care only about more money, so sad. Be prepared to eat a lot of spaghetti if the Republicans get their way.

Sign infestation

WILMINGTON—This sound-off is one about the upcoming election on April 4 here in Wilmington, and I have some major issues with it. First is the ungodly amount of

yard signs that have been erected around our town because of it. Every time I head out to work in the morning to 53, all I see are yard signs infesting the yards next to the street. I'm sure these streets make our town look absolutely ridiculous to anyone passing through, like half the town decided they should run. I am all for political participation, but there has got to be a limit to how many of these signs can be placed at once so that people driving don't get distracted when coming in and out. My second concern has to do with the coverage of the candidates and their positions. Since there are so many people running this year for the various local and county positions, one may think that local papers and communities would step up and increase the amount of coverage on these candidates. However, I haven't seen any coverage of these candidates myself and have only heard of one instance of some mayoral candidates being covered. For an election with so many people up for positions, this is absolutely ridiculous. Even something like a round-table discussion or public forum put on by the city would help, but I don't see any plans of the sort on the Wilmington website calendar. Instead of making efforts to inform voters, these people have just made the election a popularity contest, which I think is a waste of resources for them and a waste of time for the people of the community. I'm not expecting 24 hour a day coverage here, but a daily spotlight on a candidate and their positions would have been nice to see in the run up to the April 4 election. Unfortunately, it's a little late to start changing things for this year, so now all I think of when I hear of April 4 is a bunch of garish and useless yard signs with so many empty names, devoid of substantive arguments and issues behind them. I just hope that next time will be different, because a little effort could make this so much more beneficial for everyone in Wilmington and Will County.

Sincerely, Tyler Dempsay

FYI: The Free Press Advocate featured the Wilmington mayoral candidates, who responded to questions, on the front page of our March 8 edition. On March 15 the school board members were featured and this week the park board members appear. Copies of all three weeks are still available at our office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Also on March 15 the Wilmington Chamber hosted a public debate for mayoral, school board and park board candidates. A two-hour video of that forum is available for viewing online at the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce website under the "quick links". In order to make that forum available to as many voters as possible, the Free Press Advocate has provided a link to the video at www.freepressadvocate.com and on our Facebook page.

A little fake news

WILMINGTON—I heard President Trump broke both of his thumbs while playing golf, so he won't be playing golf for a while, but since his nose is as long as Pinocchio's he can tweet with that.

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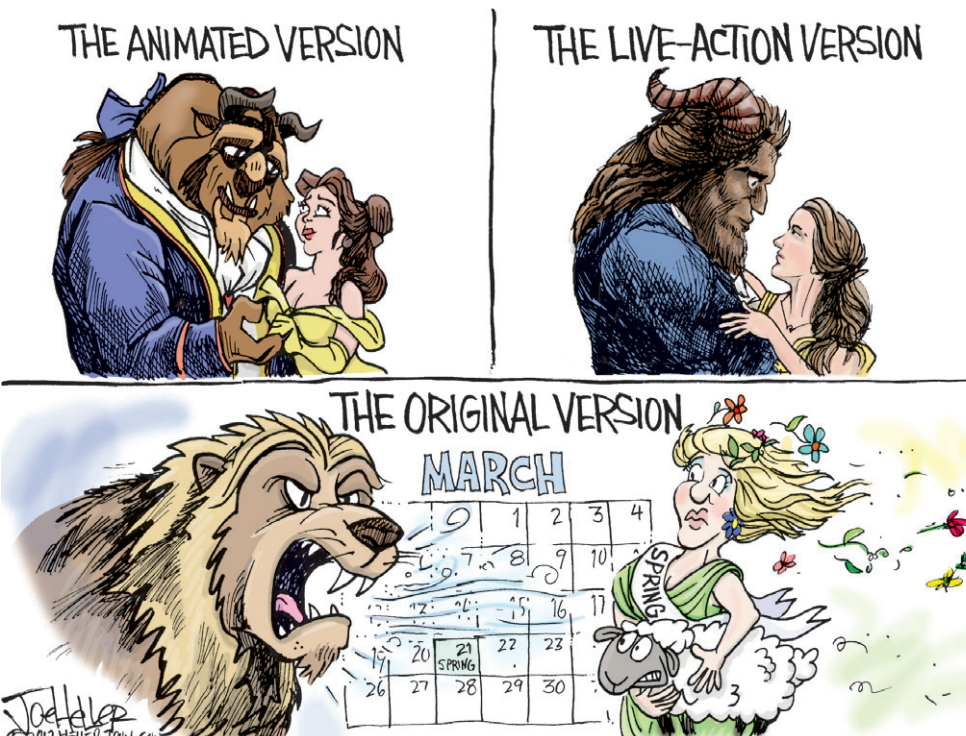
CUSTER PARK/WILMINGTON—In response to an article posted in the Wilmington Free Press sound-off section and on behalf of the Custer FPD. In being respectful and to clarify any misunderstandings, let me itemize the issues the anonymous author raised in the article: 1. Please be informed that Custer FPD did not file for a referendum. In fact it is the Wilmington FPD that has a much needed referendum in place for raising additional funds they need to support their fire operations and services for their residents. This will have no taxing affect on the residents of Custer Park. 2. The Custer FPD understands that money is needed to operate, from paying for dispatch to maintaining equipment, to paying the mortgage, to many other overhead expenses. The call for dissolving the district could have greater implications than simply dissolving the district. First, which district Custer residents get allocated to by the powers that be, Custer residents would more than likely take on that district's tax rate. Considering Custer is one of the lowest tax entities in Will County, you can be guaranteed that your tax rates will go up if absorbed into another district. Secondly, Custer residents will have less of a say in political and financial matters as part of the new district since it's majority that counts and Custer would be a minority if it was absorbed into any neighboring districts. 3. In regards to ISO rating, please refer to www.insure.com/home-in./fire-departments-rat-

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.

To voice your opinion, please go

to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-4256. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.



ings.html for a full understanding of ISO rating. There are several factors that go into ISO ratings. Also, several insurance companies are diverting from the ISO rating itself and moving to a method called PPC. In fact, as of 2001, State Farm stopped using ISO rating in Illinois (www.fireserviceinfo.com/iso.html) and other companies are following suit. But let's just say for example that your insurance company does use ISO rating. Most residents south of River Road in Custer Park would be downgraded in ISO rating due to their distance from an active fire station, thus resulting in higher homeowners insurance. So dissolving the district will affect some negatively while making it beneficial for others. 4. In reference to paying for dispatching, unfortunately there are issues with that and the chief and the board members have been pursuing every avenue possible to get dispatching. We were hopeful for a better outcome going into the board meeting on March 15, 2017, but unfortunately we are still facing hurdles getting to a point of dispatch services. Considering that the fire department's income from taxes is only about \$76,000 per year, give or take, there's no way that the department could afford a yearly dispatching expense in the ball park of \$48,000, which was quoted to us by Wescom. That would only leave \$28,000 for all other operating and maintenance associated costs. If there is a scenario that is attainable to get dispatch, at that time it would have to be re-evaluated what tax implications would be needed to maintain a functional department. The fire department and its members and the board know that nothing is free and there will be a cost associated with dispatching, but they are all trying their hardest to get the most viable and reasonable outcome for the benefit of the residents/taxpayers. 5. Considering our current fire services are being provided by Braidwood at a cost of \$1,250 per fire call and \$100 per ambulance call, if I'm not mistaken, the taxpayers are still paying for emergency service either way. That being said, when the contract with Braidwood expires, we would hopefully be able to sit down and negotiate new terms favorable to both departments and their districts. If, for some reason, increased fees from Braidwood becomes the case, it may come into play to raise taxes to cover the costs associated with Braidwood providing future services. Again, this is a possible scenario. If the costs remain the same or they are willing to cooperate, there may be reason to stay with Braidwood as well. With that being said, another issue that has been brought up before is that response times will be affected when trains start running on the new lines in Braidwood and block the engines from coming to Custer Park. These delays and blockages could be a matter of minutes in life or death getting to a victim in need. Best case scenario is that we can set aside our differences and mend our relationship with Braidwood and we can work together to come to a mutual agreement that works for both departments. When it's all said and done, the existing members of the fire department and the fire department board are doing their best to do what is in the best interest of each and every resident of the Custer Park district, whether they are members of the district or not. It has been an ongoing battle that has put strain on all those involved, and for what, to provide the residents with the best service possible. To conclude, the fire department members rely a lot on the residents of their districts to be understanding in the hardships and battles they go through. Whether it be fighting for dispatch as with Custer FPD or applying for a referendum as with Wilmington FPD, we as fire departments always put the residents' interests first and do whatever we can within our powers to provide the best service possible to everyone in our communities. Remember, residents have the biggest voice, so please attend the next board meeting and show your support or speak to the issues you would like to discuss or ideas you may have. We are open to your ideas and opinions and value your input. Help us help you, but most of all be informed.

Way to save

BRAIDWOOD—My wife and I are lifetime Braidwood residents and I would like to comment on how raising the water rates for seniors is out of control. If this city would really like to save some money why do we continue to allow the police officers to take their squad cars home and use them for personal use? We have squad cars in Kankakee County on Rt. 17 which is totally out of our jurisdiction. If we want to save money why do we continue to pay for their fuel? I

would appreciate some comments on this.

Blocked sidewalk

COAL CITY—It's a shame our kids can't walk to school on the sidewalk on South Mary Street in Coal City because someone has their camper parked across the sidewalk. I hope the police will look into this matter and make them move it.

Dead trees

SHADOW LAKES/BRAIDWOOD—I'd like to have this committee to improve Braidwood take a ride down I-55 and look at all the trees the tornado ripped up and missed Braidwood by hundreds of yards. This committee should go down Novy Road and get those huge dead trees. Imagine them going through Braidwood. It happens in seconds. The Midwest was ripped apart by tornados and the season isn't over yet. It's time to find out why these people aren't sent citations. I would like to contribute to the funeral fund that would be established if that tornado comes through Braidwood. They all lie and children die. Clean up Braidwood.

Rich Chapello

Dirty politics

WILMINGTON—Some of the antics being pulled during this campaign are trivial and petty. Really? Aren't you all adults? You want to lead this city but feel it's OK to act like a 5-year old? Let's hope the voting residents can see through all the junk and see you for what you really are.

Rights for all

WILMINGTON—If you are wrong on abortion, you can't be right on other issues. To permit abortion, but then to cry out for the right to work, housing, education and health care, is to say that these rights belong to "some" people, but not "all". They obviously do not belong to those who were snuffed out by abortion.

Drug epidemic

BRAIDWOOD—Read in a worrisome sign for the United States opioid crisis a synthetic narcotic called Carfentanil of a very terrifying potency. Seven hundred fatalities in Ohio, Michigan and Florida according to the Wall Street Journal. Carfentanil is 100 times more powerful than Fentanhyll, and also about 10,000 times more powerful than morphine. Its legal version is intended to sedate large animals like elephants. It's produced in China and it's the major source of bootleg laboratory made versions of opioid. China and Mexican drug cartels are shipping Fentanhyll in large quantities to the United States. We have a drug epidemic in the United States. It's crazy dangerous.

Unwise spending

BRAIDWOOD—Read young African American males in Chicago have over 40 percent unemployment. Why would Chicago Democrats want a \$1 billion Obama library built plus of course a golf course, a new park, lights on the river, and on and on? Job training and Chicago schools in need would be better spent money Mayor Emanuel.

I needed help - they came

WILMINGTON—On a frigid Friday evening, Jan. 6, my daughter called the Wilmington Fire Department paramedics on my doctor's advice. They came immediately and were very courteous, professional and knowledgeable, and proceeded to transport me to the hospital for treatment. Now it is my turn to help them. I will gladly vote yes on April 4 in support of the fire department referendum. I urge you to vote yes also.

Theresa



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The Grasshopper - like mint chocolate chip ice cream for grownups

Patience, grasshopper. A delicious after-dinner mint in a glass awaits you, and you're in for a real treat if you have never tasted a Grasshopper.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

The Grasshopper is also known as a "Grasshopper Martini", but it is not in any way, shape, or form a Martini.

Bars and restaurants call it a Martini because it is served in a cocktail (Martini) glass.

Ok, so it's not a Martini, but it is an incredibly delicious, bright green mint/chocolate drink.

Before we go any further, I feel obligated to tell you that if you are a fan of mint chocolate chip ice cream you need to drop whatever you are doing and run to your local spirits retailer to pick up the three ingredients needed to make this drink.

The Grasshopper is a light-hearted cocktail that uses only liqueurs as the spirit base. There are no

higher proof spir- its in this drink. It is meant to be enjoyed as a treat, usually after a meal.

The cock- tail originally appeared around the beginning of prohibition and it is unclear who actually invented the Grasshopper.

Philp Guichet was the owner of Tujague's in New Orleans, and claimed to have invented this cocktail at the iconic French Quarter bar.

I am inclined to believe that the drink first appeared in New Orleans for two reasons. Number one, New Orleans was and continues to be a hotbed of creativity in all things food and wine. The Sazerac, Hurricane, Ramos Gin Fizz, and the Brandy Crusta are just a few of the many cocktails invented in New Orleans.

Second, the Grasshopper was wildly popular in the South from the end of prohibition through the mid-20th century. The drink fell out of favor

in the 1970's before making a nationwide comeback about 20 years ago.

The "Grasshopper Martini" is on the menu at nearly every chain restaurant, and the drink is taught in most, if not all bartending schools. And hey, why not? This one is as easy to make as it is to drink.

To make the Grasshopper, you will need three ingredients in equal parts: crème de menthe (green), crème de cacao (white), and heavy cream.

The crème de menthe and crème de cacao are found in the liqueur aisle of your local spirits retailer, and that aisle can be a bit overwhelming if you are not a frequent user of liqueur, flavored brandy, etc.

One of the first things that you will notice in this aisle is that there is a liqueur in almost every flavor imaginable. Luckily, the liqueurs used in this recipe are commonly used ingredients. Both crème de menthe and crème de cacao are widely available under the DeKuyper brand.

If you have a store asso- ciate locate the crème de



menthe and crème de cacao for you, be sure to specify that you need green crème de menthe and white crème de cacao.

There are two types of crème menthe, white and green. The flavor profile is the same for both, but we're going for green here.

There are also two types of crème de cacao, brown and white. Both are choco- late liqueurs, but unlike the crème de menthe, their fla- vor profiles are different.

Be sure to pick up the white crème de cacao. The white cacao will have the proper flavor profile for the grasshopper and will ensure that your after-dinner mint in a glass is a nice, minty green.

Use heavy cream in the grasshopper and be mindful of the size of the carton. At one ounce of cream per Grasshopper, an eight ounce carton will only yield eight cocktails, even less if your guests are adding cream to their coffee.

Treat yourself, or treat your guests to a Grasshopper. Think of this cocktail as mint chocolate chip ice cream for grownups.

This simple but deli- cious cocktail would be a great place to begin your mixology journey if you are thinking about getting start- ed.

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

Fill shaker with ice. Add 1 oz crème de men- the (green).

Add 1 oz crème da cacao (white).

Add 1 oz heavy cream.

Shake briskly and strain into chilled cocktail glass.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Courtesy photo

A HAM AND BEAN soup dinner will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City. Gift baskets are being prepared by (from left) Pat Scubic, Deb Hazlett and Dale Scubic to be raffled.

Ham and bean dinner set for April 8

A ham and bean dinner and basket raf- fle will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City.

Tickets will be \$6 for senior citizens 65 and older; \$7 for adults; \$5 for children ages 5 to 12; and free for children 4 and younger. Tickets will be sold in advance and at the

door.

Hot dogs will be available for \$1. Carry- outs will also be available.

A basket raffle will be drawn at the din- ner. Baskets will be valued from \$30 to \$100. Tickets will be \$1 each, or six for \$5.

The public is invited to attend.



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Sun.: 9 to 10:15 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, child care available
Mon.: 10:45 a.m., Meals on Wheels; 5 to 6 p.m., St. Vincent's Table hosted by New Hope Presbyterian Church
Tue.: 1 p.m., Bible study
• Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• The church will host St. Vincent's Table in March. To volunteer to cook, set-up, do dishes or clean-up, sign-up on the sheet on the tri-fold. Desserts can be dropped off by 4 p.m. at the New Hope kitchen each Monday. Use disposable containers or wrap in plastic individually. For more information call 815-370-7817 or email Cathy Milne at cathymlne@yahoo.com.
• Sign-up for the food pantry and Meals on Wheels at least a week in advance on the tri-fold.
• A ham and bean dinner and basket raffle will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
• Committee Night will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5.
• The next Session meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19.
• An open prayer gathering will be held on the first Wednesday of each month, from 4 to 7 p.m. Group prayer will be at 5:30 p.m. followed by refreshments. Everyone is invited.
Easter schedule: April 9 - 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday; April 13 - 7 p.m., Maundy Thursday foot washing; April 14 - 7 p.m., Good Friday; April 16 - 10:30 a.m., Easter

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www.coalcityum.org
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Sat.: 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous in the community building
Sun.: 8 and 10:30 a.m., worship service; 9 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous in the community building
Mon.: 6:15 p.m., women's Alcoholics Anonymous in the community building 6:30 p.m., evening Bible study
Tue.: 7 p.m., Al-Anon in the community building
• The last Hallelujah soup supper of the season will be on Saturday, April 1, from 4 to 7 p.m. The soups will be chicken noodle and stuffed green pepper.

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Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

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Masses: 4 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m., Sunday; 7:30 a.m., Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
Reconciliation: 3 to 3:45 p.m., Saturday or by appointment
• CCD classes are held on Sunday mornings from 8:30 to 9:40 a.m., at the South Wilmington Grade School. Call the rectory for more information.

**CHRISTIAN FAITH
CENTER**
1800 S. Water St.
Wilmington, IL
815-388-8628
Pastor Jeff A. Urban
Sun.: 10 a.m., Family worship with classes for children ages newborn to 11-years-old
Wed.: 7 to 8 p.m., Family worship with classes for all ages

**PHELAN ACRES
BIBLE CHURCH**
26009 Willow Lane
Phelan Acres
Wilmington, IL
476-7818
Pastor Rodney L. Chappell
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m. morning worship; 6 p.m., evening service
Wed.: 7 p.m., adult Bible study and prayer; children's Bible clubs

CHURCH OF HOPE
Monroe & Jefferson
Streets; Gardner, IL
Pastor Jan Chandler;
237-8312
Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., worship
Wed.: 8:30 a.m., Pastor's prayer and lecture study group
Thu.: 8:30 a.m., church prayer group

**UNIVERSALIST
UNITARIAN
CHURCH OF JOLIET**
2505 Washington St.
Joliet, IL
Rev. Emily Gage
722-0836
Sun.: 9 a.m., adult gather, child care; 10:30 a.m., worship and church school.

**BURNING HEARTS
BIBLE CHURCH**
Custer Park
Township Hall
35332 Grant Ave. • Custer Park, IL
Pastor Dan Ahlenius
779-205-8606
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship

**ST. PATRICK
CATHOLIC
CHURCH**
14936 W. Peotone Rd.
Wilton Center, IL
478-3440
Father Roger Kutzner
Pastor
Rev. Mr. Milt Leppert
Permanent Deacon
Mass schedule: 9 a.m., Monday through Friday; 5:30 p.m., Saturday; 9 a.m., Sunday
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

**WILMINGTON
CHURCH OF GOD**
1200 Sunset Dr. • Wilmington, IL
60481
Pastor Raymond H. Jones
Home: 815-237-2158
Sun.: 10 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m., worship service
Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Bible study

**ESSEX UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
114 W. Waverly Street
Sun.: 9 a.m., children's Sunday school; 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study; 10:30 a.m., worship
• Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

**TURNING POINTE
APOSTOLIC
CENTRE**
85 S. Broadway;
Suite C • Coal City, IL
Pastor Ida M. Nelson
815-342-0652
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship
Tue.: 7 p.m., worship

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
106 S. Lincoln Street
Braidwood, IL
Pastor Dale Tolly
Church: 815-458-6317
Pastor: 815-922-2212
www.firstpresbraidwood.org
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship

**ISLAND CITY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
120 Vine Street
Wilmington, IL
Pastor Jeff Logsdon
476-9750
Sun.: 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to noon, worship service, nursery provided; 9:45 to 10:45 a.m., Sunday school classes for all ages
Wed.: 6 to 7:30 p.m., Adult Bible study and prayer meeting year-round;
• Kindergarten through twelfth grade students meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for Bible study during the school year.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
303 S. Kankakee
Wilmington, IL
476-HOPE
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wfcnaz@aol.com
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship; 3 p.m., Hands of Praise puppet team practice; 6 p.m., service
Mon.: 7 p.m., video exercise class in fellowship hall
Wed.: 7 p.m., fellowship, outreach ministry teams, teen Bible studies
Thu.: 7 p.m., video exercise class in fellowship hall
Sat.: 8 a.m., Men's prayer at the church and breakfast at Chick-A-Dee.
• Call 476-HOPE for prayer if you or someone you know is hospitalized.
• Those who need a ride to Sunday school and church should call or e-mail the church.

**FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH**
4470 E. Rt. 113
P.O. Box 39
Coal City, IL
Pastor David Gilleland
815-634-2654
www.fbcccoalcity.com
Wed.: 7 p.m., adult Bible study and activities for children and youth
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 11 a.m., Sunday worship

**BRACEVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46
Braceville, IL
Pastor Bennett A. Woods
815-237-8512
bumclighthouse@yahoo.com
Wed.: 6 p.m., Ash Wednesday service
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion
• A rummage show will be held on Friday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon.
• United Methodist People meet on the second Tuesday of each month, time and location to be determined
• Women's Bible study is held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
• Exercise with Patty, Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are on Friday at 8 p.m.
• Children's after school programs JAM Junction, and Jesus and Me, for kindergarten through fourth graders; and EDGE for preteens, are held on Wednesday from after school until 4:30 p.m. STATIC youth group Standing Together As Teens in Christ, for seventh through twelfth grades, is held on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. Snacks are provided. There will be no JAM, EDGE or STATIC on March 29.

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**
195 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City, IL
815-634-4171
Reverend Robert Noesen
stmaryassumptionparish.org
Monday and Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. communion service
Due to church renovation, Sunday Mass will be celebrated in Berst Hall. Weekday rosary, Mass and communion services will be celebrated in a temporary chapel at the south end of the religious education building. Mass on the first Tuesday of the month, Saint Peregrine Devotions and first Saturday 8:30 a.m. Mass and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be held in Berst Hall.
• Tuesday - 6:30 p.m. Mass; Wednesday through Friday - 8:30 a.m. Mass; Saturday - 4 p.m. Mass; Sunday - 8 and 10:30 a.m. Mass; first Saturday of the month - 8:30 a.m. Mass and the sacrament of anointing of the sick
• Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturday from 3:20 to 3:45 p.m.; Sunday before the 10:30 a.m. Mass; and Wednesday before the 8:30 a.m. Mass
• Daily rosary - 8 a.m. in the church
• Devotional prayers Novena to Our Lord and His mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - Wednesday, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass
• Devotional prayers Novena to Our Lord and His servant, Saint Peregrine, patron saint of those who suffer with cancer or any incurable disease or condition, Solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - first Tuesday of the month following the 6:30 p.m. Mass
• St. Vincent DePaul Monday evening dinners for the needy are held in Berst Hall. For the parish food and household pantry call 815-634-4171.
• Mother of the Eucharist Perpetual Adoration Chapel is located across from the church at 195 S. Kankakee St. The chapel is a place of silent prayer in the presence of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is solemnly exposed for adoration 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is a place of silent and reverent prayer. Everyone is encouraged to stop in anytime, make regular visits, and sign-up for a specific hour of adoration each week.
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• April 15, Holy Saturday: noon, Blessing of Easter foods and baskets outside Berst Hall; 8 p.m., Mass of the Resurrection
• April 16, Easter Sunday: 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Masses

**LIVING STONES
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
25124 S. Fryer St. • Channahon, IL
815-325-8476
• Pastor Joe Popischill invited bikers and people of faith to church on Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
• Fellowship and Bible study follows.
• Blessings of bikes coming soon.

**ROSE OF SHARON
MINISTRY**
29 Aqueduct • Diamond, IL
Rev. Jan Quiet • 815-228-9585
Sun.: 2 p.m., service
• Gospel Sing is on the second Saturday of each month at 5 p.m.
• Christian Singles meets at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month.
• A healing service is held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 6 p.m.

**ABUNDANT LIFE
FELLOWSHIP**
23632 W. Hwy. 113
Wilmington, IL
815-458-6530
Pastor Greg Linkous
alfwilmington.com
• **Sun.:** 10:30 a.m., worship, children's church and nursery available
• **Tue.:** Home church (Bible study)
• **Wed.:** 6 to 7 p.m., prayer meeting at the church; 7 to 8:30 p.m., men's Bible study at the church
• **Fri.:** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ladies' Bible study every other Friday at the church
• **Sat.:** 8 to 10 a.m., men's prayer breakfast on the second Saturday of each month
• Potluck fellowship dinner is held on the first Sunday of each month following worship.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1414 W. Dupont Ave.
Morris, IL
815-579-8308
Sun.: 10 a.m., service

**ESSEX UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**
114 W. Waverly Street
Sun.: 9 a.m., children's Sunday school; 9:30 a.m., adult Bible study; 10:30 a.m., worship
• Holy Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month and on special occasions.

**WILMINGTON
PENTECOSTAL
CHURCH**
32111 S. Rt. 53 • Wilmington
815-365-2318
PASTOR DOROTHY WALDRON
Sun.: 6 p.m., service

CHURCH OF CHRIST
1440 Sunset Dr.
P.O. Box 202
Wilmington, IL
815-476-2616
Britton Roth
815-476-7659
Steve Gibson
815-634-4396
www.wilmingtoncoc.com
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Bible classes; 10:35 a.m., worship; 5 p.m., afternoon worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., Bible study

**NEW COMMUNITY
CHRISTIAN
CHURCH**
705 E. Washington St
Morris, IL
Pastor Kevin Yandell
Children's Director Patsy Phillips
815-942-4255
Sunday worship: 9 and 10:45 a.m.
• Nursery and children's programs offered

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 E. Jefferson St.
Gardner, IL
Pastor Jana Howson
815-237-2227
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship, word and sacrament
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
• Join in on the third Thursday of each month for bingo and a bake sale from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Gardner American Legion Hall.

RITCHEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Route 102 • Wilmington, IL
815-476-6166
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship service
• Communion with Pastor Brent Phillips is on the first Sunday of each month.
• A fellowship dinner is held on the first Sunday of each month following the service.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 E. Kahler Rd. • Wilmington, IL
Pastor Tom Kingery
815-476-5474
web page: www.fumcwilm.com
Wed.: 9 a.m. to noon, preschool; 6 p.m., Genesis 1-6; 7 p.m., choir practice, Alcoholics Anonymous
Thu.: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Women, Infants and Children hours; 6 p.m., Christian fellowship potluck
Fri.: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., preschool
Sat.: 1:30 to 4 p.m., annual mission tea; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Sun.: 8:30 a.m., Sunday school for 6th through 12th grades, and adults; 9:30 a.m., worship service, Sunday school for preschool through 5th grade; 6 p.m., Nicene Creed
Mon.: 6 p.m., Sermon on the Mount
Tue.: 6 p.m., Philipians; 7 p.m., Praise Ringers
• Preschool information can be found in the church office or website.
• Our Caring Closet, at 205 N. First St. in Wilmington, is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Tuesday and Thursday.
• The church offers youth group, Men's Club, women's groups, Christian fellowship dinners, and mission and community outreach opportunities.

**BRACEVILLE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46
Braceville, IL
Pastor Bennett A. Woods
815-237-8512
bumclighthouse@yahoo.com
Wed.: 6 p.m., Ash Wednesday service
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion
• A rummage show will be held on Friday, March 31, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday, April 1, from 8 a.m. to noon.
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MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
110 S. Division St. • Braidwood, IL
Pastor Justin Kinder
msbbraidwood.com
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday school; 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 6 p.m., prayer meeting
• Office hours are Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.
• Awana and youth will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
303 S. Kankakee
Wilmington, IL
476-HOPE
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wfcnaz@aol.com
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship; 3 p.m., Hands of Praise puppet team practice; 6 p.m., service
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Rev. Bill Luttrell
wfcnaz@aol.com
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Poll: Most don't approve of Rauner, Madigan

You may have heard about a recent Paul Simon Public Policy Institute poll which found that Gov. Bruce Rauner's job disapproval ratings have almost doubled in the past two years, from 31 percent in March of 2015 to 58 percent this month.

According to the poll, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan's current disapproval rating is 61 percent, about the same as his

63 percent disapproval rating last October. Rauner's disapproval rating last October was 55 percent.

During this long governmental impasse, Speaker Madigan has championed the cause of unions and working people against the governor's attempts to take rights and benefits away from them. But the Democrat is actually underwater with union members.

According to the Simon poll, 55 percent of respondents who said they belong to a union disapprove of Madigan's job performance, including 38 percent who strongly disapprove. Just 34 percent of union members approve of his job performance, while only 12 percent strongly approve. All this pain and they still don't like him.

But union members dis-

like the governor far more. The poll found that 72 percent of union members disapprove of Rauner's job performance, and half of union members strongly disapprove. Only 24 percent approve. On Rauner, anyway, the union message has gotten out.

At the beginning of this impasse almost two years ago, a top Madigan operative told me the plan was to drag Rauner down to the same polling levels as the House Speaker. They're very nearly there.

Gov. Rauner is polling horribly everywhere; 58 percent of suburbanites and 56 percent of Downstaters disapprove of his job performance. Another 62 percent of moderates, 60 percent of independents, 47 percent of born-again Christians, 55 percent of men, 61 percent of women, 56 percent of seniors (66+), 54 percent of whites, 56 percent of those making over \$100,000 a year and 55 percent of non-union members all disapprove of his job performance.

The same day JB Pritzker announced he was forming an exploratory committee to run for governor, the Illinois Republican Party made a wildly unsubstantiated claim that the Democrat was "at the center of Blagojevich's criminal



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

scheme to sell Illinois' Senate seat." Like it or not, this is our future.

Barring a dramatic turnaround in his approval ratings, Gov. Rauner's only sure path to re-election is to make his opponent look even uglier than he

does - and he looks pretty darned ugly right now. But he's also got a very expensive ugly stick with which he can bludgeon the other side.

He's already deposited \$50 million into his campaign bank account and there's plenty more cash where that came from. So, 2018 will not only likely be the most expensive gubernatorial race in history, it'll be the meanest, because now that the governor has opened the door to these sorts of crazy attacks, the other side will undoubtedly respond in-kind.

Rauner has spent tens of millions of dollars muddying up Speaker Madigan's image and he'll definitely use this "issue" against whoever his opponent will be.

Campaigns are usually referendums on the incumbent, so Rauner will attempt to make Madigan and whoever his alleged puppet gubernatorial candidate is the incumbents while positioning himself as the outsider trying to change things for the better. For the past

two years, the whole plan has been to equate "Democrat" with "Madigan" in voters' minds. And it's had some success.

"When is a Democrat going to run a campaign for that 61 percent?" a Democratic operative asked me last week, referring to the obvious opportunity to capitalize on Madigan's 61 percent disapproval rating.

To the operative, this is a no-brainer. Run a campaign that criticizes both Rauner and Madigan. After all, even more Democrats disapprove of Madigan's job performance (47 percent) than approve (40 percent), while 27 percent of Democrats strongly disapprove and only a tiny 9 percent strongly approve.

So far, announced Democratic candidate Chris Kennedy has seemed to go out of his way to avoid directly criticizing Madigan. Even Ameya Pawar, the progressive Democratic candidate, hasn't really launched on the guy. Pritzker hasn't granted any serious interviews and hasn't issued any substantive policy statements, so we don't know yet where he'll stand.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Party has not done much of anything to equate "Republican" with "Rauner" in voters' minds.

Rauner's numbers were almost as bad last October as they are now, but the Democrats barely mentioned him in their campaigns. It's probably time to start thinking about that.

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OBITUARY

Elsie Karl

CHICAGO—Elsie Lidicky Karl, 85, of Chicago, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 16, 2017 at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Born March 13, 1932 in Chicago, Elsie was a daughter of Laddie and Stella (Dvorak) Lidicky. She was raised and educated in Bemidji, MN until moving to Chicago at the age of 14. On Feb. 2, 1952, Elsie married Donald Karl. She enjoyed gardening and cooking, but her pride and joy was taking care of her family and home.

Survivors include her two children, Nancy McMahon (Grant) McDowell of Wilmington and Russell Karl of Chicago; four grandchildren: Sarah (Nathan) Dudley of Minooka, Genevieve McMahon of Wilmington and Jeff McMahon and Denise McMahon both of Florida; two great-grandchildren, Ahnika and Rylan Dudley; sister, Agnes (Marvin) Phillips of Westchester and four nephews: Gary, David, Richard and Steven Phillips.

Elsie was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved husband of 35 years.

Per Elsie's wishes green flameless cremation rites have been accorded.

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Elsie's memorial page by logging onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com.

Flameless cremation services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.


Easter egg hunt Saturday

Main Street Baptist Church at 110 S. Division St., Braidwood, will hold its fourth annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 25.

Registration will be held from 11:30 a.m. to noon and activities will follow. There

will be face painting, a puppet play, crafts, coloring and games.

Age categories will be two and under; 3- to 5-year-olds; six- to 8-year-olds; 9- and 10-year-olds; and 11- and 12-year-olds.



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Help for traveling seniors

Do you know of any services that help seniors with the rigors of traveling? My youngest daughter is getting married in a few months and would love to have my 82-year old mother attend, but she needs help flying across the country.

Searching daughter

Dear Searching,

Traveling can be daunting under the best circumstances but for elderly seniors, those with disabilities, or those recovering or rehabilitating from an illness or injury, it can seem particularly overwhelming or unmanageable.

Fortunately, there are a number of companies that provides traveling companion/escort services to help older adults with the rigors of travel.

Whether it's seniors going on vacation or grandparents wanting to join their far-off families for weddings and graduations, travel companions help clients who need help moving through airports, managing luggage, navigating busy terminals and hotel lobbies and much more.

Some companion services even provide personal care like medication reminders, dressing, bathing and feeding. And for those with specific medical needs, traveling nurse services are available too.

But be aware that these services aren't cheap. You will pay for the travel companion's tickets, the companion's hotel room if necessary, meals, incidentals and fees for the service.

The price to accompany a client on a plane trip within the United States - including the companion fees and travel costs for all parties - can range anywhere from \$1,500 to \$5,000 or more for coach airfare. Business or first class would cost more.

To locate a travel companion service in your area, search online for "senior travel companion" or "senior travel escort," followed by your mom's city or state.

Or use an experienced national service like Flying



Jim Miller

Companions (FlyingCompanions.com) or FirstLight Home Care (FirstLightHomeCare.com), which has a national network of franchises that provides in-home care for seniors, and offers travel companion programs in about one-third of its 130 franchises.

Or, for medical travel companions do a search for "traveling nurse escort" or "medical travel companion," or checkout Travel Care & Logistics (YourFlightNurse.com), which provides registered nurses as escorts.

If, however, your mom doesn't require a lot of assistance, or if you can't afford a travel escort, consider asking a trusted family member or friend that has some air travel experience.

Questions to ask

If you're interested in hiring a travel companion service to help your mom, there are a number of things you need to check into to ensure you get the right escort.

First, if your mom requires personal or medical care while traveling, find out if the escort is trained to manage her healthcare needs. What sort of medical certifications do they have? (Nursing credentials? C.P.R. training? etc.)

Also, find out how many trips the companion has taken with clients. Have they completed trips with travelers like your mom? How long has the travel service company been in business? What is the company's safety record? And what sort of insurance does it carry, and what and who does it cover?

Also, get a quote breaking down exactly what you'll be required to pay, in addition to the companion's fees. And, get a list of two or three clients/references who has used their service and call them.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

Archaeology talk attended by 100

One hundred Midewin guests gathered in the auditorium of the ASIP Local 150 Training Building on S. Arsenal Rd., Wilmington on Thursday, March 9, for a one-hour presentation titled Pre-history on the Prairie: Archaeological Explorations at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Information was presented by Mark Schurr, Professor of Anthropology, University of Notre Dame and Maddie McLeester, Archaeologist, University of Chicago.

Schurr and McLeester talked about their on-going archaeological work being conducted with Midewin volunteers and University of Chicago Undergraduate

Students at the Middle Grant Creek site on Midewin's West Side.

Magnetometer and Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology was used to help identify the location for the dig.

Midewin Archaeologist Joe Wheeler was honored with a U.S. Forest Service Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation and Conservation Education Award for efforts tied to the project.

Wheeler will coordinate the team's work at the Middle Grant Creek site this summer, July 17 through Aug. 11, the second year of a projected four-year project.

Braidwood TOPS are hopping to a new you

The March 14, 2017 meeting of TOPS IL2264 Braidwood Chapter opened with the pledge to the flag followed by TOPS and KOPS pledges. Roll call was taken. Sandy Kilbride was best loser for the week. Joan Benson celebrated six years as a KOPS.

Bids were made on four auction gifts for March 21. No charms were awarded. Sandy Hundley and Lucy Ellis won the Hearts Contest and received their prizes from Verna Clark who sponsored the contest.

Lynne Hatten has the new contest, Hopping to a New You, which began March 14 and ends April 11. Several members were able to hop their bunnies off to a good start.

The wallet challenge was completed and Mary Gibson has four weeks to do her challenge which requires losses each week and attending entire meetings. A gain or absence is to forfeit the challenge. Members need not accept the challenge. It passes alphabetically until accepted. Kathy Linneman won the cry-can cash.

TOPS meetings are held Tuesday evenings in the

Baptist Auxiliary building, 110 S. Division St., Braidwood. Weigh-in is from 5:15-5:45 p.m. followed by a short meeting. Visitors are welcome.

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Joliet to open Chicago Street for development

Officials from the Will County Executive, Will County Board and the City of Joliet have announced that after years of being closed between Washington and Jefferson streets, Chicago Street will open to the public as part of a larger property exchange between the county and city. The agreement will benefit Joliet's downtown redevelopment plans, the county and the general public.

"Every downtown development plan the city has invested in indicates that reconnecting Chicago Street is key to revitalize downtown Joliet," said Joliet Mayor Bob O'Dekirk.

"The city has talked about this for years, but took no action to make it happen. I am thrilled that we have worked out this deal and can announce that reconnecting Chicago Street and building the city center square is no longer just an idea, it will be a reality. Thanks to our staff, councilman John Gerl, and our good friends at Will County for once again coming together to improve our great city."

As part of the negotiations, Will County has agreed to trade property

with Joliet that will allow Chicago Street to open between Washington and Jefferson streets. Joliet will also receive Van Buren Plaza, where the former State's Attorney building now sits across from the historic Rialto Square Theater, on which to build a public square.

"Joliet is Will County's county seat, and a large majority of county facilities are located within downtown Joliet," said County Executive Larry Walsh.

"I have always advocated to keep a strong county presence in the downtown city center, and I am very happy after many years of negotiations we were able to reach a deal that works for all the parties involved. This should lead to forward progress on many fronts for our region."

"Joliet has been growing rapidly in the past few years, and we're glad we could work with Mayor O'Dekirk and Joliet officials to further their development efforts," said Will County Board Speaker Jim Moustis (R-Frankfort). "The collaboration between the county and city government, and the resulting deal, will benefit both Joliet and Will

County residents."

In exchange for the Chicago Street and civic center properties, Joliet will transfer the former Metra parking lot, which is adjacent to the courthouse parking lot, to Will County.

Officials have said the parking lot will be resurfaced, redesigned, and automated. The makeover will increase the number of available parking spaces from 166 to more than 200. Parking in the lot will also be available to the public for events after 4p.m. at no cost.

The redevelopment plan for downtown Joliet was completed last year. Opening up Chicago Street will allow visitors attending the Rialto Theatre and other city events to drive directly into the corridor area where these events are hosted.

To aid in its redevelopment, Joliet recently received a Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) grant of \$86,000 for the redesign and landscaping of Chicago Street. The City also contributed an additional \$40,000 to that planning grant for the design of the expanded plaza.

Gas prices up 32¢ from a year ago

Average retail gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 2.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.35 per gallon on Sunday, March 19, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 gas outlets in Illinois.

This compares with the national average that has fallen 0.3 cents per gallon in the last week to \$2.29 per gallon, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Illinois during the past week, prices on Sunday were 32.1 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago and are 6.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago.

The national average has increased 1.2 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 30.3 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

According to GasBuddy historical data, gasoline prices on March 20 in Illinois have ranged widely over the last five years: \$2.03 a gallon in 2016, \$2.55 in

2015, \$3.78 in 2014, \$3.88 in 2013 and \$4.16 in 2012.

"As oil prices have hit a bit of a rough patch in the last two weeks, gasoline prices have stumbled as well with a majority of states seeing a weekly pull back in retail prices," said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy.com.

"While some states did see minor increases, the bulk of the country saw prices moving lower at a time of year that such a move is about as likely as a 16th seed team winning the NCAA tournament. While the drop at the pump is most welcome, we're nearly guaranteed to see prices rebound well in time for Memorial Day and the start of the summer driving season. For now, there's a major tug of war going on with oil prices—a move higher or lower in the week ahead could determine the direction of prices the next few weeks or longer," DeHaan added.

For live fuel price averages, visit FuellInsights.GasBuddy.com.

Jacob Miller commissioned Navy environmental health officer



Courtesy photo

HOSPITAL CORPSMAN 1st Class Jacob Miller, a Joliet Catholic Academy and St. Rose School graduate and native of Wilmington, was recently selected for commission as an environmental health officer in the U.S. Navy Medical Service Corps. Petty Officer Miller currently serves at the Navy Medical Professional Development Center in Bethesda, MD.

River testers wanted

Illinois RiverWatch is seeking volunteers to help with a special river testing project that will test for levels of nitrates, phosphates, pesticides and turbidity in the state's streams every Wednesday from April 19 to May 17.

The program is part of the Nebraska Watershed Network's Mississippi River Watershed study, which will be conducted throughout

the Midwest on the same days.

Participants will be able to enter their data to the national project map in real time each day.

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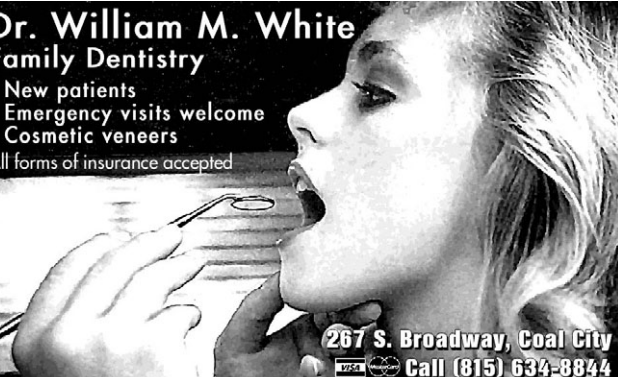
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INFECTION between 2010 and
the present time, you may be
entitled to compensation.
Call Attorney
Charles H. Johnson
1-800-535-5727

AUCTION

State of Illinois Surplus
Property Online Auction
Equipment, watches, boats,
vehicles, knives, jewelry
and much more
iBid.illinois.gov

HELP WANTED DRIVERS

TOP PAY & EXCELLENT BENEFITS!
TTI Inc continues to grow -
Family Owned, Driver
satisfaction is a priority!
***EXPERIENCED DRIVERS**
***Flatbed *Step Deck *Van**
***LTL Reefer**, Full benefits
w/ Minimal health ins.
Premiums, FREE after 5 years!
+ Industry leading Driver
Bonus Program! Must have
Class A CDL, & 2 yrs OTR Exp.
Call **Ruth or Mike at TTI Inc**
1-800-222-5732
Apply online
ttitrucking.com

MOTORCYCLES

TOP CASH PAID!
FOR OLD MOTORCYCLES!
1900-1979. DEAD OR ALIVE!
920-371-0494

Want to move
your car fast?
Advertise it in
our Classifieds!

ACREAGE

For Sale by Owner, 13
acres, 8 farmable and 5
with trees and a
creek.Call for price:
731-439-0891 or
731-632-1804. cc
9b-13a

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood: Small,
ground level, 1 BR
apartment for rent.
Completely remodeled
and quiet. Landlord
pays all utilities - heat,
electric, water/garbage,
\$675. References re-
quired, no pets, No
s m o k i n g .
815-476-2219 or
815-278-5846.
cc11a-14b

Coal City, newer 2 BR,
1 BA, eat in kitchen,
gas heat, CA, laundry
facility, pet friendly, am-
ple parking, close to
schools and park, \$780
to \$805/mo.,
815-634-4244. See pic-
tures at
www.apm4rent.com. ch
48b-tfn

Coal City: beautiful,
newer large 1 BR, A/C,
appliances, \$625 to
\$650/mo. 815-744-
1708. cc7a-18b

Diamond, 2BR, 1BA,
appliances furnished,
move in ready, off
street parking, reason-
able utilities, refer-
ences and deposit re-
quired, no pets, call
815-634-8677. ca
12a-15b

Diamond, 446 N.
School St., 2 BR, 1
1/2 BA, central heat
and AC, appliances,
laundry hook ups, off
street parking, patio,
no pets, \$750 plus
utilities, 1 yr. lease,
credit check, sec. dep.,
815-823-7329. ca
9b-13a

Newly rehabbed apt in
Coal City, 1 BR, \$495
mo., no pets, 1 yr
lease,
773-927-9459. cc
11a-14b

Wilmington - single stu-
dio, country setting,
quiet, clean, fully fur-
nished, all utilities, TV
and cable included, no
pets, no smoking. \$225/
week, security deposit.
815-476-2005. ca
8b-13a

Wilmington: 2BR first
floor apartment. Appli-
ances, washer/dryer
hook up. No smoking,
no pets. \$675 plus utili-
ties. 815-476-2219 or
815-278-5846.
cc9a-12b

AUTOS

1980 Cadillac Eldo-
rado diesel, tan
leather seats, air ride
suspension, climate
control, 156,000 miles,
\$2,500 OBO, call or
text (815) 600-1074.
ca45a-tfn

1963 Chevrolet Cor-
vette Split Window
Coupe, original 340hp
motor, 4 speed,
\$15,700. Contact
ham125726@gmail.co
m or 224-212-9061.
cc11a-13b

2007 Honda Odyssey,
230,000 miles, good
shape, \$1,500 OBO,
call 815-405-5498. cc
11a-14b

1990 Cadillac
Brougham, good con-
dition, garage kept,
runs great, everything
works, 137,000 miles,
asking \$3,000. Call
815-634-2492. ca
12b-14a

BOATS

1987 Sylvan, 16 ft.,
tiller, \$2,000 OBO, cc
815-405-5498. cc
11a-14b

BUSINESS PROPERTIES FOR RENT

GARDNER: 600+ SQ
ft office space, 208 De-
pot St, next to Fire
Dept, \$250/mo.
815-557-4010 cc9b-13a

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Child care available,
reading & tutoring, all
ages, flexible hours and
reasonable rates, near
Custer Park Elementary
call 815-458-0046. cc
11b-14a

DUPLEX FOR RENT

2 BR, 140 Calkey, Dia-
mond, all appliances,
new paint, lg. kitchen,
nice back yard, garage,
no pets, 815-941-4832.
cc 9b-13a

Godley: 2BR, 1BA,
water, sewer, and gar-
bage included, no
pets, security deposit
required. 815-693-9141
ck9a-12b

Braidwood: beautiful
1BR or 2 BR, 1 BA con-
dos, C/A, appliances &
patio, \$725 to
\$950/mo., 815-744-
1708. cc7a-18b

Wilmington, 3BR,
fenced yard, w/d in-
cluded, \$750 mo. plus
security, avail. March
18, call 815-278-1203.
cc 9b-13a

DUPLEX FOR RENT

3 Bedroom Duplex
ranch style, only 2
units per building.
1/2 mile from I-55 (Dia-
mond). Attached ga-
rage, large backyard.
oak cabinets, concrete
drive, w/d hook-up.
All maintenance in-
cluded. Available June
1, \$945 per month plus
sewer and water. No
smoking or pets. year
lease. Call
815-634-2755. 10a-13b

FOR FREE

Free for the hauling,
horse manure, Wilming-
ton area, call
815-931-0098. fr
12b-16a

GARAGE SALE

Braceville United Meth-
odist Church will be
holding an indoor rum-
mage sale Friday,
March 31st from 8am to
3pm and Saturday,
April 1st from 8am to
noon, 106 W. Goold
Street, Braceville. For
more information call
815-237-8512.
cc12a-13b

HELP WANTED

**CNA/patient care as-
sistant.** PT for in-home
care. Requirements in-
clude at least six
months experience,
valid drivers license,
clean background and
driving record. Flexible
schedule. Submit re-
sume or apply at www.
absolutehomecareplus.
com or call
779-429-5000. cc
10a-13b

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

- HELP WANTED -

Vanfab Inc. a leading metal fabrication company located in
Union Hill is looking to hire an experienced Plant Manager.
General Purpose

To plan, organize and control production in an organization to
ensure that goods are produced efficiently, on time, within budget
and to standard.

Main Job Tasks and Responsibilities

- implement and control the production schedule
- review and adjust the schedule where needed
- determine the material resources required
- manage human and material resources to meet production targets
- make decisions about equipment use, maintenance, modification and procurement
- work out and implement standard operating procedures for production operations
- ensure that standard operating procedures are adhered to
- ensure implementation and adherence to health and safety procedures
- set product quality standards
- monitor quality standards of products
- implement and enforce quality control and tracking programs to meet quality objectives
- analyze production and quality control to detect and correct problems
- determine and implement improvements to the production process
- prepare and maintain production reports
- monitor and review the performance of staff and organize necessary interventions for improvement
- estimate production costs
- set production budgets
- manage production budgets
- implement cost control programs
- ensure efficient collaboration and co-ordination between relevant departments including procurement, distribution and management

Education and Experience

- knowledge and experience in production and manufacturing processes and techniques
- knowledge of raw materials
- knowledge of quality systems and standards
- knowledge of health and safety standards and compliance
- knowledge of process improvement techniques
- knowledge of machines and tools
- knowledge of engineering and technology principles and practices
- solid computer skills

Key Competencies

- critical thinking and problem solving skills
 - planning and organizing
 - coordination and control
 - time management
 - attention to detail
 - decision-making
 - communication skills
 - influencing and leading
 - delegation
 - team work
 - conflict management
 - adaptability
 - stress tolerance
- Please email resumes to Jackie at Jacqueline@vanfab.com

HELP WANTED

Coal City Area Club is
now taking applica-
tions for summer help.
Maintenance, grass
cutters & afternoon
gate guard. Must have
driver's license. Apply
at office, 345 S. Broad-
way, Coal City. ca
11b-14a

Dawn of a New Day
Care Center in Mazon
is now hiring teachers.
For more information
call Dawn, 815-448-
2530. cc 9b-13a

Elwood Raceway

Pizza Drivers, Cooks
and Kitchen help
needed, responsible
and reliable, days,
nights and weekends.
At Full-time and/or part-
time. Apply within 109
E. Gardner St., Elwood.
cc12b-16a

HVAC service and in-
staller, full time posi-
tion, experience a plus,
call 815-476-7453. ch
11b-13a

Local business is look-
ing to hire delivery driv-
ers. Must have CDL-A
Hiring for both box de-
livery vans and Tractor
Trailer semi's. All local
runs and home every
night. Please call to
schedule an interview.
815-287-2236. ch
12b-14a

Local deck company
seeks carpenter's
helper. Must be moti-
vated, hard worker,
able to read a tape
measure. Must have
drivers license. Free
ride to job site.
815-790-3282.
cc12b-15a

Needed: experienced
CDL-A driver for
MORNING, local mail
delivery, extensive
background check, O.L.
Thompson Transport
Svc. Inc., call
815-726-2569. cc
8a-15b

Anticipated Position:
Assistant Pantherette
-Spirit Line Coach.
Start Date for the
2017-2018 school
year/ASAP to begin
planning. Open until
filled. Send letter of
application outlining
qualifications specific
to dance/cheer/poms
and references. Attn:
Christopher Gibson,
GSW Athletic Dir.,
GSW High School,
500 E. Main St, Gard-
ner, IL. 60424
ch 12b-14a

Offering CNA classes,
days, evenings and
weekends. CNA In-
structors needed,
Home health nurses
needed. Call for class
dates, 630-771-1162.
cc 5a-16b

Wanted: Heavy equip-
ment mechanic or ap-
prentice mechanic will-
ing to learn, must have
own tools & valid driv-
er's license,
815-693-5226. cc
11a-13b

HELP WANTED

Part time fryer/cook,
apply at Nelly's, 140
Bridge St., Wilmington.
ca 12b-16a

Part-time stylist
wanted at Impres-
sions, 605 W. Balti-
more, Wilmington. Ap-
ply within. cc 11b-15a

Secretarial Posting
Reed-Custer School
District is accepting ap-
plications for 2 secre-
tarial positions; atten-
dance secretary for the
high school and recep-
tionist secretary for the
elementary school.
Please apply online by
going to the school dis-
tricts web site at
www.rc255.net . Under
"District" at the top of
the home page there
will be a drop down
menu where you will
find the link "Employ-
ment Opportunities".
Enter "Employment Op-
portunities" and you will
be directed to the job
posting page where you
can complete the online
application. Also send
electronically a resume
and letter of interest.
The closing date for
submitting applications
is April 14, 2017.
ch 12b-13a

Servers and delivery
drivers needed at La
Piazza, 435 W. Divi-
sion, Coal City. Apply
in person. ca 11a-14b

HELP WANTED

Step by Step Child
Care Center is now ac-
cepting applications for
teachers & assistant
teachers for multiple
locations. Please con-
tact Kim at 815-
941-1122 or Kelly at
815-458-3401 for more
information. ca 9a-12b

The Village of Elwood
is accepting applica-
tions for Public Works
Seasonal Laborers, and
available positions are
part time. Applicants
must have a valid Illi-
nois drivers license, be
18 years of age or older
and have the ability to
lift fifty pounds. Candi-
dates should be moti-
vated self-starters who
take direction well and
efficiently complete
tasks as instructed. Du-
ties include: mowing
grass, general land-
scaping, maintenance
of village facilities and
other related tasks
within the public works
department. The public
works department oper-
ates Monday through
Friday from 6:30am to
3pm. Seasonal employ-
ment typically runs April
through August. Appli-
cations can be picked
up Monday through Fri-
day at the Village Hall
between the hours of
8:30am and 5pm, and
can also be found on
the village's website.
For more information,
contact Larry Lohmar at
815-424-1077.

HELP WANTED

Cinder Ridge Golf
Course is taking appli-
cations for snack shop,
beverage cart, starter,
ranger, cart attendant.
Must be 21 yrs. or
older, retirees wel-
come. Taking applica-
tions Monday-Friday
from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
only. Call 815-476-
4000. ca 12b-13a

Vanfab Inc. is currently
seeking an experienced
Maintenance techni-
cian. The primary func-
tions are:
Repair and maintain
electrical and mechani-
cal systems on produc-
tion equipment;
Modify new and exist-
ing equipment for per-
formance improve-
ments and upgrades;
Work with 110, and 480
volt systems, AC/DC
Drives, high and low
voltage controls; Trou-
bleshoot electrical and
mechanical problems to
the component level;
Completes documenta-
tion/paperwork accu-
rately and in a timely
manner; Complete
other duties as as-
signed; and Com-
plete PM's on a timely
basis; Must possess 2
to 4 years of related ex-
perience. Medical
benefits available after
60 days and a IRA is
available after 90 days.
Please email resumes
to Jackie - jacque-
line@vanfab.com
cc12a-12b

Get on board earn some \$\$\$\$!



- Extra income
- Part-time job
- A.M. or P.M. runs

REED-CUSTER School District, Braidwood is now hiring substitute bus
drivers for the 2016-17 school year. Paid training is provided. All
licensing and related costs are paid. Substitute for regular routes.
Eligible to bid on extra-curricular - after school charter runs. Prime
candidates to become regular driver's as our needs grow. Substitute
drivers start at \$13.65 hour. Regular drivers start at \$15.30 hour and
\$500 stipend.



Apply online at **www.rc255.net**, click on
Employment Opportunities, then
Transportation. If you have questions
call 815-458-2307 and ask for Joan.

"Our mission is to make a difference in students' lives through excellence in education."

If you think Donald Trump is going to build a big wall, wait until you see the one we're about to put up!



Now that we have your attention we'll take a softer
approach.

Soon we will be launching a completely updated
website at **www.freepressnewspapers.com**.
You'll see that it will be cleaner, more user friendly
and bring you more LOCAL NEWS than ever before.

Honestly, we can't wait, and as President Trump
would say, "It's going to be huge!"

But there is something you might not like to hear. We're
building a wall too. We have to include a paywall for
reading the local news. Once we launch, full access
to news features, photos and more will be free for the
first 15 days. After that an affordable paywall with
options of one week, one month or a full year's access
will be implemented.

We have to do this because, let's face it, we spend a
lot of time and money to bring you award-winning
LOCAL news. Just like our print publications, we invite
you to subscribe. We appreciate your support.

The Free Press Newspapers

815-476-7966

815-634-0315

2017 Desk Calendars On Sale

Great for writing in all those important dates
for doctor's visits, family events and more.
Now featuring phone numbers for area
carryouts.

\$5.00
each

While
supplies
last!



111 S. Water St., Wilmington

SELL IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

General handyman for farm work, drive tractor, mow grass, Wilmington area, call 815-584-7925. ca 9b-13a

2 positions custodial/maintenance for immediate start: Approximately 25-30 hours per week. M-F. afternoon-evenings. 40 hours per week during summer day shift. No Benefits. Physical/Background check required. Daily cleaning/maintenance of classrooms/building. Knowledge of HVAC, plumbing, electric, boiler systems a plus. Submit letter of application & references to M. Perrott, Superintendent, GSW High School, 500 E. Main St., Gardner, IL 60424. ch 12b-14a

HOMES FOR RENT

910 Wabash, Wilmington, 3 BR, 2 car garage, no smoking, no pets, \$1,050/month, 815-476-6816.

Braidwood area, 3BR, 1BA, 2 car insulated garage, stove, refrigerator, C/A, w/d hook up, deck, blacktop drive, 705 E. Mesa Ct., Godley, first, last, security, \$875/mo., call 815-476-6462.

Braidwood: 2BR, 1BA. Large corner lot, large living rm, dining rm and kitchen. C/A, covered deck, stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, storage shed, mobile home, 495 W. 6th St. at Division St. (Rt. 113), \$750, first, last, security. 815-476-6462. cc9a-12b

HOMES FOR RENT

In Coal City area, quiet wooded area in country, 2 BR home w/stove & refrigerator furnished, double car garage, available at \$900 per mo., damage deposit required. 4 miles west of Coal City. If interested send name & phone number to Home rental, PO Box 215, Coal City, IL 60416. ca 11b-14a

Wilmington, 3BR, 1BA, 1 car attached garage, \$1150. References, credit report and security required, No smoking. 815-476-2219. cc10a-13b

HOMES FOR SALE

Coal City, 30 S. DeWitt Pl., For Sale By Owner, 2 BR, 1BA, new carpet, freshly painted, \$95,000, call 815-634-0272. cc 11a-14b

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

LOST at Midtown Mart, Wilmington May 2016. Ladies size 7 6mm 14 carat gold wedding band. Reward. Need back for upcoming 30th wedding anniversary. Call 815-582-6461 or 815-274-9412. cc 9b-13a

LOTS FOR SALE

30 Duplex Lots - 98x110 by 142 deep, \$28,000-\$32,000, City of Dwight giving permits for \$1,000 per unit (no other fees), 2 miles from I55, Rt. 47 interchange. Will work with all builders, call Bill at 815-941-1532, leave message. cc 5b-13a

Wilmington, 130x250, access to city water, sewer and natural gas, call 815-476-9198. cc 10b-14a

MISCELLANEOUS

Country sofa and matching chair with ottoman \$175, vintage coffee table \$40, pair of wood upholstered bar chairs \$25 each, two dining room chairs \$20 each. All in very good condition, call 815-458-2759. cc10b-13a

Essex Lions Club Community Building for rent, seats 275 people, kitchen and bar available, call Phil at 815-405-5020 or Nancy at 815-365-2823. cc

Portable massage table, 72x30 black upholstery with mahogany finished legs. Height adjusts 23-34". Includes adjustable face cradle and platform arm rest shelf and carrying case. Never used, near perfect condition, \$95. Call Kathy (cell) 858-537-7133. ca 11b-13a

MISCELLANEOUS

HOMEMADE POTICA
Nut, poppy seed, apricot, raspberry; order now for Easter. Call Charlotte 815-545-8767. cc 8b-15a

Honor your veteran or Joliet Arsenal worker with a memorial stone at the Island City Memorial. Cost is \$100. Call Bert Niehls at 815-560-1039. fr/tfn

Horizon Elliptical, very good condition, \$375 OBO, Diamond area, call cell 352-250-9219. cc10b-13a

Passport/Foid Photos

We take color photographs for passports, gun owners' cards (FOID), plumber cards, ID's and more. \$8 each for FOID or Passport (2 pics) for \$10. Taken throughout the week, ready the following Monday. Please do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966 or stop by the Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. tfn/47b

Hall Rental

Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ca 9b-13a

MISCELLANEOUS

Appliances. GE Stove, Kenmore side by side refrigerator with ice through the door. Like new \$150 each. Microwave \$50. Buy both and the matching microwave is free, 815-999-2756.

Truck topper, fits full size pick-up, full crew cab. Gave \$1,400, \$1,000 firm. Less than one year old. 815-458-3970 or 815-474-3438

Twin mattress \$89.99, full mattress, \$139.99, queen set, \$299.99. Factory to You Furniture, 603 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington, call 815-476-6533. ch 47btfn

PETS

Free: 2 female canaries, w/cage and accessories to approved home, call 815-458-3242. fr 11a-12b

Now Available: Frontline, K-9 Advantix, Baricide and Activyl flea & tick treatments. From Taste of the Wild, Blue Buffalo, Canidae, Diamond Natural, Whole Earth Farms, Natural Balance, Pure Vita, Wilderness pet foods, also Stella & Chewey's raw diet. Bird, hamster, fish and pond food. New spring apparel has arrived. Call for information on upcoming basic obedience class, 815-476-5104. Trinty Barkery, 240 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v- TIMOTHY C. STRATZ Defendant
16 CH 22
NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 17, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 3, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
Commonly known as 1037 Lisbon St., Morris, IL 60450
Property Index No. 05-04-276-016.
The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
The judgment amount was \$130,118.55.
Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are

admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.
For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719
If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.
HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC
111 East Main Street
DECATUR, IL 62523
(217) 422-1719
Fax #: (217) 422-1754
N o n -
CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Case Number: 16 CH 22
TJSC#: 37-1968
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspaper on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
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111 East Main Street
DECATUR, IL 62523
(217) 422-1719
Fax #: (217) 422-1754
N o n -
CookPleadings@hsbattys.com
Case Number: 16 CH 22
TJSC#: 37-1968
NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Published in the Free Press Newspaper on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

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WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE

SAVE \$10,199 2017 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab SLT All Terrain \$54,110 MSRP Stk# H189 - \$9,199 17% Discount - \$1,000 Community Discount \$43,911	SAVE \$4,961 2017 GMC Terrain SLE-2 \$33,460 MSRP Stk# H102 - \$3,461 Community Discount - \$29,999 - \$1,000 GM Financial Down Payment Assist - \$500 CTP Bonus Cash \$28,499	26 MPG HIGHWAY 2017 Acadia SLE-1 FWD \$33,880 MSRP Stk# H156 - \$1,075 Community Discount - \$32,805 - \$2,000 GM Financial Down Payment Assist \$30,805	SAVE \$6,539 2017 Acadia SLT-2 \$44,470 MSRP Stk# H106 - \$4,539 Community Discount - \$39,931 - \$2,000 GM Financial Down Payment Assist \$37,931
SAVE \$2,736 2017 Sierra 1500 Double Cab 4x4 \$42,060 MSRP Stk# H188 - \$2,736 Community Discount \$39,324	SAVE \$6,923 2016 Acadia SLT-1 \$45,837 MSRP Stk# TG107 - \$6,923 Community Discount \$38,914	SAVE \$1,552 2017 Acadia Limited FWD \$46,750 MSRP Stk# H112 - \$1,552 Community Discount \$45,198 0% for 60 months	SAVE \$1,686 2017 Canyon Crew Cab SLT 4x4 Duramax Diesel \$45,385 MSRP Stk# H176 - \$1,686 Community Discount \$43,699
SAVE \$5,895 2016 Canyon Ext. Cab 4x4 All Terrain \$35,670 MSRP - \$4,894 Community Discount - \$30,776 - \$500 Rebate - \$500 CTP Bonus Cash \$29,776	SAVE \$7,283 2017 Yukon XL SLT Premium Pkg. 4x4 \$72,830 MSRP Stk# H184 - \$7,283 Community Discount \$65,547 10% Discount	SAVE \$8,801 2016 Sierra 2500 HD Reg. Cab 4x4 \$41,360 MSRP Stk# G185 - \$1,801 Community Discount - \$39,559 - \$2,000 Rebate - \$5000 Select Model Bonus Cash \$32,559	SAVE \$5,066 2016 Savana Cargo 2500 Extended Work Van \$35,565 MSRP Stk# G163 - \$3,566 Community Discount - \$31,999 - \$1,500 Rebate \$30,499

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This gorgeous home features 5-acres a spacious backyard, wooded trails, two fully stocked ponds. 2400 sq. ft. home 3 Bdr, 2 1/2 bath, 1 car attached, 2 1/2 car detached, heated, two sheds. Front deck with water view and beach. Privacy and walking distance to Reed Custer High School.

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H	A	L	M	S		R	A	P		T	S	A	R
A	L	O	O	F		M	I	L	E		Y	O	G
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5	8	4	2	7	1	6	9	3
7	9	1	6	3	4	5	2	8

CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED

2015 GMC Canyon Cyber gray, 29,072 miles.....Stock #H1129A \$29,995
2014 GMC Sierra 1500 34,927 miles.....Stock #G213A \$21,995
2013 Chevrolet Silverado Stealth Gray, 48,304 miles.....Stock #G194A \$29,995
2012 Acadia Crystal red, 49,075 miles.....Stk #F122A \$27,995

PRE-OWNED SPECIALS

2014 Honda Accord Sedan Maroon, 36,350 miles.....Stk #H140B \$18,995
2013 GMC Sierra 1500 Black, 58,823 miles.....Stk #TF159B \$28,995
2012 Ford Expedition Brown, 43,559 miles.....Stk #G203A \$27,995
2012 Acadia White, 188,445 miles.....Stk #TH128A \$17,995
2012 Yukon XL K1500 Gray, 119,810 miles.....Stk #TG222A \$23,995

PRE-OWNED SPECIALS

2011 Cadillac CTS Sedan White Diamond, 57,424 mi....Stk #H115B \$16,995
2011 GMC Sierra 1500 Stealth Gray, 91,205 miles.....Stk #TH130A \$19,995
2010 Cadillac CTS Sedan Dark cherry, 60,104 mi.....Stk #TE141B \$15,995
2010 GMC Acadia Quick silver, 85,308 miles.....Stk #G113A \$14,995
2010 GMC Yukon XL K1500 Silver, 163,193 miles.....Stk #TG190A \$14,995
2009 Chevrolet Traverse Dark cherry, 76,892 miles.....Stk #H133B \$11,495
2009 Dodge Ram 1500 Mineral Gray, 29,232 miles.....Stk #G214A \$6,995
2009 Ford F-150 White, 79,972 miles.....Stk #TG121B \$18,995
2008 Saturn Aura Brown.....Stk #TH137A \$6,495
2007 Dodge Dakota Gray & white, 164,000 miles.....Stk #G205A \$6,995
2007 GMC Sierra K2500 White, 53,397 miles.....Stk #G186A \$17,995

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS CENTRUE BANK Plaintiff, -v.- UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL, DECEASED, UNKNOWN CLAIMANTS AND LIENHOLDERS AGAINST THE UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVEISEES OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL, DECEASED, GOOSE LAKE ASSOCIATION, CHARLES L. SCHMIDT, JAMES HEXDALL AKA JAMES B. HEXDALL, WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF J. DEAN HEXDALL AKA JAMES D. HEXDALL AKA JAMES DEAN HEXDALL, DECEASED Defendant

NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on October 17, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 3, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 3565 Perch Court, Morris, IL 60450

Property Index No. 06-15-155-004.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$120,079.58.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.

No third party checks will be accepted.

The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719

If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523 (217) 422-1719

Fax #: (217) 422-1754

N o n - CookPleadings@hsbatys.com

Case Number: 15 CH 54

TJSC#: 37-1969

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

REAL ESTATE

WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED, ED WOOLDRIDGE, STEVE WOOLDRIDGE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ELMER K. WOOLDRIDGE AKA ELMER WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED Defendant

16 CH 76

NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 19, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 7, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 2060 E. Old Pine Bluff Rd., Morris, IL 60450

Property Index No. 05-12-351-003.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$83,803.07.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.

No third party checks will be accepted.

The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719

If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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Fax #: (217) 422-1754

N o n - CookPleadings@hsbatys.com

Case Number: 15 CH 54

TJSC#: 37-1969

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Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

REAL ESTATE

WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED, ED WOOLDRIDGE, STEVE WOOLDRIDGE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ELMER K. WOOLDRIDGE AKA ELMER WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED Defendant

16 CH 76

NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 19, 2016, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on April 7, 2017, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 2060 E. Old Pine Bluff Rd., Morris, IL 60450

Property Index No. 05-12-351-003.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$83,803.07.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.

No third party checks will be accepted.

The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in AS IS condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.

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Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 8, 15, & 22, 2017

REAL ESTATE

WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED, ED WOOLDRIDGE, STEVE WOOLDRIDGE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ELMER K. WOOLDRIDGE AKA ELMER WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED Defendant

16 CH 76

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Commonly known as 2060 E. Old Pine Bluff Rd., Morris, IL 60450

Property Index No. 05-12-351-003.

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Fax #: (217) 422-1754

N o n - CookPleadings@hsbatys.com

Case Number: 16 CH 76

TJSC#: 37-2177

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 15, 22, & 29, 2017.

REAL ESTATE

WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED, ED WOOLDRIDGE, STEVE WOOLDRIDGE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT WILLIAM BUTCHER, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ELMER K. WOOLDRIDGE AKA ELMER WOOLDRIDGE, DECEASED Defendant

16 CH 76

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Commonly known as 2060 E. Old Pine Bluff Rd., Morris, IL 60450

Property Index No. 05-12-351-003.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$83,803.07.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.

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You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: HEAVNER, BEYERS & MIHLAR, LLC, 111 East Main Street, DECATUR, IL 62523, (217) 422-1719

If the sale is not confirmed for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjisc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

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Case Number: 16 CH 76

TJSC#: 37-2177

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Published in the Free Press Newspapers on March 15, 22, & 29, 2017.

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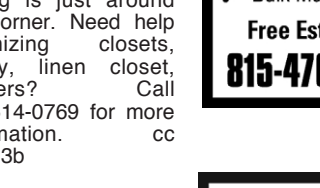
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Five winter birds to spot at Midewin

A few robins have already been spotted on the trails at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie in Wilmington. They are starting to return after migrating south for the winter months.

But did you know that not all birds fly away for the winter? In fact, some birds actually migrate here to northeastern Illinois from colder climates and set up as winter residents.

Here are five birds you might still see at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Dark-eyed junco

Try to catch a glimpse of the dark-eyed junco before they head west and north. They have been spotted at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie as late as the last few weeks of April, so there is still some time to see them.

They have an average length of six inches, wing span of eight inches and weigh about .8 ounces.

Look for the males with a grey, round head, a short pink bill and a fairly long outer white-edged tail and a white belly. The females are more brown-grey in color.

You'll find them in edges of woodlands, as well as open fields of grasslands.

The dark-eyed junco loves forests but during winter and on migration they use a wider variety of habitats including open woodlands, fields, roadsides, parks and gardens.

Dark-eyed juncos are

primarily seed-eaters but during breeding season these birds eat insects as well.

They are often one of the most frequently reported birds at feeders.

Short-eared owl

Midewin volunteers and staff say they only spot this bird a few times every year. As with many birds, the probability of spotting the short-eared owl is tied to the vole population of any given winter.

This winter, plenty of voles have been spotted at Midewin, which means chances are probable you might spot a short-eared owl. The short-eared owl is another bird that is only seen at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie into late April.

Short-eared owls are about 15 inches long with wing span of 37 inches and weigh 12 ounces.

They have yellow piercing eyes and a beige, round face.

The short-eared owl favors low-light conditions. It is most often spotted in the late afternoon or at dusk or dawn. In the winter, the short-eared owl likes open habitats like open grasslands and marshes, but in areas of particularly heavy snow, it will roost in trees.

The short-eared owl thrives on a wide variety of small mammals, especially meadow voles

These owls can travel great distances, with migrations of up to 1,200 miles recorded.

Rough-legged hawk

When conditions north of us turn colder and prey is not as plentiful, the rough-legged hawk migrates south to places like Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Like the short-eared owl, the rough-legged hawk is not commonly seen here. Typically, the rough-legged hawk is only spotted a few times per year.

Their average length is 19 inches. They have a wing span of about 53 inches and typically weigh 36 ounces.

The rough-legged hawk is light and dark brown variation in color and with black belly patches when hovering over open fields.

The rough-legged hawk prefers to be active during



Courtesy photo

AT LEAST THREE long-eared owls were spotted at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie on Wednesday, March 15. The elusive owls were seen in the South Patrol Road Prairie, which is located on the west side of Midewin.

daylight and dusk. They tend to normally take a break overnight. They are usual perched on utility poles and fence posts. Ideal habitat: In the winter, like the short-eared owl, in open habitats like grasslands and marshes.

The rough-legged hawk lives on a wide variety of small mammals and rodents.

It gets its name because of its feathers which branch down its legs, giving a "rough" look. The feathers help the rough-legged hawk adapt to fight the cold.

Northern harrier

The Northern harrier is about 18.5 inches in length with a wing span of 43 inches and weight of 18 ounces.

The males are grey above and white below with black banded tails and tipped wings. Females are brown with black bands on their tails.

The northern harrier can be spotted any time between fall and spring. Be on the lookout for them flying slowly and low especially in wide open grasslands and marshes. Their ideal habitat is grasslands.

The northern harrier feeds mostly on meadow voles but also other small rodents and songbirds.

The northern harrier is "owl-like" in that they rely on hearing as well as vision to capture prey. The disk-

shaped face looks and functions much like an owl's, with stiff facial feathers helping to direct sound to the ears.

Horned lark

The horned lark is brown and can look somewhat like a clump of dirt. These birds have a yellow and black-masked face with black horns. Females have similar colors but patterns are less defined.

The average Horned lark weighs 1.2 ounces, is seven inches long and has a wing span of 12 inches.

In winter, horned larks forage on snow fields in the late afternoon, though they mostly feed in areas free of snow. They can frequently be found on or around roads in the winter.

Horned larks favor bare, dry ground and areas of short, sparse vegetation; they avoid places where grasses grow more than a couple of inches high.

They feed on seeds and insects. There are over 90 species of lark, and the horned lark is the only lark native to North America.

Midewin trails are open 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Trail maps are available online at www.fs.usda.gov/main/midewin/maps-pubs.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is located at 30239 S. State Route 53 in Wilmington.



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