SIS students earn trimester honors



Golf dream team picks announced





FREE PRESS AD

WILMINGTON, IL

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2021

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Wilmington 209-U preps for back to school

FDITOR

The students in Wilmington School District 209-U were technically back in session this week. But students will make the official return to the classroom in just a few days.

After starting off the week with a teacher institute and remote planning days, school is back in session today (Jan. 6) for all students, but as remote learning only.

All students in the district will participate in remote learning through Friday, a revised schedule that the district decided to implement prior to the start of winter break. Schools reopen for in-person learning on Monday, Jan. 11.

few districts in the region that was

able to return students to the class- are adjusting our calendar when we room for face to face instruction back in August.

During last month's meeting of the Board of Education, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Feeney told members of the board that the district had done well while weathering the storm of the novel coronavirus during the first half of the 2020-2021 school

"As a whole we've done really well this school year in keeping the numbers low," Feeney told members of the school board on Dec. 14.

Feeney said the district ended the semester with four active cases, two students and two staff members.

"As a whole, we had 59 staff and students out the entire school year, District 209-U was one of just a which is really very good considering everything and the environment... We

come back in January, we're going to take that first week in January and go fully remote... That will get us away from the holidays a little bit more, almost like a quarantine that we can help keep staff and students safe until they come back on the 11th."

Over the summer, the district created its back to school plan, which outlined how in-school instruction

which will continue into the second half of the school year, include: Mandatory face coverings for all

persons over the age of 2 • Capacity limits of 50 people per

Social distancing to

observed as much as possible

certification that students are symp-· Increase in cleaning and disin-

Each of the district's four schools will continue to limit the number of outside visitors.

Passing periods at WMS and WHS will remain staggered and hallways will be marked for appropriate traffic

At all school buildings, a separate Guidelines in that document, nurse's station is established for students who are identified with a fever or potential COVID-19 symptoms.

Since the beginning of the school ear, the district has received around \$230,000 in federal CARES funding earmarked for COVID-related needs and expenses.

"It's helped us with hiring two • Temperature checks and/or self remote learning teachers, an addi-

tional nurse, equipment, PPE, technology has been huge for us, we definitely needed it," Feeney said.

In an email home to families, the district also reminded parents and students of additional early student dismissals scheduled for the second half of the school year.

Starting on Wednesday, Jan. 27, students will be dismissed early on each Wednesday afternoon up until Spring Break in late March.

Students will be dismissed at noon from Bruning Elementary, 12:15 p.m. from Wilmington High School, and 12:20 p.m. from Stevens and Wilmington Middle School on each Wednesday through March 24.

Other than those days, the district will continue with regular in-person learning for the second half of the



WILMINGTON CITY TRUCKS were out early Saturday morning plowing the streets have a second round of snow over the holiday weekend. The forecast for the rest of the week calls for highs above freezing and little or no chance of snow through Sunday.

Winter wonderland

First storm of the season blows into town

BY MARNEY SIMON

EDITOR

The year 2020 couldn't leave without leaving one last mess behind.

The first big winter storm of the season rolled through the area on Tuesday, Dec. 29, bringing near white out conditions and a long wait for anyone seeking to travel.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), an area of moderate to heavy snow moved northeastward across northern Illinois and far northwest Indiana from late afternoon into the evening of Dec. 29, with snowfall rates reported of 1- to 2-inches per

By mid-evening, warming temperatures aloft resulted in the precipitation mixing with sleet and rain before changing over to all rain for much of the

SEE SNOW, PAGE 2



THE WAUPONSEE GLACIAL TRAIL lived up to its name after the first major snowstorm of the season came through the area last week. Hikers and snowmobiles took to the trail near Custer Park, Rivals Park, and through Wilmington.

Municipal, school board races set for **April 6 election**

Three to vie for mayoral seat in Wilmington

BY MARNEY SIMON

After the consolidated election takes place in April, the makeup of the Wilmington City Council is guaranteed to look different than it did one

Candidates for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election filed their petitions with the city last month.

Of the four current aldermen whose terms expire this year, only one is seeking reelection. Mayor Roy Strong will also seek reelection, taking on two challengers.

In Wilmington, there are four 4-year alderman seats, one 2-year unexpired alderman term, the 4-year mayoral term, and the 4-year clerk term on the ballot in April.

The expiring terms are: Mayor (incumbent Roy

 Alderman First Ward (incumbent John Persic) · Alderman Second Ward

(incumbent Floyd Combes) Alderman Third Ward

(incumbent Lisa Butler) • Alderman Fourth Ward (incumbent Frank Studer)

Persic, Combes Studer are not seeking reelec

Also on the ballot is the 2 ear unexpired term of Fourth Ward Alderman Jake Tenn, who resigned on Nov. 4.

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2

Regional positivity rate hovers around 10%

Illinois nears I million total COVID-19 cases

STAFF REPORT

As the COVID-19 virus continues to spread throughout the country, all of Illinois remains under Tier 3 resurgence mitigations.

On Tuesday, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) reported 6,839 mew confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 in the state, as well as 126 additional deaths, including three in Will County.

As of Jan. 2, the test positivity seven day rolling average for Region 7, which includes Will and Kankakee counties, is at 10.9%.

In Will County alone, that average is 12.3%.

Between Dec. 23 and Jan. 2, the regional average for all of Region 7 has fluctuated within a 1% range, hitting its lowest point on Dec. 26 at

The region hit its lowest average back in June, when the rate hovered around 3.7%.

The rate began to rise steadily in October, starting the month at 5.5% before peaking at 20.7% on Nov. 16. With some fluctuations, the data shows the rates have slowly declined since mid-November.

Currently, Region 7 has had 11 consecutive days of test positivity below 12%, 11 days where medical/surgical bed

SEE COVID, PAGE 2





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Berkot's Fresh, All-Natura **Boneless Center Cut** availability is above 20%, and five consecutive days where ICU bed availability is

According to the Restore Illinois plan, in order for a region to move back to Tier 2 mitigations, it must experience less than 12% test positivity rate for three consecutive days and a greater than 20% available ICU and hospital bed availability and declining COVID-19 hospitalizations in seven out of the last 10 days.

While Region 7 has reached those metrics, the Tier 3 mitigations remain.

Last month, Gov. JB Pritzker said there were no immediate plans to lift those mitigations, which went into place on Nov. 20. Pritzker said the state would wait to see if there was a significant uptick in hospitalizations and cases after the Christmas and New Year holidays had passed before moving to Tier 2, in order to avoid a swing back and forth between mitigations as the situation changes.

As of Tuesday, IDPH is reporting a total of 991,719 cases, including 16,959 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years.

The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from Dec. 29, 2020 to Jan. 4, 2021 is

As of Jan. 1, the number of open cases reported at Aperion Care in Wilmington is 191. Open cases represent a "current outbreak with cases in the past 28 days" according to IDPH data.

Per IDPH, as of Tuesday, the total number of cases reported since the start of the pandemic in the 60481 zip code, which includes Wilmington, Shadow Lakes, Symerton, and surrounding areas,

The number of cases reported in the 60408 zip code, Braidwood is now at 438.

The Will County Health Department has asked residents to fill out a survey to get on the participation list for COVID-19 vaccination.

The survey was designed to assist the Will County Health Department in planning for vaccine distribution. A link to the survey can be found

www.willcountyhealth.org/covid-19/covid-vaccine. In Grundy County, an anticipated

1,400 Grundy County healthcare workers will receive the COVID-19 vaccination, with more than 600 having already received the first shot. On Monday, the Grundy County

Health Department released an updated mass vaccination schedule noting 640 of the county's healthcare personnel have been vaccinated since Dec. 20.

Healthcare personnel along with staff and residents of the county's five long-term care facilities will be the first to receive the vaccine in the phase 1a of the vaccination schedule.

The Grundy County health department reported last week the first shipment of vaccine resulted in 120 vaccines being administered to Morris Hospital & Healthcare personnel. A second shipment of 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine was directly received at the hospital on Dec. 28 and is being administered to hospital and EMS personnel.

As of Tuesday, 819 residents within the 60416 zip code (Coal City, Diamond, and Carbon Hill) have tested positive for

Case counts in other Grundy communities include 110 in Mazon, 152 in Gardner, 97 in Braceville/Godley, 68 in South Wilmington, and 34 in Verona.

Testing is available throughout the

region at local hospital systems and mobile testing sites operated by IDPH.

IDPH testing is available daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kankakee County Health Department, 2390 W. Station St., Kankakee and Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd., Joliet.

Testing at mobile sites is free and offered to anyone regardless of symptoms or asymptomatic, by nasal swab. Results of testing is available 4-7 days after specimen collection.

Vaccination Schedule

The CDC has issued a schedule for the vaccine rollout in four phases.

Healthcare personnel along with staff and residents of long-term care facilities will be the first to receive the vaccine in the phase 1a of the vaccination sched-Phase 1b is anticipated to start in

February and would include the vaccination of adults ages 75-plus and essential frontline workers including firefighters, police and corrections officers, postal service workers, educators and school support staff, grocery store employees, public transit workers, daycare personnel and manufacturing and food/agricultural

Phase 1c should begin in the spring with vaccination of adults ages 65 to 74 years, persons age 16-64 with high risk medical conditions, along with other essential workers.

Changes to the schedule can come at anytime based on resources.

As currently outlined in draft form, phases 2-4 would include workers in other industries and occupations important to the functioning of society, followed by young adults defined as those aged 18-30 years and wrapping up with all other residents.

Election

The candidates for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election for the city of Wilmington are as follows:

Alderman First

Ryan Jeffries Alderman Second Ward

Ryan Knight **Alderman Third** Ward

> Jonathan Mietzner Lisa Butler **Alderman Fourth**

Ward Thomas John Smith

> Mayor **Roy Strong** Ben Dietz J. Marty Orr No candidates filed for

term, nor for the City Clerk At Wilmington School District 209-U, four seats

are on the ballot in April for

the unexpired Fourth Ward

the Board of Education. The terms of board members Tim Cragg, Peggy Kunz, Erin Moran, and Stephanie Southall are all

Three of the four -Cragg, Kuntz, and Southall will all seek reelection.

The fourth candidate on the ballot, a vote for four option, is Katrina Plese.

the Village of In

Elwood, Village President Douglas Jenco will run unopposed for another Three petitions were

also filed to fill three, 4year terms as village trustee in Elwood. Those candidates are Schmidt, Jodie A. Bertucci, and Kendy Elberson.

At Elwood Community Consolidated District 203, four candidates have filed for the four available seats.

Those candidates are Jennifer Wedic, Karen Nichelle Duering, Tomalewicz, and Margaret C. Bosonetta.

While the filing dates for petitions has passed, those who wish to run as a write-in candidate have until next month to throw their hat in the ring.

Anyone opting to declare their intent to run as a write-in candidate must notify the election authority by Feb. 4, 2021. Write-in candidates must file a notarized Declaration of Intent to be a write in candidate, and write-in votes are only counted for those who have filed such a document.

A link to a Declaration of Intent form can be found under Consolidated Election tab on the county clerk website, at www.thewillcountyclerk.com, by clicking on '2021 Candidate's Guide' and scrolling to page 13.

Snow

area as air temperatures remained below freezing.

The storm paralyzed I-55 through southern Will County, with traffic stalled on both

> Chizmark 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 PETI-TION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Ethan Jospeh Chizmark TO Ethan Lawrence

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, Ethan Jospeh Chizmark adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 57 N. Ottawa St., Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom A236 at 9:00 a.m. on the 17th day of February, 2021 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present

Olszewski, Case No. 20 MR 2829

a petition requesting the name of Ethan Jospeh Chizmark be changed to Ethan Lawrence Olszewski. Ethan Joseph Chizmark Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 13 and

Attorney Fisher files

Gladitsch estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Michelle Denice Gladitsch, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 941.

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Michelle Denice Gladitsch of Eagan. Minnesota and Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15, 2020 to John S. Busca as Independent

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before June 23, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 15, 2020. S. Busca, Administrator

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: jeff@fisherberardilaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate Newspaper on December 23 &

30, 2020 and January 6, 2021.

north- and southbound lanes for up to two and one half hours. Reports of semis stalling out on the hill at Bluff Road were also reported.

This was the first signifiwinter precipitation event of the season for most of the area. Snow totals were reported as 1.5 inches in Wilmington, and between 1.1 to 1.8 inches in Coal City.

In Romeoville, snowfall was recorded at 4.2 inches.

The highest recorded snowfall was 8.1 inches in vil-

> Florence Township seeks bids for tar and chipping

PUBLIC NOTICE Bid requested for 2021 year

Florence Township is accepting bids for tar and chipping of approximately 5 miles of roadway. Roads to be done per road comrates can be emailed to FLotwp@airwans.com. Email any questions to the same email. Bids to be accepted until

Andy Robbins Florence Township Road Commissioner

William P. Long Florence Road District Clerk 32080 S. Warner Bridge Rd.

Published in the Free Press

Attorney Fisher files Hutson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of Donnie B. Hutson, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 614. **CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Donnie B. Hutson of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 15, 2020 to Christopher Alan Hutson as Independent Executor

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

filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before June 23, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: December 23, 2020.

Christopher Independent Executor Alan Hutson

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-

7635. Email: jeff@fisherberardilaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on Dec. 23 and 30, 2020 and Jan. 6, 2021.

lage of Winnebago just west of Rockford The second storm of the

season came through on New Year's Day with a hodge podge of snow, light rain, freezing rain, sleet, and foggy condi-

According to the NWS, snowfall from the second in the greater Chicagoland area was reported at 1.3 inches, with precipitation/rain reported at .38

In Wilmington, public works crews this year not only have their regular plows, but an additional salt sprayer that can prime the roads and sidewalks with de-icing mix.

The city council approved the purchase of the new equipment back in November. The city's salt road mix is

a cross of vodka, rum and salt brine, which is both cost effective, and has longevity. Down the

road, Braidwood City Administrator Tony Altiery said the city of Braidwood prides itself on how clean and safe its road crews are able to keep streets during hazardous winter weather.

"The first two snowfalls went through without a hitch," Altiery said. "Our streets are the cleanest of any around. We have been ready for a month." Altiery said the city only

used about half its stockpile of road salt last year, so there was plenty on hand as the first storm blew into town. "Streets and water guys

combine together flawlessly, he said of the public works response to the snow event. "We're trying to get the entire town running flawlessly."



Wilmington on Saturday, Jan. 2.

Florence Township seeks bids for hauling stone

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bid requested for 2021 year for hauling stone. Stone is to be spread or township roads

Commissioner's needs. Roadwork rates can be emailed to FLotwp@air-wans.com Email any questions to the same email Bids to be accepted until February 9, 2021. Andy Robbins

Florence Township Road Commissioner William P. Long Florence Road District Clerk 32080 S. Warner Bridge Rd. Wilmington, IL 60481

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.

Adrienne Benet Studio files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Certificate 33737 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on December 21, 2020 wherein the business firm of Adrienne Benet Studio, located at 406 Moen Ave., 1b, Rockdale, IL 60436 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows: Owner Name: Cynthia C. Martin

Owner Address: 406 Moen Ave., 1b, Rockdale, IL 60436 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have

hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 21st day of December, 2020.

Lauren Staley Ferry Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020,

Wesley 4-H Club donates PPE

MEMBERS FROM the Wesley 4-H club deliver items to the Custer Protection Fire Department. In the photo (from left) are CFPD Trustee Bob Hussey, Custer FPD Lieutenant Bill Pollard. Veronica Boyer, Alex Boyer and Alesha Boyer.

ZJ Consulting files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE Assumed Name Publication Notice Certificate 33753 was filed in the

office of the County Clerk of Will County on December 29, 2020 wherein the business firm of ZJ Consulting, located at 1820 Arbor Lane, Apt. 210, Crest Hill, IL 60403 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Zeljko Jovanovic Owner Address: 1820 Arbor Lane,

Apt. 210, Crest Hill IL 60403 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 16th day of March, 2020. Lauren Stalev Ferry

Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 13 and



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Triangle Mini Storage gives notice of disposal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Disposal and Possile Sale
To: Josh Lambert, Alex Harris, Tiffanie

ble sale or disposal of personal property will take place as allowed by the IL Self Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95. This property includes 1992 Chevy

and nousehold goods.

It is in space numbers 162, 246, 271
and 360 at Triangle Mini Storage, 24700
W. Stripmine Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481.
Sale, either individually or by lot, or
disposal will take place on:

Location: Triangle Mini Storage 24616 W. Stripmine Rd., Wilmington, IL

Advocate on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 and Jan. 6, 2021.

The Free Press Advocate USPS No. 307-450

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Marney Simon, editor

Attorneys at Law Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyler W. Juckins

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Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Szabo and Marsha Talbot Notice is hereby given that a possi-

1500 pick up vin #2GCEG19Z7N1239433 and household goods.

Date: Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 Time: 11:00 a.m.

This notice is being given by Anthony Miceli of Triangle Mini Storage.
Published in the Free Press

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

DUCKS ENJOY THE WINTER weather along the Kankakee River in

January 1921, a roaring start to the new year



Sandy Vasko

Today we are looking at this month, 100 years ago. Politics was the number one concern. At that time, many Wilmingtonians were dissatisfied with the Wilmington City Council. One hundred voters of Wilmington signed a petition asking for a special election for the purpose of establishing the commission form of government. The petition was granted.

The date set for the special election was February 23. Normally, this question would appear in a general election, but none was scheduled, so a special election was called. The 1920 census report listed Wilmington with a population of 1,384.

Members of the Will County Farm Bureau met, naming G. W. Neese of Wilmington as the Treasurer, and Arthur States of Elwood as the Secretary. Their prime objective for the year was to

organize central farmer's marwhere "dry agents" made 70 bandits could get their carkets, where local farmers could arrests. The paper states, "The under way they were being "paying inordinate profits to speculators and middlemen."

Opera House was doing great business. They showed all Paramount pictures, including Dorothy Gish in "Mary Ellen Comes To Town" and Margaret Clark in "Easy To Get." Included at each performance was the short film magazine called Paramount Magazine. Current Paramount film stars were featured, showing them at home and at play. The public

The Wilmington Advocate on January 7, featured a horrific story, enough to scare their readers. The article claimed that at least three American marines, as well as scores of native girls and children, had been killed and eaten by cannibals in Haiti during the previous 14 months. The Americans were there a peace

Private Clarence E. Morris was completely devoured, Sergt. Lawrence Muth's body was terribly mutilated and Private Harry Lawrence was captured and no trace was ever found of him.

Back in the States the been held up spread rapidly January 7 edition also told of a through town. Men swarmed the previous New Year's Eve, guns and pistols. Before the

sell their own produce without raid followed a wild night at Hurley, during which liquor had been sold at bargain rates, The movie theater at the ranging from 35 cents for moonshine whisky to 75 cents for well-known brands.'

And for those who thought about making their own booze, an announcement was made that home brewers, if caught, would be fined no less than \$1,000 (about \$14,500 today).

Daring robberies had also become common. We read of one in Culver, Indiana. "The raid on the bank occurred shortly before noon. The bandits drove up in a black and yellow touring car. Two of them remained in the machine, the others entered the bank which was crowded with customers and employees."

"A business man occupying offices across from the bank, opened fire on the bandit car with a shotgun. The pistols of the holdup men spat fire in return. The business man was shot through the mouth and fell. Employees of the bank, hastily arming themselves, ran from the bank and commenced shooting at the bandits.

"Word that the bank had raid in Hurley, Wisconsin on out, armed with rifles, shot-

subjected to a storm of bullets and leaden slugs.'

Of course, my question is, was everybody in that town carrying? It seems that all the bank employees had guns and weren't afraid to get into a fight. And the townspeople came running as well. Brave or stupid, not sure which.

Nearer to home, "For the third time within a year, robbers boarded the City of New Orleans as it pulled out of Chicago. They took possession of the rear Pullman sleeper car and robbed 25 passengers of \$500 and jewelry valued at

"The robbers, both mere boys, were captured shortly before midnight at the Aroma Park Station four miles east of Kankakee, by a posse organized by Tim Healy, special agent for the Illinois Central. One of the robbers was seriously injured in a duel fought with Agent O'Neil through the closed door of a washroom, where the youth had taken refuge. He died shortly after-

It seemed that 1921 was off to a roaring start. I hope that your New Year was a good one. Stay safe gentle readers. A better New Year to you all.



A CARTOON RUN in January 1921 in the Wilmington Advocate about the new \$1,000 fine for homemade booze.



SIS ANNOUNCES 4TH grade high honor roll (from left): Taylor Tenn and Phoenix Uthe. Not pictured: Peyton Adams, Chesnee Geiss, Jordan Rader, Eli Van Duyne, Weston Lancaster, Adelle Freeman, Tyler Hammett, Nadine Liguid, Kiley Nichols and Kelsie Roeder.



STEVENS INTERMEDIATE 4TH grade students of the trimester (kneeling, from left): Cainen Machalek, Eli Spicer and Eli Strohmeyer. Back row: Payton Govero, Roslyn Wengelewski, Lillian Govero and Taylor Tenn. Not pictured: Nick Pridemore, Josh Meyer, Chesnee Geiss and Kelsie Roeder.

SIS students earn top trimester honors



5TH GRADE STUDENTS of the trimester for Stevens Intermediate include (above, kneeling, from left): Cole Boersma, Anthony Damian, Zander Van Duyne and Ryan Van Duyne. Back row: Sarai Duran, Katelynn Dedo and Amy Chiappetta. Not pictured: Madilyn Strong, Aubree Jandura and Ethan Howard.





STEVENS INTERMEDIATE 3RD grade students of the trimester include (kneeling, from left): William Panepinto, Luke Medlin and Gage Sorensen. Back row: Madison Rivera, Tessa Biskupski, Skylar Boersma, Hannah Stiehler and Raelynn Grygiel. Not pictured: Jayce Strong, Henry Lewis, Brynne Ryder and Alayna

STEVENS INTERMEDIATE 2ND grade students of the trimester include (left, front, from left): Grace Keane and Maeve Bryant. Back row: Ryder Meskill, Cruz Islas and Nolan Van Duyne. Not pictured: Brianna Musick, Emma Workman and Keely Henke.



STEVENS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL announces 5th grade high honor roll (sitting, from left); Jadyn Sorensen, Kelly Tatera, Dominic Grassity, Cruz Hincherick, Layla Reno and Reagan Mossell. Second row: Zander Van Duyne, Colin Strong, Cameron Corlett, Chase Rabideau, McKenna Vantilburg and Holly Eighner. Third row: Cole Boersma, Trey Weitendorf, Caroline Smith, Katelynn Dedo, Haylee Fritz and Amy Chiappetta. Not pictured: Hank and Nolan Lindsey, Sophia Albright, Ethan Howard, Aubree Jandura and Annabelle Lawson.

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Dedicated crew

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank the public works department for getting out on the evening of Dec. 29 and clearing the roads so quickly during our first snow storm of the season. I had trucks going down my road already at 5:30 p.m. clearing the snow from the streets. As a citizen I appreciate so much on how much they do to keep the roads clear and safe for all us elderly citizens in Wilmington and I hope all the other citizens appreciate it as well. Thank you again for all you do for keeping our roads safe and clean. Have a very happy new year.
Sherri Michaels

Enjoy socialism

WILMINGTON— I hope all those people waiting for their government checks realize that's socialism.

Waste of money

SHADOW LAKES-Regarding the coronavirus relief checks. I do not think that people that work in local government, people that work in county government, state government, city government or federal government or people that are retired should get a check. None of these people have been put out of work. They all receive a monthly check. It is a ridiculous waste of money. Those monies should go to people who have had their businesses closed down, those who have not been able to go to work, people who have gone out of business and nobody else. Not even those in the medical profession, they are not out of work. So why does the government want to send everybody money? It is a big waste. When I had my check sent to me I called them back and told the government people like me who are retired should not be given a relief check.

The Shadow's back!

WILMINGTON—Are you tired of people talking about presidents? He did this, he did that. They must have nothing else to yap about. The Walter E. Smith girls must not be selling much furniture, looks like they're starving. Who took Roger Eberts' place? We must not have needed him to start with. Hello Meg I bought a new Toyota. Sorry Ed there are no places to go. Dan Hill's neighbors told me all the birds fly upside down over his house, because he doesn't have anything worth pooping on. Haha. A fish was swimming up the river, he hit his head on something hard, he said "Dam"! Till next time. The Shadow

All for themselves

COAL CITY—The USA is really an amazing country. We have corruption in congress and throughout every branch of government. We also have people in charge of the country who do as they please and help criminals and people in this country illegally and they're members in congress that spend the taxpayers' funds for everything they please without the consent of the taxpayers. If they decide to give financial aid to the Americans then there is always a way found to delay in helping its citizens. But there is no delay in giving financial aid to foreign individuals or foreign countries. It seems that some politicians in congress have decided that the American citizens have no right to question how the taxpayers' funds are spent. While Americans suffer because of the belief of some politicians work for them, instead of the government employees being public servants working for the American citizens. They prefer to work against the American

citizens. Welcome to the Democrat party. The killing of children

SHADOW LAKES—Fifty-six children were shot and killed in Chicago last year. Where was BLM? Where was Obama? No political profit is to be made on black on black crime. Tell me I

Open your eyes

WILMINGTON—With over 350,000 people who have died from this virus as of the first of the year now documented in the USA, have you people not gotten the picture? I give credit to the downtown bar-restaurant for not being open other than carryout. They are following the governor's mitigation orders while all other bars and restaurants in town are allowing people to dine in and drink at the bar. Shame on you. This virus is a very serious pandemic. God bless and hopefully you don't catch the virus.

Refuting the truth

Fees:

more players.

WILMINGTON-Here is a thought why

Wilmington Baseball/

Softball Assoc.

2021 Sign - Ups

When:

Fri., Jan. 22, 5-8 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 23, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: **Park District Building** 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Trump is screaming voter fraud. It has been said that Daddy Trump and lawyer Roy Cohn instilled in young Donald that there is no such thing as losing in life. If you want to be a success, you have to lie, cheat, deceive, swindle, refute the truth, make up stories, and sue anyone who gets in your way. So the real reason Trump is claiming voter fraud is there is a chance he might be sitting in a New York jail or prison after Jan. 20. By the way, I read about this stuff at a socialist facility, a library.

commentary in the Dec. 30, 2020 issue, "State politics had it pretty good during 2020." It is an excellently written article to educate the citizens of our state of how your tax dollars are being spent on state representatives and senators in Springfield. Get a copy of the Free Press, Braidwood Journal or Coal City Courant. When will Illinois say enough is enough?

Illinois exodus

WILMINGTON—I enjoyed the commentary you had in the Dec. 30 issue of the Free Press Advocate. You did a fine job pointing out the wrongs that are happening in Springfield. The one thing Mr. Fisher forgot to list is the fact that Illinois has had seven straight years of population decline, including 79,487 residents from July 2019 to July 2020. Meanwhile states like Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri have all had population gains. It's obvious the Illinois exodus is growing thanks to inaction in Springfield. The Democrats love everything status quo as long as they get re-elected. Until there is pension reform, one thing Madigan and Pritzker have said they will not address, the Illinois exodus will continue.

Shop local first

COAL CITY—I look around our town and see small businesses struggling. Not to blame Gov. Pritzker for forcing some of them to close, instead I'd like to point out that now is the time they need our support the most. When you drive to Morris to shop instead at big box stores you're only hurting our community. Do you think the Morris corporate stores are going to close? They're raking in billions of dollars during this pandemic because they were the ones allowed to stay open. They saw big jumps in sales and their profits went to their ultra rich CEOs and stock holders. Meanwhile the small business owners selling appliances, flowers, groceries, tools, auto services and household goods right here in our town are suffering. They're the ones hiring local people and spend their money right back in their community. They're the ones sponsoring your kids' sport teams, who give to Promfest, who support the musicals and arts, who donate to benefits that help our neighbors pay medical bills. They won't survive if you don't shop local. Make an effort in 2021 to support our own businesses

Basic leadership

BRAIDWOOD—How can anyone in office not know how to use a computer? Let's face it, in today's world if you don't know how to use email or correspond by computer then you are doing a disservice to the taxpayers. Braidwood city commissioners were voted into office to bring leadership to our community. But when you have commissioners unable to lead using simple technology, that is poor leadership. They can come up with all kinds of excuses but the way I see it, this is so basic. It's like having a leader who refuses to go out and get the mail. In the next election there should be qualifications so that every candidate be required to use email as part of the job. If they don't or can't

Worth watching

called "Lincoln is crying" on WTTW PBS a few weeks ago. It was excellent and truthful. Ask yourself why do the 12 million citizens of Illinois put up with political corruption for years and years and keep sending their tax dollars to those in charge? Our state is an unbelievably corrupt mess and deep in debt. It's the worst of any Democrat political machine state. PBS will run it again. Don't miss it. That is if

Byron Nuclear Plant and Dresden Nuclear Plants will be closed next fall. When the crying

and whining begins if it happens, our question to those is "Who did you vote for?" President Trump would have never allowed the nuclear plants to be closed. The Biden-Harris presidency will do it gladly as they're all for wind turbines (a billion dollar business) and solar heating. You might not have liked President Trump's personality but the day will come when you'll know how much he cared about the USA.



Showing no respect

WILMINGTON-Admit it Margo. You didn't need a Jimmy Kimmel joke to decide to show no respect to Dr. Biden or her husband. Remember, Melania said to be best as usual. Penny Lane

Destroyed by Trump

WILMINGTON—To the caller who said the Democrats want to destroy the Republican Party. Even if that's true, they are too late. Trump already did it. Check out the Lincoln

Only those in need

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the COVID-19 relief package. I believe that Trump is right about cutting out the 230 package which gives money to many other countries and people should get a \$2,000 relief check, except those who are retired and those who are working. They do not need this. The people who need this relief are people who can't work because of governors and people who have been forced out of business. Those who have been forced out of business should actually get several thousand more. I even called Washington the first time these checks came out and told them I did not need a check. I'm retired and it makes no difference to me. I'm not out of work and if you haven't saved for retirement that is your own stupid fault because too many people in this country have overspent.

Dan Hill

Appropriate name

WILMINGTON—If these white men Republicans can call four Democratic women of color the squad can we call them the clan?

A political ploy

BRAIDWOOD—The moment changes, politics persist or one then another. As I become more informed reading about SARS and COVID-19 and listening to audio media, I am getting a different reason for having a patient during an eye exam being made a less-

er mental. That being that the patient might have less or no movement of the eye during upcoming eye surgery. I now am realizing it is the old whole herd going off the cliff. More mental would take notice and not go off the cliff. Where the COVID-19 comes in is the hydroxychloroquine. The media gave the impression of bleach and quinine being ingested, a totally bad sounding act. As it turns out, it is a medical thing with century or more applications. Biden made it sound like a scatter brain thing. Though in actuality other than financial manipulating it is a reasonable reasoning at the time it became a news item. It also became a political ploy and would make a person regret his or her vote at the election of our president-elect. Political herd follows at the upcoming cliffs US citizens would be pushed into doing.

Dictators

WILMINGTON— There are people in congress that believe that the laws of the USA are only meant for the American citizens that are not government employees and that the members of congress are immortal and should not be subjected to any laws since they believe they are not public servants but are controllers of the lives of the American citizens and the American citizens must obey their rules or be subjected to punishment by the laws that they impose on every individual except themselves. The leaders of the Democrat party decide on who will be able to live the American dream and does not appear that it's any American citizen and all the taxpayers funds should be given to themselves, foreign individuals, foreign countries and big business. If the American citizens object to this in any manner they can wave their hand and take away everything from the American citizens as punishment for not obeying their rules. Are they dictators or public servant.

Incoming Illinois lawmakers face COVID-19 oversight, budget deficit, other challenges

BY GREG BISHOP

THE CENTER SQUARE

Because of COVID-19, the Illinois Legislature could take up the ability to legislate remotely in the new year, but some have concerns it could limit accountability and taxpayer participation.

Democrats at the Illinois statehouse have a variety of priorities for the new year, including criminal justice reform, clean energy legislation and other issues. But because of COVID-19, some have continued concerns from meeting

A bill filed this month by state Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, could make legislating remotely happen.

State Rep. Chris Welch, D-Hillside, said lawmakers tried to allow that when they met briefly in May. "It was our colleagues on the other side of

the aisle who killed that motion," Welch said. "I'm not in favor of coming down here in person. I just spent two weeks in my basement because of COVID-19."

State Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, also spent time in isolation because of the virus. He said it's ridiculous to blame the failure of remote legislation this spring on minority Republicans when Democrats have a superma-

Regardless, Butler said the incoming legis-

lature needs to address the pandemic and provide oversight.

"That has to be at the top of our list," Butler said. "Also, we've got to figure out this budget mess that Democrats have put us in." The budget passed in May by Democrats

was based on a progressive income tax constitutional amendment that voters rejected and federal aid that never materialized. In the face of Gov. J.B. Pritzker announcing

\$711 million in expense cuts, state Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, said lawmakers have to end what he called corporate loopholes to plug

the state's \$4 billion budget gap. 'We will fight to make sure that those immensely wealthy and profitable corporations pay their fair share to our state before we go

after services that people need," Guzzardi said. Butler said majority Democrats need to address the state's continued population loss.

We need to unleash business to be able to create good jobs for the people of Illinois, which in turn would help revenues coming into this

state because if we have a larger tax base to draw from, then it's going to help the coffers of Illinois, without raising taxes," Butler said. There's a lame-duck session possible

before the 102nd General Assembly is seated the second week of January. The first order of business for the House will be to elect the next speaker. That's expected to be contentious as House Speaker Michael Madigan no longer has

Despite pandemic, Illinois' legal weed sales skyrocket

BY GREG BISHOP

THE CENTER SQUARE

Within three months time in 2020, cannabis in Illinois went from being illegal to essential, and it is big money.

Illinois started the new year with the first legal adultuse cannabis sales. On Jan. 1 in Springfield, David Watson, standing next to a cop car, was among the first to buy the legal product.

"It's different, I mean I'm a little nervous, but hey it's legal now and I'm fresh out of the store so I'm hoping I'm OK,"

Watson said.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Gov. J.B. Pritzker deemed certain retail outlets nonessential and shut them down, while pot stores were deemed essential. The Governor's Cannabis Regulation Oversight Officer Toi Hutchinson in September noted sales continued to

increase month after month. "The sales of this have been through the roof, through the middle of a global pandemic," Hutchinson said. [Revenue] is targeted to those

very communities that are disproportionately impacted." Taxes on the drug can be

portion going to community programs, the state's backlog of bills and several other areas.

more than 40 percent, with a

State Rep. Tim Butler, R-Springfield, noted earlier in the year the importance of tracking how that money

"We can't have insider deals, we can't have this money going to waste," Butler said. "This is important tax revenue, and it's a lot of tax revenue coming through the door. That was one reason this was sold to the people of

to help us pay our bills."

Through November, the state reports \$582 million in sales generating more than \$150 million in tax revenue. Nick Niforatos, executive

vice president of Smart Approaches to Marijuana, said that may sound like a lot of revenue, but it's a "drop in the bucket" of a more-than \$40 billion budget. "The money does go kind

of all over the place and so you're taking a very small number and really making it even smaller by putting it into some of these different pro-Illinois that this is tax revenue grams," Niforatos said.

joined the Rte. 66 League and will be playing with Elwood and Manhattan. The WBSA welcomes any players to register from the local area; players do not have to live in Wilmington. We suggest players be 5 years old by 4/30/21 to play Shetland T-Ball. Registration forms and medical release forms are available online or at

Pony (ages 14 & under).....\$100

Bronco (ages 12 & under)......\$90 Mustang (ages 10 & under)......\$85

Pinto (ages 8 & under).....\$75

Shetland T-Ball (ages 5-6)......\$70

There is a multiple player discount for families with two or

There is a \$20.00 late sign up fee. If the player's division is full they will be placed on a waiting list and contacted with further details.

WBSA will be holding a raffle ticket fundraiser that goes along with sign-

ups each player must sell 40 \$1 raffle tickets. All raffle tickets must be prepaid at time of pickup. This year there will be a \$40 per family volunteer fee. This money can be earned back by working in the concession stand during games. More information available at registration. The WBSA has

sign up. For more information please visit: leaguelineup.com/kane

Enough is enough COAL CITY—I read publisher Eric Fisher's

know how, then they can't run for office.

COAL CITY—We watched a documentary those who produced it aren't found missing.

The day will come

COAL CITY—The newspapers are printing

Sunrise shot wins December photo contest

Voting to determine \$500 winner begins

Kevin Kuchler's love of sunrises gets him out in the preserves early and often.

One particular trip led to a stunning sunrise shot at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield and the photo netted Kuchler the win in December's portion of the Forest Preserve District Moment Photo Contest.

"That is very exciting! I have been entering the contest for the last few years now, not sure when I started but it feels like it's been a long time," he wrote in an email after being notified of his win. "It has come such a long way and it is awesome to see the submissions rise every year!

Forest received a record number of submissions in 2020 with 1,092 photo entries from 467 indi-

Kuchler of Channahon said he has been snapping photos in the preserves since



THIS SUNRISE PHOTO by Kevin Kuchler of Channahon won first place in December's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. The picture was taken at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield.

around 2010. "I love taking sunset or sunrise photos, but mostly sunrise because you can catch some pretty awesome birds that early in the morning too."

Kuchler said he loves shooting landscapes and hiking in the preserves. "Walking in a forest with the birds and the quietness is relaxing. I also love sharing my photos on social media for others to see how beautiful our state and our county is. I think sometimes people forget that we have some amazing scenery here, sometimes it just takes a little longer to find.

Honorable mentions were awarded to: Evi Kempf of Naperville for a photo of a path surrounded by golden vegetation at Lake Renwick; Eileen Capodice of Minooka for a photo of an eagle soaring high in the sky while clutching a fish at Rock Run Rookery in Joliet; Mark Hanna of Romeoville for a bevy of bullfrogs in a pond at Lockport Prairie in Lockport Township; and Tyler Paul of Wilmington for a squirrel peeking out of a tree trunk at

All of December's entries can be viewed on the Forest Preserve's Flickr Flickr.com/WillCoForests

Kuchler is the eighth and final monthly winner in the concluded Dec. 31. Online voting to determine the top three photos from the monthly winners will be open from 2 p.m Wednesday, Jan. 6, to 1:59 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, on the District's Facebook page, Facebook.com/WillCoForests.

The top three photos will advance to a final round and voters will have from 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, to 10:59 a.m. Monday, Jan. 18, to pick the winning photo.

Overall winners receive MasterCard gift cards worth \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place. Monthly photo contest winners received \$75 gift cards. The photo contest is sponsored by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

President signs Route 66 Centennial Act

The Route 66 Centennial Commission Act (S1014) into law. For Route 66 enthusiasts across the country and around the world, this has been a

Now, the countdown begins—not for the year 2020, but for the year 2026, the 100th birthday of historic Route 66. Though no longer part of the US highway system, Route 66 continues to be a popular tourist destination for both domestic and international travelers.

This Act began its journey in 2017, when Congressman Rodney Davis (D-IL) introduced HR66 at the urging of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership. In April 2019, Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) introduced a similar bill in the US Senate (S1014), where it passed out of the Senate in August and returned to the House to reconcile language differences.

The Road Ahead thanks everyone who helped introduce and move legislation through Congress to establish the Route 66 Čentennial Commission," said Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership Chair Bill Thomas. "Their efforts have given Route 66 a very welcomed Christmas

15 Commissioners will be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Secretary of Transportation, Senate and House majority leaders, and governors of the eight Route 66 states. Appointees will have demonstrated both a dedication to educating others about the importance of historical figures and events, and a substantial knowledge and appreciation of Route 66.

'Now, our attention turns to making plans that will celebrate the road's 100th anniversary and focus on ways to improve the lives of the 5+ million people living and working along Route 66," explains Thomas. "We'll do so, by working on projects that promote, preserve and economically develop Route 66.

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is taking a leadership role in the celebration of Route 66's 100th birthday. A fiveyear series of birthday celebration initiatives begins in 2021, culminating in 2026, the road's centennial year.

A major part of the initiatives involves developing a Visionary Fund to support Route 66 through preservation, economic development, promotion, and research and/or education projects. The goal is to position the historic highway, the com-

who live there for success during the next 100 years.

The Road Ahead took the first step earlier this month, when they introduced the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Initiative. The initiative seeks 66 women in each of the eight states through which the historic highway runs, to be recognized as a Route 66 Extraordinary Women through their gift of \$1,000. The gift, which can also be given by men and organizations to honor a woman, can be paid in one lump sum or by giving \$200 per year

To designate someone else as an Extraordinary Woman – and be one of the 66 from vour state visit:https://100extraordinarywomen.co m/route-66-extraordinary-women-initia-

Established in 2015, with the support of the National Park Service and the World Monuments' Fund, The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership's mission is to revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national and international icon through partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research and education, and economic development.

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington Jan. 11

Catholic Charities' Mobile stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will be distribut- Food Pantry will use a "drive ing food on Monday, Jan. 11 at thru" method to distribute 4 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church, pre-packed groceries to 135 Rice Road in South ensure that all participants are Wilmington, in the church safe during the COVID-19 parking lot (rain or shine). Catholic Charities and the

Northern Illinois Food Bank Catholic to participate have partnered to deliver nutritious food (meat, produce and nonperishable more information about items) to people in need.

pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For Catholic Charities, please visit Participants are asked to catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Coloring contest underway for those ages 3-6

Wilmington VFW Post 5422 Auxiliary is sponsoring a patriotic coloring contest for boys and girls ages 3 through

Entry forms to be colored youngsters Wilmington and Braidwood can be picked up at the VFW, 557 Ŵ. Baltimore St., Wilmington.

Winners of the local contest will be entered into a District competition. The name, age and address of child must be written on the back of each entry.

Deadline to enter is Jan. 15, 2021. For more details call Kathy at 815-823-4324 or 815-926-2651.

Morris Hospital administering COVID-19 vaccine to staff

Hospital Healthcare Centers resumed administering the COVID-19 vaccine to physicians and staff of the hospital's first official received 700 doses of the specific time frame. Illinois Department of Public Health's COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Program, which includes healthcare workers.

Nine days earlier on Dec. 20, an unexpected supply of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was administered to 120 staff and physicians at Morris Hospital when a neighboring county offered supply that was nearing expiration due to storage requirements specific to the Pfizer vaccine.

After the 700 doses of the Moderna vaccine are adminis-

tered over the next few days, trials for both demonstrated Morris Hospital officials say they anticipate being able to order additional vaccine supon Dec. 29, following delivery ply to administer to staff as needed, although information Healthcare Centers. supply of vaccine. The hospital is not available regarding the

as part of Phase 1a of the Pfizer vaccine on Dec. 20, are scheduled to receive their second dose Jan. 7-8. Those to get COVID-19 from the vacreceiving the Moderna vaccine this week will be receiving their second dose Jan. 26-28, as Moderna vaccine requires an additional week between

> While Morris Hospital isn't mandating the vaccine, staff is strongly encouraged to receive it.

"Both Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use technology that has been under investigation for a decade, and the clinical

that the vaccines are 94-95% effective," Knoderer, Pharmacy Director Morris Hospital &

"Neither the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine use the live virus that causes COVID-19, which means it's not possible cine. We highly encourage everyone who is able to receive the vaccine."

While time frames for subsequent phases of the State's Mass Vaccination Program haven't been announced, community residents should watch for announcements from the health department where they reside as information becomes available.



Lunch at 209 schools

Mon., Jan. 11: stuffed crust pizza, corn, peaches in Jell-0 and choice of milk

Tues., Jan. 12: mini corn dogs, mac & cheese, baby carrots, tropical fruit and choice of milk Wed., Jan. 13: Italian beef w/ Mozz., cheesy hash browns, mixed

fruit and choice of milk **Thurs., Jan. 14:** chili w/beans, PBJ sandwich, honey

grahams, pears and choice of milk Fri., Jan. 15: bacon cheeseburger on bun, fries, sorbet cup

and choice of milk Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

Breakfast at school

Mon., Jan. 11: Frosted Flakes, grahams, apple juice and choice

Tues., Jan. 12: pancakes, orange juice and choice of milk Wed., Jan. 13: Trix, animal crackers, fruit punch and choice

Thurs., Jan. 14: mini cinni, orange juice and choice of milk Fri., Jan. 15: Lucky Charms,

goldfish grahams, fruit punch and Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.



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morrishospital.org/urgentcare



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The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, The Coal City Courant, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, page 6





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Pandemic response, budget, Black Caucus agenda on table for 'lame duck' session

House will reconvene Friday

BY PETER HANCOCK Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois lawmakers will return to the capital city on Friday, Jan. 8 for a "lame duck" session that is expected to focus on the state's COVID-19 response, a nearly \$4 billion budget deficit and a host of social issues being advanced by the Legislative Black Caucus. House Speaker Michael

Madigan's office notified that chamber's members of the plans in an email sent Wednesday, Dec. 30. Senate President Don Harmon has not officially announced plans, but spokesman said in an email over the weekend that senators have been advised to hold the dates open in the event lawmakers are called back into session.

since late May when they held an abbreviated special session to pass a budget and a few other items that The regular fall veto session, which had been scheduled for late and early December, was canceled

The budget that lawmakers passed during that special session with only Democratic votes was about \$5 billion out of balance. But it was passed on the assumption that Congress would soon pass a stimulus package that would include aid to struggling state and local governments and that voters in November would approve a constitutional amendment to allow the state to levy a graduated income tax. Neither of those two things happened.

November, Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker announced plans to borrow \$2 billion from the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility to cover revenue losses the state has suffered since the start of the pandemic. That was in addition to the \$1.2 billion the state borrowed to make up for revenue losses at the end of the last fiscal year.

addition, Lawmakers haven't met December he ordered more than \$700 million in spending cuts from executive branch agencies. But that still leaves the state more were considered essential. than \$1 billion short of what it needs to balance the current year's budget.

Republicans, who have been clamoring for months for lawmakers to return to due to the COVID-19 pan- session, said during a virtu- makers may also consider inaugurate new members.

news Monday that they believe Democrats want to use the lame duck session to push through a tax increase to fill the budget hole.

"They refused to listen to our warnings over and over again," said House Leader Minority Durkin, of Western Springs. "And now, after voters just sent the Democrats a message, Madigan and his cohorts will be trying to sneak a tax increase – yes, sneak a tax increase - into the lame duck session."

Pritzker has said in the past that he would consider closing certain business tax "loopholes" in order to raise additional revenue, said that he wants to focus on spending cuts.

Madigan, meanwhile, said in December that he was prepared to push for an increase in the state's flat income tax rate, should Pritzker propose one. But Pritzker has given no indication that he plans to make such a proposal.

Rep. Greg Harris, of Chicago, the House Majority Leader, did not immediately respond Monday to a request for comment about his plans for the special session.

In addition to dealing with the budget crisis, law-

conference measures regarding the state's overall pandemic response, which so far has been managed almost exclusively out of the gover nor's office.

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Many lawmakers, particularly Republicans, have expressed frustration during the pandemic that they have had no role in making decisions that involve closing schools, restaurants and bars or imposing limits on gathering sizes.

We can stop allowing Gov. Pritzker to run this state unilaterally by executive order," Durkin said Monday. "We can fix the state's broken unemployment insurance system that still is barely functioning but more recently he has nearly a year later, resulting in thousands of families struggling to put food on the table each day.'

Also likely to be on the agenda is a long list of policy initiatives being pushed by members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus focusing on racial and social justice issues that were thrust into the forefront following the killing of George Floyd Minneapolis police officers

The session is scheduled to begin Friday, Jan. 8, and could run until Jan. 13 when the 102nd General Assembly will convene to

Only three new laws took effect Jan. 1

Minimum wage increases to \$11/hour

BY SARAH MANSUR CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - When a new year begins in Illinois, there typically are dozens if not hundreds of new laws going into effect.

Not this year. Like so many other things in 2020, the legislative spring session was stunted by COVID-19. Once the global pandemic reached Illinois in March, the General Assembly would meet for only four more days - wrapping up odd session during masked and socially distanced gatherings at the Capitol and Bank of Springfield Center. The fall veto session was scrapped altogether.

As a result, only three new laws tool effect on Jan. 1. Here's a look at them, as well as the next increase in the minimum wage.

Insulin costs cap

Senate Bill 667 [Public Act 101-0625] amends the Illinois Insurance Code to cap out-ofpocket insulin costs at \$100 per month for all patients using a state regulated insurance plan, regardless of the amount of insulin or type of covered prescription insulin drug used to fill the insured patient's prescription.

Roughly 1.3 million adults

in Illinois, or 12.5% of the population, have diabetes, according to the legislation.

SB 667 also provides that the Illinois Department of Insurance, along with the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, must create a public insulin pricing report that includes a summary of insulin pricing practices and public policy recommendations to control and prevent the overpricing of insulin prescrip-

Senator Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, chief sponsor of the Senate bill, said in a statement that the legislation shows Illinoisans don't have to accept costly prescriptions as the status quo. "We can change the fact

that prescription medication costs more in the United States than any place in the world. legislation passed because people spoke up and told their story. This historic legislation doesn't become law without them and their effort," Manar said in the statement.

Use of DNA in

missing person cases House Bill 2708 [Public Act 101-0266] amends the Missing Persons Identification Act to allow law enforcement agencies to obtain a DNA sample of a missing person or a DNA reference sample from family members' DNA, once a missing person report is made.

The law also provides that law enforcement cannot retain DNA samples from family members or the missing person after the person has been located.

It also adds the National

ucts doesn't pause for game

days or a pandemic. As

COVID-19 cases have risen

across the U.S., so has the need

for convalescent plasma

Missing and Unidentified Victims of Domestic Violence Persons System, a national Act information clearinghouse for missing persons, to the list of laboratories that law enforcement agencies can work with when trying to find a missing Senator Tony Munoz, D-

Chicago, who was one of the bill's sponsors, said in a news release that using the national system will hopefully help law enforcement find missing people sooner.

"Successfully finding a missing person requires law enforcement to move fast, and we want to make sure they have every tool available to do their job," Munoz said in the

> Keeping victims' addresses confidential

House Bill 2818 [Public Act 101-0270] amends the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence Act by including survivors of sexual assault and stalking in Illinois Address Confidentiality Program [ACP], which offers survivors protection from their abusers by allowing them to acquire and use a substitute address instead of their real address.

HB 2818 allows survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking who fear for their safety to apply to the ACP through the Attorney General's Office. The ACP forwards all first-class mail and provides survivors with a substitute address for public records and documents, such as driver's licenses and stateissued identification cards.

name of the law, from the Address Confidentiality for

Give blood, get entered

into trip to SuperBowl

Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault or Stalking Act.

In a written statement Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said ACP is an important added layer of protection and peace of mind for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

"I am committed to ensuring that survivors have access to the resources and support needed to aid their recoveries, and I encourage survivors to participate in this program that can help protect them from the individuals who perpetrated crimes against them," Raoul said in the state-

Minimum wage increase

The minimum wage in Illinois increased from \$10 per hour to \$11 per hour on Jan. 1.

Illinois General Assembly passed increases to the minimum wage in 2019 with legislation that raises the minimum wage \$1 every year until it reaches \$15 per hour in

In 2020, wage earners saw their hourly wage increase from \$8.25 to \$9.25 on Jan. 1,

and to \$10 on July 1. "We want to make sure that workers earning minimum wage are aware that the \$1 increase should be reflected in their paychecks for any time they work after the first of the year," Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor, said in a news release. "While we fully expect The bill also changes the employers will pay the new wage, we also want workers to be aware of the change.

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Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. In addition, those who give through Jan. 20, will auto-

The need for blood prod- matically be entered to win a Big Game at Home package, which includes a 65-inch television and a \$500 gift card to put toward food and fun. Upcoming donor events

include:

leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood Bourbonnais - Jan. 7, noon to 6 p.m., The Annex, To help address the short-1690 Newtowne Dr. (also Jan. 21 & 28; Jan. 8 from 2 p.m. - 7 age of convalescent plasma, the American Red Cross is Bourbonnais teaming up with the NFL to Department, 1080 Armour Rd.; urge people, especially those who have recovered from and Jan. 14 from noon - 6 p.m., The Annex, 1690 Newtowne COVID-19, to give blood now.

Bolingbrook - Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Community All who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered Council, to win a getaway to next year's Quadrangle Dr., Suite C

Joliet - Jan. 19 from 1 p.m. an appointment by visiting

- 6 p.m., Assembly Hall, 1550

All blood types are needed. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight require-Individuals can schedule

RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Sip on a stinger, a 20th century cocktail

- Bing Crosby to Grace Kelly in High Society, 1956

Ah, the Stinger. The curiously strong minty delight that exudes style and sophistication. Recipes for the Stinger began to appear in recipe books published on both sides of the Atlantic around the turn of the 20th century, but the drink began its rise as a status symbol during prohibition.

Wait a minute, the drink became more popular during prohibition? How is that possible?

It was possible to keep your home bar stocked quite well during prohibition if you had the money to do so, which the millionaires of the early 1920s were able to do. One such millionaire was Reginald "Reggie" Vanderbilt, heir to a large railroad fortune. Also, insert pop culture side note here, you may have heard of Reggie's daughter: fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt.

Reggie Vanderbilt had a mansion on 5th Avenue, and would invite guests to his "Martini lunches" where he

"It's a Stinger. It removes would entertain his guests by back to 1/2 oz. to making drinks behind his lav- 3/4 oz. for a 2 oz. ish bar. A local paper ran a gossip column in 1923 crediting Reggie with the recent invention of the Stinger, but this is come from? The simply not true as the recipe appears in several publications prior to prohibition.

Vanderbilt may not have invented it, but it was a favorite crème de menthe, a drink of his and he kept the mint alive among Manhattan's elite during prohibition. Reggie did not live to see the end of prohibition, he died of liver failure in 1925 at the age of 44.

Önce prohibition ended the Stinger began to appear in movies and novels, and was a bit of an accessory to the upper class when dining or socializing. The drink is a great fit either as an aperitif or digestif, fitting for either side of a large I lean more toward digestif

as the drink is spirit forward (strong) and has a certain dessert quality to it thanks to the mint. The original version of the drink was heavy on the mint, approximately 2 parts brandy to 1 part mint. In recent years the mint has been dialed DeKuyper.

Where exactly does the "mint" mint flavor in the Stinger and other minty cocktails comes courtesy or liqueur. Crème de menthe is a strong, sweet Think

spearmint flavor with a more pronounced menthol. The crème de menthe settles into the drink nicely thanks to the bold, full-bodied flavor of brandy. There is a lot going on in this drink flavor wise making this perhaps the most complex two-ingredient cocktail in the book.

Crème de menthe is available in either green or white varieties, the only difference in the two is the color. For the Stinger, reach for the clear or white" crème de menthe. You will find crème de menthe in the liqueur aisle of your local spirits retailer, look for brand names Drillaud, Jacquin's, and



Brian Rung

your crème de menthe in hand, you will need to choose a brandy. Cognac is also a good fit, as it is technically a brandy. Choose brandy. Choose wisely! At 2 oz. of brandy per drink, you are going to taste the brandy. Conventional wisdom usually says

"don't use the good stuff in mixed drinks", but this is a situation where you will want to use the good stuff. If you have a VSOP brandy or cognac, use it in the Stinger. A VSOP brandy will have some age to it, at least 4 years. A midrange brandy may be used, but you will not be getting the most out of this drink.

Speaking of getting the absolute most out of this drink, the cigar community loves this drink for cigar pairing. Something to think about if Santa brought some new sticks

Once you have for your humidor.

There is no "official" preparation for the Stinger. The early Stingers were shaken, the contemporary versions are almost always stirred. If you find that the 3/4 oz. crème de menthe is too minty, dial it back to 1/2 oz.

By the way, Vanderbilt passed away in 2019 at the age of 95, but her jeans remain in production. For those too young to remember: She was one of the most recognizable women in America in the late 1970s, appearing in her own commercials for a fashion line that brought in over \$200 million in 1980 alone.

I'll drink to that.

The Stinger may be served in either a chilled rocks glass or a cocktail (Martini) glass. If you are going to serve over ice, the rocks glass is best while the cocktail glass lends a nice presentation to the drink if serving

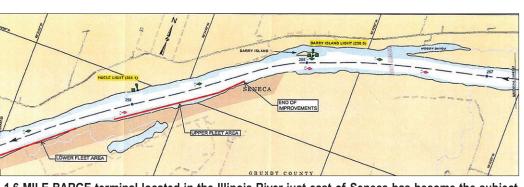
The Stinger is built in a responsibly. mixing glass and served in a chilled rocks glass.



Combine in mixing glass: 2 oz. brandy (or cognac) 3/4 oz. crème de menthe Stir with ice Strain into ice-filled rocks

Garnish with mint sprig Until next week, enjoy

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A 1.6-MILE BARGE terminal located in the Illinois River just east of Seneca has become the subject of a lawsuit that has been filed in Grundy County. The map shows the proposed area (red line) on the south river bank just downstream of Barry Island.

Couple seeks to stop barge terminal on Illinois River

STAFF REPORT

A Grundy County couple seeking to stop the construction of a barge terminal along 1.6 miles of the Illinois River have filed suit against the developer, state of Illinois and the Department of Natural Resources, among oth-

Richard and Gloria Sims, reside on Old Stage Road west of Morris. Their property located on the north bank of the Illinois River approximately 6 miles west of the city limits.

In November, Illinois & Michigan Oil, LLC. [IMOL] was granted an IDNR permit to construct a barge fleeting facility including mooring pins, and a 600-feet sheet pile dock wall and to perform dredging along the south bank of the river, across from the Sims' property.

Stating their, "quality of life, their quiet enjoyment of their residence and supporting premises and their property values will all suffer substantial adverse effects if the project is built," the couple filed suit in Grundy Circuit ment of the river. . 30 naming the II Colleen Callahan, the state of Illinois, Gov. JB Pritzker, and IMOL as plaintiffs.

The Sims are asking for administrative review to vacate the IDNR permit allowing Joliet-based IMOL to occupy 21 acres of the river to construct and operate a barge fleeting

According to the suit, IMOL filed an application in March 2020 to construct a facility capable of holding 106 barges, with what the defendants state could be, "filled to capacity with potentially hazardous and toxic materials."

The Sims, per the suit, have raised procedural objections to the permit evaluation process pointing to a denial of a public hearing, a failure to obtain signed statements from property owners along the river and the failure to obtain governor's signature on the permit.

The suit claims the project could, "adversely impact the public's access to use and enjoyment of the river.'

The project, per its application, would include the installation of 20 concrete filled steel mooring pins at 400 feet intervals along an estimated 1.6 miles of the river with a 600 foot long, 45 foot wide dock.

Additionally, IMOL's application sought permission to dredge 10 feet along the length of the project.

In the suit, the Sims raise concerns about the materials to be contained within the barges, cleanup plans should the barges become unmoored, potential adverse affects on the river and its adjacent land, and their own enjoy-

flood plain, velocity of the river current, lack of permitted zoning and approved permit from the Seneca Port District which has jurisdiction over the project location, among others.

The Sims are asking the court to vacate the IDNR permit, prohibit IDNR from issuing any permit for the project and IMOL from moving forward with construction, and award costs of the suit and attorney fees.

The couple is being represented by Maurides Law of Chicago and the Morris firm of Hynds, Yohnka, Bzdill & McInerney.

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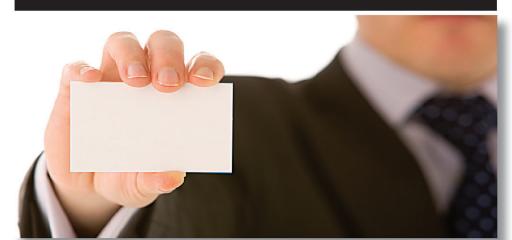
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OBITUARIES

Linda L. Bockman _

MORRIS- Linda L. Bockman, 74, of Morris, passed away early Tuesday morning, Dec. 15, 2020, at Morris Hospital. She was born March 27, 1946, in Peoria, IL where she was raised and educated. In 1963, she married her lifelong partner Richard and they built a home in Channahon where they lived for 30 years raising their two girls. They then built a home on 6 acres on a lake near Goose Lake where Linda loved the outdoors and entertaining and feeding friends and family when they would visit.

Linda loved to play cards and other games with her children and grandchildren, fishing for bluegills, and having the family over for large meals and gatherings. She also enjoyed She will be terribly antiquing and crafting. missed by her family and friends.

Linda is the beloved wife of 57 years to Richard Bockman; loving mother of Jackie (Jim) Jennings and Terri (Bill) Kelly; devoted grandmother of Jessica (Justin) Holman, Colton (Michelle) Kelly and Mackenzie Kelly; proud great-grandmother of twins, Teagan and Camden Holman and Dixon Kelly; dear sister of Richard (Lois) Schall of

Lakeland, Florida, Judy (Lloyd) Frazier of Magnolia, Shirley (George) Schafer Sr. of West Peoria, Ricky (Michelle) Stewart of Morris, and Peggy Hanson of Odell and aunt to many nieces and nephews.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents Edward Stewart and Virginia Lloyd, and siblings Penny (Hubert) Sherman, and David Stewart.

Visitation for Linda will be held Saturday,

January 9, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Funeral services and interment at Sample Cemetery will be private. Memorials can be made in Linda's honor to the American Cancer Society. In accordance with the Illinois guidelines, a 10 person capacity rotation will be followed, face masks are required, and social distancing will be observed. For more information visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Lori Ann Canupp L

Lori Ann Canupp, 55, formerly of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Dec. 30, 2020 at the Carrier Mills Nursing Home in Carrier Mills, IL. She was born to Jessie and Pauline Canupp on May 25, 1965 at St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet.

She was a great mother who enjoyed spending time with her three children and traveling to different places. She was raised and educated in Vilmington, attending St. Rose School and Wilmington High School, graduating with the class of 1983. She attended St. Francis University and earned her bachelor of science

degree in nursing in 1999. Surviving are her children: Max Springer, Adam (fiancee Olivia De Vera) Springer and Claire Springer; one sister, Pat (Dan) McHugh and three brothers: Steve (Sue Kern, deceased) Canupp, Brad (Pat) Canupp and Chris (Paula) Canupp as well as her former husband and father of her children, Brian Springer and parents-in-law, Barbara and Lee Springer.

She was preceded in death by her A special thank you to the wonderful staff at the Carrier Mills

Nursing Home and the love they had for Lori Cremation rites have been accorded

and will be directed by Wilson Funeral Home in Karnak, IL. burial will be at a later date at St. Catherine's Cemetery in Grand Chain, IL.

Memorial donations in remembrance of her can be made and will be greatly appreciated to Huntington's Disease Society of America, hdsa.org/get-involved/tribute-memorial-Wilson Funeral Home was in charge of

arrangements.

_Winnie Jackson ____

BRAIDWOOD-Winnie Jean Jackson (nee Billingsley), 84, of Braidwood, passed away peacefully at the Gardens of Park Pointe Memory Center in Morris on Jan. 3, 2021.

She was born March 3, 1936 in Vienna, IL to Omer and Velma (nee Stokes) Billingsley. She was educated in the Goreville schools and was formerly employed by the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant in Elwood, retiring in 1992. She spent most of her teenage years in the Joliet/Wilmington area where she met the love of her life, John (TJ) Jackson. They wed June 27, 1956 in Braidwood and made their

home in Braidwood for the past 66 years.

Anyone who met her, fell in love with her. There was just something about her that no one could resist. Besides enjoying her plants and flowers, she loved to travel and camp anywhere. The love she had for her four legged children was amazing. In fact, anything that had fur and four legs was always a welcome site. As most knew she was not fond of the "other critters" that her grandchildren visited with, but she tolerated it. Her grandchildren were the light of her life and she adored them.

Survivors include her loved daughter and sonin-law, Tonya and Chris Cavanaugh, of Braidwood; cherished and loved grandchildren, arrangements.

Ryan and Bret Cavanaugh, also of Braidwood; sisters, Deanna (Don) Ivy, of Goreville, IL and Rosa (late Donald) Tenns, of Morris; brother, Dale (late Theresa) Billingsley, of Essex and many nieces and nephews.

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Preceding her in death were her parents, Omer and Velma Billingsley; beloved husband of 66 years, John (TJ) Jackson (Dec. 23, 2017); brothers: Richard Billingsley, Billy Billingsley, and

Bobby Billingsley in infancy. Services will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2020 at 1 p.m.. with Pastor Greg Linkous officiating. The visitation will begin two hours pre ceding the service.

All attendees are required to wear face cov erings, follow social distancing guidelines, and due to the capacity requirements, please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects.

Interment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

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

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

Rose Kocka ₋

WILMINGTON— Rose Kocka, 79, beloved mother, grandmother and sister, was called to her eternal resting place on Dec. 28, 2020. She entered this world on March 3, 1941 in Effingham, IL, born to John and Lillie (Matthew) Moore.

Rose was a graduate of Wilmington High School. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, painting, music and singing. She loved Jesus, babies, her chihuahuas, being outdoors, and encouraging the people around her.

She is survived by daughter, Rochelle (Scott) Ruff; son, Richard (Jocelyn) Gartke; grandchildren, Miranda Ruff and Kayla Ruff; sisters: Ruth (Gary-deceased) Ratliff, Kathryn

brother, John (Kye) Moore.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Bernard Kocka; siblings brother, Earl Moore; sister, Lois (Wade) Riley Juanita (Harold) Boeckel; sister, Mildred (Floyd) Bracken; sister, Doris Bushby; sister, Marie Webb; Amy (Dick) Bell and sister, Nora (Lee) Brewer.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at the Christian Faith Center, 1800 S. Water St, Wilmington. A private committal will be held at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery where she will be laid to rest with her late husband, Bernard.

Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral (Glenn) Wilde and Joyce (Kent) Richardson and Home in Joliet was in charge of arrangements.

Samuel Craig

BRACEVILLE— Samuel F. Craig, 87, of Braceville, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Born Feb. 12, 1933 in Springfield, MO. Sam was the

son of Roscoe and Fannie (Graves) Craig. Raised and educated in Missouri, Sam enlisted in the United States Marine Corps after high school graduation. He was stationed in California where he met his first wife and mother of his seven children, Mary Klinge. After his honorable discharge, they returned to Illinois where they married in Chicago. Sam and Mary

raised their children in the Naperville area. Sam worked as a union carpenter for many years, employed at the nuclear reactors in the Braidwood area. He enjoyed fishing, hunting and sports. A favorite pastime was playing the slot machines in the gas stations.

After moving to the Coal City area, Sam

met his second wife, June Robarge, and her two sons, Rick and Randy.

He is survived by his children: Patti, David, Stephen, Robert, Michael, and Katherine; six grandchildren; and two stepsons, Rick and Randy Robarge.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Sam; his two wives, Mary and June; and his long-time companion, Vivian Formanek.

At Samuel's request, no funeral services will be held.

An online guestbook has been made for the family, where you may sign the guestbook, share memories and photographs. You can access this by visiting the website at www.ucdaviscallahan.com. Arrangements have been entrusted with U.C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home, 301 W. Washington Street, Morris.

Rev. John J. Mattson

MORRIS-Rev. John J. Mattson, 77, of Morris and formerly of Downers Grove, IL, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2020 at his

Born April 4, 1943 in Chicago, John Joseph was a son of Arthur E. and Ramona (nee Rostochil) Mattson. He was raised and educated in Downers Grove and graduated from Downers Grove High School with the class of 1962. Following high school, John entered into the

United States Army. He honorably served from 1963-1966, of which during that time he was stationed in England. Following his discharge, John married Nancy M. Hawkinson in the United Methodist Church of West Pullman in Chicago. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from the University of Illinois, Chicago and later his masters in business administration from Benedictine University in Lisle.

John began a career with Advocate Healthcare Corporate Office, where he worked in computer programming and information systems for 15 years. During those years, John followed his call to ministry and earned his masters in Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary in Hyde Park. He then went on to pastor for the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Montezuma and Clinton, IN from 2000 until his retirement in 2009. John and Nancy relocated to Morris, to be closer to family, and here they became active with the First Presbyterian Church of Morris, where he continued to be an active and dedicated member.

John was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose, Downers Grove Lodge, and in past vears belonged to the DuPage Valley Barbershop Chorus. In addition to barbershop singing, John enjoyed singing in the church choir, bowling on a league, traveling and camping. He coached little league baseball when his boys were young, and served as a Boy Scout

leader. The family shared many memorable trips to the national parks, and he took pleasure in playing games, espe

One who never had an unkind word about anyone, John was the light and the joy of his family. Survivors include his loving wife

cially Cribbage, Sudoku and Bridge.

of 51 years, Nancy; two sons, John A. Mattson, of Oswego, IL and David (Erin) Mattson, of Taylor Springs, IL; six grandchildren: Ashley and Tyler, of Oswego and Anne, Joe, Sally and Mark, of Taylor Springs; two brothers, Arthur (Angie) Mattson, of Orange, CA and Robert (the late Terry) Mattson. of Calara, AL; one brother-in-law, Bob Mladic, of Morris and three sisters-in-law: Alice (the

Monahan, of Midlothian, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. John was preceded in death by his parents, step-mother, Êrna; one brother, Alan Mattson; sister, Nancy Mladic and one brother-in-law,

late Edward) Kramarz, of Lockport; Ellen

(James) Rossi, of Oak Forest and Janet (Jeffery)

Robert (Suzette) Hawkinson. The family gathered for a private family visitation and service on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021.

Those wishing to watch the services virtually are welcome to log onto the service which is available through a link on John's memorial

Cremation rites were accorded following the services, and inurnment will follow in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris at a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share John's memorial page online through social logging www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/RevJohn-Mattson.

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

Hazel A. Grega

COAL CITY—Hazel A. Grega, 95, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Heritage Health in Dwight. Born Nov. 26, 1925 in Troy Grove,

IL, Hazel Albertha was a daughter of Russell and Mabel (Kofoid) Miller. She was raised and educated in the Trov Grove area, and at an early age went to work for a short time at the Seneca Shipyards. It was here that she met Joseph Grega, and together they were married in her family home. After marriage

Hazel and Joe moved to Braceville, where they resided until building their home on Marguerite Street in Coal City. Known as "Mama Hazel" to many, Hazel

was an extraordinary child caregiver most of her life to families in the area. She was an active and devoted member of Coal City United Methodist Church, where she served on the church board, belonged to the Sunshine Circle. and enjoyed coordinating the fellowship breakfasts. Hazel was known for her love of cooking great meals and desserts, and will be remembered for the frequently spoken sentiment, "eat, so you don't get hungry..

One who was a selfless caregiver at heart, Hazel leaves behind a priceless collection of memories for her family, the many children she cared for over the years, her church, and the

Hazel was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Grega Sr. She is the loving mother of Joseph Jr. (Karen) Grega, of Diamond and the late Debra Grega (John Florey), of Pontiac; dear grandmother of Brian Grega, of Diamond and Haley (Charles) Phillips, of Braceville; great-grandmother of Ayden Phillips; sister to the late Braceville: Russell Miller and special niece to her late aunt, Hazel Kofoid. Several

A private family visitation and funeral service will be held in the Coal City United Methodist Church.

nieces and nephews also survive.

Those wishing to participate in Hazel's virtual funeral service are welcome to join the livestream webcast on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 beginning at 12 p.m. A link for the event will be available on Hazel's memorial page or through the Coal City United Methodist Church Facebook Page.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Hazel will be laid to rest with her late husband. Pallbearers will be Brian Grega, John Florey, Charles Phillips and Mark Pavlis. Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may

be made as gifts in Hazel's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416. Family and friends are encouraged to sign

the guest book, upload photographs and share Hazel's memorial page online through social by logging www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Hazel-Grega.

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

Brenda K. Melvin

COAL CITY-Brenda K. Melvin, 78, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Jan. 1, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born Sept. 7, 1942 in Pontiac. Brenda Kaye was a daughter of Eldo Arnold and Donna Louise (Ward) Brady. She was 1960 graduate of Chenoa High School, and went on to marry Roger E. Melvin on Oct. 16, 1960 in the Presbyterian Church of Chenoa.

Brenda was a member of the Coal City Area Club. She was active in the Order of the Eastern Star. Throughout the years, she served as a Worthy Matron, Grand Lector, and the Grand Representative of Illinois and Wisconsin. Brenda was an avid doll collector from various eras (1930-1950). Brenda cherished family time at their vacation home in Friendship, WI.

Brenda will be remembered as a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who took great pride in her family. She loved spoiling their dog, Buster.

Though her passing is just five short weeks following the loss of her husband, Roger, the family finds comfort in knowing that both Brenda and Roger were cherished by all who were blessed to know them, and they will long be remembered and ever so missed

Survivors include three children: Dean (Marianne) Melvin, of Coal City; Darren (Heather) Melvin, of Wilmington and Jennie (Art) Johnson, of Crest Hill; son-in-law, Todd Schumacher; eight grandchildren: Heather (Derek) Davis, Matt Melvin, Brian Popovich, Katie Cialone, Julie Popovich (fiancé, Hunter Sayers), Amy Popovich, Douglas Johnson and Brady Johnson; great-grandchildren: Emily Popovich, Braxton Davis, Kade Melvin, Jace Cialone and Ella Popovich; one brother-in-law, Michael Melvin, of Oglesby; one sister-in-law, Mary Ann Melvin, of Streator and numerous nieces and

Brenda was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Roger on Nov. 28, 2020; daughter, Debra Schumacher; sister, Linda Volk and one brother, Edwin Brady.

Per Brenda's wishes, green flameless cremation rites will be accorded, and a memorial visitation and celebration of life for both Brenda and Roger will be planned for a later

Together, Brenda and Roger will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Ioliet.

Please no flowers. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials in Brenda's memory be made to the Coal City Food Pantry, to help those in need in our community.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Brenda's memorial page online through social media onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Bren da-Melvin

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

Marguerite Siron

GOOSE LAKE—Marguerite "Peggy" Siron (nee Faletti), 65, of Goose Lake, passed away Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born June 19, 1955 in Morris, she was the daughter of Dominic and Levita (nee Šchultz) Faletti. Peggy enjoyed many things in life, such as watching Chicago Bears games, cooking, baking, and she had a love for all animals. She welcomed all walks of life and enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. Peggy was especially excited awaiting on the birth of her first grandchild that will be arriving soon.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Ronald Siron, who she married July 1998 in Morris; one son, Matthew (Heather Hill), of Ottawa, IL; step-daughters, Sandy (Robert Bennett), of Plainfield, IL and Vickie Siron, of Tinley Park, IL and one brother, Rocky (Pat) Faletti, of Goose Lake. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded and private inurnment will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial dona-

tions to the family would be appreciat-For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-

funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

Carla J. Vacca

COAL CITY-Carla J. Vacca, 63, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2021 at her home.

Born Oct. 22, 1957 in Joliet, IL, Carla Jean was a daughter of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. She attended St. John's School for the Deaf in Wisconsin, and went on to graduate from Gallaudet University in Washington, DC.

Carla worked in the Department at Union National Bank in Joliet before relocating to the east coast. For most of her career, she worked as a civilian for the United States Army, as well as the United States Navy in the Shipyards in Pennsylvania until her retirement. Following the passing of her mother, Carla relocated back to Coal City, where she enjoyed spending time crafting and

Survivors include her sister, Donna Gordon, of Coal City; nephew, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two great-nieces, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one great-nephew, Dominic Hahn, and her aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

Carla was preceded in death by her parents, and her passing was also on the same date as her brother, John Vacca.

A COVID observant and walk through from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate. Those wishing to participate in the

services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. A link is available on Carla's memorial page. Inurnment will be in Braceville-Gardner

Cemetery, where Carla will be laid to rest with her parents and brother, John. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts

in Carla's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share

Carla's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Carla-

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

John J. Vacca

COAL CITY-John J. Vacca, 69, of Coal Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2021 at his ĥome.

Born Nov. 27, 1951, John James was the son of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. He was raised in Coal City, graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1969, and went on to attend Joliet

John had a lifelong passion and remained active with the Boy Scouts, having just received his 60 year pin. In addition to collecting Boy Scout memorabilia, John loved his cars; was extremely meticulous, and enjoyed attending car shows. He also took great pleasure in local history, and volunteered at both the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museums, as well as at the Carbon Hill School

Survivors include his sister, Donna Gordon, of Coal City; nephew, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two great-nieces, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one great-nephew, Dominic Hahn and his aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends.

John was preceded in death by his parents, and his unexpected passing was also on the same date as ĥis sister, Carla Vacca. A COVID observant and walk through

memorial visitation for both John and Carla will be held on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 al service at 12 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City

United Methodist Church will offici Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. A link is available on

John's memorial page. Inurnment will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where John will be laid to rest with his parents and his sister, Carla.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to the Ottawa Historical and Scouting Heritage Museums, Carbon Hill School Museum or to the Boy Scouts of

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share John's memorial page online through social by logging www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/John-Vacca

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

- Ronald Jacobsgaard



"Jake" Jacobsgaard, 76, of Wilmington passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2020 at the

Joliet Area Community Hospice Home. Born Aug. 20, 1944 in Morris, Ronald Milton was a son of Vernon M. and Edith (Humbert) Jacobsgaard. He was raised and educated in Gardner, and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the class of 1962. Ronald served in the United States

Army during the Vietnam Era from 1967 until his honorable discharge in 1969. He then gained employment with Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet where he worked for 40 years until retirement.

Ronald also co-owned Sailorettes Nautical Nook in Wilmington, and enjoyed spending his time outdoors fishing, hunting, and always enjoyed a good western book. He also took great pleasure in woodworking and cherished any time spent with his grandchildren.

include his wife, (Nordhoff) Jacobsgaard, who he married on Feb. 12, 1983 in Wilmington; three children: Larry (Julie) Jacobsgaard, of Mazon; Colette

(Glenn) Boynton, of Wilmington and Kurt (Dina) Peterson, of Jacksonville, FL; nine grandchildren: Logan, Dannica, Brendan, Brianna, Angel, Liz, Paxton, Kami and Kaeman and one brother, Allen (Linda) Jacobsgaard, of Eureka, IL.

Ronald was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Betty

Per his wishes, cremation rites will be accorded and Ronald will be inurned with full military honors at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts Ronald's memory to the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Ronald's memorial page by logging onto: www.baskervillefuneral.com/obituary/ RonaldJake-Jacobsgaard

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

Illinois pork industry recovering after COVID-19 disruptions

BY ELYSE KELLY THE CENTER SQUARE

After a summer of supply disruptions thanks to COVID-19, the pork industry is back on track.

In Illinois, Jennifer Tirey, executive director for the Pork Association, said plants are back up to approximately 95% capacity.

"The biggest change was

that we were able to identify the issues in the packing plants and get our animals harvested in a timely manner," Tirey said.
"The bottleneck occurred when we had shutdowns in the packing plants.'

When the coronavirus hit, employees were either sick or afraid to come to work. Since then, packing plants have

employees could return, stated "I don't expect we'll be

back up to 100% because our packing plants had to make changes within their plants to protect the safety of their employees," Tirey said.

The industry learned some valuable lessons in the last several months, she said.

Our supply chain can be very fragile; so it's very important to keep an eye on that situation and making sure that our labor force at the packing and that we are able to support them and make sure they are safe and healthy in the packing plants because it's so important in order to get our product to market," Tirey said.

While things are looking

focused on creating a safe better now, Tirey says the pan work environment so that demic is unpredictable and demic is unpredictable and there's always a chance things could go south again. She said she hopes they'll keep what they've learned in mind.

> the same things happening with our supply chain, but we always have to be on alert to make sure that doesn't happen," Tirey said. Over the summer, Illinois

pork farmers were fortunate in that they did not have to dispose of many market sized hogs, Tirey said. Many who ended up with stock they couldn't process gave animals to food banks. During this pandemic,

they would rather see this protein going to families in need than to have to put an animal down unnecessarily," Tirey

₋ Nancy Shoemaker _–

2021

Desk Calendars

ARE HERE!

WILMINGTON-Nancy Shoemaker, 73, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at home.

She was born Feb. 23, 1947 in Salem, OH, the daughter of Ken and Ellen (Herb) Harsh. On June 26, 1965 Christian Church in Steubenville, OH.

Nancy was a member of the First Christian Church in Manteno and was a member of Eastern Star of Steubenville, OH. Nancy enjoyed crafts, quilting, and making her house a home. She went on three Services are private. mission trips for First Christian Church. She

Nancy is survived by her loving husband, Larry; a son, Carl (Karen) Shoemaker, of Manteno; daughters, Christen (Dave) Longfellow, of Portage, IN and Amy Shoemaker, of Steubenville, OH; a brother, Don Harsh, of Columbus, OH; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her

parents and a daughter, Jo El Shoemaker. Cremation rites have been accorded.

Brown- Jensen Funeral Home in Manteno taught Haitians how to fix and make clothes for is handling the arrangements.

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Seniors can apply for conservation scholarship

Applications are being accepted by the Illinois Conservation Foundation (ICF) for the 2021 Conservation Achievement Scholarship program.

The ICF awards the annual Conservation Achievement Scholarships to encourage the next generation of leaders to preserve and enhance a sustainable outdoor environment.

Up to four one-time scholarships of \$2,000 are given to outstanding high school seniors in Illinois who have demonstrated effective, voluntary and long-term dedication to the preservation, protection, enhancement and/or pro- website at https://ilconservation.org/Whatmotion of Illinois' natural resources.

Applicants must be Illinois residents and a senior in an Illinois high school during the year of the scholarship award. One of the scholarships is earmarked for a qualified applicant who is a dependent of a current employee o the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The deadline to apply for the 2021 Conservation Achievement Scholarship is March 1, 2021.

Detailed instructions and the 2021 application form can be accessed through the ICF We-Do/Scholarships.



Riverside welcomes two IM practitioners

pleased to welcome two immediate care nurse practitioners. Kathryn Locke, FNP-

Riverside Healthcare is BC; and Caitlin McCarthy, FNP-BC are seeing patients in Coal City, Bradley, Monee and Watseka.

Locke believes in holistic patient care that involves the patient, family, caregivers and community. She graduated with an Associate's degree of Science in Nursing at Kankakee Community College in Kankakee. She then completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing - Family Practitioner Chamberlain University in Downer's Grove, IL.

Locke is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner by American

Credentialing Center.
McCarthy, who is passionate about serving each patient she encounters, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Chamberlain College of Nursing in Addison, IL. She then completed a Master's of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais.

McCarthy is a board-certified Family Nurse Practitioner by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Riverside Immediate Care provides treatment for nonlife-threatening illnesses and injuries when and where you néed it most. Open seven days a week including weekends with locations in Coal City, Bradley, Monee, and Watseka.

Beginning Jan. 2, 2021, Immediate Care in Bradley will be relocating to the Riverside Atrium, at 400 S. Kennedy Drive, Suite 700. Learn more about Riverside Immediate riversidehealth Care care.org.



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To graduate, new state law requires seniors to fill out FAFSA

Illinois currently #I in FAFSA

completions

While students are struggling nationwide with remote education and college plans seem to be more up in the air than ever, there is some good news in Illinois.

The state closed out the year ranking No. 1 for completions of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®), the form most students use to apply for federal and state financial aid for postsecondary education. Helping to ensure that

more Illinois students have the funds to follow a path to college has become increasingly difficult in the midst of a pandemic that is challenging every aspect of our daily lives. To address some of the

pandemic-related challenges facing high schools and graduating seniors in completing financial aid applications for next fall, the Illinois Student

Assistance Commission (ISAC) is adding new initiatives to its effect with the 2020-2021 college outreach programs.

From targeted outreach and one-on-one assistance to students and families, to online financial aid modules that teachers can use with their students, the state's college access and financial aid agency is committed to providing free statewide supports for students and schools. With many students and

families facing illness and loss of loved ones, financial distress, and all the challenges of remote learning, it can be hard to handle the now, much less consider the future," said Eric Zarnikow, executive director of ISAC. "But as we look to better days ahead for next fall, we want to make sure our high school seniors and adult students have applied for and can receive the financial aid for which they are eligible. Knowing what funding you have available for postsecondary education is an important milestone in making that education happen.'

school year, requires public high school seniors to complete the FAFSA or, if eligible, the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, as a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma. A waiver provision allows a parent, guardian, or the student - if 18 or emancipated - to opt out of the requirement.

Requiring high school seniors to complete FAFSA will increase the number of students who are aware of the resources available to help them afford education or training after high school. It may also influence some students to attend college when they might not otherwise have done so. It also may help some students limit student loan debt and take a fuller course load to more quickly complete a degree or credential.

While ISAC already pro-

vides free college planning and financial aid workshops and one-on-one assistance for students during the annual College Changes Everything (CCE) fall campaign, the agency is extending its support to students due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to meet the state's new FAFSA mandate.

ISAC has hosted over 750 online financial aid workshops with school partners, as well as 13 statewide virtual financial aid completion workshops since September 2020. As high schools focus their efforts on remote learning and keeping connected with students, ISAC is reaching out directly to schools that previously participated in the CCE campaign and is offering the following free supports statewide: Online financial aid

completion workshops for students and parents. See studentportal.isac.org/events for statewide virtual events. Individual assistance to

students and parents in completing financial aid applications, via web conferencing, phone, text, or email. Contact your local ISACorps member for free assistance: studentportal.isac.org/isacorps. Sign up app to get college/financial aid questions answered via text: isac.org/collegeqa.

Completion Initiative offers Illinois school districts a way to identify students who have not submitted either a FAFSA or Alternative Application. The application completion information - updated on a weekly basis - can be used by district counselors to help reach students who may need assistance or encouragement to complete an application. The ISAC can directly reach out to and assist students who have not completed a FAFSA. Find out more at https://www.isac. org/home/fafsa/index.html

• ISAC is developing an online learning module for schools to use as part of their remote learning curriculum, which includes a video and a learning packet.

• To improve outreach to students and families during the pandemic, ISAC will be introducing a QR code that links to simple and accessible

families about how to get free assistance with financial aid applications. ISAC is partnering with several schools to pilot a program that will affix stickers with this QR code to free and reduced meal boxes and printed learning materials. Students and families will be able to scan the QR code with their phones to access the information.

We want to make sure every high school senior and adult student in Illinois knows that completing a financial aid application is a critical step for their future," said Jacqueline Moreno, ISAC's director of College Access and Outreach. "We can help make the application process fairly quick and easy for most students.'

ISACorps members throughout the state offer free assistance to help students and families complete and submit an application. Find a ISACorps member at studentportal.isac.org/isacorps.

Funds available to those behind on rent, mortgage

Will County residents and utilities because the behind on rent or mortgage because of the impact of COVID-19 can get payment assistance through four Will

Martha Sojka, administrator for the Community Development Division of the Will County Land Use Department, said the county is coordinating these agencies to help disperse federal funds to help families stay housed during the pandem-

The four agencies are: Will County Center for Community Concerns, 815-Spanish Community Center 815-727-

3683; Catholic Charities, 815-774-4663 Community Service Council Will County Executive

Bertino-Tarrant said, "Between them, these four agencies have been awarded more than a \$1 million of CARES Act relief funds to help those who are behind on rent, mortgage

pandemic has caused them to lose their jobs, have a reduction in hours or created other hardships.

Funds are available to those at least one month behind on rent. Utility assistance is also available for those who qualify. "Renters behind on rent

should not wait to apply for funds," said Sojka. Once the eviction moratorium is lifted, renters will be liable for all the months which are unpaid. If families don't seek assistance now, "they're just prolonging the inevitable."

Sojka added, "It's much more difficult for a family to find housing after an eviction filing and really important that renters are actively working with their landlords

Renters having difficulty working with their landlords and facing eviction are to contact Prairie State Legal, another HUD CARES funded gram, 815-727-5123.

Owners behind on their provider," she said. mortgages are encouraged to work with their mortgage companies on forbearance options. If those options are not available or exhausted, assistance is available for families behind on mortgage payments as well. Certified housing counselors are available at Will County Center for Community Concerns and Community Service Council.

Sojka recommended those needing help should call one of the agencies to determine eligibility. Each agency has different criteria and requires different supporting documents, depending upon the federal funds it has received. All agencies are taking in applications over the phone and most of the process can be handled electronically.

Part of the process is making sure the landlord, mortgage holder or utility company will accept third-party payment. "The funds are given directly to the

If all the required documents are submitted in a timely fashion, in some instances, it can take as little as two weeks for funds to be

Agencies also differ in the amount of time they can help households catch up depending upon the funding source, Sojka said. It can be one to three months of help. Sojka said households

only need to call one of the participating agencies to apply. If there are additional resources that another participating agency can provide, a referral will be given. "The most important

thing," said Bertino-Tarrant. "is to take that first step and call one of these participating agencies if you are one or more months behind on your rent, mortgage or utilities. These are unprecedented times and these funds are there to help.

For additional information go to www.willcountylanduse.com.

Illinois gas prices take a dip

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.33/g according GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 14.6 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 27.0 cents per gallon lower than a

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.08/g while the most expensive is \$2.69/g, a difference of 61.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state is \$2.08/g while the highest is \$2.69/g, a difference of 61.0 cents per gal-The Coal City Shell on

Division St., shows the lowest price at \$2.32/g, Wilmington's cheapest gas was at Mohsen and Shell, both on Lorenzo Rd., at \$2.09/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averfrom a month ago and stands 34.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. "After several weeks seeing the national average make

aging \$2.24/g. The national

average is up 8.0 cents per gallon

healthy gains, last week saw a significant slowdown and most states saw prices change little as we head into the New Year," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "I'm hopeful 2021's theme

will be recovery in the COVID-19 pandemic, which is unfortunately likely to drive gas prices higher. How much higher? GasBuddy will be revealing its 2021 Fuel Price Outlook tomorrow answering that question, giving motorists some insight into the trends expected in the coming 365 days. Short-term, expect prices to see overall less fluctuation in the week ahead as they saw to end 2020, with prices more likely to see small gains or

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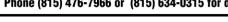
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Biden's plans for a greener climate

Dear EarthTalk: What will President-elect Joe Biden's top environmental priorities be once he assumes office-and who is he tapping to head up key environmental positions in his administration?

J. Woodbine, Saddlebrook, NJ

The world collectively faces the threat of climate change driven by human-made pollutants and environmental degradation. President-elect Joe Biden has made it clear that he intends to work to address and mitigate the climate crisis as the U.S. president.

The President-elect has set a goal to reach net-zero emissions within the U.S. by 2050, promises to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord immediately upon entering office, and aims to create 10 million new jobs within the clean energy

The Biden Plan outlines his strategy to address climate

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

change while securing environmental justice and equitable economic opportunity. One thing that the Biden Plan prioritizes and engrains into every aspect of its proposal is the importance of creating jobs and workers' unions throughout the transition to a more sustainable economy.

The Biden Plan will cost around \$2 trillion. This covers investments in infrastructure, an American-based energy efficient automobile industry, increased public transportation options, a sustainable power sector, weatherized

buildings and housing, scientific innovations, climatesmart agriculture and conservation, and efforts to promote environmental justice.

Despite his lack of clarity on whether or not he supports the Green New Deal (GND), Biden has worked together with several key players such as Bernie Sanders and the youth-driven Sunrise Movement to develop his own climate plan.

After these collaborations, the main differences that still stand between the GND and the Biden Plan are how much would be spent (\$10 trillion in the GND versus \$2 trillion in the Biden Plan), their goals for carbon neutrality (GND aims for carbon neutrality in 10 years, while the Biden Plan aims for 2050), and their outlook on hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to extract oil and gas.

In addition to his climate plan, Biden's cabinet will also

play a large role in pushing through his environmental agenda. Deb Haaland, Biden's pick to run the Interior Department, would be the first Native American to hold a cabinet secretary position.

Biden also nominated Michael Regan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator and Brenda Mallory as Chair of the Council of Environmental Quality. They would be the first Black man and woman to hold these positions. Some of Biden's Obama-era nominees include former EPA head Gina McCarthy as national climate adviser, John Kerry as the international presidential envoy on climate change, and Tom Vilsack as agriculture secretary. Overall, there has never

been a cabinet with so much focus on climate. One of the biggest ways we can help as individuals is to urge our Senators to confirm Biden's cabinet choices.



IF HE CAN deliver on his climate and environment promises, Joe Biden could go down as the greenest U.S. president in history.3

How much of Biden's climate and environmental *EarthTalk*® *is a501(c)3* hopes and dreams come true *nonprofit EarthTalk*. *See more* depends on many factors, but at https://emagazine.com.Send one thing that's for certain, he will likely go down in history as one of the greenest presidents

questions to: question@earthtalk.org

The Forest Preserve schedules 2021 'Eagle Watch'

County will celebrate the beauty and bounty of bald eagles during its 2021 "Eagle Watch" program set for Saturday, Jan. 9, at Four Rivers Environmental

Education Center in Channahon. The free, all-ages event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Four Rivers is located in McKinley Woods at 25055 W. Walnut Lane, off of Blackberry Lane

south of Bridge Street.

Bald eagles are spotted regularly at Four Rivers because of its location near where the Des Plaines, DuPage and Kankakee Rivers meet to form the Illinois River. So, odds are you might see

on a cold January weekend.

Four small guided hikes will be offered at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. Register for one the hikes by Jan. 8 Event Calendar the https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/ >ReconnectWithNature.org. Or take an independent hike after asking a naturalist where the eagles like to perch along

No indoor activities will be offered this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and masks are required for outdoor program participants, except for those younger than 2 years old and those with

The Forest Preserve District of Will some of these regal raptors flying about a medical condition or disability that prevents them from wearing one, per state guidelines.

Will County is one of 27 Illinois counties where bald eagles have been spotted in recent years as their numbers increase in the wild. In addition to McKinley Woods, eagles have been spotted in the north at Isle a la Cache in Romeoville , Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve in Plainfield and Whalon Lake in Naperville and out east at Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve in Crete Township and Monee Reservoir in Monee Township.



THE FOREST PRESERVE District of Will County's 2021 "Eagle Watch" is set for Jan. 9 at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. No indoor activities are planned due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, but visitors can register for small guided hikes in advance, or take independent hikes through McKinley Woods preserve.

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Ohlund commits to JJC determined to be a starter

BY SHAWN LONG

Sports writer

Wilmington senior Alyssa Ohlund is not going to hang up her knee pads just yet as she has committed to play volleyball at Joliet Junior

Ōhlund said it was between JJC and Elmhurst University but in the end it was about gaining confidence before going away to

"I just thought JJC was the better fit," said Ohlund. "I'm one of the youngest in my class. I'm going to still be 17 so I was just thinking staying at home for one more year would be better for the growth of me in general and Elmhurst is really expensive."

She also noted that the community college

may be the right choice with the uncertainties the coronavirus brings.

"It's not really worth it paying a whole bunch of money and having it be online. It's just unrealistic.'

She also likes that JJC is a short drive from Wilmington and that's exactly what she was looking for in terms of a commute.

Alyssa, who started playing volleyball in sixth grade, was reluctant with the sport at first.
"I actually didn't want to play," added Ohlund. "I was a cheerleader my whole life and then my sixth grade year I tried out for volleyball and that's when I started falling in love with it and I've been doing it ever since. I started playing club when I was in eighth grade and everything just kind of fell into place."

Alyssa said it was her mother Elaine who inspired her to stay with the program.

"My mom played volleyball," Ohlund noted. "She really wanted me to play and obviously I didn't want to at first but once I started playing, my mom was like 'Thank god!'

Alyssa was impressed and surprised with JC during her first trip to the college. She really liked her coach.



ALYSSA OHLUND (seated) commits to playing volleyball at Joliet Junior College. With her are Wilmington High School Laura Wakefield (standing, left) and JJC coach Dan Brown.

"It was really cool. I didn't think JJC was like every other college. I just thought it was like a smaller college but they try to make it like you're going to D1, D2 college. My coach, Dan, he makes it special for you. He tries to put in these special things for us just so we don't feel like we're at JUCO. He makes it feel like we're at a

bigger college."

On top of that, she loves how he made her feel comfortable as a newcomer.

'He makes you feel like you're the best player and you should be playing as high as you can. He would try to convince me to come play for him so he was really interested in me. That's unlike other coaches so I liked that.'

Alyssa hopes to secure a starting spot on the JJC team freshman year. "That's everyone's goal to be a starter," Ohlund commented. "Obviously if it doesn't

happen, as long as I get playing time, it's still cool to be able to play on a college team."

Since committing she's even more motivated to improve her volleyball skills while keeping her focus on academics.

"I just want to be better as a volleyball player. I hope that I just become a better player and

I'm thankful I'm being given the opportunity to prove myself at the next level. Not everyone is given a chance like this and I love the fact I'm being able to continue playing." As an outside hitter she'll help the Wolves volleyball team that finished the 2019 season

14-19 under coach Dan Brown. She was second in kills with 141 on a Wilmington team that finished with 14 wins. She'll also join former teammates Taylor Van Duyne, Aubrey Sinchak and Megan Mann who are already playing at JJC. Ohlund wants to study Early Childhood

Education or Speech Pathology. She's not sure which career will be a better fit but with a 3.9 GPA at WHS she's not afraid to apply herself. When it comes to studying, she's already got a system that works for her. "I try to use my time wisely so I study on a

bus going to an away game and I just try to make myself study in a quiet room. I can't study with people around me.

Ohlund is hopeful the IHSA and state give the Lady Wildcats the okay to play a spring season. She admits it was disheartening when the fall season was canceled due to the pandemic but understands. So far a target date for what will be her senior season is Feb. 3.

"I really want a final season with coach Laura Wakefield and my classmates. We've been working together for six seasons now and this was suppose to be our year to peak as seniors. I just long for the chance."



ASHLEY HOWARD was one of two girls selected to the Wildcat golf dream team. Howard was a state qualifier in girls golf in 2010.



DAN VAN DUYNE was named to the Wilmington golf dream team by former coach Mike Wilson. Van Duyne qualified for the state golf tournament in 2012.

helpful in high school.

other and I was like I wish we

could've had that a couple

would've made the difference.

sectional in his junior and sen-

ior year, missing state by two

strokes in his junior year and

shot an 85 in his senior season.

The cutoff score for state qual-

ification was a 79 so he wasn't

Dillon Tjelle

standout golfers that qualified

for sectionals in his freshman

year with a 97 in the Beecher

Regional. Tjelle scored an 87 at

the Seneca Regional advancing

Tjelle was one of Wilson's

far behind

Nelson advanced to the

years ago because

Wildcat golf dream team includes best golfers

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

Golf came to America in 1888 when two Scotsmen from Dunfermline, John Reid and Robert Lockhart, demonstrated the sport by setting up a hole in an orchard. That same year, Reid started up America's first golf club, Saint Andrews Golf Club in Yonkers, NY, and less than 30 years later, the Professional Golf Association (PGA) was started in America.

By comparison the sport first introduced at Wilmington High School could be considered still new.

According Free Press Advocate archives, golf began as a sport at WHS in September of 1999 when Forrest Helfrich, Chris and Nick Robinson, Jenny and Carrie Quigley, Jessica Folk, Mike Rodawold, Craig Long, Brett Lockwood and Blake Favero formed the first team. Volunteer coach at the time was Tom Helfrich.

Tom said Carrie Quigley, his son, Forrest and Steve Cutter were all good golfers.

"I had the most valuable player award," said Helfrich. 'Carrie won it those two years that I was there and Forrest won it the two years he was there. Steve Cutter was pretty

come about?

became certified golf coaches

and assembled a team that

good if he kept it together. Forrest, Steve and the Quigley girls had played before so they were a lot better than those who hadn't played before. But how did the sport

Tom and his wife Jill

practice Braidwood Recreation Club. Helfrich and Doug Favero (Blake's father) helped coach the team as volunteers. The athletic director at the time was Mike Cluver who approved the program.

'My son wanted to play golf and we had no golf team," said Helfrich. "So I just went in the school and talked to the administration and they said go ahead. I went to Manteno to see if we could play there as our home course and then I just went around with the different schools because everything had already been scheduled and we just jumped in. Everybody was very helpful, telling us we could compete with them, so that's what we did the first year."

The dads transported the team around to different schools for their meets.

In the second season, there was a fee to play but the money was used to buy equipment and golf apparel. The second year was a lot more structured as far as a schedule goes and it became the first season with a full schedule.

After two years of volunteering Helfrich stepped down and Wilmington teacher Brian Petrovic took over. Petrovic coached for three seasons with al tournament as a freshman. Mike Wilson as an assistant. Wilson took over in 2003.

Cats for 18 years now and dream team.

Forrest Helfrich

the state tournament in 2000.

He scored a 75, placing fourth in the Bishop McNamara Sectional and scored an 84 during the first round of the state tournament. Wilson was an assistant at

"He was a very consistent

player," said Wilson. "He was a great driver of the golf ball. He was a consistent iron player. He was always shooting between 36 and 38.

Steve Cutter Cutter was another very

had a consistent long game. 'Steve could hit the ball a

good golfer on that team that

long way," added Wilson. "I mean a long way. As crazy as it sounds, there were a few drives where he was hitting it over 360

Ashley Howard

female golfer to make state at Wilmington High School.

Howard shot an 83 during the Gibson City Melvin-Sibley Sectional to qualify for state and placed 42nd in state with a score of 90. "Ashley always worked at

it no matter what and she had great perserverance." Ashley actually made her

first appearance in the section-Danny VanDuyne

Van Duvne made it to state

Wilson has coached the a year later in 2011. He shot a 79 to place fifth at the sectionknows who he'd have on a al and followed that with an 89 on the state course.

tion where he would make par "Dan went to a U of I golf though and he would never Forrest was the first camp prior to golf season and make worse than bogey. Wildcat golfer to make it to the that helped out a ton. Dan

could hit it a long ways too. He was more of a mid iron player,"

commented Wilson. VanDuyne's senior year, Wilson notes he was within a foot of a hole in one. That's the closest Wilson has ever come to seeing someone hit one.

Tiffany Nugent

Nugent was the second female golfer to make it to state for the Wildcats as she went as a senior in 2012, scoring 92 during the Champaign St. Thomas More Sectional. She finished the state tournament with a 110 at Red Tail Run Golf Course.

'She was another long player," commented Wilson. 'She was a female golfer who could hit the ball 280. She had natural ability.

Aaron Nelson Nelson, who was close to

Howard was the first qualifying for state twice, was a very smart golfer. 'Nelson was a personal

two. He would put it in posi-

Wilson golfed with Nelson

to the sectional where he would score a 96. favorite of mine," added Tjelle took second in the Wilson. "Aaron came very close regional during his senior year, to make it to state twice against following that with a 97 at the some really extreme competisectional in Watseka. He never tion. He was consistently a low qualified for state but was a 40s shooter. He didn't have the very consistent golfer that shot length that everyone else had in the low to mid 40s but his mind between the ears **Ryan Woodall** was so far advanced than Woodall was a three-time everybody else. In other words, sectional qualifier in his sophcoaches who watched him omore (96), junior (90) and play, they watched him play senior (93) campaigns. because he uses his head and Woodall was small in was so smart. On a 400 yard hole, he would never make it in stature but packed a punch on

> mid 40s on most courses he **Jerry Burnes**

the golf course, shooting in the

after high school and realized Burnes advanced to to the he gained some muscle that Wilmington golf sectional in both agree would have been under coach Brian Petrovic. He was another good That was the time that he golfer for Wilson, shooting 44 developed more strength. He on the front and back nine in had another 40 vards to his tee the regional. Burnes was ball and we just looked at each unable to make it to state, fin-

ishing 14 strokes behind the qualification score. Chloe Lombardi

Lombardi is also worth a mention as in 2014 she qualified for sectionals, shooting an 85 at the regional.

She competed in the Nazareth Sectional and finished with a 106 to bow out but she was still a really good golfer for Wilson.

Tyler Long

Long was one of the more recent golfers, who qualified for sectionals with teammate Woodall in 2017 after shooting an 89 in the Seneca Regional.

Long ended up bowing out in the sectional but was the number two golfer next to Woodall in 2017

Gustafson & Himes

Another good early girls golfer for the Wildcats was Diana Gustafson, who could be great for depth on the golf dream team. Gustafson was a good golfer, who would score in the mid-40s to early 50s in The leading guys golfer

that year and one of the better golfers was Josh Himes, who achieved the best overall score since the 2001 season with a score of 39 during an individual match. On top of that, Himes consistently shot in the Former sports reporter low to mid 40s.