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Man charged in 2018 overdose death

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK
STAFF WRITER

BRAIDWOOD — A Gardner man was arrested on Friday, Dec. 13, for his alleged involvement in a 2018 drug overdose that resulted in the death of 22-year-old Samantha Kile and her unborn son Jaxsen.

Colin West, 26, was arrested by the Great Lakes Regional Fugitive Task Force and members of the Braidwood Police Department. He is accused of selling drugs to Kile before she overdosed on fentanyl.

West was taken into custody at his residence last week after authorities obtained a warrant for his arrest in the amount of \$1 million.

West was booked at the Braidwood Police Department and indicted on charges of drug induced homicide, delivery of a controlled substance, involuntary manslaughter and reckless homicide of an unborn child. He was unable to post bond and was transferred to the Grundy County Jail.

The arrest comes after a six-month investigation by the

Braidwood Police Department working alongside the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

In the early morning of Nov. 3, 2018, Kim Earling found her daughter, Samantha Kile, lying face down in her bathtub at her residence in Braidwood, with a needle and drug paraphernalia nearby.

Earling attempted to administer Narcan, but it was too late. Samantha was pronounced dead, and her unborn son, Jaxsen, had also passed away.

Chief of Police Todd Lyons

SEE CHARGED, PAGE 2



Marijuana: What to expect come Jan. 1

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

The new year is just two weeks away, and once Jan. 1 hits, adult-use recreational marijuana will be legal in Illinois. But what does this mean for local communities?



Braidwood — As of Dec. 18, the Braidwood City Council hadn't passed any ordinances to keep up with this new law, but regulations are in the works.

At the Dec. 10 Braidwood City Council meeting, city attorney Bryan Wellner, of Mahoney Silverman and Cross, said he is working with chief of police Todd Lyons to develop local marijuana regulations.

that have banned the sale include Bolingbrook, Crest Hill, Downer's Grove, Frankfort, Homer Glen, Lockport, Mokena, Naperville (although city officials may send the question to voter referendum), New Lenox, Orland Park and Plainfield.

DuPage, Kendall, McHenry and Grundy counties banned the sale in all unincorporated areas but approved a tax on the sales in communities.

Municipalities can't ban residents from at-home use, but they can decide whether or not to allow marijuana-related businesses, impose additional taxes and establish zoning requirements.

The council has largely remained silent on whether or not the city will allow the sales of marijuana within the municipal limits.

Braidwood city administrator Tony Altieri told The Free Press Newspapers it's an "even split" among the council right now. He expects the issue will come to a vote in late January or early February.

Sales allowed
Joliet and Manhattan — are the only communities in Will County that have approved recreational marijuana sales.

Village of Manhattan Mayor Jamie Doyle had to break the tie vote of his council. Joliet's City Council is still discussing where sales will be allowed.

Other nearby communities that have voted to approve include Aurora, Chicago (although the loop and central business district up Michigan Avenue are excluded; up to 13 retail locations will be permitted in each of the city's remaining seven zones), North Aurora, Oak Park, St. Charles and Romeoville.

Municipalities that allow marijuana sales can impose an additional 3% sales tax on that product.

Coal City — The village of Coal City last week joined a growing list of area communities that have banned the sale of recreational marijuana, with its prohibition on recreational sales and consumption in dispensaries and smoking lounges as permitted by state law.

However, Coal City hasn't said no to related businesses, including craft growers, cultivation centers, medical dispensaries, infusers, processors or transporters, which are relegated to sites with industrial zoning.

Not yet decided
Shorewood — The Village Board has held two public forums on this issue in an attempt to understand public opinion. Based on the village president's comments at the Dec. 10 forum, staff anticipates some direction or potential action in the next couple of months.

Will County — In November, the Will County Board delayed a vote on marijuana businesses in unincorporated areas because the action item listed on the agenda was different from the actual resolution. The agenda said "discussion to ban sales of recreational marijuana in unincorporated Will County," but the resolution included a ban on all recreational marijuana businesses, including growers, processors and transporters.

No sales here
Wilmington — The Island City banned recreational marijuana sales in August, after the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community's teen Community Action Team proposed that action. City ordinance now prohibits businesses that grow, cultivate, dispense, infuse, process or transport recreational marijuana.

It exempts like businesses that are involved in the medical marijuana industry.

Diamond — The village banned marijuana businesses in August.

Other communities

The board is slated to address zoning changes for regulating adult-use recreational marijuana businesses

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 2

Santa takes time for a visit



SANTA MADE A SPECIAL visit to Wilmington last weekend for the Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wonderland lighted Christmas parade. The Polar Express themed event featured lighted floats, train rides, visits with Santa and plenty of treats. Santa was escorted by Deb Tennant from Debbie's Miniature Horse and Carriage Rides. Find more photos on page 5.

Fox's Pizza approved, but changes requested

BY PAM MONSON
EDITOR

The Wilmington City Council approved the plan for a new Fox's Pizza, but added a couple changes they believe would make the project more "palatable."

The proposed site of the restaurant, at the corner of Main and Mill Street, is zoned B-2 commercial. Mill Street Investments LLC and business owner Greg Fox sought city approval of a plan to build a 4,055-square foot restaurant, with outdoor seating on Mill

Street, and pull-in perpendicular parking off of Main and Mill. The plan also shows a small parking lot at the rear, or east side, of the building. The front entrance faces the intersection of Main and Mill, and the service door is off the alley on the north side of the building.

When introduced to the building department, the concept plan for the project had the building pushed all the way to the east side of the site, and all the parking was off the Main Street side in front of the building. The plan conformed with the setback requirements for a

corner lot and provided the required number of parking spaces, but didn't fit well in the neighborhood. The city staff and its planning consultant, Rod Tonelli, asked for the building to be moved toward the street, to make it more in keeping with the traditional business district of which it is a part.

Because of that change in character, the building was moved closer to the streets, necessitating a different kind of development tool, the Planned Unit Development (PUD). When a developer proposes a new use that's desir-

able but different than the zoning rules, the PUD is the right zoning tool to use, the planner explained to the Planning and Zoning Commission on Dec. 5.

The change also meant that the project would need approval of development as a PUD, including a variance to allow a PUD of less than one acre in size, the minimum allowed in city code.

During a special meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10, Second Ward Alderman Dennis Vice motioned to approve the PUD development and variance,

SEE FOX'S, PAGE 2





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Wagging tails have wishes too

As children finalize their holiday wish lists, the furry cats and canines at Mazon's Just Animals Shelter also have a few items they are wishing for this holiday season.

The biggest wish of all is for all of the animals at the shelter to find a forever home, but knowing some wait longer than others there are a few everyday necessities the shelter needs to keep them happy and healthy.

This holiday season a staff member had an idea to get

local children involved in a wish list project to aid the shelter. Having children help out pets in need also teaches empathy and gives a voice to the voiceless. Through simple involvement, children gain rewards and feelings of accomplishment that come with helping animals.

Fourth and fifth graders from Coal City made paper ornament donation tags that hang on trees located in a variety of locations in Grundy and Will counties.

Individuals are encouraged to take an ornament from a tree and purchase the item printed on the back to donate to the shelter.

Donations can be delivered to the shelter or be made at the various businesses hosting a tree, including Trinity Barkery, 240 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

Also, Benson Insurance, 155 S. Broadway, Coal City, and Just Animals Shelter, 516 Depot St., Mazon.



FOX'S PIZZA GOT its council approvals last week, but the aldermen want to see a couple of conditions addressed before construction begins.

Fox's

but also asked for a couple more changes.

"I would like to see no use of the alley whatsoever for deliveries," he said. "That's a residential area, you're not going to get pop and beer trucks up and down ... that tight alley. They can't make that turn and they have no business being up and down that alley."

He felt all deliveries should be made off of Main Street, but recognized that trucks parked in the road would create a problem when fire district vehicles were headed out on emergency calls.

"It's a concern," Vice said. In addition, he suggested that a landscaped area on the north side of the building be eliminated and paved, to give the garbage trucks room to back in. The trash enclosure is located on a drive connecting the rear parking lot with Mill Street and the alley. It is parallel to the drive, but perpendicular to the alley.

"I share Dennis' concerns about the trash," commented Third Ward Alderman Ben Dietz. "They're going to have

to literally wheel that thing out to the street to empty it."

The council was told that the building plan had been changed since they received their drawings of the site.

"Rod Tonelli redrew it so it veers out to the road, so delivery trucks can come directly in to the back of the building," said contractor Jason Walinski, of Pro Builders. The service area will be at a 45 degree angle to the alley and Main Street.

The business is expected to be open until 11 p.m. or midnight, and Vice also didn't think that was compatible in a residential area. He suggested that the dining areas close earlier, allowing deliveries and carryouts to continue until the proposed end of the business day.

Vice added that any drainage issues that result from the construction will have to be addressed next year when the city paves the alley and Mill Street. He also questioned where residents or their guests will park if parking is eliminated on Mill Street.

His final suggestion was for stop signs on Mill Street at Main Street. Fire Chief Tim Zlomie said fire district vehicles may have to veer around cars stopped at the sign, but that is less of a concern than trucks blocking Main Street as they try to back up to the serv-

ice door.

"I have no objection to Greg having a restaurant there, at all. I mean, having a restaurant, but I think some changes need to be made," Vice said.

Mayor Roy Strong reminded the aldermen that the lot used to be a truck terminal, and as it has commercial zoning, Fox can build whatever he wants, as long as it adheres to the city's established development rules.

The City Council approved the conditional use permit for a planned unit development and a variance to permit a PUD of less than one acre in size, on the condition that the city receive an easement over the sidewalks on Mill and Main streets. Vice and Third Ward Alderman Lisa Butler conditioned their yes votes on the changes that were made to the plan.

Much to the dismay of residents who opposed the project, public comment was scheduled after the council action. Neighbors of the project repeated their concerns about the potential noise, outdoor dining, the parking plan, headlights shining in their windows, emergency response challenges, pedestrian safety, property values and drainage impacts on adjoining properties. They asked for a plan that better suits the lot.

Charged

said that West admitted he sold heroin to Samantha the night before she died.

"We tried to work backwards in the case, meaning we tried to disprove our suspect as our suspect, and as I did that we just found more evidence that incriminated him," lead investigator Chris Altieri said.

After being named chief, Lyons re-opened the investigation into Kile's death, and the investigation soon revealed that Samantha's phone was "lost," and evidence — heroin — had been destroyed. Earling said the phone and drugs were never logged as evidence, which has been disclosed to the Attorney General.

"There's a lot more to the story that'll come out later on down the line," she said.

Despite this, Lyons said Altieri used data to solve the case.

Altieri went through 6,000 pages of data on Facebook, including pictures,

conversations and locations to gather evidence to build the case.

Lyons said the case has been a priority since he came into office in April when Samantha's stepfather, Chris Earling, expressed concern at a public hearing regarding how the police department was handling her death and treatment toward him and his wife.

Samantha had been working as an informant for the Braidwood Police Department from March until May 2018, which was six months before her death. In March 2019, *The Braidwood Journal* published an article detailing accusations from the Earlings against the Braidwood Police Department — under the previous administration with Nick Ficarello as the chief of police.

In that article, the Earlings said the police told Samantha, who was on parole at the time, that she could either become an informant for them or go back to prison.

The couple claimed that Samantha had overdosed eight times in February, and by asking her to become an informant and buy heroin right after her near-death experiences, they were putting

her in dangerous situations. They claimed that the police had no intention of helping Samantha and only cared about using her as an informant.

The Braidwood Police Department commented at the time that Samantha's involvement with them was voluntary and that after her parole ended they offered to help place her in a rehabilitation program, but they never heard from her again.

After Samantha's death, the Earlings said they felt like they were treated like criminals by the police and that interactions with law enforcement were strained.

"We were not treated — my daughter was not treated — none of us were treated very kindly from the old administration," Kim said.

She said "the second the new administration took over" she was treated as if she were someone who lost her only child and grandchild.

Kim Earling said she is feeling a mix of emotions at the arrest of West — sad, angry and happy — all at once.

"I'm glad they made an arrest with charges against someone, and our story doesn't end here because of all the foul play," she said.

Even though an arrest was made, Earling said that doesn't bring her babies back.

"She was my sunshine, she was my world. The bond that her and I had, it was unbreakable. Unfortunately, she was in the wrong place at the wrong time and did the wrong thing just one time," she concluded.

Editor's note: Persons named in this article are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

Vote for your favorite lights display

The Wilmington Rotary Club is accepting public votes for the entries in the first annual fundraiser holiday lighting contest and holiday lights tour.

The contest is for residents and businesses, and the winners will be decided by Rotary Club members and popular vote.

Each holiday lights display is entered in six categories: Most whimsical, most traditional, the Clark Griswold award, best in business, people's choice and Rotarian's choice. The winning entry in each category will receive \$100 in Wilmington Chamber of Commerce gift certificates.

The Rotary has mapped the locations of the entries, so that families can ride around

and view the amazing displays, and also vote for their favorites. (Contestants are encouraged to get friends and family to vote for them.) The map is updated as the entries are received.

A link to the map can be found on the Wilmington Public Library District's website, www.wilmingtonlibrary.org. Click on Light the Way Wilmington that will be in the box at the top of the page. The link to the map is in the second paragraph of the contest details. Photos will be added to the map this week.

Public voting takes place through Friday, Dec. 20. The winners will be announced Saturday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m.

The public can vote for the people's choice winner in one of two ways: Online and by text message. Go to the Light the Way Wilmington page on the library district's website; the link is in the first paragraph of the contest details. The link will take you to the Polls Everywhere website where you'll have to register, then you can vote.

To vote by text message, text MariaMeachum041 to 22333 once to join, then enter the letter that corresponds with your choice of entries.

Contest sponsors include Oak Knoll Financial Services, The Wine Cafe, Pro Real Estate and Batory Foods.

Marijuana

at its meeting on Thursday, Dec. 19, in the event that the board decides to permit those establishments. The board will also consider another ordinance that would ban all recreational marijuana related businesses. The ordinance specifically exempts medical marijuana businesses.

Licensed to sell

As of last week, the state had issued same-site licenses to 34 of Illinois' 55 established medical marijuana dispensaries. They will be the only businesses to offer product when recreational marijuana becomes legal on Jan. 1.

Nine of the dispensaries that have been licensed to sell recreational marijuana are in the city of Chicago. The closest of the remaining facilities are 3C Compassionate Care Centers in Joliet and Naperville, and Verilife in Romeoville and Ottawa. Although licensed, those dispensaries cannot make recreational sales until Jan. 1.

Medical dispensaries located in communities that have banned the sale of recreational marijuana are limited to medical marijuana sales only.

The state will issue up to 75 licenses to new recreational use retail applicants by May 30. Applications will be accepted through Thursday, Jan. 2. The state will issue 47 of those licenses in Cook, Lake, McHenry, Kane, Dupage, Kendall, Grundy and Will counties, one in Kankakee County.

Applications for licenses

for craft growers, infusers and transporters will be made available by the Illinois Department of Agriculture by Jan. 7.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture lists 22 permitted cultivation centers and six labs.

Supply and demand

Industry analysts are predicting that the demand for recreational marijuana will create a shortage of supply. One medical marijuana user found little product on the shelves during a recent trip to the dispensary in Romeoville. She was told that the business was having trouble obtaining stock.

One potential current impact on the supply could be the state of Michigan's move to legalize recreational marijuana, which became effective on Dec. 1. According to published reports, in the first eight days of retail sales, \$1.63 million worth of marijuana was sold from just five retail locations statewide.

The first day of sales attracted more than 2,200 customers.

As a result of the high demand, the Michigan Regulatory Agency authorized the dispensaries to move up to half of their medical inventory that was over 30 days old to the retail market.

Michigan's 10% excise tax generated \$162,900, while its 6% sales tax produced \$107,514. The state expects annual recreational marijuana sales of nearly \$950 million, which would bring the state \$95 million in excise taxes and \$57 million in sales tax each year.

The first \$20 million in excise taxes generated during the first two years of recreational sales will be dedicated for research on the benefits of marijuana in treating condi-

tions such as post traumatic stress disorder.

The remaining excise tax revenue will be split between towns and counties that allow marijuana businesses, education and road improvement.

Sales tax revenue, expected to be \$98 million annually within three years, is earmarked for education, the state's general fund and revenue sharing with local governments.

Michigan began accepting recreational marijuana business license applications on Nov. 1, and had issued 21 licenses by early last week. Seventy-three more applicants were pre-qualified for a license.

Those potential licensees will have a hard time finding a place to set up shop — more than 1,400 of the state's 1,771 communities will not allow those businesses, or are still developing regulations to govern them.

Illinois medical marijuana

As of Nov. 30, the Illinois Department of Public Health approved applications for 94,373 medical marijuana patients, including 558 individuals under age 18, since it began accepting applications for the Medical Marijuana Registry Program on Sept. 2, 2014.

In January, 2019, the state reported having approved applications for 52,365 patients since the program began. The rapid growth of approved applications is likely the result of additional conditions for which medical marijuana can be prescribed, which took effect this year.

Retail sales of medical marijuana for November reached \$26,192,540, including \$12,349,616 in dry flower sales and \$13,842,924 in concentrates/infused products. Licensed medical dispensaries served 54,479 unique patients, who purchased 945,629 grams of dry marijuana.

The state recorded \$224 million in retail sales of medical marijuana in 2019, and nearly \$484 million since November 2015.

Wholesale sales by cultivation centers were nearly \$121 million in 2019, and over \$266 million since November 2015.

Drivers ticketed in separate crashes

The Wilmington Police Department ticketed the drivers of two vehicles involved in separate crashes during the week of Dec. 8 to Dec. 15.


Ginger M. Callarman, 36, of Downers Grove, was charged with leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and improper lane usage following a Dec. 9 crash. She was released on individual recognizance bonds and scheduled to appear in court.

• David Michael Smalley, 26, of Wilmington, was charged Dec. 11 with operating an uninsured motor vehicle, driving on a suspended or revoked license, leaving the scene of an accident and improper lane usage. He was also wanted on a warrant for failing to appear in court on Illinois State Police charges.

Smalley was transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility in Joliet in lieu of bond.

Editor's note: Persons named in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

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Committee mulls contracting vs hiring

STAFF REPORT

The city has landscape maintenance bids in hand, but with the grass not growing, is in no rush to award a contract. The city received two bids, which were opened Dec. 5 and reviewed by the Grounds and Buildings Committee last week. The scope of work includes mowing, trimming, weeding, edging, pruning, spring and fall cleaning, herbicide and pesticide applications at city hall, the police station, Claire's Corner Park, Veterans Memorial Park and both island parks, minus the baseball fields. The work also includes fertilizer application at city hall, the police station and Claire's Corner. The bid submitted by HL & Associates, based in New Lenox, was the lower of the two, at \$32,900. The second bid, submitted by Ramiro Guzman Landscaping Inc., based in Plainfield, was considerably higher at \$38,525. The city's previous landscape contractor broke his contract late last winter, due to the owner's illness. Lawn maintenance was accomplished by two city seasonal part-time employees, with occasional help from water reclamation department workers. Funds that were earmarked for paying the contractor were used instead to pay seasonal part-time help. One seasonal worker was responsible for maintaining the North and South Island parks. He spent all of his time there, over 838 hours during the season, at \$12 an hour, and earned \$10,060. The Wilmington Baseball and Softball Association took care of the ball diamonds. The second seasonal worker maintained Claire's Corner Park, Veterans Memorial Park and Children's Memorial Park, along with various other city properties such as the retention areas and the old city dump. He logged 904 hours at \$12 an hour, for a seasonal total of \$10,848. The water reclamation department's seasonal worker mowed and trimmed at city hall once per week during the 26-week growing season, and

earned \$936. Caring for the police station property on a weekly basis added another \$468 to that individual's salary. In the absence of the water reclamation department seasonal worker, a full-time department employee would mow at city hall and the police station, at a salary of \$34 an hour for the approximate 4.5-hour weekly assignment. The full-timer stepped in five or six times last season, resulting in a much higher cost than the seasonal salary. City officials aren't sure if they'll award the work and forego seasonal workers, since city staff will still be responsible for maintaining the water plant, city garage, water reclamation plant, old city dump and former wastewater treatment plant properties. "Last year they canceled, so we had money available for [seasonal workers]," Mayor Roy Strong said. "We gotta cut the grass somehow. Hopefully we'll have part-time guys. The best you can do is maybe cut the hours down."

"The bottom line is, it's \$32,900 for landscapers, and an additional \$20,000 for two part-time guys," commented Third Ward Alderman Lisa Butler. "Do we have \$50,000 sitting in reserves to spend on lawn care, or do we only have \$25,000? That's really kind of a guess, that's part of the budget."

If the city chooses not to hire a contractor and use seasonal workers again next summer, Butler wants them to do a little more finish work than they did last summer.

"If that's not something they're able to do, then why are we spending money on them instead of landscapers?" she asked. "What I'm trying to get at is, do we have money to do both?"

The city won't be budgeting for seasonal help or lawn-care services until spring for the fiscal year that begins May 1.

The contractor who receives the award will establish a maintenance schedule once the growing season starts. The city can also call to arrange special attention for a park that will be used for a special event.

School Board approves levy request

STAFF REPORT

School District 209-U has a long history of seeking a 25% increase in its annual property tax levy request, and followed suit again this year. The Board of Education approved the levy request last week.

"We do this knowing, without a shadow of a doubt we will not receive a 25% increase," district business manager Ellen Wandless said at a Truth in Taxation hearing before the regular board meeting.

"The levy is set at the level that it is because we rely very heavily on a federal program called impact aid for a major source of revenue. It is the tax rate produced off of this levy that we have to report in our federal impact aid application that basically keeps us at this 25% threshold."

This levy request will allow the district to use a tax rate of approximately 5.0638% on its impact aid application, rather than approximately 4.3269% that Wandless expects to be the reality tax rate. The higher rate should generate more impact aid dollars for the district.

The estimated property tax rate of 4.3269% is less than 1% more than the current rate

of 4.2914%.

The district received \$10.4 million in property taxes last year. For the 2019 levy to reflect a 25% increase, the district is asking for \$12.5 million. Tax increases in Will County are capped at the increase in the consumer price index, which is 1.9% this year, or 5%, whichever is less, so district officials know the 25% increase request will not be approved.

The estimated equalized assessed value of all property in the district is \$245,543,749, including \$587,528 in new property, or property being assessed for the first time. EAV figures will be finalized in the spring, but Wandless said the district's EAV growth appears to be "slowing pretty rapidly."

"The early numbers I got actually showed a decrease in our net EAV, or property value ... The property value with the levy divided into it, produces the rate," she explained.

"So with those values not increasing the way they have over the last four years, we're expecting less of an increase ... in that tax rate," she said.

Wandless estimates property tax revenues will grow by about \$171,317 new dollars, excluding the bond and interest fund.

Daniels in the judge's den, the end of the tale

We come now to the end of the tale about the Daniels' bank failure. By the way, I have found no other name for the bank except "Daniels' bank." It seems that that was its official title. Let us see how the bankruptcy proceeded through court, and what the payout was for the common man.

The list of depositors in Daniels' bank reads like a list of who's who in 1870s Wilmington. Some of the names were Willard, Main, Monteith, Small, Warner, Quigley, Cracraft, Gould, Jones, Kahler, Goodwin, Gorman, Oldhues, Kennedy, Baskerville and Dyer. In addition there were businesses and corporations such as The National Life Insurance Co. to the tune of \$25,000, the National Bank of Vernon, the Miners' Bank of Braidwood, the City of Wilmington, State Savings Institute, and almost every merchant on Water Street.

By August of 1873 the bankruptcy court started proceedings to determine just how many creditors Daniels had. We read, "Hundreds of Daniels' creditors met at Empire Hall, on Saturday last, to prove their claims before the Register in

Bankruptcy, Mr. C. Grant, of Morris. So great was the attraction, indeed, that Wilmington seemed to have donned her holiday attire and turned out enmasse to the Register's reception. The next matinee will take place at Morris. On Monday next, when more claims will be proven up and one or more permanent assignees elected."

The following Monday is described like this, "Monday last being the day appointed for the creditors of John H. Daniels, bankrupt, to meet at the Register's office, in Morris, many of our citizens wended their way thither by rail, by boat, and by livery rigs. At about noon many had arrived, both from this city and Braidwood, and the capacity of Morris hotels and restaurants was put to a practical test in accommodating many unlooked for guests.

There was dissention among the creditors, some wanted Mr. Camp to represent the creditors, others claimed that Camp was a friend of Daniels and wouldn't give them a fair shake. Some wanted two people to represent them, others, just one. Even when the vote was taken, the outcome

was still confusing, both to the court and to the creditors.

"Register Grant informed the creditors that he could not interpret the intent or choice of those who voted for two assignees, after the informal ballot deciding that but one should be elected. He thought, perhaps, that probably the court would confirm neither, in which case a professional would be appointed. The creditors, disgusted and half demoralized, now saw that their trouble and expense in coming to Morris was all for naught, and the general conclusion was, and is, that corruption lurked somewhere."

The court did appoint a neutral party and the work of inspecting the books; confiscating Daniels' personal possessions and selling everything they could began in September. By November we read, "Claims against Daniels' bankrupt estate have been filed to the amount of \$400,000, and even more, counting interest. Nearly all of the personal property in the estate has been disposed of."

In January of 1874 we read, "Daniels examination, like a wounded snake, still drags its slow length along. Recent

developments rather tend to strengthen the belief that Daniels will tell to get his discharge from the court of bankruptcy. This however, will be but little consolation to the army of creditors who have hoped for the declaration of a dividend. We may mention the fact that 25 or 30 pages from his letter copy book have recently disappeared. Like the \$400,000 which he is known to have had just before his failure, he can't account for the missing leaves containing copies of most important business letters."

Drag on it certainly did; it wasn't until 1875, two years after the bank failure that depositors saw any money, and when they did it came as a shock. For every dollar they had deposited with Daniels, they received only eight cents back.

The Daniels family moved to Evanston where they thought they could begin a new life. Several years later John Daniels was being thought of for Treasurer of Cook County. But his old life followed him. He was not nominated. This man — the man who named Braidwood, became Township Supervisor, first Mayor of Wilmington and State Representative sank into obscurity.

Merry Christmas, gentle readers!



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Sheriff's police blotter

The Will County Sheriff's Office provides a weekly blotter of activity for townships in The Free Press circulation area. Persons named are innocent of any charges until proven guilty.

Nov. 26

• Natalie N. Jerz, 24, of Odell, was arrested at North Division and West Stripmine Road in Braidwood for DUI, operating an uninsured motor vehicle, improper lane usage, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and failure to notify SOS of address change.

Nov. 27

• Frederick A. Zilm, 41, of Essex, was arrested on North 14000 West Road in Wilmington for criminal damage to property, reckless driving and aggravated battery.

• Ayenda C. Zemaitis, 37, of New Lenox, was arrested on South Kankakee and Ridge Street in Wilmington for DUI, leaving the scene of a property damage accident, failure to report accident, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and operating an uninsured motor vehicle.

Nov. 28

• April B. Lindsey, 26, of Bloomington, was cited at Interstate 55 and West Lorenzo Road in Wilmington for driving without lights and driving while license suspended.

Dec. 7

• Sean V. Flores, 22, of Wilmington, was arrested at West Lorenzo Road and South Will Road in Wilmington for DUI, aggravated speeding, unlawful use of a weapon and illegal possession of a firearm.

'It Happened on 5th Avenue'

The Wilmington Public Library District will be showing "It Happened on 5th Avenue" starring Victor Moore at 1 p.m. on Dec. 20 as a part of its "Classic Movies" program.

Come watch a classic movie on the library's big screen TV. Classic movies are intended for adult audience. Popcorn and beverages will be served.

Students raise over \$1,000 for Kuzma



On Friday, students from Stevens Intermediate School donated \$1,216.36 to Kuzma Cottage from its annual Penny Wars fundraising event. During Penny Wars, students put pennies in their class container and put silver and/or bills in other classes. The class with a positive amount wins. This year Miss Seiler ended with +\$9.74. Mrs. Horton raised the most with \$254.38 altogether. Mrs. Long had the biggest negative with -\$81.36.

Join Oak Knoll in supporting families less fortunate!

If you received a vaccination for

- Influenza
- Shingles
- Pneumonia

between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2019

Bring the receipt from your doctor's office or the pharmacy administering the injections to the Oak Knoll office at 205 South Water Street in Wilmington, during business hours. (We won't keep the receipts, we just need to see them.)

A donation of \$5 per vaccination will be made to the Christian Help Association to help with their goal of making the holidays happy for some Wilmington families.

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SCHOOL NEWS

Five WHS seniors named Illinois State Scholars

BY PAIGE PERSIC
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Five Wilmington High School's students, the fewest total in the past 10 years, have been named Illinois State Scholars.

Being a State Scholar means one has excelled academically within their school and one a statewide level. These students have earned high ACT and or SAT scores, as well as being in the top 10 percent of their senior class.

They will be recognized within the school with their senior photos hanging in the WHS foyer. Last year WHS added eight state scholars, the year before that was 10 and the high was 14 in 2015.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission awards these students with being State Scholars for standing out in their achievements academically.

Wilmington Students Include:

Ella Swick currently has a GPA of 4.458 and earned a score of 26 on the ACT. Ella is fifth in her class and is the daughter of Mellissa and Matt Swick. She hopes to major in elementary education when attending ISU (Illinois State



ELLA SWICK



BRANDON WARD



JORDYN REENTS



MEGAN MANN



MEGAN MORGAN

University). She is involved in NHS, FCA, Tri-M, Interact, speech and musicals/plays.

Brandon Ward currently has a GPA of 4.0 and earned a score of 1370 on the SAT. Brandon is fourth in his class and is the son of Elizabeth and Billy. He hopes to major in either computer informatics and accounting or applied engineering when attending either DePaul University or Illinois U-Bloomington. He is involved in math team,

scholastic bowl and Interact. He would like to add that he was not aware he was a State Scholar until Mr. Maupin patted him on the back randomly and Brandon asked what Mr. Maupin was congratulating him for.

Jordyn Reents currently has a GPA of 4.5 and earned a score of 27 on the ACT. Jordyn is third in her class and is the daughter of Janelle and Jeff Reents. She hopes to major in mechanical engineering when

attending the University of Iowa. She is involved in softball, basketball, volleyball, NHS, FCA, LEAD, math team, Stuco and Interact.

Megan Mann currently has a GPA of 4.52 and earned a score of 25 on the ACT. Megan is second in her class and is the daughter of Pat and Judi Mann. She hopes to get an Associates in Arts at JJC then transfer to a university for a Bachelor's in Business. She plans on attending law school to pursue a job

in real estate law. She is involved in volleyball, basketball, softball, NHS president, LEAD president/ P.O.P.S and math team.

Megan Morgan currently has a GPA of 4.54 and earned a score of 31 on the ACT. Megan is first in her class and is the daughter of Geri Fox and Mike Morgan. She hopes to major in political science at Vanderbilt University. She is involved in speech, band, fall play, scholastic bowl, LEAD, math team, Tri-M, Interact, NHS,

debate club, spanish club, robotics club and tutors. Megan has also attended HOBY, World Affairs Seminar, RYLA, Smith Walbridge and Drum Major Clinics.

With this recognition the selected students are able to put that they are State Scholars on their applications which will increase their chances of earning scholarships.

Congratulations to the Wilmington 2019-20 Illinois State Scholars.

Wildcats of the month at WMS



WILMINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL announced the Wildcats of the month for November. These students were recognized for performing random acts of kindness or helping out in a big way. They include (from left) 7th grade - Julie Key, 8th grade - Jenna Dabulskis, and 6th grade - Ella Hansen.

Santa to visit kids at Wilmington post office

Santa is making the final rounds before returning to the North Pole, including a stop at the Wilmington Post Office, 301 N. Water St., on Saturday, Dec. 21

From 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Santa will visit with youngsters, be available for photo opportunities (bring camera) and with everyone a Merry Christmas in the lobby at the post office.

WHS seniors of the week

BY PAIGE PERSIC
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Meet the WHS Seniors of the Week: Shelle Huffstutler, Nathan Koester and Ryan Mroz.

Shelle Huffstutler

What do you plan to pursue after graduation? College, go to school for two years and become an ultrasound technician.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Singing, writing.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I have a passion for photography.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Mac n' cheese, pizza and chicken tenders.

What is your favorite memory from high school? Junior year, our Christmas concert when Eli Byrd sang. He gave me goose bumps, he's really talented.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Make sure you do your homework, get good grades, do the classes you have to do, get your credits and graduate early.

If you could create a class for high school, what would it be? Creative writing.

What is something you've been involved with you're really good at? Chorus, I was in it for three years but forfeited to graduate early.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Cameron Boyce, he was one of the biggest icons from our age group that wasn't entitled.

What is your funniest memory from high school?

Nathan Koester

What do you plan to pursue after graduation? Nursing degree.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? The wave.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I can do the wave pretty alright.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Sushi or Chinese food.

What's your favorite memory from high school? Doing the wave in class.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Practice good hygiene.

If you could create a class for high school, what would it be? Auto service, not a GAVC or Wilco class, but a regular schedule class.

What is something you've been involved with you're really good at? Waving.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Either Danny Duncan or Nick SVT because they are both chill and hilarious.

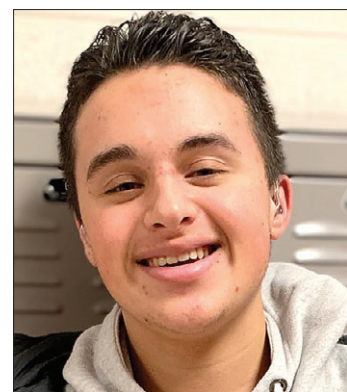
What is your funniest memory from high school? In the middle of CNA class, I was leaning back in my stool and I leaned a little too much and it was loud when I fell.

Ryan Mroz

What do you plan to pursue after graduation?



SHELLE HUFFSTUTLER



RYAN MROZ



NATHAN KOESTER

sue after graduation? Go to JJC in the automotive program.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Analyzing games (NFL), working on cars.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I like to show my moves on the dance floor.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Anything that tastes good!

What's your favorite memory from high school? Parking next to Nathan Koester with his zero four Ford Mustang Mach one.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Do your homework and study. This will help you succeed, also don't be shy to talk to anyone.

If you could create a class for high school, what would it be? Taekwondo class and a hapkido class.

What is something you've been involved with you're really good at? Band, taekwondo and hapkido.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Paul Walker because he inspired everyone, including me, to help others as well as driving fast cars.

School Board approves retirements

The School Board last week agreed to put three employees on a retirement track, with significant salary increases for the next couple of years.

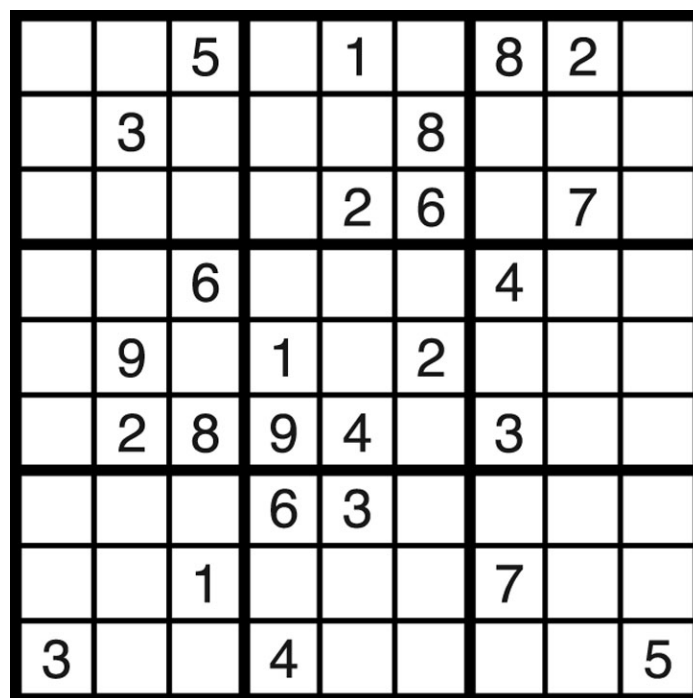
The School District 209-U Board of Education accepted irrevocable letters of retirement from Stevens Intermediate School principal Venita Dennis and Bruning School kindergarten teacher Karen Doyle, as well as the retirement of technology director Mike McCormick.

The board approved a new multi-year contract for Dennis, who will receive a 6% salary increase in the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years, and 5% for the 2022-2023 school year, her final year of employment.

"I just want to say thank you to everyone on the board, for everything you let me do. I told Dr. Swick when I first started in this district I would work until I was 70, but it gets in the way, so it's just my desire to spend some quality time with family before it's too late," Dennis told the board.

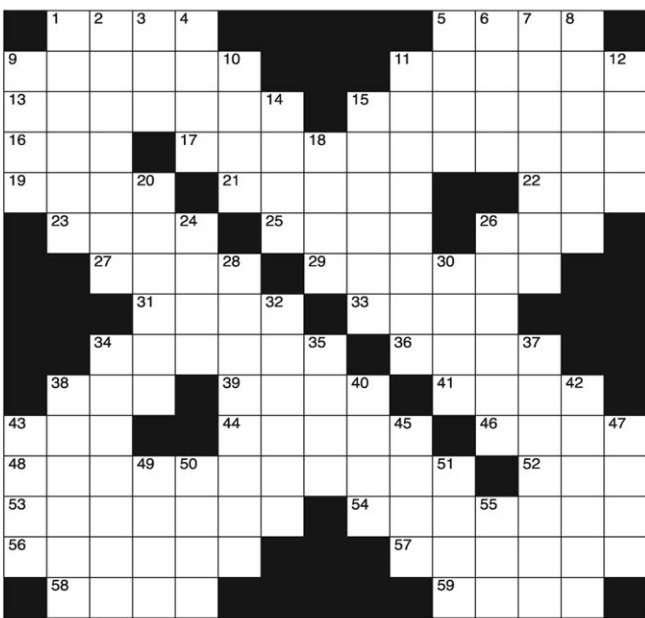
The board approved a retirement contract for McCormick that provides for a 6% salary increase for school years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, and 5% for school years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

Doyle's retirement track contract provides a 6% salary increase on the previous year's Teacher's Retirement System reported earnings; then, a 6% annual increase beginning in the 2020-2021 school year to the end of the 2023-2024 school year.



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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. No longer on the market
5. W. African language
9. A way to open
11. A type of pigeon
13. Japanese warrior
15. Pelvic areas
16. No seats available
17. Not working
19. In a way, soaks
21. Growing outward
22. Ritzy local __ Air
23. Telegraphic signals
25. Metric units
26. Large wine cask
27. Fiber from the husk of a coconut
29. Gets up
31. French river
33. Witnesses
34. They make great neighbors
36. The sun does it
38. Used to store ashes
39. First Chinese dynasty
41. Network of nerves
43. Word element meaning ear
44. Metric unit of length (Brit.)
46. Tributary of the Danube
48. Off-limits
52. Appeal earnestly
53. It's good to have them
54. Commercial flying company
56. Acted out in protest
57. Took to the sea
58. Cuckoos
59. Drove fast

CLUES DOWN

1. Trapped
2. About osmosis
3. Romanian monetary unit
4. Form of Persian
5. Cold wind
6. Leave out
7. Small vehicle
8. A little off
9. Soviet Union
10. A narrow path or road
11. Contrary beliefs
12. One who speaks Gaelic
14. Private school in New York
15. Jackson and Townshend are two
18. Soldier in an airborne unit
20. Taken illegally
24. Capital of Valais
26. Male reproductive organs
28. State capital
30. One with supernatural insight
32. Starts all over again
34. Jai alai arena
35. Star Wars antagonist
37. Freestanding structure
38. The ideal place
40. The extended location of something
42. Made level
43. Distinctive smell
45. Greek goddess of discord
47. Got older
49. Type of monkey
50. Travels to
51. Geological times
55. Edge

Chamber Christmas parade delights young and old



TRACY JONES, 9, took advantage of one-on-one time with Santa to tell him her secret wishes for this Christmas.

SANTA MADE A SPECIAL visit to Wilmington last weekend for the Chamber of Commerce's Winter Wonderland lighted Christmas parade. The Polar Express themed event featured lighted floats, train rides, visits with Santa and plenty of treats. Santa was escorted by Deb Tennant from Debbie's Miniature Horse and Carriage Rides.



THE GRAND DENTAL FLOAT featured Hermey, Santa's elf who wanted to be a dentist, and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.



THEY WERE STUFFED into snowsuits and footie pajamas, looking not unlike Randy Parker in "A Christmas Story." Baylee Grimes, 4, Gwen Grimes, 2, McKynzie Seego, 3 and Brantley Grimes kept warm with hot cocoa and hot dogs while they waited their turn to ride on the Polar Express.



THE DANCING CHRISTMAS Tree, played by Paige Persic, greeted kids and kids at heart along the parade route.



JACE ZARADA DOESN'T look like he's enjoying his ride on the Polar Express during the Chamber Christmas parade. His brother Jaxon is in the window behind him.

Dear Santa, Letters from 2nd grade

Christmas is right around, and we asked Mrs. Horton's second grade class at Stevens Intermediate School what they wanted the man in red to bring them.

Take a look at what students sent to Santa:

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? I have been good this year. This Christmas I would like a piano, a trampoline, and two American gurl dolls. I want a piano. I want a piano because I will be able to practice all the time. I really want a trampoline because I can jump on it. Can I please get two American girl doll? American Girl dolls are so fun to play with. I hop you have a safe trip to Wilmington. Merry Christmas Santa.
Your friend,
Aubrey Mae Ptauck

Dear Santa,
How are you? How are the elves? I have been good. This Christmas I would like a American girl accessories, a Phone and a desk. I want a American girl accessories. can please have them I want a phone. I can play games on my phone It will be cool. I want a desk so I can play school. I hope you have a safe trip to Wilmington. Merry Christmas Santa
Your friend,
Brooklyn Long

Dear Santa,
How are you Santa? How is Rudolph? I have been very good this year. This Christmas. I would like a hover board a trampoline and a RC car I really want a hover board for Christmas I can ride it arownd my house. I really really really want a trampoline I want one so I can jump around I want a rc car because I like fast things. I can then zoom around my house I hope you have a safe to Wilmington Merry Christmas Santa!
Your friend,
Henry Lewis

Dear Santo,
How do you get to all the houses in one night? How fast are the reindeer? I have been good. This Christmas I would like legos, give to the puor and get gift cards. I want legos because I like building. I would like to give to the pour because they will not have toys. I would like gift cards because I want to buy stuff. I hope you have a safe trip to Wilmington. Merry Christmas.
Your friend,
Jayce Strong

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? I have bee good this year. This christmas I would like a puppy, a Phone, and a slime. I want a puppy. I want a



I'M NOT SURE about that, Santa, said 4-year-old Ethan Ginger (left) when he and his brother Torian, 8, visited with the Jolly Old Elf in his Santa House on Saturday. Just to make sure they've let Santa know what they wanted for Christmas, second graders at Stevens Intermediate School wrote letters, and shared them with Free Press Advocate readers.

puppy because I will be able to play with it all the time. I really want a phone. I will be so cool if I had my own phone! Can I please get some slime? I think slime is so much fun to play with. I hope you have a safe trip to Wilmington. Merry Christmas Santa.
Your friend,
Bristol Billingsley

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a great Christmas you are the best. I love and care about you. I want a dog a Backpack and a diary please.
Love Madison

Dear Santa, I've been good. Thank you for taking this job. I'm going to give your reindeer some treats if you want them to eat them. Merry Christmas! This is my list: I want an X-box. That's it.
Love, Braxton

Dear Santa,
You are very kind. I hope you like the cookies. Than you for last years gifts. Can I please have a 1. Squier Bulletin back guitar. 2. a smart wath 3. you know what I want
your friend,
Lar

Dear Santa,
I have been good because my faily taught me how to Be good. Thank you for the toys last year. I would like littst Pet shop, some accessories, and a sketch book.
Love, Rosie

I luv Santa and Mrs Claus I bee good toDay and I have a present for you I give you a rainbow cookie Santa this is what for Christmas is a

tablet and he ad phones.
Love, Steven

Dear santa Hello my name is Annie I live in Wilmington Illinois. Can I please have a American girl doll. I really wanted one because they are cute. How do you order pizza at the North Pole? Thank you for all your hard work.
Love
Annie

Dear Santa Hi my name is Tucker Thompson and I live in wilmington Illinois can I please get a xbox one. can you try to give me a puppy. If you can please try to do it. do you know how Rudolph got his red nose. merry cristmas
your friend Tucker

Dear Santa,
I would be grateful for Lego dimensions and the sonic Level pack for Lego dimensions. Please try to get me that. I've been wondering, how do you deliver every present in one night? Thanks for the presents. Merry christmas!
Love,
Justus

Dear Santa,
I would be grateful for a computer please because then I could play roblox on it and then i would be thankful for a Real kitten and i Really would be thankful for \$1,000 this is my one question can you order pizza in the north pole.
your friend Anthony

Dear Santa,
Hi, my name is Olivia Daly I live in wilmington, Illinois. PLease can you try to bring me a bunny because bunnys are sooo cute. Please can I have a

elf because all my friends have them. Please St. Nicholas can I a Amerin Doll Girl because the one I see is pretty. Thank you for all your hard work. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Olivia Daly

Dear Santa,
May I please have a husky? I would Love to get a husy. and a iphone 7 plus rose gold. How do you and your reindeers fly?
Love,
Hayley Carrillo

Dear Santa,
May I please have a real dog? I would also like a phone with a phone case. And can I please have A new dirt bike. How do you know how is on the noity list and the good list?
love, Raeleigh

Dear Sonta
May I please have a guitar? I would also like a computer. I wold love a Nintendo switch and Lugis mansian 3 for the switch and Mario maker 2 for the swich. Santa how do your e reindeer fly.
love, Konnor Kadlisk

Dear santa,
May I please have a piano? I would also like a ps4 game. I would love to have a nfer gun. Santa, how do your reindeers fly? I will leave you a treat!
Love, Aiden Lawson

Dear santa,
may I have a camera? I would also like a computer? I would love to have a nintendo swich just for me? I have a Question how did Rodoff get his red nose? I will leave cookies and milk
Love, Tessa Biskupski

Santa gives the scoop on Christmas

STAFF REPORT

Before all the Christmas excitement begins, we gave Santa Claus a jingle at the North Pole to get all the details on his sleigh, his favorite cookies and how to make it on the nice list.

Hear the facts from Santa himself:

Is the naughty or nice list longer this year?

(The naughty list) is probably a little shorter this year!

Are the elves working overtime right now to get things ready?

The elves are always working overtime this time of year!

So what is the reindeers' training routine like?

The reindeer are usually pretty well trained, but what they do is start about three months early and they start flying around. And the only time you'll see Rudolph is during bad weather, because that's the only time you need him, is for bad weather.

But they do fly around and do all kinds of good stuff. And they're magic.

What's Mrs. Claus up to while you're out delivering presents on Christmas Eve?

She's just taking care of the elves and making sure everybody's got what they need. She holds down the fort, she holds down the North Pole.

I know a lot of kids want to know: Is Mrs. Claus a good cook?

Of course she is! All the elves would quit and leave if she wasn't.

How does she make so much food for everyone?

It's like everything else: Magic! North Pole, Santa Claus, the reindeer and the elves — all magic.

That's what Christmas is all about.

A lot of people want to know: How fast can your sleigh fly?

It can go sonic. In fact, it can go supersonic. If I don't watch myself, I'll have a sonic boom behind me. It all depends on how tight my schedule gets,

how fast I have to go.

What do you do to prepare the night before Christmas Eve?

Nothing! Sit back and relax, take it easy.

The elves take care of everything. The elves pack, they pack the sleigh. All I do is go up and down the list — the naughty and nice list — make sure who I'm bringing presents to and who I'm not.

Kids don't believe that Santa can go through the list. The greatest thing that's ever happened is the (Elf on the Shelf)... That elf calls me every night.

Every elf calls me every night and tells me what their kids are doing. If their kid gets too bad — or breaks the rules — he can come back to the North Pole at any time.

I had one little boy who put the elf in the freezer! He figured he couldn't see out of the freezer, right?

Well, I informed that youngster that that doesn't work. The elf can see out of the freezer. And if he ever touched the elf again, he's leaving and never coming back. The boy never touched the elf again.

What's your favorite cookie?

Oreos, chocolate chip, (I) love all kinds of cookies. Doesn't make any difference. A cookie is a cookie is a cookie.

You can buy reindeer food or you can put up carrots or celery, that's fine. The reindeer will really eat about anything if you want to give the reindeer some food.

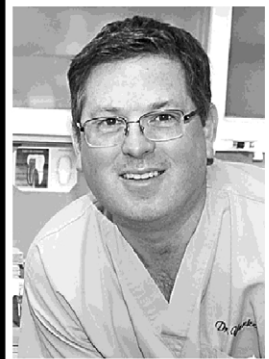
And pop or diet coke or milk is what I drink.

Final thoughts from Santa:

It's okay for kids to be pretty good because most kids in this day and age are just pretty good.

It's really, really hard for a kid to be good all the time, so most kids are pretty good.

Now the way you make up for pretty good is you try to be a little better every chance you get, and that makes up for pretty good.



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All State accolades

THE ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL Football Coaches Association recently honored two Wilmington football players for their success during the 2019 season. Jake Rodawold (left) was selected to the All State team in Class 3A after leading the Wildcats in rushing with 1,581 yards, fifth on the all time WHS record list for most yards in a season. Rodawold also played linebacker on defense. Senior lineman Hunter Doherty was named to the All State Honorable Mention team by the IHSFCA.

IHSA votes to leave football playoffs unchanged

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Schools in the Illinois High School Association voted Monday to rescind a football district scheduling system that was suppose to start in 2021.

The vote essentially cancels the district scheduling format passed a year ago for the present conference schedule and eight class playoff brackets currently used.

“There is incredible passion for high school football in our state, and the subject of football district scheduling has been no exception,” IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said during a press conference following that followed the board meeting.

“Many coaches and communities were excited about the prospect of district scheduling when the vote passed a year ago, just like many are excited today that it will ultimately not occur in 2021. We do not expect the discussion surrounding football regular-season scheduling and the playoff structure to dissipate so we will be charged with

continuing to facilitate discussion and ideas among our member school coaches and administrators.”

The previous vote favoring districts was going to eliminate conferences altogether. Teams would play seven games in the district and schedule two more on their own.

Among other amendments voted upon were:

- Modifies the team dates limitation in wrestling to a fixed number of dates (25) rather than a combination of dates and tournaments. Modifies the individual match limitation in wrestling to a set number of matches (45) rather than a combination of dates and tournaments.
- Moves the start and ending dates for the IHSA spring baseball and softball seasons (practices and contests) a week later.
- A proposal to reduce the number of summer football contact days from 25 to 20 was rejected.

Stress-free hike for women

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is offering a “Stress-free Hike for Women” from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Get outside for a quick women-only fitness walk during the holidays. Meet at Four Rivers and be prepared to hike up to two miles. Enjoy some snacks and a hot beverage after the hike. Free; ladies ages 18 or older.

Register by Tuesday, Dec. 24, at ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815-722-9470.

Sheriff's sale of 314 Kankakee 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)

SS.
COUNTY OF WILL)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

U.S. Bank National Association, as successor in interest to Bank of America National Association, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for GSAMP Trust 2006-HE3, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-HE3 Plaintiff, vs.

Margo Sembach a/k/a Margo S. Sembach; Michael Sembach; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for MILA, Inc. d/b/a Mortgage Investment Lending Associates, Inc., Defendant.
No. 18 CH 2065

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 7th day of October, 2019, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 9th day of January, 2020, 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: LOT 2 IN BLOCK 23 TOWN (NOW CITY) OF WILMINGTON (FORMERLY WINCHESTER), IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Commonly known as: 314 Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: Single Family
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-336-008-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

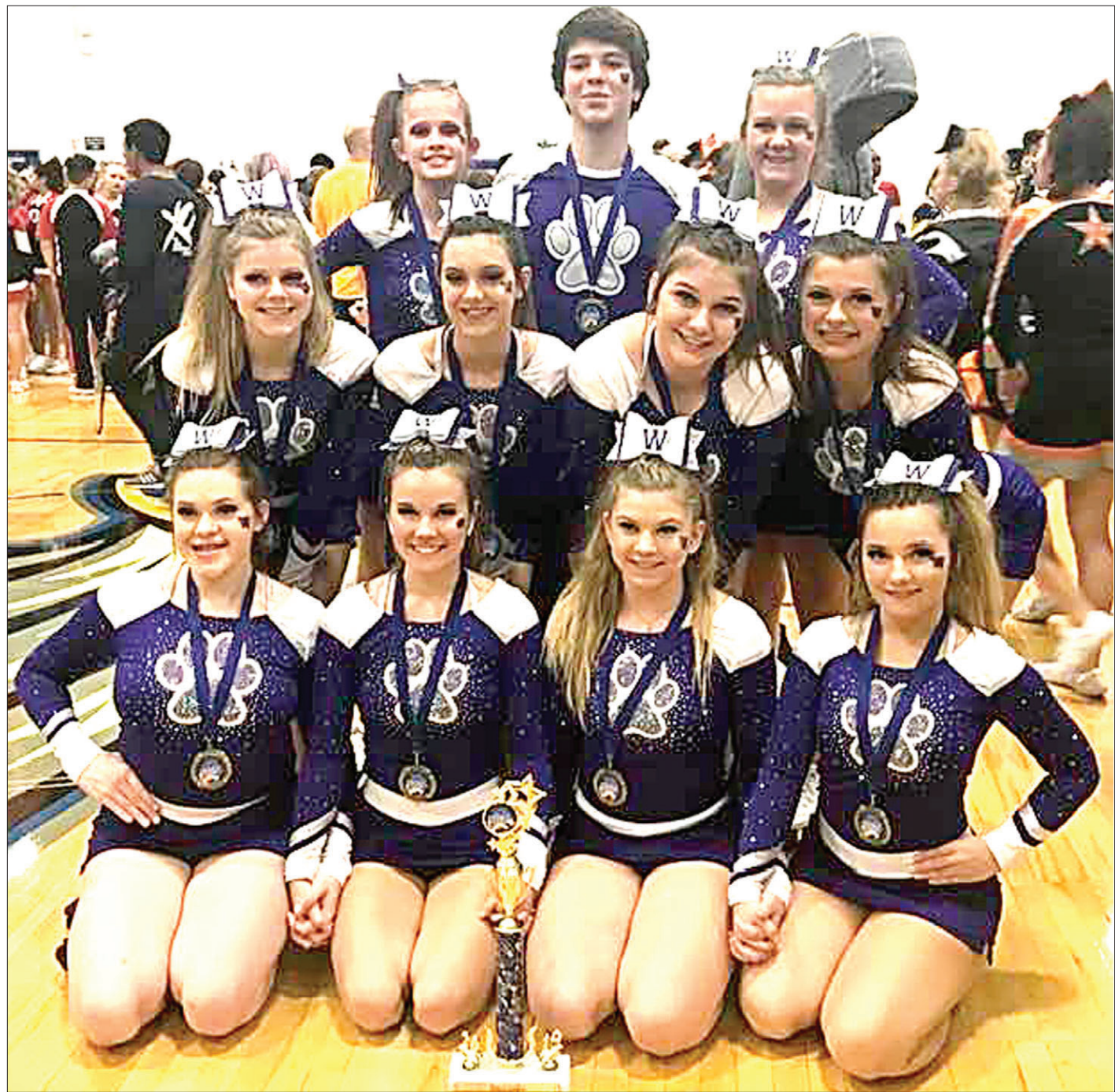
In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1)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

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
POTESTIVO AND ASSOCIATES
811 E. South Blvd.
Rochester Hill, Michigan 48307
P: 248-853-4400
F: 248-853-0404

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 18 and 25, 2019 and Jan. 1, 2020.

WHS cheerleaders capture first place at Sandburg High School



Courtesy Photo

BACK TO THE TOP—The Wilmington cheer team picked up a first place finish at a cheer meet at Sandburg High School last weekend. The defending state champion Wildcats are (from left, front) Caitlyn Wollenzien, Kaitlyn McKim, Becca Cahill and Paige Persic. Second row: Amelia Freis, Kaitlynn Lynn, Ashlee Kelly and Katelyn McCann. Standing are Casey Van Duyn, Nolan Burgos and Natalie Gabriel.

Twelve JJC students selected for Disney programs

The Walt Disney Company has selected 12 Joliet Junior College students to work at its Orlando, Florida, theme parks and resorts next year through its culinary and college programs.

Selected students gathered for a Mickey Bon Voyage meeting Nov. 19 at Romeoville Campus, where they learned more about the internships, the JJC and Disney Company expectations, as well as received advice and tips from Disney program alumni.

“The program taught me what I want to do with my future, which is to work for the Walt Disney Company in marketing,” said JJC student Patty Maurer, 24, who worked in merchandising inside the company’s All-Star Sports Resort. “I also learned more about myself and gained many professional skills.”

Five of the students will participate in the six-month Disney Culinary Program, where they will work at one of the park’s 300 restaurants as a cook or in a pastry or bakery role. Seven students will serve in Disney’s College Program, which allows participants to build transferable skills through personal and career development opportunities. The paid internships include on-site housing and transportation to and from work locations. Students also receive discounts on food and souvenirs as well as free entry into theme parks, water parks and other Disney properties.

Most JJC students will

Attorney Lynch files Larson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DALE M. LARSON, DECEASED; 19 P 1012

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of Dale M. Larson, Letters of Office were issued to Michael D. Larson whose address is 740 Pheasant Lane, Coal City, IL 60416 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch, of June, 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 4th day of May, 2020, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Sec. 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.

/S/ Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Dale M. Larson,
Deceased

Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2019.



Courtesy Photo

TWELVE STUDENTS AT Joliet Junior College will be heading to Orlando, Florida, as early as January to begin their terms in the Disney College and Culinary programs. Back row; left to right: Bryce Herron, Emilio Gaytan, Brandon Perez, Lexy Martin, Emily Nichols and Christen Mazura-Morris. Front row: Alumni Patricia Maurer, Kellie Jarose, Thomas Neises, Alyssa Stonesifer, and Emily Ferneau.

begin their internships in January. Each said they are excited to work at and enjoy the parks while meeting new friends.

“I’ve been waiting years for this opportunity and can’t wait to make my dreams come true in the place where dreams come true,” Emily Ferneau, 19, who is studying fashion merchandising. “I expect to work hard, make lots of friends, ride Splash Mountain more times than I can count, and make amazing memories.”

Twenty-one-year-old Brandon Perez said he’s looking forward to learning new ways to make desserts as a culinary intern. He’ll be working special events at Magic Kingdom.

“I’m very happy and excited to have the opportunity to

get better at making pastries,” said Perez.

Other students selected to the culinary and college programs include Alyssa Stonesifer (merchandise), Emilio Gaytan (cook), Kellie Jarose (front desk), Emily Nichols (watercraft), Thomas Neises (specialty beverages), Tyler Doughty (cook), Alexandra Craig (baker), Alexis Carlson (quick service food and beverage), Bryce Herron (cook) and Lexy Martin (lifeguard).

JJC currently has five students working down in Orlando. Marina Hambly is studying theatre and special education at JJC, and at Disney serves as a lifeguard at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge Resort.

“My program has taught me how precious life is and how you need to savor (every) moment to its fullest and never take anything for granted,” said Hambly.

“I love being a part of the Disney College Program!” said Alyssa Morales, another current Disney intern working in attractions at Magic Kingdom

and a JJC theatre major. “It has helped with my self-confidence and I enjoy making magic at the most magical place on earth! I would love the opportunity to be a stage manager working for Disney!”

Guiding the students through the selection process is JJC career advisor and Disney college coordinator Christen Mazura-Morris, an alumna of the Disney College Program.

Mazura-Morris said she’s envisioned this type of networking among JJC Disney students and alumni, which encourages support of one another in achieving their goals and realizing their dreams.

Mazura-Morris will have the opportunity to visit Orlando in February to connect with JJC students, as well as learn about their experiences in order to share with future Disney students.

For media inquiries, contact Communications and Media Coordinator Scott Harvey at sharvey@jjc.edu or 815-280-2844.

U.S. Army completes Fourth Five-Year Review at Joliet Army Ammunition Plant

PUBLIC NOTICE

Joliet Army Ammunition Plant

The US Army has completed the Fourth (4th) Five-Year Review of environmental remedies undertaken for the Soil and Groundwater Operable Units at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, located in Will County, Illinois. The site is located south of the Town of Elwood, Illinois and north of Wilmington, Illinois.

The Five-Year Review was conducted to determine whether the remedies remain protective of human health and the environment and function as intended based on the decision documents. The five-year review also determined if the remedies would continue to be protective in the future.

If you have any concerns about the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant, please contact US Army Environmental Command Office of Public Affairs. The report is available at <https://aec.army.mil/index.php/joap>

Contact Information:

Public Affairs
US Army Environmental Command
ATTN: Mail Stop 112 (Kropp)
2455 Reynolds Road
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234
(855) 846-3940 or (210) 466-1590
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019.



FLIP HIM—Wilmington senior Winston Ceh attempts to turn his opponent over to pin him during his matchup in the 138 weight class on Tuesday.



WILMINGTON SENIOR JARIN ALLEN increases pressure during his matchup with Streator's 220 pound wrestler on Tuesday at Wilmington High School.

Wildcat matmen earn wins over Herscher, Chicago Hope

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington wrestling team (3-7) won one out of the three matches Saturday.

They wrestled Argo first and were edged 33-30, picking up three pins and a couple forfeits but Argo slipped past the 'Cats.

Next up was Chicago Hope and the 'Cats were able to put together a strong performance in a 48-18 victory. The 'Cats got 36 points from forfeits and added another two pins to pick up the win.

Their last match of the day was a strong Lake Forest team and Wilmington was unable to compete, earning six points from a Jake Prescott pin but after that, it was all Lake Forest.

On Thursday, the 'Cats had a tough time with Reed-Custer as they got 16 points from a Jack Narine major decision, a Winston Ceh pin and a forfeit. But after that, it was all Comets as they cruised past the 'Cats 58-16.

Herscher wasn't going down without a fight either but thankfully the 'Cats came to wrestle winning 48-21 behind six pins and two forfeits.

Wilmington had trouble with both Seneca and East Aurora in their first dual team meet of the year, dropping both matches.

The 'Cats had East Aurora first and they were unable to compete with them, earning 22 points from three pins and a decision but after those points were distributed to the 'Cats, East Aurora went to work, cruising to the win.

They tried to bounce back against Seneca but the Irish wrestlers were ready as they took a 55-24 victory over Wilmington.

Wilmington will host Bishop McNamara and Sandwich Friday before competing in the Abe' Rumble in Springfield Dec. 27-28.

Wilmington 24, Seneca 55

152 - Joey Hatz (S) fall over Winston Ceh, 1:34.
160 - Marques (S) 18-9 tech fall over Marcus Morris.
170 - James Shewmake (W) win by FFT.
182 - Robert (S) fall over Shewmake, :42.
195 - Aiden Wooters (W) fall over Varland, 1:40.
220 - Robertson (S) 2-1 dec. over Jarin Allen.
285 - Nick Gornik (W) default win over Elliot.

106 - Luke Sangston (S) win by FFT.
113 - Jaden Casey (S) fall over Justin Lynn, 1:43.
120 - Dominick Griffin (S) win by FFT.
126 - Owen Feiner (S) win by FFT.
132 - Widman Wilson (S) win by FFT.
138 - Brett Yegge (S) fall over Hunter Hayes, :20.
145 - Jack Narine (W) fall over Collin Wright, 2:42.

Wilmington 22, East Aurora 57

145 - Narine (W) fall over Rojas, 3:41.
152 - Ceh (W) fall over Guillen, :47.
160 - Silas (E) fall over Morris, 5:30.
170 - Gonzalez (E) fall over Romano, 1:21.
182 - Wooters (W) fall over Garcia, 1:45.
195 - Cannon (E) fall over Shewmake, 4:47.
220 - Allen (W) 10-0 dec. over Sanchez.
285 - Abrica (E) win by FFT.
106 - Zavala (E) win by FFT.
113 - Ortiz (E) fall over Lynn, 1:03.
120 - Castanon (E) win by FFT.
126 - Modera (E) 6-0 dec. over Prescott.
132 - Double FFT.
138 - Double FFT.

Wilmington 48, Herscher 21

106 - Double FFT.
113 - Torres (H) fall over Decker, 5:06.
120 - Lynn (W) win by FFT.
126 - Grise (H) fall over Shields, :26.
132 - Prescott (W) win by FFT.
138 - Wolff (H) fall over Hayes, 1:40.
145 - Narine (W) fall over Strahan, 1:00.
152 - Ceh (W) fall over Valencia, 1:50.
160 - Tedford (H) 11-6 dec. over Morris.
170 - Double FFT.
182 - Wooters (W) fall over Hernandez, :44.
195 - Shewmake (W) fall over Jones, :24.
220 - Allen (W) fall over Glass, 1:58.
285 - Gornik (W) fall over Mahlum, 1:39.

Wilmington 16, Reed-Custer 58

113 - Ryan Tribble (RC) fall over Lynn, :26.
120 - Landon Markle (RC) win by FFT.
126 - James Helsing (RC) 12-4 maj. dec. over Prescott.

132 - Bobby Mann (RC) win by FFT.
138 - Gamboa (RC) win by FFT.
145 - Narine (W) 16-4 maj. dec. over Jeremiah Kirby.
152 - Ceh (W) fall over Jacob Pfeiffer, 1:29.
160 - Coton Berg (RC) fall over Morris, 2:59.
170 - Cameron Bergman (RC) win by FFT.
182 - Noah Curl (RC) fall over Wooters, 5:57.
195 - James Shewmake (W) win by FFT.
220 - Kody Marschner (RC) fall over Allen, 2:35.

Wilmington 6, Lake Forest 63

106 - Franklin (L) fall over Lynn, :50.
113 - Kennedy (L) fall over Shields, :50.
120 - Double FFT.
126 - Noemer (L) fall over Prescott, 4:47.
132 - Cottam (L) win by FFT.
138 - Berndt (L) fall over Hayes, 3:06.
145 - Meedum (L) win by 9-4 dec. over Ceh.
152 - Micelli (L) fall over Morris, :58.
160 - Romano (W) fall over Kovands, :28.
170 - Double FFT.
182 - Waggoner (L) fall over Wooters, 2:30.
195 - Williams (L) fall over Allen, :57.
220 - Tarley (L) fall over Gornik, 2:30.

Wilmington 48, Chicago Hope 18

113 - Decker (CH) fall over Amira, 1:33.
120 - Ortiz (W) fall over Lynn, 1:25.
126 - Aubin Shields (W) win by FFT.
132 - Chaheine (CH) 8-2 dec. over Prescott.
138 - Hayes (W) win by FFT.
145 - Ceh (W) fall over Ginter, 1:17.
152 - Morris (W) win by FFT.
160 - Willis (CH) fall over Romano, :57.
170 - Double FFT.
182 - Park (CH) 13-9 dec. over Wooters.
195 - Zach Welsh (W) win by FFT.
220 - Allen (W) win by FFT.
285 - Nick Gornik (W) win by FFT.

Wilmington 30, Argo 33

106 - Lynn (W) win by FFT.
113 - Decker (W) fall over Burbridge, 1:27.



FIND OPEN OPTIONS—Lady 'Cat senior Michelle Gramlich looks for an open teammate during Thursday's game.



FROM THE CHARITY STRIPE—Wilmington senior Claire Rink takes her shot from the line during Thursday's home ballgame. She was 1-of-2 against the Lady Panthers.



LADY 'CAT SENIOR Megan Mann drives the ball up the court during Thursday's game against Manteno.

Lady 'Cats scratch Panthers, burned by Devils

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington girls basketball team came up with a 36-25 win over Manteno on Thursday, thanks to a big fourth quarter run.

The Lady 'Cats had a good second quarter that gave them a 14-10 half-time lead but the Panthers cut back into that lead in the third as they outscored the 'Cats, 8-5 to make it a 19-18 game.

Wilmington knew Manteno was right on their heels and they knew they'd need a big quarter, and they got it. They put together a 17-7 run to close the game out.

Wilmington shot 24 percent from the floor, hit two three-pointers and made 10-of-19 shots from the charity stripe.

Claire Rink led them with 11 points. She nailed 1-of-2 shots from the line and pulled down five boards.

Chloe Sanford came in right behind her with 10 points, hitting 4-of-8 from the line. She also had a team-high 13 boards to earn a double-double.

Jordyn Reents drained two treys for six points, snagged five boards and added another four assists.

Both Megan Mann and McKenzie Marcum contributed four points while Michelle Gramlich added a free-throw.

Mann added six rebounds and four assists. Marcum pulled down a board and added an assist. Gramlich added three boards.

Halle Haga pulled down five boards while Faith Mendoza chipped in another rebound.

And the defense did their part, forcing 23 turnovers and they capitalized on their chances, scoring 12 points off of those turnovers.

The 'Cats swiped 11 steals in the contest led by Gramlich, who had four while Reents added another three.

Mann snagged two more while both Haga and Sanford added another takeaway.

The Lady 'Cats play in the Momence Holiday Tournament starting Friday. They will return home after Christmas break hosting Grant Park on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 5 p.m.

Wilmington 27

Peotone 45

The Lady 'Cats fell behind the Lady Devils early and were never really able to regain any momentum on Monday.

Peotone came out hot, outscoring Wilmington 27-12 in the first half to take the lead into the locker room.

The 'Cats tried to string something together in the third and scored six points but the Devils scored another 11 points to extend their lead to 38-18 with one quarter left to play.

They needed to score 20 points in the fourth to at least give themselves a chance and

they outscored their opponents but nine points wasn't enough.

The 'Cats made nearly 27 percent of their shots from the floor and added 9-of-13 from the charity stripe but the biggest thing was they couldn't get the long range shots to fall. They were 0-of-2 in that category.

The 'Cats were led by Sanford, who had 10 points and five rebounds. She was their best free-throw shooter, draining all four of her shots.

Marcum added six points, hitting two shots from the line. She also had two boards.

Rink had four points with five boards and an assist. Mann added another three points while both Haga and Mendoza chipped in two, apiece.

Haga contributed four boards while Mann had three boards and an assist. Mendoza also added a defensive rebound.

WILDCAT SPORTS



CONTESTED LAY UP—Wilmington guard Tyler Willis attempts a two with a Streator defender trailing him.

Photos by Alyssa Ohlund



Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

WILDCAT SOPHOMORE TYSEN MEENTS drbbles down the court during last week's home game.

Wildcats edge Clifton Central to start Wildcat Classic

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington boys basketball team began the first game of their Winter Classic with a 63-58 win over Clifton Central on Monday.

Clifton took an 5-4 lead in the first but Trey Shaw would give Wilmington (3-4, 0-4) the lead as he took the feed from Ben Kreitz and hit the long one to make it a 7-5 game.

Later in the quarter, Tysen Meents hit a three that gave Wilmington a five point lead, 14-9.

But Clifton went on a 15-6 run in the second quarter to take a 24-20 lead.

After that, it was a back-and-forth game throughout and Central was clinging to a 44-43 margin when Meents stole one away to give Wilmington the momentum.

They went on a 5-2 run to make this a game, clinging to their own 48-46 lead.

Later in the quarter, Ben Kreitz gave them breathing room, hitting a three from the corner to pull ahead 51-46.

After that three, the 'Cats matched the Comets, scoring 12 to close out the game.

Wilmington was on point from the floor, making 50 percent of their shots. They made 27 percent of their threes, 63 percent of their free-throws and won the rebounding battle, 43-21.

Tyler Willis carried the team offensively with 25 points. Kreitz had 12 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks while Meents chipped in 10 points with five assists.

The 'Cats will back on the floor tonight (Wednesday) as they will battle Westmont (3-3), who are coming off of a 57-41 win over Grant Park in their first game of the Winter Classic.

Wilmington 52 Herscher 60

The Tigers were unyielding in the end, resulting in Wilmington's fourth straight loss on Friday.

The Wildcats built an early lead, hitting several key three-point shots in the first quarter including a Willis trey from the corner to go up 11-6.

Then back-to-back three-pointers by Kreitz and Meents lifted the 'Cats to a 17-6 advantage.

The Tigers woke up in the second quarter with a 9-1 run to cut the lead to three.

On the ensuing drive, Shaw picked off a bad pass, found Tyler Willis and he did the rest, swishing his second three of the contest to make it a five point lead, 21-16.

Herscher put together a 17-10 run, leading 33-31 in the third.

They continued that pace after that and were able to thwart Wilmington's comeback attempt, playing keepaway



Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

PULL-UP JUMPER—Wilmington junior Blaine Czys attempts a short two pointer during Tuesday's Illinois Central Eight action with Streator.

with the basketball until the final buzzer rang.

Wilmington connected on 40 percent of their shots from the floor, made 41 percent of their three-pointers and 41 percent of their free-throws as well.

Shaw put up 18 points, collected five boards and swiped three steals to led them while Willis had another 18 points.

Wilmington 56 Streator 66

The Wildcats lost their third straight game on Tuesday.

It was a back-and-forth game to start and with the score tied 2-2 in the first quarter, Meents got the feed from Kreitz and he did the rest, draining a three that gave the 'Cats a 5-2 lead.

But Streator took over after that shot, going on a 9-2 run before the 'Cats scored again.

The score was 11-7 and Shaw passed the ball out to Willis for the open three and he connected on the 15 footer to bring them back within one, 11-10.

Wilmington went on a 6-3 run before Shaw got the opportunity to add on.

And he took advantage of that opportunity, receiving the feed from Kreitz and then finishing with the long three from the corner to give Wilmington a five point lead, 19-14.

In the second quarter, the

'Cats were clinging to a 28-24 lead when Kreitz caught the pass from Shaw and sank the open three from the top of the key.

Streator went on a strong, 11-3 run and had a 35-34 lead. The Bulldogs kept up their strong scoring pace with a 9-4 run to make it an eight point advantage.

The 'Cats cut into their lead as Kreitz got the feed from Kyle Humphries and nailed his second three of the contest to make it a five point game again, 48-43.

The Streator defense continued to shutdown the 'Cats while their offense just kept scoring, outscoring the Wildcats, 5-2.

He stopped another dunk attempt late in the fourth but it didn't mean much in deciding the outcome of this game as the Bulldogs got the ball, milking down the final seconds of the game.

Wilmington outshot the Bulldogs from the floor, hitting on 40 percent of their shots. They drained 30 percent of their threes and made a little more than half their shots from the charity stripe.

Kreitz led them with 16 points, 10 boards and two blocks.

Shaw was right on his heels with 13 points while Willis added 11 points and five boards.



Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

WILMINGTON JUNIOR BEN KREITZ drives to the hoop during Tuesday's action against Streator.



Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

AGGRESSIVE DRIVE—Wildcat junior Trey Shaw drives the baseline toward the back despite pressure from a Streator defender during Tuesday's game at Wilmington High School.

family favorites

— CHRISTMAS WOULD NOT BE THE SAME WITHOUT COOKIES —

Our editorial staff shares their favorite recipes, some passed down from generation to generation and others brand new. These tasty treats are [or will be] our family favorites.

From generation to another

Even though distance often kept us apart, some of my fondest memories are those spent with extended family—aunts, uncles and cousins. There is never a dull moment when we all gather, even in the most solemn moments. And, there was never a lack of food and drink—often recipes had been handed down from generations before.

When I was very young, my Aunt Sharon introduced our family to her mother's pecan cups and they instantly became one of my holiday favorites. I always looked forward to the treats that only my aunt and her mom, Roberta, could make, as no one else's ever tasted the same.

My aunt always offered to make them for me at the holidays, but the stipulation was I had to make a visit to her St. Louis home. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to visit her at the holidays.

This is our first Christmas without her and in her memory I'm going to attempt to bake up a batch of her mom's pecan cups, her daughter, Nikki and granddaughter, Toni.

-Ann Gill, staff editor



SHARON ZILSKE, of St. Louis, grew up baking pecan cups with her mom, Roberta. When they first sent a batch to her husband's family back in 1974 they instantly became a favorite. The recipe as been handed down from generation to generation and this Christmas the traditional treats will be baked by her daughter, Nikki and granddaughter, Toni.

Pastry:
1 stick butter
1 3 oz. package cream cheese
1 cup flour
Preheat oven to 400°. Soften butter and cream cheese, blend well. Stir in flour. Chill 1 hour. Shape into 24 one-inch balls. Place in ungreased mini-muffin tins. Press to form crust on bottom and up sides.

Filling:
1 egg
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 T butter melted
1 tsp. vanilla
pinch of salt
1 cup finely chopped pecans

Beat everything but pecans until smooth. Divide 1/2 cup pecans among pastry cups. Add egg mixture. Top with remaining pecans. Bake 20 minutes or until filling hardens. Cool 10 minutes and carefully remove from pans. Cool completely and dust with powdered sugar if desired.

An old holiday favorite

The Holly Cluster no-bake cookie has been my favorite ever since my mom started making it near the holidays for my classmates and I. Every one of my friends said how much they liked my mom's cookies the best.

The tradition continued to family parties where they were also a huge hit. Everybody loved them, going back for seconds and thirds!

It was very unhealthy but it was good.

My mom had to make three trays full just for one holiday party and then have extra made for us.

Now, I would like to share this tradition with you.

-Shawn Long, staff reporter

Ingredients:
1/4 lb. butter (one stick)
35 regular marshmallows
4 1/2 cups corn flakes
1/2 tsp. vanilla
2-3 tsp. green food color
Red Hot candies (garnish)

Once you have all of your ingredients, you're ready to start making Holly Clusters. First, you will need to melt the butter and marshmallows in a pan on low heat. Next, add vanilla and green food coloring to the mixture. Stir well. Now, fill a giant bowl with the corn flakes and dump the mixture into the cornflakes. Mix well and make sure all the flakes are covered. When they are all covered, take a spoon and spoon them out onto the wax paper. Spray gloves with cooking spray to prevent sticking. Finally, garnish them with three red hots each and let them stand. The longer they stand, the less sticky they will be.



WILMINGTON RESIDENT Carol Long adds the finishing touches to her special Holly Clusters, placing Red Hots in the center of each of them.

Not really a Christmas cookie

I'm uncertain if this cookie fits into the class of a Christmas cookie, but I am certain it will get eaten. Monster cookies have become my signature cookie of choice as they're better than a chocolate chip, an oatmeal raisin or peanut butter cookie. Think of your favorite thing about each of those cookies and that becomes the makings of a monster cookie. They're like all three of those cookies blended into one, substituting M& Ms for raisins. I always bake a full batch because they are terrific frozen (thanks to no flour) and can be warmed 20 seconds in a microwave to satisfy hungry grandkids. The ingredients aren't cheap but they're worth it because they come together to make a sweet chewy cookie that gets it fiber from oatmeal and a background finish of peanut butter. If you want to be festive during the holiday, use green and red M&Ms like I did. But really the people who eat them won't care if they're a Christmas cookie or not, they're just really good. Tip: when shopping be sure to buy the largest container of Quick Oats and I buy 3-pound jars of peanut butter. The recipe calls for 1 1/2 pound of peanut butter, thus I scrape out half the jar.

-Eric Fisher, publisher



LAYLA OHLUND, granddaughter to Publisher Eric Fisher, digs into a batch of his monster cookies.

Turn on oven to 350 degrees.

In a extra large bowl, in order
6 eggs (crack open and scramble)
2 1/3 cups packed dark brown sugar
2 cups white sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
4 teaspoons baking soda
1 tablespoon white corn syrup
2 sticks butter (melted)
1 1/2 lb. smooth peanut butter
Mix all together until blended smooth. Once the mixture and creamy and even, add the following:
9 cups quick oats
1 1/2 cups M&M's
2 cups chocolate chips

It takes a solid wooden spoon to stir all together. Be sure all the oatmeal is covered with mixture. Using the wooden spoon, scoop up plenty of cookie dough onto a cookie pan lined with parchment paper and flatten. Place 6 cookies on baking sheet.

Bake 12 minutes at 350 degrees until cookies are slightly browned. Let cool on sheet about 10 minutes before removing onto a newspaper. Makes about 6 1/2 dozen cookies.

From grandma's kitchen

My mother was a collector of recipes.

Whether it be from a neighbor, sister, grandmother, friend, cousin, niece or co-worker, it didn't matter. If it was good, she collected recipes from everyone on handwritten — or typed — cards and carefully put them in plastic sheets in her recipe book. The book eventually got so full that she had to start stuffing them in a box. Now, whether she *tried* all those recipes, that's a different story.

While looking through her recipe book, one of the recipes I uncovered was that of chocolate cookies, apparently from her mother's kitchen. My grandma is known to make a good chocolate cookie, but this recipe is different. My grandma's recipe doesn't have nuts or powdered sugar.

I decided to give this different recipe a spin — I trusted that my mother collected it for a reason, and it turns out I was right.

The recipe is simple and sweet and a good addition to any family party, at Christmas or otherwise.

The following is a chocolate cookie recipe from my "grandma's kitchen."

-Jennifer Glasscock, staff writer



READY TO ENJOY — Staff writer Jennifer Glasscock sprinkles powdered sugar, the finishing touch, onto her chocolate cookies fresh out of the oven.

Ingredients
1/2 cup shortening
1 cup sugar
1 egg, beaten
4 Tbs. cocoa powder
1/4 cup hot water
1/4 cup milk
2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup nuts

Cream shortening and sugar, add egg. Mix hot water and some cocoa, then cool. Add some sifted dry ingredients to the mixture, then more cocoa, and continue to

add alternately until all are mixed. Then add milk, vanilla and nuts. Although not specified, I added walnuts to mine.

Drop dough from teaspoon on greased cookie sheet pan. Bake at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes. The original recipe said bake the cookies for 12 to 15 minutes, but during my first batch I discovered that's a bit too long. Baking for 10 minutes results in a softer, chewier cookie.

Cookies can be sprinkled with powdered sugar — perfect for a "snowy" feel during Christmas season.

Trying something new this Christmas

Having family members dedicated to their keto lifestyle, plus a diabetic, and youngster who can't tolerate gluten, I like to be able to offer a sensible treat to those with restricted diets. The kitchen at the Monson house was busy last week trying to develop a cookie that was palatable, and after eliminating three contenders, came up with Lemon Raspberry Thumbprint cookies, a moist, tart, brightly flavored small-batch cookie.

These cookies are low carb and sugar and gluten free.

This makes about 18 cookies. They can be stored in the refrigerator up to one week, or frozen for longer storage.

-Pam Monson, staff editor

Cookie:
1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/4 cup cream cheese, softened (don't use low fat)
5 Tbs. powdered monkfruit blend sweetener
1 large egg
1 and 1/2 cups fine almond flour
4 Tbs. lemon juice
lemon zest
Sugar free raspberry preserves
Parchment paper

Icing:
1/4 cup powdered monkfruit blend sweetener



SUGAR AND GLUTEN FREE, and low carb too, Lemon Raspberry Thumbprint cookies have a bright, tart flavor with a slightly sweet finish.

1 Tbs. plus 2 tsp. lemon juice
lemon zest

Preheat the oven to 350°.

For the cookies, use a hand mixer to cream butter and cream cheese. Add lemon zest, sweetener, lemon juice and egg, mix well.

Blend in almond flour. Your dough will be too soft to form into cookies at this point, so let it chill in the refrigerator for about half an hour.

Form dough into walnut sized balls and place on a cookie sheet lined with parchment paper. You should be able to fit more than one dozen on the sheet, they don't spread much.

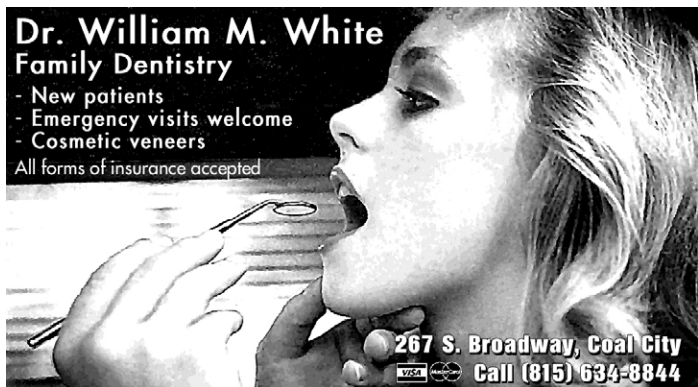
Flatten the dough slightly, and make a depression in the middle with your thumb. Fill the depression with a generous dollop of raspberry preserves.

Bake on the center oven rack for 15 minutes, or until the edges of the cookies are lightly browned. Remove from oven and set the cookie sheet on a cooling rack. Allow the cookies to cool completely before handling them.

For the icing, mix sweetener with lemon juice, add lemon zest. Add sweetener if the icing is too thin, one teaspoon at a time. Drizzle the icing over the cookies and sprinkle with a little more lemon zest if desired.

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A special thank you to our raffle partners Babe's Tap, Don's Beer Store, Mustachio's and Greg Daniels of Stock and Field in Morris.

We also thank our Buddy Poppy partners Berkot's Super Food, MinitMarts and Whitmore Ace Hardware in Coal City and Dollar General, MinitMart and Casey's in Diamond.

We also want to thank our special benefactor Tom Fulton for his generous support of our organization.

Community calendar of events

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

- Thursday, Dec. 19**
- Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, CLOSED until Jan. 7, 2020
 - 9:30 a.m. to noon, Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; NO Mobile Workshop Center today
 - 10 to 11:30 a.m., Braidwood senior citizens' coffee, Fossil Ridge Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., third Thursday of the month
 - 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington, meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month
 - 7 p.m., Wilmington Park Board meeting, Wilmington Island Park District, 315 N. Water St.
- Friday, Dec. 20**
- 3 to 4 p.m., The Secret Pantry Food Pantry, Top Fuel Saloon, 275 S. Hickory St., Must register in advance message MaryLu Krueger on Facebook
- Saturday, Dec. 21**
- 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Dr., Wilmington
 - Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday
- Monday, Dec. 23**
- 10:30 a.m., Island City Homemakers meeting, Island City Park District, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, fourth Monday of each month

- 5 p.m., St. Vincent's Table, Assumption Catholic Church, 195 S. Kankakee St., Coal City
 - 7 p.m., Village of Godley meeting, 150 S. Kankakee St., Godley, meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month
 - 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous, Grace Lutheran Church, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington
 - 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, Braidwood City Hall, 141 N. Main St., Braidwood
- Thursday, Dec. 26**
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., open to all Will County residents with proof of residency
 - 9:30 a.m. to noon, Mobile Workshop Center, Wilmington Public Library, 201 S. Kankakee St., each Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 31**
- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Noon Years Eve Celebration, Island Park District, for kids 2 to 10 with adult, \$15 per child, registration is required
 - 11 a.m., RT 66 Old School Brewing, 110 Bridge St., Wilmington, Noon Years Eve Celebration, DIY noisemakers and poppers, balloon drop at noon, kiddie cocktail toast, games, dance party, beertender behind the bar from 11 to 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Jan. 1**
- 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Second Annual New Years Day Party, Wilmington Moose Lodge #241/781, 32050 W. River Road, Wilmington, pajama party, fun, games, food and drink all day

New bison viewing scopes installed at Midewin

Two new bison viewing scopes debuted on National Bison Day at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The new scopes, interpretive hikes, a bison story time and more were all part of a fun and educational day for over 200 visitors to Midewin on Saturday, Nov. 2.

The bison viewing scopes are sponsored by the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance, which received assistance from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation through its Public Amenities and Events grant program. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.IllinoisCleanEnergy.org.

Jerry and Connie Heinrich of the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance led a 1.5-mile hike from the Iron Bridge Trailhead to where the viewing scopes are installed along the Group 63 Trail. Visitors took turns looking through the scopes. A male bison was visible far in the distance that would not have been visible without the new telescopes, which magnify visibility by 20



Courtesy Photo by Veronica Hinke of the USDA Forest Service - Midewin NTP

BOB SOUKUP TRIES out the new bison viewing scopes along the Group 63 Trail at Midewin National Tallgrass on November 2, National Bison Day. The viewing scopes are made possible by funding from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and donors and supporters of the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie Alliance.

times. The Heinrichs led the hike back to the Iron Bridge Trailhead.

Other activities at Midewin on National Bison Day included interpretive nature hikes, a bison story time and a variety of bison education activities for children. The activities at Midewin on National Bison Day were part of the second annual Bison Crawl, which featured bison education programs at over 20 local, state and federal sites throughout Illinois. The purpose of the Bison Crawl is to raise awareness of Bison, America's National Mammal, and their historical and ecological importance and relation to the prairies.

At Midewin, Bison Day festivities started in the

Welcome Center. President and chief executive officer of the Canal Corridor Association, Ana Koval, and Midewin Prairie supervisor Wade Spang cut a ribbon at 10 a.m. to celebrate the new Illinois and Michigan Canal Corridor map table.

The celebration honored the growing partnership of the Canal Corridor Association with the USDA Forest Service and the 35th anniversary of the Canal Corridor Heritage Area becoming America's first-ever National Heritage Area. Amanda Roge with the

Wilmington Public Library District read a book about bison to children. Volunteers Kim Shehorn and Sharon White provided information to visitors in the Welcome Center. Midewin staff led a ring toss game and other activities for children. The Midewin Alliance provided refreshments.

On the Midewin trails, Trevor Edmonson and Vera Leopold with The Wetlands Initiative led two interpretive hikes through the South Patrol Road Prairie and Prairie Glacial Plains project — over 1,000 acres that was marked in 2016 for seven years of accelerated restoration. The tour included a group of wildlife biology/conservation students from Brookfield Zoo. A group of chorus frogs crossed their path and buzzards flew overhead. They also saw a soaring red-tailed hawk, a fox sparrow and some cedar waxwings eating berries.

Volunteer Tom Coyne and Midewin archaeologist, heritage program manager and tribal liaison Joe Wheeler led two interpretive hikes through the remains of farmsteads near the Iron Bridge Trailhead. The following volunteers provided information at the Iron Bridge Trailhead: Tom Biskie, Janet Lyons, Ron Kapala, Dan Kohler, John Mittelbrun, Barry Schedin, Linda Schedin, Bob Soukup and Penny Vanderhyden.

Moms and toddlers invited

The Wilmington Public Library hosts Coffee, Tea, My Toddler and Me each Thursday, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The library is located at 201 S. Kankakee St.

Green ways wrap gifts

Tired of wasting wrapping paper? The Forest Preserve District of Will County is offering the chance for some "Green Gift Wrapping" 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday Dec. 19., at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Most wrapping paper, gift bags and bows are not recyclable and Americans produce an extra 1 million tons of trash each week between Thanksgiving and New Year. This program will teach you how to create wrapping paper, bags, bows and gift cards from leftover materials.

You can drop in anytime to learn some new ideas to make green gift wrapping a part of your holiday season.

The program is free and for those ages 16 or older. Registration is not required.

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They're great for grandparents who like to shop close to home

Taste the high life with the Test Pilot

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a Test Pilot? The cocktail platform that would evolve into the iconic Jet Pilot was once a Test Pilot, and like many first incarnations of popular drinks, they had it right the first time. Fasten your safety harness, put your helmet on, we're flying back to the early age of jet air travel!

Air travel via jet is something that we take for granted in this day and age. Once upon a time between the end of World War II and the beginning of the space race, testing of jet air craft captured our imagination and created a sense of excitement and optimism. The testing of jet air craft was widely publicized and often witnessed by the public.

The most noteworthy of these public tests were conducted out of Southern California's Edwards Air Force base in the late 1940s. In May of 1948, Captain "Chuck" Yeager broke the world's altitude record in a Bell X-1 flying at an altitude of 60,000 feet. For reference, average cruising altitude of modern passenger jets is 35,000 feet.

Before Donn Beach was tiki cocktail pioneer Don the Beachcomber, he served in World War II and remained a supporter of the armed forces throughout his life. He wanted to capture the energy and excitement around this new age of aviation, what better way to do that than with a tribute cocktail?

Is the Test Pilot exciting? It's an eight ingredient cocktail and all of the stand-alone ingredients are delicious, so we'll check "yes" next to exciting. This cocktail was so exciting that upon its release in the 1940s other Polynesian-themed restaurants immedi-

ately began to copy the Test Pilot. Rival restaurants had their own versions with their own names such as the Astronaut, Space Pilot, Ace Pilot, and the Jet Pilot.

The Jet Pilot adaptation is the one that is most popular today, but it is a bit more complex using three rums instead of two, and also using a cinnamon infused sugar syrup. The original version is less complex, but every bit as delicious. What's in this thing, anyway?

Like the Mai Tai and most of the tiki drinks of the era, the base rum is a dark Jamaican rum. Lucky for us, Jamaican rum has flourished in popularity over the last half century and you no longer have to visit a Polynesian restaurant to find it. The best dark Jamaican rums for cocktails are Myer's Original Dark, Appleton 12 year and Coruba.

The Test Pilot also calls a light rum, and your best bet is something smooth. El Dorado 3 year, Flor de Cana 4 year, Cruzan, or Cana Brava are all great options. Bacardi will also work, but if you have the option reach for one of the aforementioned aged light rums.

Pernod is an anise-based liqueur that is used in place of absinthe in recipes of this vintage, be sure to add Pernod by the dropper or by the teaspoon as it will absolutely overpower a drink if too much is poured in.

This drink calls for Cointreau as opposed to a generic triple sec, and



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Cointreau should always be used when a drink calls for triple sec. There is a reason that Cointreau is found behind nearly every commercial bar in the world. It is not cheap, but in this case you will absolutely get what you pay for.

Falernum is a sweet and sour lime syrup from the West Indies that can be made at home (search recipes online) or purchased in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic varieties. Over-proof rum is commonly added to falernum as a preservative, but not all recipes call for the addition of over-proof rum.

If you are seeking a non-alcoholic falernum syrup, Fee Brothers is the way to go. If you prefer the liqueur version, Taylor's Velvet Falernum is widely available and performs remarkably well in rum drinks.

Whenever a blended drink calls for ice, assume that means crushed ice unless otherwise specified. Using crushed ice in your blender assures a smooth, even texture without leaving large chunks of ice in your drink. Refrigerator ice cubes are simply too tough for most blenders.

Think of the Test Pilot as a tamer version of the Zombie, without the 151 rum and extra spices. A glance at the recipe leads one to believe that the drink would be overly complex, but the drink is surprisingly balanced. Many home mixologists settle into the Mai Tai and the Zombie as their two main rum drinks, the Test Pilot is a nice change of pace in

the rotation.

The Test Pilot is built in a blender and served in a double Old Fashioned glass.

Combine in blender:
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
1/2 oz. falernum
3 teaspoons Cointreau
1 1/2 oz. dark Jamaican rum

3/4 oz. light rum
Dash Angostura Bitters
6 drops Pernod (or Herbsaint)

1 cup crushed ice
Blend on high for five seconds, then pour unstrained into double Old Fashioned glass. Add more ice to fill if needed, garnish with cocktail cherry.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Illinois gas prices dip

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.1 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.56/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 4.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 37.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.25/g Monday while the most expensive was \$3.34/g, a difference of \$1.09/g. The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.25/g while the highest was \$3.34/g, a difference of \$1.09/g.

The cheapest price in the entire country Monday stood at \$1.88/g while the most expensive was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$3.11/g. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.0 cents per gallon in

the last week, averaging \$2.55/g Monday. The national average was down 5.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 19.3 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Gasoline prices have now slid to their lowest level since March thanks to rising U.S. gasoline inventories and sluggish demand, certainly bringing some Christmas cheer to motorists," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "The jump in gasoline inventories has been so large it has offset oil prices which touched \$60 per barrel last week, as well as the U.S. and China suggesting they've reached a trade deal. Pending more significant proven trade ties between the two major countries, we may have seen the rally in oil stall for now, as refined product inventories post notable

jumps going into the end of the year. It may take more inspiration for oil's recent run to translate over into lackluster gasoline, with motorists the clear beneficiaries- they'll be able to spend a bit more on shopping for those last minute Christmas gifts."

GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. Unlike AAA's once daily survey covering credit card transactions at 100,000 stations and the Lundberg Survey, updated once every two weeks based on 7,000 gas stations, GasBuddy's survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country.

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Merry Christmas
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Equal pay?

WILMINGTON—When is the city council planning to pay our current female city administrator the same as the former male city administrator?

Laughing stock

COAL CITY—What in the world is happening with the Grundy County Sheriff's Department? Our new sheriff has been in office only a year and already a police car and weapon were stolen, and now a criminal escaped from the jail. Grundy County is the laughing stock of the Midwest. The sheriff's job is to protect the public. If he can't do the job, he should resign. It's bad enough that we have an incompetent Republican in the White House. We don't need that in the sheriff's chair too. Sounds like it's time to drain the swamp in the sheriff's office.

Hope I'm wrong

SHADOW LAKES—Watching all the different news channels, I really believe that Trump will have an attempt on his life or be assassinated by the far left if he wins the 2020 election. I hope to God I am wrong but it has happened to several past presidents by the extreme left. It happened to Lincoln, to Kennedy, and an attempt on Reagan. I hope I'm wrong, but I do think that is what will happen because I do not think at this time that he will be defeated in the next election, nor will he actually be totally removed from office. If I am wrong on these accounts, of everything I have ever said being pro-Trump, then I guess I was wrong and would have to apologize. But I hope that all of you left-wing liberals would apologize also in the Soundoff column if the opposite is true.

Dan Hill

Why wait

WILMINGTON—This analogy goes out to the Republicans who say we should wait until the next election instead of impeachment. If you come across a man raping a woman, do you stop him or let him finish and ask for a second date?

Where is Pat?

COAL CITY—I'm watching Wheel of Fortune and there is no Pat Sajak. They have Vanna running the show in Pat's place and Disney characters turning the letters. Wouldn't surprise me if Pat is the one under the Disney costume flipping the letters.

Puzzling

WILMINGTON—I'm puzzled by Republicans claiming to be the party of Jesus, yet they also bear false witness in service to Trump.

Pretty lights

WILMINGTON—Thanks to the people across the river for their pretty Christmas lights.

Why even try out

BRAIDWOOD—There are many benefits of school athletics, some being establishing self-esteem, teamwork, developing leadership skills, regular exercise, stronger relationships, being a better communicator, teaching respect, and time management. However, when students refuse to even try out because they know there are some mean ones who will be on the team, there is a problem. Particularly when it is known before tryouts are even held, and the mean ones are still selected. All this teaches the students is that winning is the most important factor.

Wake up people

SHADOW LAKES—This is great! While watching the television, this has got to be some kind of joke. Three years the House, (the left) has done nothing to help this country. The only thing they have done is to try to remove our President. Now that we are in the middle of the impeachment, the House is going to start passing bills. They are really going to show us just how they are for the people. I bet that half of the stupid people in this country will say "look the good they are doing for us." What a joke....wake up...

Margot Lane

Threat to all

WILMINGTON—"You are a killer, you are a king." Believe it or not, this is what President

Trump's father repeatedly told his sons in the hope that they would do great things. Is this the encouragement anyone should give their children? It's downright frightening but Trump's father was a hard, cruel man. Now the nation suffers because the man in the White House is a malignant narcissist and considered dangerous by medical professionals. And because we are considered the leader of nations, the entire world is at risk. No wonder we are at the point of his impeachment. President Trump is truly a threat by the consequences of his own actions.

Banning Russia

COAL CITY—Due to tampering with doping tests, Russia is banned from both the 2020 Olympics and the 2022 World Cup by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Thank goodness somebody has the guts to stand up to Putin. President Trump would do well to prove his authenticity by likewise backing up his bragadocio with action.

Kurt K.

Like him or leave

All you dumb people that write in the Soundoff, I was reading it again today, Wednesday. If you don't like our president or the way they are running the United States, you should move out and don't come back because you are all stupid.

Keep it going

COAL CITY—The article about the Coal City Food Pantry brought tears to my eyes. I have always donated to the pantry, but did not have the opportunity to use it until our family was impacted by the 2015 tornado. What a blessing! The staff was so kind and caring. The sense of community was palpable. This is the kind of giving that gives people the courage to carry on in times of trouble. Let's keep it going!

The thug

WILMINGTON—Last week Ukraine's President Zelensky met with his archenemy, Putin, the thug who wants to swallow Ukraine whole. We hope it went well because whenever Russia's mobster, Putin, is involved, America is pulling for the underdog, Ukraine. Except President Trump, of course, who was entertaining the Russian foreign minister in the Oval Office which was unheard of in previous administrations, both Republican and Democratic. It most definitely indicates that Trump is pulling for Russia rather than Ukraine, otherwise Trump would have met with Zelensky to show support for Ukraine. Trump is not helping Ukraine and, because Ukraine's self-interest is our self-interest, it once again shows Trump is not working for America's interest but for Russia.

Still the same

CUSTER PARK—It's nice to see that the Custer Park Fire Department now has a machine to do chest compressions on a victim in cardiac arrest. That way when they are having to wait 20 plus minutes for the Riverside ambulance coming all the way from Bradley to arrive and then take another 20 plus minutes to load the patient up and get them to the hospital, their people won't get tired out from doing manual CPR compressions. Wake up Custer Park residents and smell the sludge because that's what we're being fed by our fire department. They're trying to make it look all pretty wrapped in a publicity bow, but the underlying facts are still the same.

History repeats

SHADOW LAKES—How history repeats itself: 1478 The Spanish Inquisition, 1878 Salem Witch Trials and 2019 President Trump Impeachment.

Margot Lane

In the Bible

SHADOW LAKES—I was watching the news tonight about the Australian fires and the air pollution, and I've watched every time that has gone on in California and other parts of the United States with wildfires and one thing a lot of you people need to do is read the Bible. The Bible has predicted these things and it's going to get worse. Myself, I hope to be saved. The rest of you, I hope you turn to the Bible.

Dan Hill

Religious freedom

What does the buzzword 'religious freedom' mean? It's deceptive, because these days it means denial of constitutional rights to those



who don't agree with right-wing evangelicals. It's shocking but real. Evangelical leaders struck a deal with President Trump and forfeited their integrity in the process. Trump made promises to right-wing faith leaders who have in turn defended his moral depravity. They said nothing when children were separated from parents, and likewise said nothing when we abandoned our allies to the fate of genocide. They approve alignments with dictators who seized a sovereign nation with tanks and mortars, something not seen since WWII. And Trump's Attorney General Barr is part of it. Barr publicly scolded people for exercising freedom of speech and stated that some of us don't deserve police protection. It's scary stuff. Trump claims he's above the law and, despite his violations of the Constitution, people of faith have sold their soul to the serpent.

Irene Dahlke

Consider this

WILMINGTON—Would the city of Wilmington consider trading the future parking lot property on Water St. for the property for the proposed new Fox's Pizza Restaurant on Main St.?

Frank

Any bets?

WILMINGTON—Trump's words for the impeachment inquiry: "Witch Hunt." "Sham." "Hoax." So why would an innocent person tell aides and White House employees to ignore subpoenas? Why would an innocent man refuse to testify when he was invited to do so? Innocent people have nothing to hide. So I have a perfect solution for the cowardly and spineless Republican senators who will be voting on impeachment conviction. Since they are too scared and petrified to cross this president for fear of his retaliation and losing their next election, simply have a secret ballot. I'd bet that there would be 67% vote for his conviction.

WW

Respect blue

SHADOW LAKES—Let's take a look at this, Starbucks. Two police officers go for coffee and are refused service, in California. Wasn't a little while ago, officer purchased five cups of coffee with the word PIG on it. I guess they were fired. Now, let us go back some time ago, do you remember where there was a racial incident in one of the stores? If I remember correctly, they closed their stores and had training for their employees. It seems like they really don't care for members of the police force. I know now where I am not going to spend my money.

Margot Lane

Pound the table

BRAIDWOOD—Appreciation goes out to the writers of Soundoff letters 'Growing Deficit', 'Opinion' and 'Losing Jobs' for exposing the truth about President Trump, the economy and the growing tyranny in our beloved country. We've always been proud of our strong democracy within a republic. But these are frightening days when facts are not recognized amid the shouting. The legal saying goes: If you have the law on your side, use the law; if you have the facts on your side, use the facts; if you have neither the law nor the facts, pound the table. And sadly we are seeing defenders of President Trump doing a lot of pounding.

Renee K.

Lower drug prices

CUSTER PARK—Replying to Soundoff's letter 'Trump versus Pelosi', the author is concerned about prescription drug prices. We're happy to report that, due to efforts by Democrats, the legislation passed the House Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 despite Republican opposition. The bill is H.R.3 'Lower Drug Costs Now Act' sponsored by Democrats, passing with 228 Democrats voting in favor, 191 Republicans voting against including Congressman Kinzinger. But what will happen in the Senate? Republican Senate Leader Mitch McConnell brags about being the 'grim reaper' where legislation goes to die. In fact, Pelosi has passed at least 250 bills since January most of which never got to the floor of the Senate due to the fault of Moscow Mitch who serves as President Trump's yes-man. It's the fault of Republicans, not Democrats, that little is getting done in Congress. Hopefully H.R.3 passes the Senate for the sake of lower drug prices, but Republicans have the majority in the Senate and they oppose it.

B. Weidner

The quandary

BRAIDWOOD—To Soundoff's 'Nature's Dryer' which suggests drying clothes by air: I've rarely used my clothes dryer for the past 30 years. But this doesn't work for large families or people without a basement to air dry laundry in winter. And Aldi's system should be adopted by all grocery stores. But that would require government regulation which Republicans oppose no matter how beneficial. President Trump rolled back at least 80 environmental regulations and now our air quality is measura-

bly dirtier in just 3 years. Surveys show people are concerned. Environmental groups do the best they can but leadership needs to come from the top in the form of government regulation which can impose fines. But again Republicans oppose all regulation. This is the quandary we're in. Soon our bad behavior will come crashing down on us like collapsing dominoes and environmental costs will become overwhelmingly more expensive than if we had listened to the scientists and acted responsibly all along.

Hand signals

WILMINGTON—Shame on the West Point Cadets making racist hand signals on camera at the Army Navy game where President Trump made an appearance. I saw the recorded footage and it was obscene. They should be held accountable with appropriate discipline. I thought these men are considered our nation's finest. Very disappointing but not surprising considering hate crimes have increased recently. I wonder why.

Always win

SHADOW LAKES—The impeachment is like a Washington Generals vs. Harlem Globetrotters game. The Generals, like the Democrats, act like they are going to win. But as always, when the game is over the Globetrotters, like Trump, always win.

More business friendly

WILMINGTON—I was very distressed to read about how the planning and zoning committee shut down the plans for Fox's Pizza. It seems like any time somebody comes into this town and wants to make improvements or open up a business, planning and zoning finds a way to cause problems. They did the same thing with the Dollar General. Everything they wanted to do, P&Z nickel and dimed complained about this, complained about that... I'm surprised the Dollar General didn't say, "Take your town and go shove it." I don't think P&Z wants to see any improvements or any business that's come into this town. What would happen if the AMC wanted to open up a movie cinema? If the Wendy's wanted to come in, a Taco Bell, a Walmart? They would find some way to pull apart and nitpick every plan and every design that a business had and then they would not want to come into Wilmington. We have all the land on 102 and we have all the land on 53 over by Dow Chemical. That would be wonderful business wealth for the town. People complain about the high taxes. Well, if we had more businesses in this town, maybe the taxes could go down and there would be people working and we wouldn't see a bunch of grass with high-standing water after it rains. And the other thing is that, it's not under planning and zoning's jurisdiction I don't think, but it would be nice to see the downtown fixed up, with the exception of a couple of buildings downtown looks really, really bad. So I just hope that when businesses want to make improvements or new businesses want to come into town, that P&Z doesn't shut everything down because one of these days it's going to come back and bite Wilmington in the butt and we won't have no businesses and no growth.

Sherri Michaels

Clearing the air

WILMINGTON—Let's clear the air on the supposed slam on Barron Trump by a law professor. Her joke was that Trump believes he is king and gave his kid a royal title for a name. He could have named him Duke, or Earl, or even Duke of Earl but no one made fun of the kid, just his dad. In contrast, you have the second most powerful man in the world, Putin being number one, engage in a snarky Twitter war attacking a 16 year old girl. How presidential. She has Asperger's, but Barron has ass parents.

Thank you

BRAIDWOOD—This is for Coal City and Braidwood. I want to thank "D" Construction for removing those annoying rumble strips on I-55 by my house. Thank you so much. Have a good day.

Controlling the news

DIAMOND—In response to the article called Clarification last week. What is the difference between a news watcher and a news reader? Are the lies different or more believable one way or the other? Watch or read what either side has to say and listen to the lies. Most people choose what lies they want to believe then attack the other lies as the truth. Like the old saying says, whoever controls the media controls the mind. It seems there are many minds out there that are easy to control. Recently I was reading a monthly publication from the 1980's that covered politics in general. It spewed all the same exact lies about the politicians then as the lies now! Absolutely nothing has changed. Why would the media change their game plan now when it worked so well then?

John Chiqua

THANK YOU

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the following people & businesses for making the 2019 Christmas Parade and Polar Express Train a huge success for the children.

Eric Fisher and Pam Monson-The Free Press Newspapers, Mark Nielson-The Rustic Inn, Matt Baskerville & Staff-The Flower Loft, Mariann & Chris Quirk-Le Fleur De Lis Boutique & Antiques, Cindy & Ross-The Crafters Gallery, Dennis Housman and Wilmington ESDA, Deputy Chief Todd Friddle and the Wilmington Fire Dept., Chief Phil Arnold and the Wilmington Police Dept., Ken Ewenson and the Public Works Employees, Murph Mitchell-Whitmore Ace Hardware, Marty Orr, Ellen Wandless, Judy Wunderlich, Bob-Odds & Ends Store, Wendy Hill and the Wilmington Coalition, Chris Kladis-C&J Electric, Judy Radosevich and the Women of the Moose and Alderman Kevin Kirwin.

Monetary Sponsors

Stephen Francis-Oak Knoll Financial & Insurance, Cyndy Ragain-Double "G" Excavating, Pro Real Estate, Wilmington Loyal Order of the Moose, Bellettini Foods, The Free Press Newspapers, Wilmington Public Library, Steve Evans, Aperion Care Center and Thommy Evans-Chic, Geek & Antique.

Also a big thanks to Nick Dziuban and the WHS Building Trades class for decorating Claire's Corner and hanging wreaths.

FAMILY

Holiday depression is a common problem

Tis the season when we're all bombarded with happy holiday images. Advertisers continually show us rejoicing families with their new cars, kids opening piles of presents around the Christmas tree and countless cheery family gatherings — upbeat images, laughing children and plenty of holiday joy.

Except this simply isn't true for everyone. All those happy holiday images and promotion of all the good times and pleasures of the season can build up unrealistic expectations and not just for those children asking Santa for a pony. Adults can just as easily get overwhelmed by the holiday hype and find themselves disappointed and depressed when they aren't able to provide or participate in the holiday happiness that it seems everyone else is enjoying.

There are a variety of things that can contribute to holiday depression aside from the realization that your holidays are not going to be like the "perfect" ones that the media and advertisers love to

Counseling Corner

portray. One important factor can be the transition to winter. The shorter, darker and colder days can bring on "seasonal affective disorder" (SAD) for many, in which the reduction in sunlight in this season can leave a person feeling listless and moody.

The holiday season can also bring lifestyle changes. Holiday treats and more opportunities to drink can mean healthy diets take a backseat. Add in a busier schedule, holiday parties, gift buying tensions and any number of other holiday pressures and it's easy to feel tired, unhealthy, overweight and depressed.

And how can you avoid all these problems? Start by first being very aware of the holiday challenges you're facing. Skip all those holiday treats and

parties and you'll end up feeling deprived and more likely to over-indulge. Instead, use common sense and moderation. Enjoy the parties, but drink sensibly, don't overeat and get plenty of rest.

It's also a season when it's easy to forget to get regular exercise. Studies show that even moderate amounts of exercise can lift your spirits as well as burn off the unwanted calories of the season.

Don't let depression rule your holidays and leave you hiding. Socializing has been shown to be a great way to combat the blues. But if you find that holiday depression is continuing, it may be time to talk to a professional counselor. Depression is a serious and potentially dangerous mental health issue but one that is very treatable.

Counseling Corner is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org.

Charlene turns 90



CHARLENE MENZ of Wilmington celebrated her 90th birthday this week with family and friends. She is pictured with her husband **Ed** who have been married for 69 years. They have two sons **Danny** and **Lanny**; two grandsons **Danny** and **Justin**; a great, great granddaughter **Charlie Jo** and a great, great grandson **Rowan Grey**. Her birthday was Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Hallelujah Soup Supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McCord Road in Coal City, invites the community to join them for their January "Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Jan. 4 from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving delicious homemade chicken noodle soup and chili. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream and dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost will be \$9 for adults and children age 13 and older; \$4 for children age 6 to 12; \$2 for children age 3 to 5; and children age 2 and under eat free.

All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

NEW ARRIVAL

Ava Eugene Seerup

Jason and Katherine Seerup of Odell are proud to announce the birth of their daughter **Ava Eugene** on Friday, Dec. 13, 2019, at Morris Hospital.

Ava was born 20.25 inches, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces. She's welcomed home by her older sister **Holly**.

Maternal grandmother is **Bobbi Grasl** in Gardner. Paternal grandparents are **Jim** and **Chris Seerup** in Coal City.

Maternal great grandmother is **Theresa Panzica** in Morris. Paternal great grandparents are **Linda Seerup** in Mazon and **Terry** and **Marsha Lohmar** in Coal City.



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Our banks and drive-ups will be open until Noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and remain closed on Christmas and New Year's day so our employees can enjoy this special time of year with their families also.

Kevin Olson, President



Back Row: Kelly Kauzlaric, Dana Dunkin, Amy Castillo, Lauren Tronvig, Dawn Triem, Janet Lund, Alyssa Lamb. Seated: Stefany Gumm and Hannah Absher

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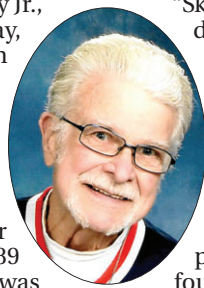
Frank S. Dickey Jr.

BRACEVILLE—Frank Stuart Dickey Jr., 85, of Braceville, passed away Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 at Amita Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Feb. 22, 1934 in McPherson, KS, he was the son of Frank Sr. and Helen Dickey. Frank grew up in Boston, MA and was proud to have been accepted into the Boston Latin High School. He retired from Caterpillar Tractor Manufacturing Company in 1989 after 31 years of employment and was active in the Caterpillar Retiree Group. He was a member of the Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington and the Chevy Corvair Owners Club.

Frank was an active and proud supporter of Alcoholics Anonymous at the Braceville and Wilmington groups. He was known for his love of sports; he was an avid Boston Red Sox and New England Patriots fan. He was always hopeful to one day watch the Boston Red Sox and Chicago Cubs in the World Series, but maybe one day his grandchildren will be able to witness it for him.

Surviving are his wife of 36 years, Doris (nee Hoffman) Dickey, of Braceville, who he married April 29, 1983 in Joliet; one son, Frank



“Skip” (Karen) Dickey, of Colorado; two daughters, Laurie Wickstrom, of Colorado and Cheri Dickey, of Texas; one step-son, Dean (Kyle) Cuning, of Reddick; two step-daughters, Lori (Willie) Quigley, of Braidwood and Donna Cuning, of Chicago, IL; nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, one stepson, Tom Cuning; his four-legged companions: Clifford, Toby, and Dudley and two brothers, Bob and David Dickey.

Visitation for Frank will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 from 4-7 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the Grace Lutheran Church: 907 Luther Dr., Wilmington, IL 60481.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home in Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Dorothy Fitzgerald

COAL CITY—Dorothy Ann Fitzgerald, 86, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019 at Aperion Care of Marseilles.

Born Feb. 3, 1933 in Kankakee, Dorothy was a daughter of Christopher Sr. and Leona (née Barrickman) Ciluffo. She was raised in Bradley until the age of 5, and then her family relocated to Coal City. Dorothy graduated from Coal City High School, and was a waitress for many years at The River Restaurant.

She was an avid fan of western films, and enjoyed going to “The Boat” to try her luck at the casino. Dorothy had a special love of flowers, and enjoyed any and all she came across. Christmas was her favorite holiday, and she looked forward to this time of year and spending it with family.

Survivors include her husband, Donald Fitzgerald, of Coal City, who she married on Nov. 7, 1981; three children: Lori (David) Clubb, of Coal City; John (Sylvia) Greenan, of New Lenox and Karla (Jim) McClure, of Coal City; nine grandchildren: Josh Burrell, Ricky Dean,



Jeremy (Amanda) Clubb, Brandon (Stephanie) Clubb, Nick (Sabrina) Clubb, Cody (fiancé Kim Osen) Clubb, Claire and Emma Greenan, and Victoria Francis; several great-grandchildren, as well as brothers-in-law and sister-in-law: Orvil (the late Bonnie) Fitzgerald, of Columbia, SC; Shelby (the late Charles) McGlasson, of Romeoville; Harvey (Carol) Fitzgerald, of Lebanon, TN and Carl (Helen) Fitzgerald, of Bernillo, NM.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter, Valerie Harris; two sisters, Sharon Ahlstrand and Betty Rodeghero and one brother, Christopher Ciluffo Jr.

Per Dorothy's wishes, cremation rights have been accorded.

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

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

James A. Manegold

CHICAGO—James A. Manegold, 56, of Chicago, passed away Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

Born Dec. 6, 1963 in Joliet, James Alfred was a son of Dorothy (nee Heylek) Wardlow and Marvin Manegold. He was raised and educated in Braceville, and was employed for many years as a commercial painter. James will be remembered fondly by his friends and family that he leaves behind.

Survivors include his parents, Dorothy Jane (James G.) Wardlow, of Savannah, TN and Marvin (Marcia) Manegold, of Mazon; one daughter, Nicole Nichols, of Wilmington; one granddaughter, one brother, Marvin Manegold

Jr., of Alabama and one sister, Cindy (Gilbert) Steinhaus, of Arkansas.

James was preceded in death by his grandparents, two aunts and five uncles and several cousins.

Per the family's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

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

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

Joan M. Raridon

WILMINGTON—Joan M. Raridon (nee Parkinson), 88, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Monday, Dec. 16, 2019 at her home.

Born Feb. 11, 1931 in Chicago, Joan Marie was a daughter of John and Lucille (nee Bertino) Parkinson. She was raised and educated in Wilmington, and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1949. On Dec. 27, 1950, Joan married Dell Raridon in the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington.

She began her employment with the parts department of Hymes Plumbing, and then gained employment as a payroll clerk while Dell was stationed in Atterbury, IN. Upon her return to Wilmington, Joan worked as a school bus driver for the Wilmington School District, and for the Army Procurement Services Agency. She was most recently employed as a library assistant at Wilmington High School, from where she retired.

Joan was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, where she served as a Deacon and Elder, and was involved in the choir. She was proud to be the first honored Queen of Jacob's Daughters in Wilmington, and was one of the pioneer organizers of the School Breakfast Program for the Wilmington School District.

Joan was very active in the community, and would often donate her time by volunteering at Kuzma Care Cottage. She was a very active person who enjoyed spending her time outdoors,

especially at the Wilmington Recreation Club. Joan also enjoyed boating and motorcycling. She will be remembered for her pristine organizational skills and her love of spending time with her family.

Survivors include her husband, Dell Raridon; her daughter, Linda Raridon-Duke, of Channahon; one granddaughter, Kaylin Duke, of Channahon; one sister, Jean (the late Harold) Stainbrook, of Wilmington and numerous nieces and nephews.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents and her son, Craig Raridon.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 3-7 p.m. Funeral services will be held in the funeral home on Friday, Dec. 20, 2019 at 10 a.m. Burial will follow the services in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to: Wilmington School District 209-U Foundation for Excellence, 209 Wildcat Court, Wilmington, IL 60481, or Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

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

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



New law protects genetic testing for consumers

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, Illinois residents' genetic testing results will be protected, thanks to State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant who championed House Bill 2189, which prohibits companies that provide direct-to-consumer commercial genetic testing, such as ancestry.com and 23andMe, from sharing any test results with health or life insurance companies without the consumer's consent.

“In the last couple of years, genetic testing has

become easily accessible and affordable to consumers,” Bertino-Tarrant said. “Will County residents should be able to rest assured that their personal health information will remain private as they make informed decisions to manage their health care.”

The number of people who have had their DNA analyzed with direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy tests more than doubled during 2017 and exceeded 12 million in 2018. Last year, an estimated 1 in 25 American adults now have

access to personal genetic data.

“We have the responsibility to ensure personal data is used ethically,” Bertino-Tarrant said. “As technology evolves it is imperative that laws advance with the needs of the people of our state.”

Representative Natalie Manley was the lead sponsor in the House.

House Bill 2189 passed the Senate and House with bipartisan support. The measure was signed into law in July.

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Clothes closet seeks pledge partners

Our Caring Closet seeks some community support. It needs regular income and pledge partners — even a pledge of \$5 a month can make a difference.

The clothes closet's goal is to help anybody who has a need. It provides clothing and household goods, and sometimes can connect people with used furniture, although it does not accept large items at its facility at 205 N. First St.

When the organization opened its first warehouse on Davy Lane, it had more than 80 pledge partners. But when it moved to South First Street, its overhead increased, and as its benefactors get older and are less able to support its mission, its regular monthly income slides.

There are fundraisers and community group support, but it's regular monthly income the organization needs, and is trying to rebuild its corps of pledge partners.

Amy Coster, a regular contributor, echoed the group's plea for pledge partners on Facebook: “Our Caring Closet has helped over 700 families.

Everything is free! But because the clothes closet runs strictly on donations, its running out of money ... If everyone could donate \$5 or \$10, maybe once a month, it could mean the difference between families having their needs met or being forced to close their doors to these families ... Please help keep Our Caring Closet open.”

Our Caring Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The facility is also open by appointment, which can be made by calling 815-476-0900.

Donations can be sent to Our Caring Closet at 205 N. First St., Wilmington, IL 60481. Checks should be made payable to Our Caring Closet NFP. Those who wish to make a recurring gift of \$5, \$10 or more per month can set up an automatic withdrawal through their financial institution. There's also a Paypal button on OCC's Facebook page that can help you make a single donation or set up a monthly gift.

Gifts may be tax deductible, donors should consult their tax advisor.

Senator Joyce joins fight against high property taxes

To help address one of the top problems facing the South Suburbs and communities throughout Illinois, Senator Patrick Joyce is joining the Property Tax Relief Task Force, which will propose concrete ideas to help reduce residents' property tax bills.

Joyce has major concerns regarding the high property tax rates Illinoisans pay compared to the rest of the nation.

“I represent communities where the property tax rate is higher than 30 percent,” Joyce said. “That's not sustainable or fair to the people who live there.”

Residents of Park Forest paid a 33.62 percent property

tax rate in 2017. In neighboring Will County, according to Tax-Rates.org, residents pay twice the national average in property taxes.

“High property taxes, disproportionately affect low- and middle-income families, discourage migration from other states, and make it harder to open small businesses in our communities,” Joyce said.

The bipartisan Property Tax Relief Task Force will look at different legislative solutions to reform the state's regressive property tax system. One of the major goals of task force is to cut taxes for low- and middle-income earners.

Lions Club gives turkey breasts to bingo winners



THE COAL CITY LIONS CLUB gave out 14 turkey breasts to some lucky bingo players on Monday, Nov. 25. Kudos to Berkot's for giving the Lions a special price on them. Pictured (from left) sitting: Carol Clements, Bev Roach, Margaret Skaare, Joyce Shostack, Becky Evans; standing: Jerry Stewart, Merry Lee Mitchell, Kim Marchese, Charlene Hicks, Kelly Roche, Dianne Van Duyn, Kim Brackett and Pedro Cortes.

How to manage a loved one's social media afterlife

Dear Savvy Senior,

How do I go about changing or canceling a person's social media accounts when they die? My sister passed away several months ago and her social media accounts are still active.

Inquiring Sister

Dear Inquiring,

I'm sorry for your loss. This a question that's become more frequent in recent years as most Americans have participated on some type of social media platform. Here's a run-down of how you can change or cancel some different social media accounts after a loved one dies.

Facebook

Let's start with the biggest and most frequently used social media platform on the web today. When someone with a Facebook profile dies, there are two different things someone with authority over their account can do. You can either "memorialize" it or "delete" it.

A memorialized account serves as a place where friends and family can share stories, photos or memories to celebrate the deceased person's life, with the word "Remembering" shown next to the deceased person's name.

Once an account is memorialized, content the person shared is still visible on Facebook to the audience it was originally shared with, however, the user's profile will not show up in public spaces such as people you may know, ads or birthday reminders.

If you don't wish to memorialize your sister's profile, you can also have her account permanently deleted from Facebook.

Facebook allows users (when they're alive) to choose a "legacy contact," which is a person chosen to look after their account once they've passed away, or users can request to have their account permanently deleted after they die. (To do either of these tasks, click on "Settings" on the top right of Facebook, then click on "General" on the left-side menu and then on "Manage Account.")

If your sister didn't set up a legacy contact before she passed, you can submit a memorialization request at Facebook.com/help — type in



JIM MILLER

"How do I report a deceased person on Facebook that needs to be memorialized?" in the search bar. You'll be asked to provide proof of death by providing a copy of either an obituary, death certificate or memorial card.

Or, if you would rather have her account

deleted, go to Facebook.com/help, and type in "How do I request the removal of a deceased family member's Facebook account?" This also requires proof of death plus verification that you're an immediate family member or executor of the account holder.

Instagram

Instagram's policy on a deceased users' account is similar to its parent company, Facebook. A deceased users' account can either be memorialized or removed, which you can request at Help.Instagram.com/264154560391256.

Like Facebook, to memorialize an Instagram account requires proof of death, but to

remove an account you'll also need to provide verification that you're an immediate family member.

Twitter

If your sister was a Twitter user, Twitter will work with anyone who is authorized to act on behalf of her estate, or with a verified immediate family member to have an account deactivated. To request the removal of your sister's account, go to Help.Twitter.com/forms/privacy.

After you submit your request, Twitter will email you with instructions for providing more details, including information about the deceased, a copy of your ID, and a copy of the deceased's death certificate.

LinkedIn

If your sister also had a LinkedIn profile, the only option is to delete her account. To request this, see LinkedIn.com/help/linkedin/ask/ts-rdmlp. You'll need to provide her name and URL to her LinkedIn profile; the relationship you have to her; her email address; date she passed away; link to an obituary; and company she most recently worked for.

Homework happy hour

The Wilmington Public Library is inviting kids to drop in after school from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. every Wednesday to make a creative snack and do their homework with their friends. The library will assist with homework.

The library is located at 201 S. Kankakee St.

Akaysha, quiet and sweet



AKAYSHA is a 5-year-old shepherd and lab mix who is a quiet girl who keeps her kennel clean. She had a litter of pups who were all adopted and now she is looking for her forever home. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

Stress-free hike for women

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is offering a "Stress-free Hike for Women" from 8 to 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Get outside for a quick women-only fitness walk during the holidays. Meet at Four Rivers and be prepared to hike up to two miles. Enjoy some snacks and a hot beverage after the hike. Free; ladies ages 18 or older.

Register by Tuesday, Dec. 24, at ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815-722-9470.

Effort raises \$1,220 for Honor Flight



THE WINE CAFE in Wilmington and its customers donated \$1,220 to Honor Flight Chicago. They fly veterans to Washington DC to see national monuments and war memorials. They have already flown over 700 vets this year. While priority goes to WWII vets, they are now taking applications from Vietnam War vets. It costs \$1,200 per vet, all coming from donations. Information can be found at ehonorfliightchicago.org. Presenting the donation to Frank Hauenschild (from left) from Honor Flight Chicago are Kathy McGann and Lisa Brach, owners of the Wine Cafe.

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6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
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Gerald Gresham
Agency
815-476-6364
ggresham@amfam.com

JUST ANIMALS SHELTER SEEKING DONATIONS

While our cats and dogs wait for a forever home, everyday necessities are needed at the shelter. Stop in at the following businesses to pick up a tag with our furry friends "Donate Wish List" or drop off donations.



Just Animals Shelter
516 Depot St., Mazon
Nails & Tails Pet Grooming
100 W. Commerical St., Ste. 1, Morris
Benson Insurance
155 S. Broadway St., Coal City
Forepaws Pet Store
829 S. Ridge Rd., Minooka
Trinity Barkery
240 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington

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Godley Park District
500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley, IL 60407
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One bedroom modern apartments with many amenities designed for seniors 62 years old and disabled applicants regardless of age. Enjoy the community room, exercise room with treadmills, bikes, etc., and a library/puzzle room. The complex is new, spacious, bright and welcoming in a quiet country setting.



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FAITH

**NEW HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
80 N. Garfield St.
Coal City, IL
815-634-8332
newhopepresbychurch@gmail.com
The Rev. Mark Hughey

Wed.: 7 p.m. Session
Thurs: 10 a.m. Bible study
Sun.: 9 to 10:15 a.m., Sunday School; 10:30 a.m.,
Worship service with coffee hour
Mon.: 10:45 a.m. Meals on Wheels
Tues.: 5 p.m. Worship Service; office closed; No Al-Anon meeting
Wed: Christmas Day, no worship service; office closed
• Committee Night: Jan. 8 at 6 p.m., Worship and Fellowship; 7 p.m., Property Committee
• Session: Next meeting: Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.
• Office hours are usually Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
• St. Vincent Table: If you have any questions you may call Cindi at 815-735-1432. Assumption Catholic Church, Coal City, will host the months of October, November & December from 5 to 6 p.m.
• Women's Association: Always collecting in the narthex cabinet: box tops, can tabs, and "Least Coin" for missions.
• Sign up on the tri-fold board for the food pantry and Meals on Wheels at least a week in advance.
• Elizabeth Ministry – The Rosebud Program: Each rosebud in front of the sanctuary is for a couple building a family. Yellow rosebuds are for those trying to conceive, trying to adopt, or suffering infertility. Pink rosebuds are for those who are pregnant. Red is for those who have given birth or have had a successful adoption. White is for those suffering the loss of a child. Instructions for adding persons to our Elizabeth Ministry prayers are on the table in the narthex. Questions may be directed to Alyssa Hicks.
• Prayer Gathering is the first Sunday of each month from 10 to 10:15 a.m., in the Session/adult class room. Everyone is invited. Questions can be directed to Freda Davis.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
110 S. Division St. • Braidwood, IL
Pastor Justin Kinder
815-458-6211 mssbbraidwood.com
Sun.: 10 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 will meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays.

CHRISTIAN LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
Rt. 113 and I-55 • 2960 E. Division St.
Diamond, IL 815-518-5441
www.clchurch.org
Randy Adams, Lead Pastor - Joe Drick, Pastor
Sun.: 8 a.m., prayer; 9 a.m., Sunday school for all ages; 10 a.m., worship service
Wed.: 6:30 p.m., Kids Connection, Metalshop Youth Group and adult elective studies

**SOUTH WILMINGTON
UNITED METHODIST**
225 Rice Street • 815-426-6169
Pastor Dennis Brooks
Sunday worship - 8:30 a.m.
• Holy communion served on first Sunday of each month and special occasions.

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH
3950 N. Goose Lake Rd.
Morris, IL
(Corner of Pine Bluff, Lorenzo and Goose Lake roads)
942-0675
Pastor Caleb Counterman
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:30 a.m., worship service, children's service; 6 p.m., worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting

ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH
P.O. Box 190
So. Wilmington, IL
815-237-2230
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.

PARK STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
806 Park Street
Mazon, IL
815-448-5514
Pastor Tyler Carrell
★★★
Sun.: 9 a.m., worship; 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
Wed.: 6 p.m., Bible study

PHELAN ACRES BIBLE CHURCH
26009 Willow Lane
Phelan Acres
Wilmington, IL
476-7818
Pastor Jeffrey Whittum
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting
Sun.: 9:45 a.m., Sunday School; 11 a.m., worship, children's church

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 lectionary study group
Thu.: 8:30 a.m., church prayer group

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
195 S. Kankakee St. • Coal City, IL
815-634-4171
Reverend Robert Noesen
stmaryassumptionparish.org
WELCOME!

The doors of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish have, and continue to be, open to all parishioners, visiting Catholics, vacationers in need of Mass and the Eucharist and non-catholics who are welcome to hear the gospel message.

Sunday Mass: 4 p.m., Saturday: 7:30 and 11:15 a.m., Sunday; confessions are heard from 3:20 to 3:45 p.m. on Saturday.
• Advent Giving Tree begins on Sunday, Nov. 24. Please take tag off tree and help the needy in the area. Donate winter clothes for poor children in Peru, South America.

Daily Mass and devotions
• Monday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service
• Tuesday - 8 a.m., rosary, communion service at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood; 6:30 p.m., Mass at Assumption Parish
• Wednesday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena
• Thursday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Immaculate Conception in Braidwood
• Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, Mass at Assumption Parish
• First Friday - 8 a.m., rosary, confessions, Mass
• First Saturday - 8 a.m., rosary, Immaculate Conception Novena, Mass with the distribution of the Sacrament of the Sick
Advent and Christmas Schedule
• Dec. 14: 5:30 p.m., Journey to Jerusalem/Visit from St. Nicholas at Berst Hall
• Dec. 21 and 22: Blessing of the Christmas Bambinos during mass. Bring your Baby Jesus from your Nativity at home for a blessing
• Dec. 24: 3 p.m. and 9 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
• Dec. 25: 7:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., Christmas Mass
• Dec. 31: 4 p.m., Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God vigil mass

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL
Dallas Henry, Lead Minister
Zach Griepenstroh, Student & Arts Minister
815-476-6734
www.fccwilmington.org

Sun.: 8:30 and 10 a.m., worship service and children's worship for nursery through fifth grade; 10 a.m., Bible classes for adults, high school and junior high; 5:30 p.m., Collision for sixth through twelfth grades
• Family groups meet throughout the week in Wilmington, Braidwood and Coal City. Call the church for more information.
• Moms Connect meets on the first and third Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. Check out the new web page at www.fccwilmington.org/moms-connect.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
303 S. Kankakee, Wilmington, IL
476-4673
Rev. Bill Luttrell
wilmingtonnazarene@sbcglobal.net
Sun.: 9:30 a.m., Sunday school; 10:15 a.m., coffee and fellowship; 10:45 a.m., worship
Wed.: 7 p.m., prayer meeting
Sat.: 9 a.m., Men's prayer breakfast

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
106 S. Lincoln Street
Braidwood, IL
Pastor Dale Tolly
Church: 815-458-6317
Pastor: 815-922-2212
www.firstpresbraidwood.org
Sun.: 9 a.m. Sunday School, primary grades to jr/sr high; 10 a.m., worship to read, children's program and a turkey dinner to follow
Wed.: 9 a.m., Ecumenical Bible Study

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

HARVEST WORSHIP CENTER
32111 S. Rt. 53
Wilmington, IL
847-833-3918
Welcome Pastors' Sam and Faith Carr
Speakers Angie Carr
wilmingtonharvest-worshipcenter@gmail.com
Sun.: 4:30 p.m., service

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
14936 W. Peotone Rd.
Wilton Center, IL
478-3440
The Rev. Sebastian Gargol
Mass schedule: 9 a.m., Monday and Thursday; 5:45 p.m., Saturday; 9 a.m., Sunday
• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
West River Road
Wilmington, IL
815-476-4060
Tue.: 7:30 p.m., Midweek meeting, Christian Life and Ministry
Sun.: 10 a.m., Bible topic: Discourse on Bible Topic
All interested persons welcome, no collections taken.

UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 E. Jefferson St. • Gardner, IL
Rev. Greg Olson
Church 815-237-2227
Cell 309-203-9758
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship, word and sacrament
• Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
• Office hours are on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.

IGNITE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
1180 W. 1st St.
Braidwood, IL
Ignitechristianchurch.org
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship
The non-denominational church offers children's church and weekly men's and women's Bible study. Visit the church on Facebook.

Christmas Eve candlelight

Everyone is welcome to attend a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.
All can partake in communion at 4:30 p.m.
Please bring your families to join in worship.
First United Methodist Church is located at 401 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington.

Longest Night service

Those who are having a hard time with the holidays can attend the Longest Night service at the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
The service is one of hope and healing; a night of reflection, prayer and worship. All are welcome to participate.
First United Methodist Church is located at 401 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington.

Baptist Christmas Eve Candlelight

Island City Baptist Church invites you to their Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. Dec. 24.
Island City Baptist is located at 120 Vine Street in Wilmington.
For questions, please call 815-476-9750 or e-mail the office at office@icbcwilmington.org. Visit their webpage at icbcwilmington.org or find them on Facebook.

Christmas Eve service

Ring the bells — Christmas Eve is here!
All are welcome to come to Abundant Life Fellowship church's Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 8 p.m.
Sing classic Christmas hymns and songs. Light a candle and join together to sing "Silent Night." Afterward, enjoy a coffee and snacks.
Abundant Life Fellowship is located at 23632 Route 113 in Wilmington.

THE WAY, THE TRUTH & THE LIFE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH
109A Jackson St., Wilmington IL
815-476-1675
Pastor Skip Schroll
skipssandy@gmail.com
Fri.: 7 p.m., worship/prayer
Sun.: 10 a.m., worship/the word/prayer

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH
Wilmington, IL
The Rev. Sebastian Gargol
Deacon Jay Plese
School Principal: Nancy Schwab
Rectory 815-476-7491; School 815-476-6220; Religious Education 815-476-6220; Kuzma Cottage 815-476-2030, Hours: 9 – 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
Schedule
Morning Mass 8 a.m. on Tues., Wed. and Fri.; Saturday Vigil at 4 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 and 11 a.m.
Wed.: 10 a.m., Legion of Mary in the St. Rose Church meeting room; 5:45 to 7 p.m., REP
Thurs.: 6 to 7 p.m., Holy hour/confessions
• Christmas Mass times will be 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (children's mass), midnight mass at midnight, and 9 a.m. on Christmas Day.
• All children from the parish are invited to sing at the St. Rose 4 p.m. Christmas Eve mass. They will practice on Dec. 22 at 4 p.m. at the church choir loft. Students must be at the church by 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. For any questions, please call Shelia at 815-325-3708.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & Grace Lutheran Preschool
907 Luther Dr. • Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9480
Preschool Director Mary Kay Hays
office@gracewilm.org
preschool@gracewilm.org
Wed: 6:30 p.m., Cookies and refreshments served by youth, free offering will go to the Christian Help Association; 7p.m., Advent III Service, choir practice to follow
Thurs: 6 p.m., Preschool Christmas program
Fri.: 9 a.m., Friday Crew
Sat.: 9:30 a.m., Weight Watchers
Sun.: 9 a.m., Worship with communion; 10 a.m., Coffee Hour; 10:15 to 10:50 a.m., Sunday School; NO Confirmation/Youth
Mon.: 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous;
Tues.: Office Closed; 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wed.: Nativity of our Lord - Office Closed
Thurs.: Office Closed
Fri.: Office Closed: Friday Crew

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.

BRACEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
106 W. Gould Street • P.O. Box 46, Braceville, IL
Pastor Karen Fabian
815-237-8512
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., worship, first Sunday with Holy Communion
• 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.
• Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are on Friday at 8 p.m.
• Youth groups are held on Wednesdays. JAM (Jesus and Me - kindergarten through fourth grade) and EDGE (Exploring and Discovering God Everywhere - fifth and sixth grade) are from 3 to 4:30 p.m.; and STATIC (Standing Together as Teens in Christ - seventh grade through high school) is from 6 to 8 p.m. Youth group leaders are Terri Valeriano, Lynn Jencon and Shirley Bookwalter.

JOLIET JEWISH CONGREGATION
250 N. Midland Ave. • Joliet, IL
815-741-4600
Rabbi Charles Rubovits
www.jolietjewishcongregation.org
Fri.: 7 p.m., service
Sat.: 9 a.m., service
• Religious school for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade features Hebrew and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training. Call the synagogue to register.
• All life cycle events and Jewish holidays celebrated. Social programs include congregational Shabbat dinners, Seders, folk dancing, bagel and lox brunches, book clubs, adult education classes and other special events.

Blue Christmas service

A Blue Christmas service will be held at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, on Sunday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m.
This service is designed for those who are dealing with difficult times or due to life's circumstances, just not feeling "in the Christmas Spirit."
With music, scripture, prayer and a timely message given by Matt Baskerville of Reeves and Baskerville funeral homes, they will create a sacred space for all who are struggling with dark times.
This service is open to everyone. Come as you are and hold on to hope together.

COAL CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
6805 E. McArdle Rd.
815-634-8670
The Reverend Bradley D. Shumaker
www.coalcityum.org
Wed.: 9 a.m., Women's Bible Study in the church library; 10:30 a.m., Alcoholics Anonymous in the community building
Thurs.: 1 to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance
Sun.: 8 and 10:30 a.m., worship service; 9:15 a.m., Sunday School; 8 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Mon.: 9 to 11 a.m., Coal City Food Pantry, food distribution, enter from the south entrance
Sat.: 6 p.m., Narcotics Anonymous in the community building
• Saturday, Dec. 21: 6 p.m., Children's Christmas Musical, "The Not So Silent Night." Cookie Decorating Party for families immediately following the program.
• Sunday, Dec. 22: 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., "His Name is Jesus" interactive Christmas event; 6 p.m., Community Blue Christmas Service, This service is designed for those who are dealing with difficult times, or due to life's circumstances just not feeling "in the Christmas Spirit. Everyone is invited. Come as you are and hold on to hope together.
• Tuesday, Dec. 24: 6 and 11 p.m., Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Services
• Wednesday, Dec. 25: 9 a.m., Christmas Day worship service
• Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m., ONE morning worship service
• Fourth and fifth grade, sixth through eighth grade junior high, and ninth through 12th senior high youth groups meet two Sundays of each month. Fourth and fifth grade meets from 4 to 5:30 p.m., and sixth through twelfth grade from 5 to 7 p.m. Gatherings include dinner. All students are welcome. Call the church office for more information or email ccumc@sbcglobal.net.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
110 S. School St. • Braidwood, IL
Rev. Robert Noesen, Pastor
Rectory: 815-458-2125
Emergency: 815-418-5714
www.icparishbraidwood.org
Weekend Mass: 9:30 a.m., Sunday
Tue.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., communion service
Thu.: 8 a.m., rosary; 8:30 a.m., Mass followed by confessions
• The Adoration Chapel in Fr. White Hall is open 24/7, but unlocked daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. A code is available for those visiting the chapel before or after hours. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to make a commitment, or access the code, call Bill Scheer at 815-458-6800.
• Study the Gospel of Mark. Attend weekly ongoing bible Study sessions in Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St. Morning and evening sessions will be available. For more information and to sign up call the Parish office at 815-634-4171
• Assumption Parish and Immaculate Conception Parish have teamed up with area Christian Faith Denominational churches in the area to serve Monday Evening dinners for the poor. Other charitable services including Food and household items can be received through Help for Hope Organization which is supported by Assumption Parish each week. For assistance, call 815-815-518-2000.
Advent and Christmas Schedule
• Dec. 21 and 22: Blessing of the Christmas Bambinos during mass. Bring your Baby Jesus from your Nativity at home for a blessing
• Dec. 24: 5:30 p.m., Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
• Dec. 25: 9:30 a.m., Christmas Day Mass
• Jan. 1: 10:30 a.m., Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 E. Kahler Rd. • Wilmington, IL
The Rev. Harriette Cross
815-476-5474
www.funmcwilm.com
Wed.: 9 a.m. to noon, preschool; 6 p.m., Preschool Christmas program; 7 p.m., Chancel Choir practice; 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Thurs.: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., WIC (Women, Infant and Children clinic); 7 p.m. Longest Night Service - everyone welcome
Fri.: 9 a.m. to noon, Preschool (early release)
Sat.: 7 p.m., Alcoholics Anonymous
Sun.: 8:30 a.m., Adult Sunday School — Advent video series; 9:30 a.m., Worship Service — Chancel Choir; 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School (K to fifth grade)
Mon.: No preschool (Winter break)
Tues.: 4:30 p.m. Communion, 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service - everyone welcome; office closed
Wed: Christmas Day, office closed
• The church offers preschool, Men's Club, Women's Group, Christian fellowship dinners, mission and community outreach opportunities, Sunday school, Chancel Choir and Praise Ringers Bell Choir.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 N. Kankakee St.
Wilmington, IL
Office: 815-476-9025
1st-presbyte-rian-church.net
Sun.: 10:30 a.m., Worship service, 4th Sunday of Advent Cantata "Sing Carols of Joy"; 11:30 a.m., fellowship

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.
• 7 p.m., Christmas Eve Service

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There little opposition for Republicans who passed tax increase

Republican Lawrence Oliver of Dorsey has filed to run against Rep. Avery Bourne (R-Morrisonville) in the March primary. Oliver has not yet reported raising any money, but his main issue appears to be Bourne's vote for the 19 cents per gallon gas tax hike to fund infrastructure projects during the past spring legislative session.

Dorsey's primary challenge is not really news. He has slim to no chance of even getting close to the popular Republican incumbent.

What is different, and therefore newsworthy, is that Bourne would have surely faced a far more viable and well-funded opponent in the recent past if she'd sided with the majority Democratic Party to double the state's Motor Fuel Tax.

For the past few election cycles, pressure from powerful and/or well-funded groups and individuals would've scared any Republican incumbent away from such votes.

But former Gov. Bruce Rauner and his vindictive checking account have faded into the sunset. The multi-million-dollar money pipeline from wealthy Republican

activist Richard Uihlein to Dan Proff's Liberty Principles PAC has been shut off.

And, except for the \$2 million he gave Bill Daley to run for mayor of Chicago earlier this year, Illinois' richest resident Ken Griffin has been mostly quiet.

Those three men contributed over \$200 million to campaigns since late 2013. That's a whole lot of cash to put the fear into anyone who crosses them. And it's why almost all of the Republicans who voted for the 2017 tax hike and the override of Rauner's veto decided not to run again, lest they be primaried to death. But those rich folks are mainly on the sidelines today.

As a result, neither the House nor Senate Republican caucuses are experiencing any major backlash over the fact that large numbers of their members voted to raise taxes.

Rep. Terri Bryant (R-



Rich Miller

Murphysboro) voted for the gas tax hike and is running unopposed for state Senate. Springfield Republican Reps. Tim Butler and Mike Murphy were two more "Yes" votes who are unopposed for reelection. Rep. Tom Demmer (R-Dixon) has a general election opponent, but no GOP opposition. The same goes for Reps. Deanne Mazzochi (R-Elmhurst), Jeff Keicher (R-Sycamore) and others in the House as well as the Senate.

There was much grinding of teeth from the usual suspects when those tax hikes passed both chambers by wide bipartisan margins, but no "natural" groundswell of anti-tax opposition developed against Republicans who voted to fund the massive infrastructure plan to the point of people actually running against them. And the small number of people who did run aren't exactly burning up the fundraising circuit.

Rep. Dan Brady (R-Bloomington) voted to increase taxes to fund infrastructure programs this year,

so it could be an issue in his primary. But it's not going to be much of a primary if his opponent, David Paul Blumenshine (R-Normal) doesn't start raising money. Blumenshine reported bringing in \$350 during the third quarter, loaning \$1,100 to his campaign committee, spending about \$4,500 on unitemized expenditures and ending the quarter in the hole by about \$2,900.

Democrat Chemberly Cummings has also filed to run. President Trump only won this district by 1.25 percentage points in 2016, so it's possible this college-town race could eventually be in play, even though Brady has consistently won by large amounts.

Rep. Dave Severin (R-Benton) is facing off against Tim Arview (R-West Frankfort). Rep. Severin voted for the tax hikes to fund the state's new infrastructure program, including doubling the Motor Fuel Tax, and Arview has taken him to task for it. Arview told a local paper that he ran partly because of Severin's tax votes and also because God had spoken to him.

Arview is an independent insurance agent. Like many of

the other gas tax opponents, he has not yet reported any campaign contributions. In fact, he hasn't filed any campaign finance paperwork at all as this is written. President Trump won the district by 43 points so no Democrats have filed.

The races where you are seeing sharp disagreement over the tax hikes are mainly in general election contests. For instance, Travis Breeden (R-Utica) has already repeatedly criticized freshman Rep. Lance Yednock (D-Ottawa) for his "Yes" vote to increase the

Motor Fuel Tax. Then again, Rep. Sue Scherer (D-Decatur) voted for the tax hikes and is so far running unopposed for the first time ever.

What we've discovered is that when ultra-rich, anti-tax activists sit on the sidelines after a tax increase, few if any viable Republican protest candidates emerge on their own.

Makes you wonder.

Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

Commentary

New car trade-in tax will hit Illinois drivers New Year's Day

BY AUSTIN BERG

It wasn't quite the Boston Tea Party, but Cook County residents revolted in 2017 after a penny-per-ounce tax hike on sugary drinks.

The infamous "soda tax" was barely a blip in residents' total tax bills, which are among the highest in the nation. But they felt abused, they called their county commissioners and the tax hike was ultimately repealed. Some credit that tax with ending Cook County Commissioner Toni Preckwinkle's chance to become mayor of Chicago.

Similar frustrations are brewing statewide with a tax hike set to drop Jan. 1. While it's not on a purchase as common as a Coke, the new scheme will set some drivers back \$1,000 or more.

Illinois will impose a new sales tax on vehicle trade-ins beginning New Year's Day. That's why car dealerships have been running radio ads for weeks telling Illinoisans to come on down before the ball drops.

Here's how it works.

Take an Illinoisan trading in her car valued at \$20,000 to

buy a new vehicle for \$35,000. Right now, she pays sales tax on the difference between the trade-in and the new car: \$15,000. Applying Illinois' average state and local sales tax rate of 8.74%, the sales tax on this deal is \$1,311.

The sales tax bill on that same deal will go up nearly \$900 next year.

Beginning Jan. 1, a maximum of \$10,000 in trade-in value will be exempt from the sales tax. So in our example, instead of paying sales tax on \$15,000, she'll have to pay sales tax on \$25,000.

"You already paid sales tax when you bought the vehicle the first time around," said Pete Sander, president of the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association.

And now you'll be taxed when you sell it. This unfair double taxation is why Illinois first exempted trade-ins from sales taxes in the 1950s.

The new tax is expected to raise \$60 million for Gov. J.B. Pritzker's capital plan. The Illinois Policy Institute identified \$1.4 billion of waste and pork in that plan, including dog parks, swimming pools,

snowmobile paths, pickleball courts and a privately owned theater.

Due to other tax hikes signed into law this year, residents won't just pay more to sell their car. They'll also pay more to drive it, park it and get a license plate sticker.

Keep that in mind as the governor promotes his progressive income tax hike throughout 2020. Voters will decide in November whether to axe the state's constitutional flat income tax protection in favor of Pritzker's progressive income tax. He calls his \$3.4 billion tax hike proposal the "fair tax," because initially, Pritzker's proposed income tax rates only hike taxes on individuals making over \$250,000 a year.

Everyone else's income tax bill stays the same or goes down, the TV commercials will say. And there will be a lot of them. Pritzker dropped \$5 million into a ballot committee promoting the tax earlier this month.

Here's what those ads won't mention: Pritzker's plan doesn't even relieve Illinoisans of the tax hikes he's already passed.

Leaving your car running, unattended is against the law

BY JIM MORAN
THE CENTER SQUARE

As cold weather grips most of the state, it is not uncommon to see a car left unattended and running, but many motorists don't realize this is against Illinois state law.

The Illinois State Police is reminding drivers who leave their cars running and unattended could face fines or a bigger problem: Car theft.

Illinois State Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Delila Garcia said leaving a car unattended during the wintertime gives car thieves an easy opportunity. She said drivers should turn off the vehicle and take the keys out of the ignition when leaving the vehicle for any amount of time.

"This time of year, it is cold outside, people want to warm up their car before they get in it for their drive to work or wherever they have to go," Garcia said. "But if they do so, they leave the door open, potentially, for someone to

come along and get in their vehicle and take off."

Drivers could face up to a \$250 fine. Garcia said the fine is intended to help discourage people from becoming car theft victims.

Garcia said that leaving young kids in an unattended car was an even worse idea.

"For the same reason, somebody can come in and take the vehicle," she said.

Garcia said having a child in the car makes for a much worse situation.

The law does not apply to cars with a remote starter system. Garcia said in those instances, the doors are automatically locked, which prevents someone from being able to get in.

For motorists who don't follow the law and find themselves becoming a victim of car theft, Garcia said to call 911 and try and get a physical description. She said not to try to stop the car thief.

"You never know if they have a weapon," she said.



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New Lenox man victim of armed robbery/abduction

Will County Sheriff's deputies responded to a New Lenox Township residence on Nov. 29, 2019 at 8:10 a.m. regarding a missing adult male subject. Upon speaking with family members and conducting an initial investigation, it was determined that the man was leaving for work around 6 a.m. when he was abducted from his driveway.

At 11:08 a.m., Sheriff's deputies were advised that the missing male subject had been dropped off in Indiana and was found unharmed. It was learned that four male black subjects wearing ski masks directed the victim at gunpoint to an SUV. The victim remained inside the vehicle while the offenders made several stops at stores and used his bankcard.

Frankfort Police Department also reported a similar incident of an armed robbery and abduction on Nov. 16, 2019. This incident occurred at a bank in the 20800 block of South La Grange Road in Frankfort at 5:50 a.m. The female victim was at the ATM and was forced to access her accounts for cash. She was driven around for three hours in her vehicle

with three offenders. They made several stops at stores using her bankcards. The female victim was not harmed and was dropped off in Chicago with her vehicle.

Sheriff's detectives believe that the suspects in the New Lenox case were fully masked, with only their eyes showing, while they were inside the stores doing individual gift card transactions to avoid a fraud alert. Photos attached were provided from Frankfort Police. These individuals are believed to be the suspects involved in the Nov. 16, 2019 armed robbery and abduction. Sheriff's detectives and Frankfort Police believe the two incidents are related.

The Will County Sheriff's Office and the Frankfort Police Department are asking residents to be extra cautious of their surroundings while detectives continue their intense investigation into these crimes.

If anyone has information regarding these incidents, or can identify the subjects in the photos, please call the Will County Sheriff's Office at 815-727-8574 or the Frankfort Police at 815-469-9435.



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The Free Press

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CHA volunteer turnout gets the job done



THE CHRISTIAN HELP ASSOCIATION held sorting and packing of food Friday at St. Rose School. Over 130 volunteers were involved in the campaign to feed families less fortunate over the holidays. Sacks were filled with grocery items in about one hour, enough for each

of 300 families to receive four bags of food items, one sack of toiletries and a holiday food box with a ham and fresh vegetables. The Wilmington football team and coaches volunteer earlier in the day in unloading a truck filled with food. Then at 5:30 p.m., volunteers including Gary VanDuyne (photo above) helps in filling the sack for distribution to families on Saturday. In the lower photo, young and old were involved including 95-year-old Wib Lewis (seated) who showed up to sort out boxes of macaroni and cheese to younger bag stuffers.



Photos by Eric Fisher

BBB offerstips to protect yourself from online scams

THE CENTER SQUARE

Tis the season for shopping and in 2019 that means shopping online. This year, Cyber Monday was the biggest digital shopping day ever with sales of \$9.4 billion, and thieves want those packages.

Steve Bernas, president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illinois, said that last year Chicago ranked sixth in the nation in losses to "porch pirates."

"This year, Cyber Monday was another record setter, so therefore more people are getting items shipped to their homes or businesses," he said. "Of course, the scammers always go to where the money is, so it's easy money because they just always follow trucks around and they take the stuff off your porch or your driveway."

Filing a police report will not always get you your merchandise back and not every

company will refund or replace them. If the driver delivered the package, the company is not responsible for the loss.

But protecting yourself when it comes to online shopping should start way before the package is delivered, Bernas said.

"We suggest you research an organization yourself before doing business with them, and never follow a link directly because you don't know where that ... link is going," he said. "The Better Business Bureau suggests that you actually type in the link yourself and go to organizations that you know and trust."

"If you get (an) email from a friend saying, 'Check out this site for great deals,' and you click on it, you may be going to bad sites," he said, or customers may wind up with counterfeit products or not what they intended to buy.

For more information and tips on cyber shopping, see www.bbb.org.

Federal funds to improve alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure on I-80

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that Illinois is receiving federal funds to boost infrastructure for alternative fuel vehicles on Interstate 80.

The grant, which will target electric vehicles and vehicles that run on natural gas, is part of a larger effort to build a mid-America alternative fuel corridor spanning six states.

"These improvements will help make interstate travel on alternative fuel a reality," said acting Illinois Transportation secretary Omer Osman. "By working with federal, state and local partners, we are keeping Illinois infrastructure ahead of the curve while making travel more efficient and environmentally friendly."

The \$70,000 in federal funds will be matched by \$10,000 each from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa and Illinois. The funds will be used to identify and fill gaps in the availability of fueling and charging facilities on

I-80 and develop public-private partnerships with businesses, such as gas stations and truck stops, to host and promote these facilities.

At just over 2,900 miles, I-80 is the country's second-longest interstate and a major passenger and freight corridor. The eastern half of I-80, known as the Mid-America Corridor, stretches from New Jersey through Illinois to the Iowa-Nebraska border, crossing a dozen interstates and passing through counties with a combined population of roughly 19 million. This stretch of I-80 sees traffic volumes in excess of 8,500 trucks a day, making it one of the two most heavily traveled transcontinental corridors in the nation.

Illinois is joined in this multistate collaboration by Illinois-based Argonne National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, and Trillium, a Love's Company based in Oklahoma.

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 314 Kankakee Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Single Family). On the 9th day of January, 2020 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **U.S. Bank National Association, as successor in interest to Bank of America National Association, successor by merger to LaSalle Bank National Association, as Trustee for GSAMP Trust 2006-HE3, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-HE3** Plaintiff v. **Margo Sembach a/k/a Margo S. Sembach; Michael Sembach; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for MILA, Inc. d/b/a Mortgage Investment Lending Associates, Inc.** Defendant. Case No. 18 CH 2065 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **POTESTIVO AND ASSOCIATES** 811 E. South Blvd. Rochester Hill, Michigan 48307 P: 248-853-4400 F: 248-853-0404

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS

REAL ESTATE

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 Wednesday, Dec. 18 and 25, 2019 and Jan. 1, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERV-ICING, LLC Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA P GOLDEN et al Defendant 2019 CH 34 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 25, 2019, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on December 27, 2019, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 107 EMMETT STREET, KINSMAN, IL 60437 Property Index No. 10-06-287-011 The real estate is improved with a single family home with no garage. 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 the 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 EN-

REAL ESTATE

TRY 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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E - M a i l : pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 269602 Attorney ARDC No. 61256 Case Number: 2019 CH 34 TJSC#: 39-6540

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. I3138073 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, 2019.

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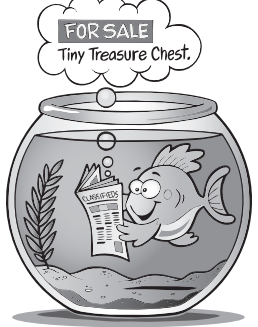
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Is the degrowth movement 'the good life for all'?

Dear EarthTalk:

What is the degrowth movement all about and how can I get involved?

— P. Warren,
Baltimore, MD

Degrowth is an aspirational term describing a way of life where economic expansion is deprioritized, resulting in stronger social bonds between people and within communities, greater economic equality and far less environmental degradation.

Proponents decry the current economic/social paradigm of "faster, higher, further" as harmful to nature, given its relentless race to extract and monetize natural resources. They also abhor its competitiveness, stress and exclusion at the expense of the care, solidarity and cooperation necessary to help ourselves out of our humanitarian and ecological crises.

The term "degrowth" first came into common usage among proponents following the first international confer-

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

ence devoted to the topic in Paris in 2008. It has since entered the wider social lexicon through the media and academic writing — and as a battle cry for many environmental advocates working to ratchet down our carbon emissions to combat climate change.

According to the web portal Degrowth.info, a society refocused on degrowth would prioritize achieving "the good life for all" by fostering a culture of "deceleration, time welfare and conviviality." Meanwhile, developed countries would reduce production and consumption, partly to reduce their impact on the

planet but also so as not to lead less-developed countries down the wrong road through bad example.

Degrowth is also predicated on extending democratic decision-making and political participation to all corners of society, acknowledging the ability of local populations to make their own decisions about how to retain self-sufficiency and sustainability in the face of socially and ecologically turbulent times. Also, degrowth advocates say we should be relying on cooperation, planning and a conservation ethic to solve our environmental problems instead of waiting for technological fixes that may or may not even work.

But just because we would be sacrificing some of our consumerism doesn't mean degrowth would lead to a lesser quality of life. In fact, proponents argue the opposite, envisioning happier lives where we would derive more satisfaction from healthier time-tested pursuits like art, music, walks outside and time with friends

and family than from sitting inside by a screen plotting another Amazon.com purchase.

Achieving degrowth-and attaining a "steady-state" economy that can function without getting bigger-is of course easier said than done. Rich nations would have to pare down their energy and resource demands significantly and let poorer nations increase their consumption so their citizens get the chance to live healthy, safe lives with access to the conveniences (electricity, sanitation...) modern life has to offer.

If you want to learn more about degrowth, Degrowth.info is a great resource and can point you toward local gatherings of like-minded activists.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.



Courtesy Photo by System Change Not Climate Change, FlickrCC

Activists who want us to scale back our economic consumption come together at locations all around the world at the Picnic 4 Degrowth that takes place every year in early June.

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Eagles, food trucks, zombies and more in 2020 lineup

As 2019 draws to a close, it's never too early to start looking ahead to the new year and all of the fun you can have in the Will County forest preserves in 2020.

In addition to offering all kinds of recreational opportunities on a daily basis and hundreds of weekly programs for patrons of all ages, the Forest Preserve District of Will County also schedules a full complement of special events each year. The 2020 lineup features events that will appeal to a wide variety of interests including art, nature, history, fitness and food.

Here are some of the event highlights for 2020:

Eagle Watch 2020: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 3 to 4, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. Enjoy guided hikes, indoor viewing scopes, family activities and more. Also, "Eagle Watch 2020" marks the beginning of regular public hours for Four Rivers.

Snow Day Festival: noon to 4 p.m. Jan. 18, Plum Creek Nature Center, Crete Township. Conquer the preserve's sled hill, explore the trails on snowshoes, have a snowball fight, watch ice sculpting, and then view the movie "Small Foot" inside to warm up.

Nature Takes Flight Juried Art Competition: March 3 to April 4, Plum Creek Nature Center. Artwork created by local artists will be on display prior to the announcement of winners of the juried art show during a closing reception and awards ceremony on April 4. Visitors can vote for their favorites.

Pelican Watch: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 14, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. Take guided hikes to view these intriguing birds as they rest at Four Rivers during migration.

Pollinators — Little Helpers, Big Results: April to

May, Isle a la Cache Museum, Romeoville. Learn all about the diversity of pollinators and how they contribute to the quality of life by helping to provide good food, healthy landscapes, medicines and even food. This exhibition is on loan from the Paly Foundation.

Found Objects Sculpture Trail: April 3, 2020 to March 31, 2021, Plum Creek Nature Center. Seven pieces sculpted by artist Jennifer Meyer will be placed along the Snapper Pond Trail for viewing and to show how old abandoned metal can be transformed into whimsical art.

Food Truck Fridays: 5 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays, June 5 to Aug. 28. Food trucks offering a variety of menu items will roll into a different preserve each Friday on a rotating basis. The preserves are located in Shorewood, Mokena, Naperville and Homer Glen.

Arts & Nature on the River: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 20, Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. Stroll the preserve's paths to see artwork, view demonstrations, listen to live music and discover art forms new to you.

Top Ten Truths About Native Peoples: July to September, Isle a la Cache Museum. This exhibit, on loan from the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, dispels misconceptions about Native People that relate to mascots, casinos and contemporary treaty rights issues.

Ales and Tails: 6 to 8:30 p.m. July 31, Lower Rock Run Preserve — McClintock Road Access. Enjoy a happy hour in one of the dog park enclosures. Bring a chair, enjoy a beverage

and "let the dogs out." No dog park permit is required for this event, but 2020 permits will be available for purchase.

Hummingbird Fest & Nature Celebration: 1 to 5 p.m. Aug. 15, Plum Creek Nature Center. Presentations, bird viewing, nature-themed craft vendors and outdoor activities are all a part of this celebration which puts the spotlight on hummingbirds and other pollinators. Watch on a large screen as volunteers band hummingbirds.

Riverview Farmstead Open House: noon to 4 p.m. Aug. 1, Riverview Farmstead Preserve, Naperville. Tour the site of the former Clow Family farm. Structures from the mid-1800s include the settlement house, permanent limestone house and timber frame barn, one of the largest of its kind.

Don't Be a Zombie! Be Prepared: Sept. 1 to Nov. 30, Plum Creek Nature Center. This exhibit, on loan from Purdue University Agricultural Center, gives visitors the motivation they need to put together an emergency preparedness kit to survive storms and natural emergencies.

Woods Walk: Sept. 1 to Nov. 30. Nature and fitness enthusiasts are challenged to hike 10 pre-selected Will County trails (to be determined in 2020). Hikers log completed trails in the hiking guide. Those who complete seven trails earn a 2020 "Woods Walk" commemorative shield.

For more information on Forest Preserve District of Will County events and programs, visit www.ReconnectWithNature.org.

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