

Meet the Bruning Sunshine winners



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Camper confusion Northcrest residents want answers on violation notices

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Neighbors in Northcrest are calling foul on the city of Wilmington, after a handful of residents who park their recreational vehicles and campers on their lots were told they were in violation of city code.

The notices went out last month throughout the city. The notices were not tickets seeking fines, but rather letters stating that those folks who park their campers outside of an enclosure are violating city code. The letters included a copy of the city's ordinance on RV parking.

Russell Busby keeps his RV parked on his paved driveway on Outer Drive. Busby told the members of the City Council during their meeting on Dec. 20 that he's had a camper

parked in that same spot for the majority of the 26 years that he's lived in the city.

"I got a notice from [the code enforcement officer] to move my camper, because it's not in the city ordinance. I'm here again after all these years, but now I'm here with you. This right here is uncalled for," he said, arguing that campers have never caused any issues until the current administration was in office.

"How can we solve this for once and for all, for all the campers up in Northcrest,"

Busby asked the members of the City Council during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Northcrest resident Dave Carter also approached the council on the topic.

"I got the same notice, and I've had my camper there for nine years," Carter said. "We haven't had a problem until now. And then I go out and we got signatures, but not everybody got a letter who had a camper."

Busby and Carter had 37 of their neighbors, some with and some without campers of their own, sign a petition that the city should back off the camper restrictions. The issue was also front and center on social media, with Mayor Ben Dietz posting an explanation of the letters after some folks said they planned to come to City Hall to argue the validity



Photo by Marney Simon

RUSSELL BUSBY KEEPS his RV on his blacktopped driveway in Northcrest, as does his neighbor across street. Busby and several neighbors have objected to the city sending out violation notices for having their campers in their front yards. City code requires campers to be in backyards or behind a fence.

of the notices.

"Some say it decreases the value of my home," Busby added, referring to that Facebook post by the mayor. "My home was bought for \$47,000. Right now, it's worth \$160,000. So, the \$30,000 camper sitting in front of my yard didn't depreciate my house, as somebody said. So, why can't we leave that in my yard?"

Mayor Dietz said city leaders can discuss the issue further, including changes or tweaks to the current ordinance, but that the proper venue for that discussion is during a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, and not the public comment portion of a City Council meeting.

"We can absolutely add it

SEE RV, PAGE 2

City works with residents on overdue water bills

Water meter replacement program nearly complete

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington is continuing work to close the gap on how much money water customers owe due to late or non-payment of bills

Last month, the members of the finance committee reviewed the status of the city's utility billing, including a run-down of payments owed to the city.

In November, the city sent a total of 2,389 water bills out to customers, totaling \$357,145 in payments due.

As of November, \$126,771 worth of payments were late. However, nearly \$41,000 of those bills owed have scheduled payment plans with the city.

According to the staff report on that billing, the city anticipates the majority of the remainder of those overdue bills to be paid or to be placed into a payment plan prior to shutoff.

Shutoff notices are sent when a bill is 45 days past due.

Meanwhile, the city is down to 32 utility accounts that are estimated, down from 100 accounts over the summer and more than 400 accounts last year.

The city has been replacing meters over the past five years. At one time, approximately 1,500 meters in town were being estimated, with bills going out on those estimated numbers versus actual consumption.

The city's meter replace-

SE WATER, PAGE 2

Who bought the \$1 million Lotto ticket?

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

It wouldn't hurt to be nice to your neighbor. Maybe he or she is the person who bought an instant Lottery ticket worth a \$1 million payout at Wee-Sip Liquors.

The winner has so far remained anonymous but there's hope they are local and will be spending some of their winnings in town.

"Hopefully it's someone local who had their lucky day," commented Wee-Sip Liquors owner Julious "Sippy" Shell. "We don't know who won it but it's good for the town."

The winner paid \$30 for an instant ticket at the Wee-Sip machine. Neither Shell nor Lottery officials could confirm which of the six \$30 instant games presently offered provided the winning ticket.

Also unknown is the exact day the ticket was sold. Jeff Shell, of Sippy's, got a call from his Lottery rep on Wednesday telling him the \$1 million ticket had been sold there and the store would be getting a \$10,000 retailer bonus for selling the ticket even though the winner may have cashed out for a lesser amount.

Typically a \$1 million scratch-off winner is paid with a \$50,000 annuity paid annually over 20 years. If the ticket holder opts for all the money up front they settle for less.

Shell believes that amount was around \$600,000.

Lottery spokesperson Jennifer Born said if the winner went to a claim center requesting to remain anonymous, signing a confidentiality agreement, few details are released to the public,



THE WINNER OF A \$1 million jackpot, purchased with a scratch off ticket at Sippy's last week, has not come forward to be identified.

especially the name and arrangements for payout.

Jeff Shell estimates the liquor store has had over \$2.5 million in larger Lottery payouts over the past 10 years. He recalled a local resident who won \$650,000 Little Lotto drawing and a nurse from Kankakee who

stopped to get gas at the store and won \$650,000.

"Over the years we've had a couple of \$20,000 winners, a lot of \$1,000 winners. In one week we had five \$500 instant ticket winners which was great," Jeff said. "We'd like to see that luck continue."

Wilmington's budget on track for fiscal year

Current revenues higher than expenses

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

With the new calendar year underway and the next fiscal year just four months out, the city of Wilmington is well on point thus far to stay on budget.

Last month, finance director Nancy Gross presented the members of the City Council with an analysis of the city's budget compared to actual spending for the current fiscal year (FY23), which runs from May 1, 2022 though April 30, 2023.

"At this point of the year, going seven months through November, we should be around the 58% mark of the budget," Gross explained during the finance committee

meeting on Dec. 20. "Some of our accounts are, some are close, some are just under. We're looking at the revenues that have come in... in terms of the general fund, we're right at that 58% mark. Our expenses are under that at this point."

Budgeted revenues for FY23 total \$6.4 million for the city's general fund, which is the main operating fund for administration, buildings and grounds, public works, and police protection.

Actual revenues through November total \$3.7 million for the general fund.

The water and sewer funds run separately from the general fund. So far in FY23, the actual revenues for water operations are \$640,639, 51% of the budgeted amount. Expenditures in the water operations fund so far are \$564,281, 42% of the budget.

The Motor Fuel Tax fund has so far collected \$207,782,

SEE MONEY, PAGE 2

Wilmington City Hall slated for a warm-up

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

If you've ever been inside City Hall in Wilmington in winter, you'll notice there's a chill in the air.

Last month, the members of the Wilmington City Council approved a measure to replace the furnaces in the City Council chambers, as well as a 6-ton condenser, after months of issues with the system.

"We've had somebody out four times in the last six months to take care of [break

downs]," city administrator Jeannine Smith said.

According to the staff report, only one of the two furnaces in the council chambers are operational, causing the remaining furnace to run for longer durations in order to keep up with demand.

The furnaces date back to

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2



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RV

to the next committee agenda to have it discussed," Dietz said. "So, there are two things. One, we can absolutely have this discussion at the committee meeting where it's intended to have the open discussion. And two, in that ordinance... there is a remedy. If you want to make it a legal conforming use in the city, right in the ordinance it tells you the exact process of how to do that."

Dietz also said the notices that were put on the doors of folks around town with campers were not tickets or fines, but were informational notices.

"A point of clarification with that, there was no violation notice," Dietz said. "That is serving you with what the ordinance says. You weren't ticketed, you weren't penalized. It was simply to tell you that you're in violation... We're not ticketing anyone. That's not the intent."

The city's regulation on storage of RVs and campers was first passed in 2000, and last amended in 2009. According to the code, RVs in residential districts can only be stored "provided they are stored in the rear yard or in a fully enclosed building or structure, including privacy fence. They shall not be stored in required front yard or corner side yard setbacks."

City code defines a recreational vehicle or travel trailer as a vehicle which is built on a

single chassis; 400 square feet or less when measured at the largest horizontal projection; designed to be self propelled or permanently towable by a light duty truck; and designed primarily not for use as a permanent dwelling but as temporary living quarters for recreational camping, travel, or seasonal use.

The ordinance includes an exception, which allows residents to seek a written request to be excused from the ordinance at least 10 days prior to the meeting of the ordinance and licensing committee, which meets the second Tuesday of the month as part of the Committee of the Whole.

"The ordinance itself outlines the remedy if you want it to get approved by the city, it says right there in black and white what you need to do. And part of that is coming to the committee meeting, we need to approve that and that's that," Dietz said.

The mayor continued on to explain that the notices were not intended to be punitive, but rather informative. And, Dietz said, the notices did not go out willy nilly. The city's new code enforcement officer sent the notices after a second issue was brought to the city's attention.

"The whole reason behind why this is an issue today, is that I received a complaint that someone was occupying on a semi-permanent or permanent basis one of those campers [in Northcrest]," Dietz said. "And while I was there, also noticed that there were multiple, not just campers but boats and trailers, that were completely blocking the sidewalk. You just

can't do that. I'm not saying you (people at the meeting), but at that same token the ordinance enforcing officer can't just notice that person up, and see everyone else that is not complying.

"The whole point of us going through the process of hiring an ordinance enforcement officer was not to issue fines, to make people's lives hell, or anything like that. It's compliance. Or, to change the ordinance that we have," Dietz continued. "Some of them don't make sense. We still outlaw dances. If you look far enough in the code, we still outlaw dances without a permit, I assure you it's there. I can say that we are not looking to serve you a violation, we're not asking you to move anything tomorrow, we're not looking to fine you tomorrow or even in January. That's not the intent."

"The general discussion is, there are issues with people blocking the sidewalk, and I

think that's, you can't do that. Same thing if you have the tongue of your trailer over the sidewalk and some kid trips on it. I personally have had two of my kids trip on those. To me that's a no-go, the sidewalk is the sidewalks. Now, if you want to put it in your yard, I don't think anyone is here to say you can't do that... But again, it's the entire town. Nothing we do singles out a single person, it's what's best for town. And the simple fact is, people shouldn't be living in campers and people shouldn't be blocking the sidewalks. We can't notice them up for blocking the sidewalk, then let everyone else who is not conforming to the way the ordinance is written have a free pass."

The issue is expected to be included in the next Committee of the Whole meeting. That meeting takes place on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Earty awarded Chamber trophy



ANGELA EARTLY (left) of Arnie Bauer Chevrolet Buick in Wilmington received the Chamber's Employee of the Month trophy for December. Earty has been the office manager in Wilmington for over a decade. She was nominated for her selflessness and dedication to the job. Presenting the trophy is Chamber ambassador Dee Yehling of The Corner Tap.

Attorney Wysocki files Woodard estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF William J. Woodard, Deceased; No. 22 PR 708
PUBLICATION NOTICE INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN HEIRS & LEGATEES

Notice is given to creditors of the death of WILLIAM J. WOODARD. Letters of Office were issued to Mary A. Woodard whose address is 1420 E. Washington St., Joliet, Illinois 60433 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is 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, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 28th day of June, 2023 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

On December 8, 2022 an Order Admitting the Will to Probate was entered. Within forty-two (42) days after the effective date of the original order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the validity of the Will by testimony or witnesses to the Will in open Court, or other evidence, as provided in Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1). The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent administration by filing a petition to terminate under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of William J. Woodard, Deceased

BY: Marilyn Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files D. Gilleland estate notice

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

In the Matter of the Estate of DONALD GILLELAND, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 764

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of DONALD GILLELAND, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 16, 2022, to DEBORAH KING, whose address is 16433 Manhattan, Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442 and DONALD E. GILLELAND, whose address is 110 Wyndstone, Elwood, IL 60421, Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL, Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Deborah King and Donald E. Gilleland, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Donald Gilleland, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Coffee & Newspapers

One wakes you up
One opens your eyes

Attorney Lynch files Yakich estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOIS YAKICH, Deceased; No. 22 PR 759
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Lois Yakich. Letters of Office were issued to William J. Yakich and Robert E. Yakich whose address is 507 Ann Court, Joliet, Illinois 60435 as Independent Administrator, 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, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 21st day of June, 2023 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Lois Yakich, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Dec. 21, 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files J. Gilleland estate notice

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

In the Matter of the Estate of JEANETTE E. GILLELAND, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 763

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of JEANETTE E. GILLELAND, of New Lenox, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 16, 2022, to DEBORAH KING, whose address is 16433 Manhattan, Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442 and DONALD E. GILLELAND, whose address is 110 Wyndstone, Elwood, IL 60421, Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL, Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Deborah King and Donald E. Gilleland, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Jeanette E. Gilleland, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

Nielsen petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen, Case No. 2022 MR000414

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself/herself, Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 15th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Corrin Julianna Marlene Nielsen be changed to Rin Hendricks Nielsen.
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 11, and 18, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Duffy estate notice

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

In the Matter of the Estate of DONALD A. DUFFY, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 665

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of DONALD A. DUFFY, of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued November 2, 2022, to NANCY J. DUFFY, Independent Administrator, whose address is 106 Eula St., Wilmington, IL 60481, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL, Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the date of June 28, 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Nancy J. Duffy, Independent Administrator of the Estate of Donald A. Duffy, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

McCann petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Jerome McCann To Jerome McCann EI, Case No. 22 MR 406

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, Jerome McCann adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 21st day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Jerome McCann be changed to Jerome McCann EI.
Jerome McCann
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

Crampton petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Jennifer Crampton TO Reagan Lane, Case No. 22 MR 411

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself/himself, Jennifer Crampton adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 14th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Jennifer Crampton be changed to Reagan Lane.
Jennifer Crampton
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022; Jan. 4 and 11, 2023.

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Money

almost 70% of the budget. The city only budgeted expenses for MFT this fiscal year at \$35,000, and so far have spent \$27,056 of those monies. But, those numbers are expected to change.

"At the citywide total, we're looking at collecting more revenue that we should be at, at this point, because we're above the 58% mark," Gross said. "In terms of expenses, we're under that at this point, which is a good place to be. I do want to point out though, that because I am just delving into how this is working and [the MFT] audit that took place, there are going to be adjustments that need to be made."

Gross said there are some payments, such as garbage payments, that have been made but have not yet been recorded. Gross noted that this is due to accounting on an accrual basis.

When bills come in, those bills are accounted for in the city's financial software based on when they are due, and not necessarily when they are actually paid.

That means bills due in the prior fiscal year but paid in the current fiscal year need to be accounted for.

Gross said cleaning up all that paperwork will help the city to create a more accurate budget for the next fiscal year, as well as steer any amendments to the city's appropriation ordinance.

"These numbers, my predecessor co-mingled a lot of your funds and numbers together. We're working to untangle those," she said.

The city's Ridgeport Tax Increment Financing (TIF) fund has collected nearly 99% of its anticipated revenues for the year, \$6.2 million of the \$6.28 million budgeted. Expenses out of TIF this year are at 33%. TIF funds are specifically earmarked solely for use on TIF eligible projects at the Elion Logistics Park.

Gross said a report on fund balances will be made before the council this month.

The full report can be found attached to the agenda for the Dec. 20, 2022 Finance, Administration and Land Acquisition Committee meeting on the city's website, www.wilmington-il.com.

Water

ment program is, by design, ongoing, as meters have an estimated life expectancy of eight to 10 years. In the month of November, the Water Department replaced a total of 27 meters.

City officials reported that the actual consumption of water in November was just shy of 11 million gallons, while the actual billing accounted for just over 11 million gallons. That difference in the overage can be attributed to the 32 estimated accounts, which would average about 3,000 gallons per account.

"About a year ago, our water accountability was about 55-60%, and currently we're up to 72%. It sounds like a small feat but a lot of labor and a lot of work went into that, and having the meters really helps us with that," public works director James Gretencord told the committee.

City leaders also noted that estimated accounts are listed as such on the water bill.

Council

construction of City Hall in 1992. While maintenance staff have been able to combine parts from the two furnaces to keep one operational for the time being, the age of the system means parts are harder to get.

The city sought out four separate proposals, ultimately selecting R.L. Lyon, Inc. to complete the replacement job, for a total not to exceed \$16,992.

The contract includes a one year labor warranty, and a five year warranty on parts.

Alderman Ryan Jeffries asked the city staff to double check that the efficiency ratings on the new furnaces be up to code, as the code will change in September.

The council conditionally approved the contract upon the condition that the code is met.

The council approved the purchase of a new vehicle for the public works department.

The 2023 GMC Sierra

2500 was necessary due to a vehicle shortage in the department, which has resulted in the use of some personal vehicles for city related business.

The total for the truck is \$45,274, which was included as part of this year's budget.


The council approved the payment of bills in the amount of \$4.5 million.

The higher than usual expense is due to a distribution of \$4.1 million from the TIF fund. Additional payments include \$40,793 from the general fund, \$15,947 from the water/sewer fund, and \$421,946 in payroll over the course of three pay periods.

Mayor Ben Dietz is planning to host a Town Hall meeting on Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. at the Wilmington High School cafeteria. The meeting will cover the state of the city for residents.

"We're going to take a look at the year in review for the public, come out, learn something about your local government and what we're anticipating to take place over the next year," city administrator Jeannine Smith said.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

January 1923, life speeds up in Wilmington

There are some things that are life changing for everyone. Think about the telephone, electricity, computers and cell phones. Is there one I missed? Oh brother, there sure is! It's the individual freedom granted to everyone who owned an automobile.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

astic community meeting held in the Stewart House on Friday of last week made a very fitting close for the year. The gathering was attended by some 50 or more citizens who are interested in community betterment. "Good Roads" was the keynote of the meeting and the Hon. Richard Barr, of Joliet, a veteran "Good Roads" booster was the principal speaker.

The highway upon which the keenest interest centered is the Wilmington-Kankakee road. Other roads leading into Wilmington were also given attention. Mr. Barr stated that he would do all in his power to bring about quick action on the Kankakee road.

The coming of the horseless carriage put blacksmith's, wagon makers, plow makers, railroads, livery stables, hotels and restaurants out of business. But created all new businesses like mechanics, dealerships, and traffic cops. Headlining the news of January 1923 was the automobile.

During the first week we read, "The speed limit of automobiles within the city of Wilmington is ten miles an hour. Horns must also be sounded at all street intersections. The law regarding these matters will be strictly enforced."

Can you imagine if we now sounded our horn at every intersection?

And in the same issue we read of a new business start up. "A. J. Gadberry has established a permanent taxi service between Wilmington and Joliet and put into use for the first time on Thursday morning the handsome Reo Speed Wagon which he recently purchased.

The wagon is very classy with seating capacity for 15 passengers. It is equipped with winter top, special upholstery and electric lights.

Mr. Gadberry will make two trips daily, except Saturday and Sunday a.m. First trip will be at 7:45 a.m. and the second at 1:15 p.m."

The subject of roads for those automobiles was also in the news, "A large and enthusi-



A PHOTO of a 1922 REO Speed wagon, like the one Gadberry used in his taxi service.

of the "newest" look, it shows pointed hemline and sleeves, also seen in modern women's dresses.

The third week the State of Illinois issued the following state-wide traffic regulations. "Requiring that automobiles be stopped before going over a grade crossing where there is a "Stop" sign, and that at all other crossings, slow down to 10 miles per hour."

"Limiting the speed of automobiles to 10 miles per hour in business section of cities and villages, 15 miles per hour to residence sections, 20 miles per hour in sparsely settled sections, and not to exceed 30 miles an hour on the public highways."

"Requiring that automobiles be equipped with good brakes and suitable signaling device."

"Prohibiting any person under fifteen years of age from driving a motor vehicle on the public highways unless accompanied by the owner or a licensed chauffeur."

"Giving the right of way to persons coming from the right."

"Requiring that vehicles keep to the right in passing vehicles coming from the opposite direction and that

they pass to the left of vehicles going in the same direction."

"Prohibiting the driver from turning or stopping without giving a signal by outstretched arm or otherwise."

"Prohibiting the driving of an automobile within 10 feet of a street car loading or discharging passengers, except by the express direction of a traffic officer."

During the third week it was dancing on everyone's mind. "Friday, January 26, is the date of the next dancing party in the Opera House. Elliott's Superior orchestra will furnish the music."

And "An Old-Time dancing party will be given in the Exchange Hall on Friday evening, Feb. 2. Bergera's orchestra will play and there will be favors for all and special decorations."

The Opera House was also the scene of the opening of Harold Lloyd's newest picture. "Opera House patrons, who enjoyed Harold Lloyd in "Grandma's Boy," will have another treat this Saturday and Sunday when "Sailor Made Man" a merry crew with Harold at the helm will be showing. Regular prices for this super comedy.



A PHOTO OF fashions with pointed skirts from the early 1920s.



A SCENE FROM Harold Lloyd's movie "Sailor Made Man" (he is the sailor in the photo).

Sunshine Winners at Brunining School



SUNSHINE AWARDS were given to kindergarten students during the first trimester at Brunining School. Students included (sitting, from left) Luke, Brody, Scarlett, Hank, Cooper, Raygen and Mia. Back row: Kennedy, Bobbie, Logan, Reede, Autumn, Layla, Bradie, Logan, and JJ.



BRUNING SCHOOL announced Sunshine Award winners for students in the first grade. Students include (sitting, from left) Etti, Kelbie, Bennett, April, Aerro, Kate, and Wyatt. Back row: Noah, Luke, Eleanora, Kaylin, Karter, Kolton, Joshua, Arianna, Braxton, Carter and Owen.



BRUNING SCHOOL announced the Sunshine Award winners for the first Trimester. Pre-school students included Benjamin, Connor, Rowan and Maggie.



BRUNING PRESCHOOL students who received the Sunshine Award for first trimester also included (from left) Maila and Santos.

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In addition, this year Oak Knoll is challenging individuals and businesses to do a "match." When we post the numbers of those who have been vaccinated, we will encourage folks to make a donation...any amount you choose. Match our \$5, \$1 per shot, or 50¢. Or stretch for this worthy cause and do \$20! Send your donations to the organizations and mark them "Match 2023."

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We can do better

SHADOW LAKES—Hoping everyone had the most wonderful Christmas, whatever way you chose to celebrate. My wish for the new year is that everyone will be a little more kind, and a little less selfish. Remember none of us would be here if it weren't for the immigrants in our family tree, unless of course you're Native American. To those of you who write sarcastic comments, when they are thought provoking or humorous they are a joy to read. When they are mean and spiteful it only makes people feel sorry for you. We all can do better. I know I can. Cyndi Lewis

A brave patriot

WILMINGTON—Never before have so many witnesses forgotten so much. The January 6th Select Committee interviewed more than a thousand people and the common refrain to their questions was "I don't recall". Was the intelligentsia running our country at that time so truly incompetent? Or rather, did the powerful in high positions find it so easy to disgrace our nation with blatant dishonesty? Regardless, some light shines through. And never more brightly than by a young woman who defied the shameful advice of her attorney who told her to hide the truth. Cassidy Hutchinson told the nation what she knew despite whatever consequences she would suffer. All Americans are forever indebted to such brave individuals who are protecting our democratic republic. Irene

Another eyesore

WILMINGTON—Hillbilly Heaven here we go again. As I travel down beautiful Route 66 I see the pole barn is done (across from Berkot's grocery store). Now it's used to store a bunch of junk vehicles. It looks like a perfect place for the Munsters, Herman and Lily. They would love it. Thank you building committee for approving this. I bet if this was across from Winchester Green Plaza, it would of never got approved. You guys make Wilmington proud. Where is the ordinance officer? Come on let's clean this place up. I bet Coal City, Braidwood, Lockport and surrounding towns would never allow this. I'm tired of looking at eyesores.

Too dependent

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. I understand we had a very severe winter across the country this year. I lived in Bridgeview, IL in the winter of 81-82. We had a wind-chill factor of -82 below zero, you can check that. I had the only car in the apartment complex that started. I tried to help many people jump-start their cars. I do not remember anybody dying from this. What is the problem with people today? I do not understand it. Do they not take precautions as we did years ago? Or are they just too dependent on the government?

Jail doors opened

DIAMOND—Just a reminder. Don't forget as of Jan. 1, 2023 all of Illinois, 102 counties will see their jail doors open to release all prisoners. There will be murderers by the dozens. Assaulting rapists galore, free to trespass at their pleasure. Need I say more. All are dangerous and will arm themselves ASAP. Remember to thank our benevolent Governor Pritzker who wishes you all a miserable new year. P.S. I heard that approximately 95-100 counties of Illinois wish to secede, leaving Chicago and Cook Co. plus any collar counties wishing to stay under their control. Only gossip you understand, but it does sound promising, Sharon.

A Fox reminder

WILMINGTON—Whenever I see Tucker Carlson and Jesse Watters on Fox I am reminded for all is evil at least Rupert Murdoch hires the handicapped.

Where it's hot

WILMINGTON—Governors Abbott and DeSantis like to portray themselves as evangelical Christians and yet they treat the least of us as if they were the worst of us. Good thing they are used to hot weather.

A divided board

WILMINGTON—I heard the Wilmington Area Historical Society has a divided board. I had to see and hear for myself and reevaluated the conditions. It does look like there is a divided board in the museum. Divided board must come together and work together. There have been board members who were voted in and never have shown up for a meeting. The only time they show up is when the Vice President wants to throw someone off the board in which it has happened. Then the Vice President wants to put someone on the board who voted the Secretary off in vote that was against the constitution and the bylaws, and the meeting should have stopped right then but it continued. I also noticed in meeting that things from the Wilmington Township problems were carried over to the meeting at the museum. Is this normal? In my viewpoint attending other meetings in the surrounded communities this is unethical. I have a question for the Vice President. Mr. Vice President. I never understood your ways of conducting a meeting at the museum. Seems when there is no show, your followers don't show either. Can you explain yourself to the community of Wilmington? Until the problem is resolved it will continue to

be the way it is. It can't correct itself until all those who are involved resign and a new board is in place. Noticing how some board member actions are and listen to only one person who thinks they are in control. It doesn't work. Neither does micromanaging the board. Until the board gets on the board and works together hand-in-hand, the situation will remain the same.

Nice friendly people

SHADOW LAKES—I want to wish my neighbors on Fossil Cove Lane a Happy New Year. It's seldom in life you live in a neighborhood we're 99 percent of the people are nice friendly people. Eddie

Add to wish list

COAL CITY—How about making a parking lot for parents to pick up their children at the elementary school instead of that line up on the south side of building? That isn't great.

5 million here

There is only one person that can deal with the open borders disaster, 9,000 illegally were crossing in Texas alone in one day recently. President Joe Biden refuses to deal with the illegal immigration problems. All he has to do is call on Congress, both parties, to come up with a decent immigration plan and he does nothing. Our tax dollars are caring for the 5 million that came here illegally in 2022 as they are held in hotels, motels, shelters, free bus rides all over U.S.A. Mexico, China, Russia, etc. just enjoy the charades.

Fraud king

MORRIS—Just when you thought you heard or read it all, along comes Sam Bankman-Fried, age 30, son of two Stanford University law professors. He was once worth many billions and was looked at as the next Warren Buffet in the stock market circle. After he donates recently \$40 million to Democrat Senate candidates running for office. Then he files bankruptcy, now facing criminal charges for wire fraud, security fraud, money laundering, etc. I read this is one of the biggest financial frauds in American history. He was taken into custody in the Bahamas where he owned \$300 million in houses and other real estate holdings plus a house in a wealthy gated community purchased for his parents now part of bankruptcy proceedings. Once he was brought to U.S., New York City, he's allowed out of jail on \$250 million bail to be with his parents in California. It should have been no bail. There's good lawyers and bad lawyers. It's us versus them. Millions had invested in FTX and lost it all. The Democrats will see to it Sam is treated very well.

Wake up people

SHADOW LAKES—I was born in 1949 and I have never in my lifetime seen a president go through so much by the opposite party. I do believe that Trump wants to bring America back to being a strong country, but the communists, aka Democrats, are doing everything they can to prevent him from ever running or becoming president again and I would be that when he runs in 2024 they will do everything they can to make him lose and he probably will. There are too many misinformed people in this country. Too many people who have never even fought for this country. Too many giveaway programs by the Democrats starting with Lyndon Johnson's great society which in fact has created the single parent family. So I hope you people, my neighbors especially, will wake up. If they don't, I'm accusing them of being Communist.

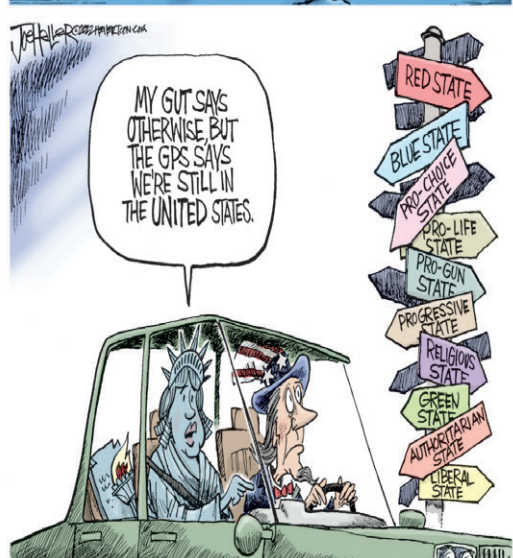
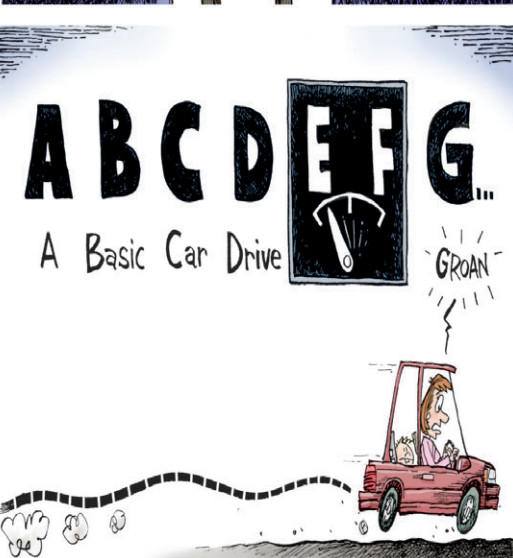
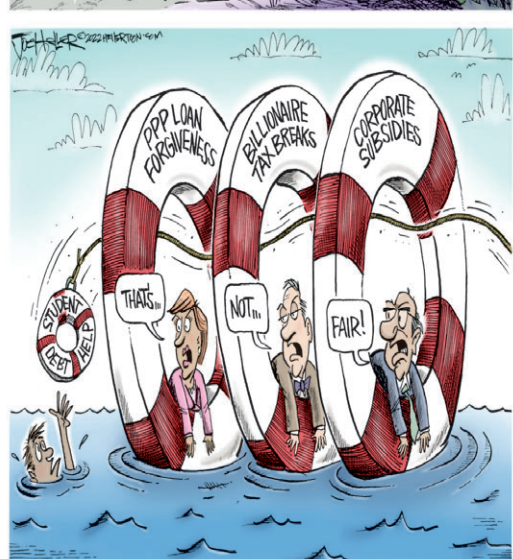
Dan Hill

Selective prosecution

BRAIDWOOD—Biden's Department of Justice (USDOJ) is selectively targeting pro-lifers. Biden betrayed USDOJ's historic mission to treat all Americans equally under the law. Now USDOJ harasses and selectively prosecutes those who oppose Biden's pro-abortion policies, terrorizing them and their families, while not lifting a finger to prosecute the criminals who vandalized & firebombed 17 pro-life offices & pregnancy centers. FBI SWAT teams with ballistic shields, helmets, and assault rifles executed raids on peaceful pro-life leaders like Mark Houck, the father of seven who was arrested at his rural PA home, and Paul Vaughan, the father of 11, arrested at his TN farmhouse. Both of these arrests took place in front of their children who were terrified to see their fathers shackled in their homes. The purpose of these raids is to chill & discourage pro-life activism. The silent majority must not accept this.

Out in the cold

WILMINGTON—It makes me sick to see all the people who leave their pets out in the cold during the winter. There are three different houses along our street where dogs are left out at night. One has a dog house while the other two are just in a fenced yard with no protection from the cold. It is so inhumane to leave a pet out in the cold. Have a heart and at least give them shelter in a garage or something. Better yet, put them in your house, show them you care by petting them and giving them a warm home. You'll get lots of love in return.



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State's minimum wage rises to \$13 an hour

The Illinois minimum wage increased \$1 on Sunday, making the new required minimum wage \$13 an hour.

Minimum wage workers are encouraged to keep a close eye on their paychecks in the new year as any time worked in 2023 must reflect the new \$13 an hour minimum wage.

There have been five increases in the state minimum wage since Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation in 2019 that establishes a schedule of wage increases, putting Illinois on the path to a \$15 an hour minimum wage by 2025.

Prior to the first of these minimum wage increases in 2020, the last time work-

ers in Illinois received an increase in the minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010.

"Illinois workers deserve a minimum wage that keeps up with the rising costs of living," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why, during my first year as Governor, we raised the minimum wage with a gradual ramp to \$15 an hour. Starting January 1st, minimum wage workers will get a raise and businesses will continue receiving tax credits for providing their workforce with a living wage."

The minimum wage for workers who regularly earn tips has increased to \$7.80 an hour; these workers must still earn the

minimum wage after receiving tips, or the employer is required to make up the difference. Workers under 18 who work fewer than 650 hours a year will earn a minimum wage of \$10.50 per hour.

All employers in Illinois are required to post the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" poster in the workplace where notices to employees are regularly posted.

Employees can file a minimum wage complaint with IDOL at <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/Complaints.aspx> or by calling the minimum wage hotline: (800) 478-3998.

Picnic, camping permits go on sale

The Forest Preserve District's picnic and camping permits go on this week, both online and at Sugar Creek Administration Center in Joliet.

Permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnic permits are available for more than 30 rentable shelters that are nestled in forest preserves throughout Will County. Permits are required for groups of 25 or more and encouraged for smaller groups that want to ensure the use of a specific shelter location.

Browse picnic permit details and view photos of the shelters on the Picnicking Page before deciding on a location for your 2023 get-together with family, friends or colleagues.

Tent camping is allowed at Forked Creek Preserve – Ballou Road Access in Wesley Township, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Crete Township, Hammel Woods – DuPage River Access in Shorewood, McKinley Woods – Frederick's Grove in Channahon and Messenger Woods Nature Preserve in Homer Glen.

In addition to online and in-person booking options, camping permits also are available by phone. A 50 percent discount is offered to youth groups. The Forest Preserve also offers a "No Gear, No Problem" program for those who need to rent camping equipment. The camping gear rental fee will drop from \$25 per rental in 2022 to \$20 in 2023. For more information, visit the Camping Page.

Permits went on sale at 10 a.m. Jan. 3 at these locations: Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon, Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville and Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township. These visitor centers are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. Sundays, and closed Mondays.

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New year brings price jump at the pump

Gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 10.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.24/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"For the first time in two months, the nation's average price of gasoline rose sharply last week, as extremely cold weather led to many refinery issues, shutting down over a million barrels of refining capacity, pushing wholesale prices up," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Add to that the first of two state tax increases this year and the price at the pump jumped 29 cents at Wilmington stations, 17 cents in Braidwood and 11 cents in Coal City.

The lowest price in the state on Monday was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$2.30/g. Joliet stations were averaging

\$2.94/g while in Bourbonnais it was \$3.19 and Morris \$3.06.

"While the jump at the pump will likely be temporary as most refiners get back online after cold-weather related issues, some regions like the Rockies may see more price increases than others as cold-weather shutdowns hit the region fairly hard, with one refinery likely remaining down through the first quarter of 2023. Most areas have seen the bulk of the rise already hit, but should oil continue to rally, more increases could be on the way."

Prices in Illinois are 40.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 8.7 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.67 per gallon.

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Illinois' high court makes history

Majority-female court is first ever

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Supreme Court made history last month when two newly seated members gave the bench a 5-2 majority of woman judges.

Justices Elizabeth Rochford and Mary Kay O'Brien, of Essex, were sworn in on Dec. 5. The two Democrats were both elected to the high court in November. Justice Joy V. Cunningham, who was appointed to replace retired Justice Anne M. Burke, was sworn in on Dec. 1.

The new justices join Lisa Holder White, who was sworn in as the court's first Black woman justice on July 7. Cunningham became the second, bringing the number of Black justices on the Supreme Court to three, also a high-water mark for the institution.

The historic court will be led by Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis, who officially assumed that title in October, following Burke and becoming the fourth woman chief in the court's history.

She's been on the court since 2010 and ascended to the top spot by the court's standard process, which gives the gavel to longest-tenured justice who hasn't yet held it.

She'll preside over a court on which four of its seven members have been seated for less than six months.

"In my life story, I am not a trailblazer. I am not Mary Ann McMorrow, who was the first woman on our court," Theis said in an interview with Capitol News Illinois.

McMorrow was first elected to the court in 1992.

Diversity on the bench, Theis said, is both enriching to deliberations and important from a symbolism standpoint.

"It wasn't that long ago when Charles Freeman was the first African American on this court. He joined the court in 1990," Theis said. "But he was the only African American up until 2018 and then Scott Neville joined this court."

Neville remained the only Black justice until he was joined this year by Holder White and Cunningham.

"Suddenly, we're now going to have three people (on this court) that are people of color," Theis said. "It says something about our state and something about our court that we've evolved to such a place that we can have that diversity."

While Theis said she's invigorated by the new court and the experiences and worldviews its new members will bring to the bench, she described the challenges of the court's turnover as "innumerable."

Preschool hike for Little Explorers

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will host a "Little Explorers – Colors of Winter" event from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 18 at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Bring your preschoolers ages 3-5 to Four Rivers to explore the colors of winter with a story, a hike, hands-on activities, crafts and free play. Dress for indoor and outdoor activities. Free registration is due by Jan. 17.

Illinois' annual population loss is accelerating

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

For the ninth consecutive year, Illinois lost population and the losses are accelerating.

Overall, the United States grew by 0.4% over the past year that ended July 1. That's 1.25 million additional people for a total of nearly 333.3 million nationwide.

Most of the states grew with Florida and Texas leading the way in the latest U.S. Census estimates released last week. Eighteen states saw negative net migration. Behind only California and New York, Illinois was third worst for people leaving the state.

Illinois had more births than deaths in the year that ended July 1, and more inbound international migration. But, domestic migration saw the state lose 141,600. For the year that

ended July 1, Illinois lost 110,000 on net.

"Not good numbers for the state and continued rejection of the policies that we've seen from here and it's important to note that our neighboring states, with the exception of Michigan, they all grew," Wirepoints President Ted Dabrowski said.

The total net loss for Illinois in the past year equates to around the size of Peoria or Springfield.

When looking at the annual estimate change from April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022, Illinois' population went from 12.8 million to 12.5 million, a decline of more than 230,513.

It's not just the annual estimates that show Illinois' decline accelerating. There's continued IRS migration data or moving companies that have Illinois high on the list for outbound moves.

Mobile food pantry coming to Wilmington

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting a mobile food pantry at Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Participants need to line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. The mobile food pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute

food. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle.

Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Coal City United Methodist Church to host soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Jan. 7, from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving their delicious homemade chicken noodle soup & chili. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert. Carry-outs are available.

The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12 and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Check your button number

Looking for #219

The search continues for a winner of the Christmas Parade split-the-pot button drawing sponsored by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

After two weeks without button owner 183 claiming the \$410 prize money, a new button number—219—has been

drawn. The owner of button number 219 has until 5 p.m. Jan. 6 to claim the prize by calling the Chamber at 815-476-5991.

A new number will be drawn Friday if 219 is not claimed before the 5 p.m. cutoff.

Tai Chi class to begin

The Wilmington Lions Club announce a 12-week session of Tai Chi on Fridays beginning Jan. 6 at the Lions Hall, 805 River St., Wilmington.

Class will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. The fee for the 12 weeks is \$35. Seniors and veterans pay \$30 or students who have completed a previous 12-week session will pay \$25.

Tai Chi originated as a Chinese martial art practiced primarily for health benefits. The movements are slow, methodical and repetitive.

It has been shown that this type of activity is perfect for strengthening the tissues around joints and improving balance and strength.

The beginning Tai Chi student will be introduced to the basics of Tai Chi, that of weight transfer as they learn the positions.

The intermediate/advanced student will perfect their practice by working towards the flowing "meditation in motion" which produces the many health benefits of Tai Chi.

Participants should arrive Jan. 6 at 9 a.m. to register. Dress comfortably. For more details call Wayne 815-478-4016.

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Hop a cruise ship for a Yellow Bird cocktail

The 2023 Wave Season is here! What exactly is Wave Season? Wave Season marks the time of year when cruise lines offer their best deals on cruises for the upcoming year, and the timing is perfect as most of us are looking to board a ship to any destination where the weather is warm.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

claim that a drink was named after the song. That drink had to be yellow, of course.



The other version of the origin asserts that the drink has nothing to do with the song and has everything to do with the bright yellow color of the drink. In Caribbean countries the drink was likely made with a gold rum which further compounds the gold/yellow tint when added to bright yellow liqueur.

I can see either one of those versions of the origin as correct, more than likely it was a combination of the two.

This is where the twists and turns begin. Let's assume that one Caribbean Island had a version of the Yellow Bird, and you loved it.

Then, you ordered the drink on your next port of call and the bartender literally just made up something on the spot that was sweet, yellow, and loaded with rum. The drink may have been yellow, but it would not have been a Yellow Bird without one key ingredient: Galliano.

Unlike many "yellow" drinks, the Yellow Bird does not rely on pineapple juice or banana liqueur to achieve the bright yellow hue. The yellow tint in the Yellow Bird comes from the curiously complex Italian herbal liqueur, Galliano.

The IBA (International Bartenders Association) specifies that the yellow bird is a four-ingredient cocktail made of lime juice, white rum, triple sec, and Galliano. No Galliano, no Yellow Bird.

Like most herbal Italian liqueurs, Galliano is a digestif meaning it is meant to be enjoyed after a meal. About fifty years ago the mixology community began to experiment with Galliano and found the complexity to be more of an asset than a hindrance and the liqueur became a key ingredient in modern classic cocktails such as the Harvey Wallbanger, Golden Cadillac, and Golden Dream.

Galliano serves as an excellent sweetener due to its strong vanilla notes, but also brings subtle notes of juniper, lavender, peppermint, and cinnamon.

In addition to Galliano, you are going to need a quality triple sec to turn out a great Yellow Bird. It doesn't get any better than Cointreau in that department.

Cointreau is not cheap but is available in 375ml bottles at 50% of the price of the 750ml. If Cointreau is unavailable and you need a substitute, go with Bol's triple sec.

In most cases I avoid overly sweet light rum in cocktails, but in this case a sweeter light rum performs well and compliments the bitter orange peel notes of the Cointreau and the sour lime.

The Galliano is both sweet and floral which ties this drink together. Bacardi light rum may be a bit peppery for this drink, go with a smooth Caribbean rum like Cruzan, or the Nicaraguan Flor de Cana 4 year.

Use fresh lime juice in this and every cocktail that calls for lime juice and be sure to give this drink a good shake to bring all four ingredients together.

I have tried blended versions of the drink loaded with frozen fruit, and I have tried yellow tinted shots by the same name. The original is best, hands down. You may have to visit more than one store to track down Galliano and Cointreau, but I assure you it's absolutely worth the effort.

You have heard the song, now you can enjoy the drink while you plan your 2023 Caribbean cruise. Trust me, you have heard the song. Add the Arthur Lyman version to your playlist while you enjoy the Yellow Bird. If it sounds familiar it's because it has played in nearly every sitcom's "Hawaiian episode" from I Love Lucy to Full House.

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

Combine in shaker:
1 oz. light rum
1/2 oz Galliano
1/2 oz. triple sec (Cointreau is best)
1/2 oz fresh lime juice
Shake well with plenty of ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass
Garnish with maraschino cherry
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Zachary Plese weds Jerica Gladstone



MARTY AND MAUREEN PLESE of Wilmington would like to announce the marriage of their son Zachary Plese to Jerica Gladstone, daughter of Patricia and Steele Gladstone of Mechanicsville, Maryland. Zach, a 2014 graduate from Wilmington High School, and Jerica were married on October 14, 2022 in Tennessee and then honeymooned in Hawaii. The newlyweds are both employed by the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department as detectives and live in Nashville, TN.

Judge invalidates cash bail reform in some counties; Supreme Court appeal pending

BY JERRY NOWICKI
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — A Kankakee County judge ruled Wednesday, Dec. 28 that lawmakers overreached their constitutional authority in passing a measure to abolish cash bail in Illinois, while other provisions in the wide-ranging SAFE-T Act criminal justice reform were not affected by the ruling.

The ruling by Judge Thomas W. Cunnington leaves the impending cash bail reform in limbo in at least 64 of Illinois' 102 counties that had joined the consolidated lawsuit ahead of the reform's scheduled Jan. 1 implementation.

The reform remains scheduled to take effect in the more than 30 counties that did not sue, which contain roughly two-thirds of the state's population. Of the state's 10 most

populous counties, six were not part of the lawsuit (Cook, DuPage, Lake, Kane, St. Clair and Champaign). The counties of Will, McHenry, Winnebago and Madison were all part of the lawsuit.

The ruling did not invalidate other provisions of the SAFE-T Act which had already taken effect, such as reforms to police officer training and certification standards and police body camera requirements.

Cunnington wrote in a 36-page decision that the cash bail provisions effectively and improperly amended a section of the state's constitution that states, "all persons shall be bailable by sufficient sureties," except in a few specific circumstances.

He also wrote that ending cash bail is an improper overreach by lawmakers, who have no constitutional authority to govern the administrative functions of Illinois courts due

to the separation of powers. Bail, Cunnington wrote, has been held by the Supreme Court to be "administrative" in nature.

The constitution also specifically mentions bail in a section on victims' rights, when it states victims have a right "to have the safety of the victim and the victim's family considered in denying or fixing the amount of bail." Cunnington found that eliminating bail prevents courts from "effectuating the constitutionally mandated safety of the victims and their families."

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in a news release the state will appeal the decision directly to the state Supreme Court, but a timeline for a ruling from the high court is unclear.

"Most of the SAFE-T Act's provisions have been in effect for more than a year, and regardless of today's circuit

court decision, all parts of the SAFE-T Act, including the pre-trial release portions addressed in the court's decision, will go into effect Jan 1," Raoul said. "For instance, the right of individuals awaiting criminal trials — people who have not been convicted of a crime and are presumed innocent — to seek release from jail without having to pay cash bail will go into effect in a few short days, despite the court's ruling against those provisions."

Cunnington rejected other arguments by the dozens of state's attorneys that centered on the legislative process, namely that the bill was not given a proper hearing and violated the "single subject" rule. Court precedent holds that as long as the House speaker and Senate president certify that a bill is properly passed, courts have no standing to intervene, he wrote.

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OBITUARIES

Linda Anderson

BRAIDWOOD—Linda A. Anderson (nee Morris), 72, of Braidwood, passed away after a six year battle with cancer, Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

She was born Sept. 2, 1950 in Columbus, OH to Calvin Morris and Geraldine "Bum" (nee Ashley) Jankowski. Linda graduated from Plainfield High School and retired in 2016 from Ulta Beauty as an executive assistant. She loved cooking and baking, and was proud to be a part of a local quilting group that created lap quilts for disabled veterans.

Surviving are her son and daughter-in-law, Ronald (Kimberly) Fowler, of Wilmington; grandson, Joshua (fiancé, Alexandra Medeiros) Fowler, of Georgia; brother-in-law, Richard Luzbetak of Joliet; sister-in-law, Barb Morris, of Braidwood; brothers: Ray (Ruth) Jankowski, Leonard (Edith) Jankowski and Father James Michael Jankowski; sister, Marianne (Sonny)

Skole and nephews and niece, Jeff (Angie) Luzbetak, Charlene (Paul) Abbinanti, Matthew and Mitchel Morris and several additional nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Calvin and Bum; sister, Kathleen Luzbetak and brother, Philip Morris.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A memorial visitation for Linda was held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.

Memorial donations in her name to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated.

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

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

Shirley M. Miller

DIAMOND—Shirley M. Miller, 95, of Diamond, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022.

Born May 22, 1927, in Chicago, Shirley Marie was a daughter of John and Essie Edna (Winters) Albrecht. She was raised in Chicago until her sophomore year of high school, when she moved to Coal City and went on to graduate with the Coal City High School class of 1945. On Sept. 14 of that same year, Shirley married Raleigh Miller in Chicago, and together they made a home and raised a family in the Coal City/Diamond area. She worked various jobs throughout the years, which included employment at the Joliet Arsenal, Testa's IGA, Wescom, DeMert & Dougherty and Major School of Dance. Shirley was an active member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, where she enjoyed singing in the choir, taught Sunday school, was involved with the Evening Star Circle, and more recently active with Friendship Circle. When her girls were young, Shirley volunteered with the PTA/PTO and Music Boosters, served as a 4-H Leader and Brownie Leader, and assisted as a Room Mother. In addition, Shirley was of constant support of her husband Raleigh's musical career and was sure to be in attendance at many of his performances. She served as an Election Judge, belonged to the White Star Chapter of the Eastern Star, volunteered for Meals on Wheels, and leaves a legacy of constant caregiving of the young, the old, and those who needed a helping hand.

A generous, hard-working, kind-hearted and beautiful soul, Shirley's life was centered on family and friends. She took pleasure in feeding the birds, tending to her flower and vegetable gardens, swimming, and decorating her home for the seasons. With her warm smile and jovial laugh, Shirley was one to "never, never, never give up."

Survivors include three daughters: Cynthia

(Dean) Miller-Webb, of Snellville, GA and Romeoville, IL; Jacqueline (Dale) Kuntz, of Kingwood, TX and Carol (Bob) Crawford, of Diamond; grandchildren: Timothy (Hollie) Washburn, of Coal City; Tod (Jamie) Washburn, of Morris; Shelley Crawford, of Parker, CO; Katie (Steve) Hlavac, of Yorkville, IL; Catherine (Michael) Williams, of Marietta, GA; Christy (Andy) Steinhauer, of Powder Springs, GA; Daren (Trisha) Kuntz, of Bennington, NE and Danielle (Joe) Mazurkiewicz, of Grayslake, IL; great-grandchildren: Ali, Emma, Abby, Nolan, William, Ava, Addison, Natalie, Reagan, A.J., Rigdon, Sam, Max, Elise and Jaxson; great-grandchildren: Jace and Jenna, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 54 years, Raleigh, in 2000; brother-in-law, Gayle Miller; sister-in-law, Faith Miller Harris; and her dear special friend, Tom Trotter.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd. in Coal City on Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, from 10 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter will officiate, and burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, where Shirley will be laid to rest with Raleigh.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Shirley's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416; Bohemian National Cemetery, Braidwood, IL, at www.bohemiannational.org; or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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

Deacon William F. Bevan III

JOLIET—Deacon William F. Bevan III, D.D.S., 86, and a lifelong resident of Joliet, went to eternity on Dec. 25, 2022.

Born July 30, 1936 in Joliet, William was a son of Dr. William F. II and Marguerite (Welch) Bevan. He was proud to have been the great-grandson of Fred Bevan, a Roman Catholic who came from England; served in the Civil War, and is laid to rest in Calvary Cemetery in Kankakee, as well as Herman Welch who emigrated from Germany; also served in the Civil War, and is laid to rest in St. Joseph Cemetery in Cabery, IL.

A graduate of St. Raymond's Grade School (1950), Joliet Catholic High School (1954), Joliet Junior College and Lewis University, William completed his post graduate work at Northern Illinois University and Marquette University. He received his Doctorate of Dental Surgery at Loyola University, and post graduate work at the University of Michigan Dental College. Dr. Bevan practiced Dentistry in Joliet with his father, Dr. William F. Bevan II for 53 years, a practice his grandfather started in 1896.

Dr. Bevan was a life member of the American and Illinois Dental Society; past president of the Will County Dental Society; life member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree, and was a member of The Catholic League.

Baptized at Sacred Heart Church in Joliet, William received his First Holy Communion,



Confirmation and was ordained a Deacon at the Cathedral of St. Raymond's. He was assigned a Deacon at St. Paul Catholic Church in Joliet, and most recently at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Coal City.

Deacon Bevan will lie in state at the Cathedral of St. Raymond, 604 N. Raynor Ave. in Joliet on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Vigil Service. Funeral services will follow Friday morning, Jan. 6, 2023 at 11 a.m. in the Cathedral. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Rev. Michael Lane presiding, and Deacon Karl Huebner assisting.

Burial will be in Resurrection Cemetery in Romeoville, where he will be laid to rest with his parents.

Pallbearers will be fellow Joliet Diocesan Deacons. Honorary Pallbearers are John Cronin, Jim Sefcik, Art Hrvatin, David Skorupa, Jim Skorupa, John Rems, Tom Grohar, and classmates from the Joliet Catholic graduating Class of 1954.

In lieu of flowers, Masses are preferred. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Deacon Bevan's memorial page.

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

Arland E. Percy Jr.

WILMINGTON—Arland E. Percy Jr., 62, of Wilmington and formerly of Joliet, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox.

Born Sept. 20, 1960 in Mattoon, IL, Arland Edward was a son of Arland "Edward" Percy Sr. of Diamond and the late Linda Jean (Paden) Percy. He attended Laraway School and graduated from Joliet East High School with the class of 1978. Following high school, Arland worked in the Steel Mills before gaining employment with the City of Wilmington Water Department. Most recently he had been working security.

On Oct. 1, 1994, Arland married Brenda (nee Davis) in the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, and together they made their home together in Wilmington. Over the years, Arland took pleasure in playing baseball and fishing, and was a fan of all sports, particularly following the Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Cubs. He enjoyed old movies and radio shows, and had a love of animals, especially his dogs. To his family he was known to be a gentle giant and never mean, vindictive or aggressive to anyone. Arland always enjoyed making people laugh and will be remembered for his witty

sense of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Brenda; father, Ed Percy; two sisters, April Veerman, of New Lenox and Georgianna (Jeff) Shenk, of Braidwood; his mother-in-law, Annette Kincheloe, and brother-in-law, Douglas Davis, both of Wilmington, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arland was preceded in death by his mother, Linda Percy; brother-in-law, Brad Veerman; maternal and paternal grandparents, and his father-in-law, Benjamin Kincheloe.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and a memorial service is being planned for a later date. Correspondences may be directed to the family c/o Baskerville Funeral Home.

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

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

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

Jeff J. Bowen

BRAIDWOOD—Jeff J. Bowen, 63, of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022 at his home.

Born July 20, 1959 in Joliet, he was the son of Gifford and Barbara (nee Linssen) Bowen. He was a graduate of Lockport Township High School and member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #241 in Wilmington and Teamsters Local #179 and #705. Jeff was an over the road truck driver his entire life. He was known to be a "backyard mechanic" who enjoyed working on his vehicles and he also appreciated the art of bushcraft.

Surviving are three children: Chance Houston Gifford (Jade) Bowen, of Wilmington; Sgt. Austin Taylor Bowen, of Braidwood and Dakota Raye (Christopher) Pahr, of Goodlettsville, TN; six grandchildren: Kaylie Eitzkorn, Damian Mixon, Nickolas Bowen, Elijah



Bowen, Matthias Bowen, and Waylon Bowen; five siblings: Neil, Jerry, Jan, Rosie, and Linda; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and beloved wife, Rebecca Lynn (nee Elliott) Bowen, who he married Nov. 24, 1978 in Lockport and predeceased him on Nov. 17, 2019.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023. Interment followed in Mt. Vernon Cemetery in Lemont, IL.

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

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

Benny R. Cline Jr.

ORLAND PARK—Benny R. Cline Jr., 53, of Orland Park, passed away on Dec. 23, 2022 at his home.

Born July 31, 1969 in Chicago, he was a son of Benny Sr. and Carolyn (Thomas) Cline. Benny was raised and educated in Chicago. On July 8, 2017 Benny married Heidi Lamkin in Luttrell, TN she survives. Benny enjoyed watching WWE and was a huge sports fan, with many considering him to be the biggest Chicago Cubs fan in all of history. He enjoyed playing catch but more importantly being a commentator during the baseball games which most people found more exciting than the game itself. During his time in Tennessee he served as a deacon at his church. He was known by many to always see the good in people and seem to never know a stranger. Benny loved both Country and Christian music and could always be heard singing. He truly wore his heart on his sleeve and saw other people's needs above his, often times saying, "They need it more than I do." Benny cherished his family and will always be remembered for his love of life and dedicated service to others.

Survivors include his wife, Heidi Lamkin, of Orland Park; two children, Colleen Cline, of



Spring Valley, IL and Carrie Cline (Bina), of Homer Glen, IL; three brothers: Michael Cline, of Orland Park; Earl (Amy) Cline, of Rochester, IN and Randy (Jenny) Cline, of Kokomo, IN; two sisters, Martha (Jorge) Alvarado, of Orland Park and Rebecca (Jeff) O'Shaughnessy, of Orland Park and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Benny was preceded in death by his parents.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City on Jan. 4, 2023 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m. Reverend Dr. Roy Backus will officiate and burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials in Benny's memory may be made to the family to assist with funeral expenses.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Benny's memorial page via social media.

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

Ronald Gabriel

ELWOOD—Ronald Rex Gabriel, 70, of Elwood, passed away Friday, Dec. 30, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born March 25, 1952 in Joliet, Ronald Rex was a son of Rex L. and Marion L. (Clever) Gabriel. He was raised and educated in the Plainfield area, and went on to serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Upon his honorable discharge, Ron went on to make his career as a mechanic.

He was an active member of Families of Faith Church in Channahon; belonged to the American Warriors Motorcycle Club, and was a member and the past Jr. Commander at Stone City VFW Post 2199. Ron will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, and his passion for Veteran's organizations.

Survivors include his brother and sister-in-law, Jerry and Shelley Gabriel, of Joliet; nephew, James Rex Gabriel (Amber Marie Hubner); great-niece, Aurora Skye Gabriel and great-nephew, Logan Hubner, as well as numerous



cousins and friends.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Rex and Marion Gabriel.

Cremation rites are being accorded, and a Memorial Service is in the planning at Families of Faith Church in Channahon.

Following the services, Ron will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

A complete obituary with service details will be updated as information becomes available.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Ron's memory to a Veteran's Organization of the donor's choosing.

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

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

Dorothy Ventsias

DIAMOND—Dorothy J. "Dottie" Ventsias, 90, of Diamond and formerly Joliet, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 20, 2022 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox.

Born April 22, 1932 in Lockport Township, Dorothy Joan was a daughter of Kelly George and Lucy (Coates) Barto. She was raised and educated in the Lockport area and graduated from Joliet Township High School. Dorothy married John Ventsias and worked alongside John for more than 25 years as the office manager for the family restaurant supply business. Throughout the years, Dottie enjoyed numerous crafts and took pleasure in cooking and baking. In addition, she enjoyed the theater, both stage plays and movies. She was a member of the Country Meadows Association.

Dorothy is survived by two sisters-in-law, Thea Ann Ventsias, of Stamford, CT and Penny Barto, of Sugar Grove, IL, and one brother-in-law, James Ventsias, of Yorkville, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John on Dec. 25, 2002; son,

Anthony on March 22, 2013 and daughter, Deborah on Dec. 17, 2013.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial gathering will be held at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Jan. 5, 2023 from 10 a.m. until time of Celebration of Life at 12 p.m. Inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 1:30 p.m., where she will be laid to rest with her late husband.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Dottie's name to any of her favorite charities: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; Native American Heritage Association or to Morning Star Mission in Joliet.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Dorothy's memorial page.

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



OBITUARIES

Rosie Lee Waters (nee James)

CHANNAHON—Rosie Lee Waters, 80, of Channahon, passed away on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, at Rock Run Place Assisted Living and Memory Care in Joliet.

Born Nov. 2, 1942, in New Haven, IL, she was a daughter of Orville and Thelma May (Kennedy) James. Rosie was raised and educated in Norris City and graduated from Norris High School with the class of 1960. Rosie worked as a CNA for Morris Hospital retiring after 32 years. Rosie loved her four-legged feline pets, and most importantly cherished her family especially her time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include four children: Scott (Dreama) Unland, of Virginia; Julie (Bob) Watts, of Coal City; Donnie (Jen) Unland, of Virginia and Laurie (Tim) Smith, of Channahon; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; one sister, Euna (Ron) Stokes, of Norris City; one brother, Wayne (Ruth) McKenzie, of Norris City; one sister-in-law, Sue James, of Norris City,



as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosie was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Robert; sister, Sheila Horste; one brother, Ray James and stepfather, Warren McKenzie.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of IL Route 47 in Morris on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 11 a.m. Rev. Dr. Roy Backus will officiate, and burial will follow in Willard Grove Cemetery where Rosie will be laid to rest with her husband, Robert.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Rosie's page via social media.

Funeral services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes Ltd. in Morris.

Michael D. Brown Sr.

FLORIDA—Michael D. Brown Sr., 76, passed away at his home in Florida on Sept. 24, 2022 after a very long illness.

Mike was an employee of Caterpillar Inc., from 1965-1998, as a welder, instructor, and supervisor. He was a lifelong conservative who had a strong sense of right and wrong. In his Florida retirement he served on several county boards and was chairman (2017-2018) of the Republican Party of Charlotte Co. He worked hard from the time he was a child until the last decade of his life. Mike played hard, too: He was an outstanding pony league baseball pitcher and a fast and tough high school football player. In his younger days, Mike enjoyed fishing and hunting. In his later



years, Mike and Gloria enjoyed boating and Mike's Harleys. In his home workshop, he was a craftsman of fine solid-oak cabinetry and furniture as well as beautiful stained glass art pieces.

He is survived by his wife, Gloria (Fox); his children: Lisa, Mike Jr. and Pat; grandchildren: Lucas, Michael, Katie, Rebekka and Angus; two great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews; and two sisters, Betty and Diana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, David and Greta Brown; nephew, Erich and great-niece, Riley.

His ashes were interred in the memorial garden of his church on Nov. 19, 2022.

Barney Stewart

COAL CITY—Barney Stewart, 78, of Coal City, and formerly of Chicago, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023 at his home.

Barney is the husband of Nancy; father of Elizabeth (Stephen) Scofield, of England; Debbie (Rich) Carollo, of Colorado and the late Troy Stewart; grandfather of six, great-grandfather of one and brother to Chris and Joey Smolka.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Monday, Jan. 9, 2023 from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Rev. Jay Regennitter

from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate. Burial will follow.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Barney's memory to PAWS Chicago.

A complete obituary is available on the funeral home website, and will be published in next week's paper.

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

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



Photo by Eric Fisher

FOG AND DROPLETS of rain greeted area residents to start the new year. This photo was taken about 6 a.m. near Prairie Land and Vista Dr in Wilmington. With the flash turned on, the photograph shows the moisture in the air as it blew with the wind. The forecast for this week shows highs above freezing with rain expected Wenesday into Thursday before sunny skies prevail.

Automatic renewal for FOID card with fingerprints

The Illinois State Police (ISP) can automatically renew a person's Firearm Owner's Identification Card (FOID) for individuals who have submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP specifically for their FOID card or Concealed Carry License.

The individual's FOID card will remain active for a period of 10 years from the date of the Firearms Transaction Inquiry Program approval.

Individuals who apply for a FOID card may include a full set of their fingerprints transmitted through a live scan fingerprint vendor licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR). Individuals who currently have a FOID card but have not submitted a full set of fingerprints to ISP may do so by going to a live scan vendor and uploading them to their account at www.ispfsb.com.

Drawing by Grace Keane

Goal: draw, color and create your own artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories.

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Help us express kindness! Create!

Dropoff string lights, electronics

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Jan. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Holiday string lights that are no longer working may be dropped off for recycling. This is for string lights only, no stand alone LEDs, CFLs or other fluorescent lights.

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

Items accepted include: Televisions (limit 2), monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets),

electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants

(PDAs) and zip drives.

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

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

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CCAC to hold annual meeting

The Coal City Area Club will be hole their annual meeting on Jan. 18, 7 p.m. at 285 S. Broadway, Coal City. The regular monthly meeting will follow.



Front Row: Grace Smith, Dayna Vargocko, Samantha Olson.
Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

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The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

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Newly remodeled duplex for rent, 2 bedroom, living room, kitchen, single car attached garage. Mazon on Rt 47. Call 815-252-2239. cc52-3

LOST & FOUND

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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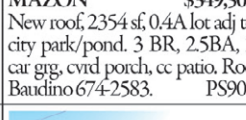


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NEW LISTING  ESSEX \$349,000 High Point Estates half-acre lot lake front on 9-hole High Point Golf Course. Cindie Hunt 815-712-7034. FV135	 MAZON \$398,000 3 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA. Brick home w/geothermal heating and cooling for low utility bills. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12	SOLD  DIAMOND \$365,000 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 car garage, appliances. Stamped patio w/tp, full basement. Great kitchen. Call Cindie 815-712-7034. FH2160	 MAZON \$349,500 New roof, 2354 sf, 0.4A lot adj to city park/pond. 3 BR, 2.5BA, 3 car grg, cvrd porch, cc patio. Rod Baudino 674-2583. PS904	 MAZON \$225,000 Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HR1113
 DWIGHT \$199,500 10 years new, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, 2.5 car grg, adj 0.2A lot avail. Open plan, covered porch, deck. Rod Baudino 674-2583. DW307	GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices.	 S. WILMINGTON \$198,000 3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch home with two car garage is located on a large corner lot. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. LC75	 GARDNER \$155,000 3 BR, 1 BA ranch with large kitchen. All appliances stay. 24 ft. above-ground pool and hot tub. Kelly 815-823-6147. EU303	RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront
 MAZON \$129,900 2 BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot. 24x24 det. grg. 12x12 shed. 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-467. HL411	 MAZON \$129,900 Why rent when you can own this 2 BR home right in the heart of small town Mazon. Lorie+ Owen Toler 715-5959. DC602	 VERONA \$108,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. 1g rooms/yard. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432	 COAL CITY \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62	

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS ARVEST CENTRAL MORTGAGE COMPANY Plaintiff, -v- RAYMOND M. FARCUS et al Defendant 2022 FC 18 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on December 8, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 11:00 AM on January 25, 2023, 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 1285 S GORMAN RD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 09-07-200-010 The real estate is improved with a residence. 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 ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 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. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONT-AGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-01588 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 18 TJSC#: 42-4588 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. Case # 2022 FC 18 13209562 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Dec. 21 & 28, 2022 and Jan. 4, 2023.

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Indoor plants that can help your home air quality

Dear EarthTalk: Do houseplants really improve indoor air quality? Which ones are the most effective as such?

-- Kay Hamm, Los Angeles, CA



Indeed, in order to make a considerable difference in the air quality of your home, you'd have to keep a large number of houseplants under specific climatic conditions, requiring a large amount of effort, time and money that isn't realistic for most of us.

Having houseplants can even worsen indoor air quality if you are overwatering them, as overly damp soil may promote the growth of microorganisms which can affect allergic individuals.

However, if you are interested in keeping houseplants that have the potential to clean the air in your home, there are a variety to choose from.

There are two major air pollutants found in homes: particulates—dust, mold, etc.—and volatile organic compounds (VOC)—gases that are released from materials such as fabric, paint and cleaning products.

Spider plants, philodendrons, ZZ plants, dumb canes, pygmy date palms and ivies are among the plants suited to indoor living that are especially good at filtering out particulates.

Other plants especially good at removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) out of your indoor air include pathos, bamboo, Areca palms, rubber plants and peace lilies. You can usually find a wide assortment of indoor plants — and get more advice — at a local nursery or garden center.

Of course, there are also many other ways to improve the air quality of your home. Keeping a clean home reduces the amount of particulate matter in the air.

Investing in air purifiers and home air filters can help reduce both the concentration of VOCs and particulate matter that could be impairing your indoor air quality. Simple tasks like opening your windows and airing out your home in the warmer

months increases air circulation and benefits your home's indoor environment.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

In recent years, more and more people have developed an interest in keeping houseplants. There are many potential reasons why there has been such a resurgence in indoor gardening. Many people took up tending to houseplants during the pandemic as a quarantine hobby.

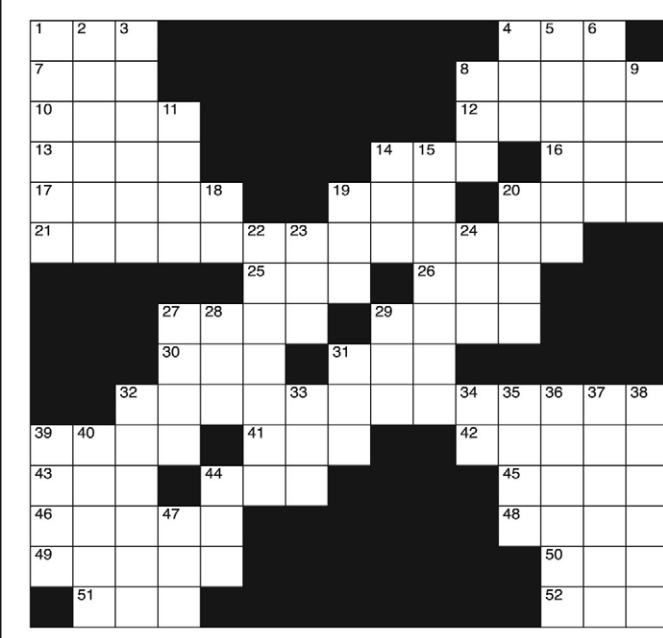
As the years have progressed, people's interest in keeping houseplants has continued to thrive and it's easy to understand why. They live up any living space, and provide people with something to care for—both which provide many mental health benefits.

However, there has been speculation as to whether or not keeping houseplants provides environmental and health benefits through purifying the air in our homes.

The short answer is that houseplants do have the potential to purify the air in our homes. When plants perform photosynthesis, they take carbon dioxide out of the air and emit oxygen as a byproduct.

Since plants output oxygen into the surroundings, by scientific definition they have the potential to increase the oxygen concentration in your living space. However, the degree to which they can detoxify the air and measurably make a difference to the air quality in a person's living space is another matter.

"There is currently no evidence...that a reasonable number of houseplants remove significant quantities of pollutants in homes and offices," reports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Basics
4. Swiss river
7. Constrictor snake
8. Building occupied by monks
10. Discount
12. Deal a blow to
13. Relating to the ear
14. Thyrotropin
16. Loud, unpleasant noise
17. Large intestines
19. Move with a curving trajectory
20. Witnesses
21. You need both to live
25. Dash
26. Network
27. Dig
29. C. European river
30. Supplement with difficulty
31. Corporate executive
32. Carroll O'Connor's onscreen wife
39. No variation
41. Airborne (abbr.)
42. "Heidi" author
43. Affirmative
44. Pie ___ mode
45. W. Asian country
46. Grotesque or bizarre
48. Delicacy (archaic)
49. Textile
50. Denial
51. Electronic data processing
52. Attempt

CLUES DOWN

1. Engulf
2. Waterside hotel
3. Printed cotton fabric
4. Defensive nuclear weapon
5. One who follows the rules
6. Lace up once more
8. Fire byproduct
9. Hankerings
11. Outer
14. One-time aerospace firm
15. Seafood
18. Commercial
19. Epoxy hardener (abbr.)
20. Samoan monetary unit
22. Type of gland
23. Arrest
24. Check
27. Past participle of be
28. Alias
29. Major division of geological time
31. Kids programming channel (abbr.)
32. Joked
33. Helps little firms
34. Roman numeral 50
35. Impressive in size or scope
36. Domineering leader
37. A person who delivers a speech
38. One after 89
39. Young hawk
40. The scene of any event or action
44. A team's best pitcher
47. Integrated data processing

License plate fees for low-income drivers drop

Eligible older adults and persons with disabilities will see their annual license plate renewal fee reduced by more than half in the new year.

Public Act 102-0807, which took effect Jan. 1, drivers who qualify for IDoA's Benefit Access Program will pay only \$10 for their license plate stickers, a decrease from \$24 currently.

"During this time of high inflation, many older adults are finding it increasingly difficult to cover everyday expenses," said Illinois Department on Aging Director Paula Basta. "This income-based discount on license plate renewals is welcome news for older drivers, helping them save money and keep their vehicle registration current."

The Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program determines eligibility for a

license plate discount from the Secretary of State's office and free transit on fixed route systems in Illinois.

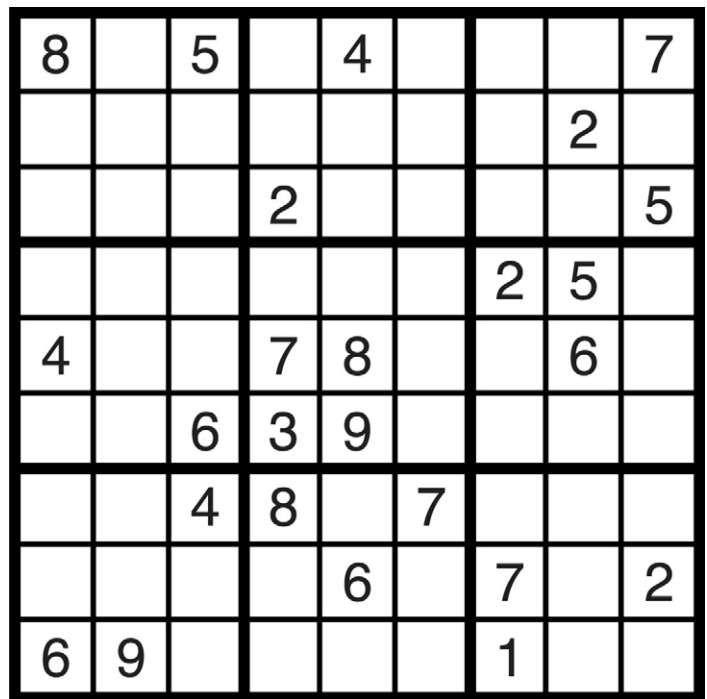
To qualify, residents must be at least 65 years of age or 16 years of age and disabled, as well as meet income requirements. For a household containing one person, the annual income cap is \$33,562.

To apply for the Benefit Access Program online, please visit www.ilaging.illinois.gov/benefitsaccess.html. For assistance with the online application, older adults can call IDoA's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966.

Those with specific questions about the price reduction, or about their vehicle's registration status, are encouraged to contact the Illinois Secretary of State's office at 800-252-8980.

IDoA serves older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering quality and culturally appropriate programs that promote partnerships and encourage independence, dignity, and quality of life. For information about the Department's programs

and services for older adults and persons with disabilities, visit www2.illinois.gov/aging/programs or contact the Senior HelpLine toll-free at 1-800-252-8966, Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.



Employers reminded to display new poster

The Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) has released the 2023 version of the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" poster.

Employers must display the poster where employees will see it.

The poster is available at www.labor.illinois.gov.

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'Cats upset higher seeds to finish 5th in holiday tourney

The Wilmington boys basketball team beat another 1A top 10 team on Thursday to claim 5th place at the Ottawa Marquette Christmas Tournament.

During the tournament the Wildcats went 3-1 and beat two top 10 1A teams to improve their record to 6-5 at the mid-point of the season. Senior Ryder Meents was named to the All Tournament team.

In the semi-final round Wilmington beat Earlville 50-44 to advance to the 5th place game.

"We were up by as many as 15 points but they battled back," coach Doug Krop noted.

Wilmington was led by Reid Juster with 19 points and six rebounds. Joey Cortese helped out with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Meents contributed 10 points and four assists while Cade McCubbin had five points, three assists and four rebounds. Also scoring was Ryan Nelson with four points and four rebounds while Kyle Farrell dished out three assists and two rebounds.

On Tuesday the 'Cats almost upset Reed-Custer, losing 48-38.

The Wildcats came out cold, scoring only three points in the opening quarter but more importantly held the Comets to just nine.

They stayed within striking distance at the half, trailing 26-15. In the final frame Wilmington went on a 14-8 run but the deficit was too large to overcome. The last time the 'Cats played Reed-Custer they lost by 26 points so it was a mental victory for Wilmington.

Juster anchored the offense with 15 points and six rebounds. Joey Cortese stepped up for eight points and four rebounds. Farrell finished with five points and three rebounds, McCubbin four points and three rebounds while Meents had four points.

On Monday Wilmington opened the tournament by upsetting the #3 seed Putnam County to move onto the winners side of the bracket.

The Wildcats won 55-44 after being down 31-20 at the half. It was Meents who paced



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

COMING THROUGH—Wilmington junior Reid Juster gets fouled by a Mومence defender during a recent contest at home. Juster had a good outing at the Ottawa Marquette Christmas Tournament.

the comeback, firing in 21 points while grabbing four rebounds. Cortese helped underneath with nine points and 10 rebounds. McCubbin

hustled for eight points, two assists and three rebounds while Juster tallied eight points, two assists and six rebounds. Farrell had five

points and seven rebounds. Wilmington's next game is Friday at home against Lisle.

KofC Youth free throw contest to be held Jan. 21

All boys and girls ages 9 through 14, as of Jan. 1, are invited to participate in the local level of competition of the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

The Fr. Kuzma Council Knights of Columbus will host their 26th annual local contest on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 9 a.m. in the St. Rose School gymnasium, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

All young people, not in another local contest, are invited to participate.

The Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship is sponsored annually with the winners progressing through local, district, regional and state competitions. National winners are awarded based on the scores accumulated in the various rounds of com-

petition. Participants will compete in their respective age division. All contestants on the local level will be recognized for their participation. There is no entry fee. In the past, Wilmington has seen individuals advancing through the rounds of competition up to competing for the state championship on the campus of the University of Illinois.

Proof of age and written parental consent will be required the morning of the event.

Entry forms are available at the offices of Stevens Intermediate School or Wilmington Middle School or by calling Bob Owens at 815-476-2754. Forms will also be available at the contest.

Sign-up for baseball, softball Jan. 13-14

Registration for Wilmington Area Baseball/Softball (WBSA) will be held Friday, Jan. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 14, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the Stevens Intermediate school gym.

Sign-ups are open to players ages 5 through age 14 who want to play in the spring season beginning in late April.

Players joining the league for the first time will need to present a birth certificate.

The WBSA welcomes any player to register from the local area. They need not live in Wilmington.

Registration forms and medical release forms are available online at leaguelineup.com/kane or at registration.

Celebrate the King of Rock & Roll at the library

The library will host a birthday party fit for a king, the king of rock & roll that is.

Elvis would have turned 88 on Jan. 8, and to celebrate the Wilmington Public Library will show the new critically acclaimed and highly nominated movie about Elvis's life

on Friday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m.

Refreshments will be served, including one of Elvis' personal favorites, grilled peanut butter and banana sandwiches. To register, stop by the library or call 815-476-2834.

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Put your health first this New Year!

Start the New Year out right by scheduling your annual check-up with your primary care provider! Annual check-ups help you monitor existing health issues, keep you up-to-date on vaccinations and screening tests, and increase the likelihood of detecting new health issues before they develop into something serious.

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50 years a Wildcat



DURING HOMECOMING weekend on September 24th, 49 members of the Wilmington High School graduating class of 1972 met to share memories and renew friendships. During their get-together they "passed the hat" and collected \$700, to be donated to the Wilmington School District 209-U Foundation for Excellence. Pictured from right to left are Jim Hankins and Nancy Sheridan Barbour from the Class of '72, presenting the \$700.00 to Cecilia Storbeck and Bill Francis, who are two of the officers of the Foundation. The \$700.00 will be awarded as a scholarship next April to a graduate from the WHS Class of 2023.

Is your town giving you proper public notice?

Public notice has been an integral part of the Illinois Compiled Statutes since statehood because it serves several purposes.

Public notice requires governmental entities to tell when hearings are to be held, how money is being spent, what laws are being passed, what property is being sold.

Public notice provides a permanent record of actions that are taken and a legally defensible notification of actions about to be taken.

Public notice is the only way that exact wording can be provided by the entity's coun-

sel. Newspapers ensure government accountability by acting as an independent third-party. Government officials must ensure that the actions of the government are transparent to the general public.

Publication of public notices in newspapers, independent third parties, helps confirm that the government is accountable to the electorate. When a newspaper publishes a notice, it verifies that the government has provided proper notice to the public.