



FREE PRESS ADV

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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

'Our students will be ahead of the game' Wilmington 209-U says return to school a success

BY MARNEY SIMON

said the return to school after the winter break is so far going as well as can be expected.

On Jan. 11, administrators discussed the back to school effort with members of the Board of Education went great on Wednesday, Thursday during their regular monthly meeting, which was held in a hybrid remote and in-person format.

The district kicked off the second half of the year with three remote learning days before welcoming students back on Monday morning.

Administrators with the Wilmington 209-U School District as it could," Feeney said of the plan, which included a teacher institute day, a remote planning day, and three days for remote student instruction at all four of the district's schools.

> and Friday, there's nothing that replaces in-person learning," Feeney continued. "And, to get the students back this week, and our goal is the remainder of the school year, I think our students are going to be way ahead of the game when it's all said

Assistant Superintendent Kevin and done because we were able to week this month Feeney said the return to school has make the adjustments necessary." "We had a

2021 was smooth sailing at the district's schools.

"We had a great three days of remote learning last week. I commend the teachers for all their hard work, and the students did a phe-"As much as the remote learning nomenal job. We had 94% attendance rate for all three days," said Bruning Elementary principal Beth Norman, who added that her building saw a 100% return of Chromebooks and hot

> At Stevens Intermediate, principal Venita Dennis said staff are

Administrators said the start of 1 was smooth sailing at the dis-Dennis said.

She also thanked the teachers, staff and remote teachers for their work throughout the pandemic.

"They do an amazing job with technology, and this remote learning has taught all of us a lot," Dennis said. High School principal Scott

Maupin said that while the IHSA is still in a holding pattern for sports, activities such as Scholastic Bowl and Speech continue in virtual formats.

"Our first three days of remote preparing for midterms and career learning worked well for us," Maupin

did a great job. However, I will say, [Monday] the kids came back in the building and they would echo the same thing, it's good to be back."

Maupin added that first semester grades come out on Friday, and that the list of Illinois State Scholars has so far been delayed.

The high school is also prepping for spring musical, Cinderella, which will take place in March.

Meanwhile, quarantine guidelines for students and staff known to have direct contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive have

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2

Will County warns of increasing **COVID** cases

STAFF REPORT

Region 7 is headed toward rolling back from Tier 3 mitigations, put in place in November by Gov. JB Pritzker to help fight the spread of the novel coronavirus. But the Will County

Health Department warns that while Region 7 — Will and Kankakee counties — is set to hit the metrics for that rollback, Will County alone has seen cases on the rise.

As of Jan. 9, the Region 7 test positivity seven day rolling average was 11%. But the average in Will County was higher, at 12.6%

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 tal bed availability and declining COVID-19 hospitalizations in seven out of the last 10 days.

Pritzker said all regions that were below the metrics as of Jan. 15 would be rolled back to Tier 2 mitigations.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Tier 2 mitigations include the following: • All bars and restaurants

must close at 11 p.m. and may reopen no earlier than 6 a.m. the following day. • No indoor service at bars

and restaurants. • Tables should outdoors

and should be placed 6 feet

• No standing or congregating indoors or outdoors while waiting for a table or

exiting.
• No dancing or standing indoors

 Meetings and gatherings are limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors.

• No party buses.

• Gaming and Casinos close at 11 p.m., are limited to SEE COVID, PAGE 2

Smoke in the sky Winter Ready



UNDER CONTROL — Folks traveling River Road in Wilmington do not need to be concerned about flames or smoke they see along the way. Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie workers are tending to the fires as part of brush burning around the River Road seedbeds. The fires are not prescribed controlled burns, but rather, brush burning. Veronica Hinke with Midewin said the burning is referred to as "pile burning," where Midewin burns piles of materials that are generated through restoration work. The purpose is elimination of materials. Hinke said the burning will be limited, and is expected to continue around River Road and the northeast side of Illinois Route 53 in the coming days, with no burning planned for the following week.

City officials remind public of road rules during winter

BY MARNEY SIMON

Just a few weeks into the new year, and the region has already endured a handful of significant snow events. Wilmington Mayor Roy

Strong spent time during the Jan. 5 regular meeting of the Wilmington City Council urg-ing residents to be mindful of the rules of the road in Wilmington when it's time for the plows to come out.

The mayor reviewed the city's winter snow and ice accumulation clearance guidelines with members of the City Council during that meeting, which was held remotely via the videoconferening website Zoom.

Please remember that every snow and ice incident is different, so please take caution during any snow and ice storm," Strong said.

Strong reminded the public that the best option is to stay home during snow and freezing rain events until snow plows can clear and treat the roads. But, he said, residents have a role to play during win-

"It is unavoidable for the city of Wilmington snow plows to not push snow on sidewalks at all intersection corners during cleanup operations," Strong said, adding that it is the responsibility of the homeowners and business owners on those corners to clear the sidewalks.

"Place snow into the park way, not back into the street.' The mayor asked that residents assist public works by

doing the following: • Do not park in the street

during a snow event. By city ordinance, on-street parking is prohibited during snowfall accumulations of 2 inches or Commercial property

owners are responsible for plowing commercial parking lots and driveways. · Clear snow around fire

hydrants.

· Clear snow around mail-

Residents are also asked to reach out to help neighbors snow removal.

Residential property owners are responsible for removing snow from public sidewalks adjacent to their homes.

This insures safety for

SEE WINTER, PAGE 2

Elion development moves through next step

Site plan moves to full council for approval

BY MARNEY SIMON **EDITOR**

The site plan for a new building at the Elion Logistics Park at Lorenzo Road and I-55, formerly Ridgeport, have moved through the city's planning and zoning commission.

On Jan. 7, the commission held a public hearing to

review that site plan, the next square feet total. step after the city council approved the annexation and zoning changes back in November. The public hearing was held virtually over the teleconferencing website

Elion plans to construct a 500,000 square foot building for Dynamic 3PL.

Dynamic 3PL is a warehouse-based logistics provider. The plan for the Dynamic 3PL site will be a phased construction, with a proposed build out from the original 500,000 square feet to an approximate 1.1 million

The site plan includes the building, parking, truck docks, and detention on three parcels of land totaling approximately 61 acres, located west of Kavanaugh Road and north of Murphy Road.

City engineer Rodney Tonelli said the site plan as

presented is satisfactory.
"We're issuing a final review level on the engineering plans," Tonelli said. "There is nothing in this site plan that we have any concerns with. All I would ask is that if you approve it, and I recommend that you do, you do it with the

condition that it is subject to final engineering review. But otherwise, everything is generally in order.'

Tonelli noted that in most construction, there are always some design details that need attention later.

Elion is owned by Adar Ridgeport Industrial Partners.

Michael Stellino, the managing director with Elion Partners which serves as the developers of Adar Ridgeport, said as of Monday last week, Elion had renewed offers to property owner per a 2010 agreement with the city of Wilmington.

Per the development agreement with the city of Wilmington, Adar Ridgeport is required to make an offer to property owners within one half mile of development at 125% of the property value as of 2010, plus 2% for each year

But one resident spoke up at the public hearing with a concern about that agree-

SEE ELION, PAGE 2





Winter

pedestrians and for children walking to school," Strong said. "Shovel snow from driveways into the parkways, not into the street, to avoid creating dangerous, slippery conditions for both motorists and pedestrians.'

Shoveling snow into the street is also city code viola-

The city is responsible for clearing city parking lots, which includes the parking lot Main Street behind

According to the city's guidelines, public works crews are mobilized when there is a measurable snowfall, or when wintery mix precipitation, such as sleet or freezing rain, is causing hazardous condi-Wilmington public works,

which is made up of five employees and seven vehicles for designated for road snow removal, are charged with clearing 250 miles of roadway within the city during snow and ice events. "Wilmington has a goal of

clearing all streets within 24 hours after the snow stops

falling," Strong said. "Heavier snows and blowing snow often take longer to clear.

Brine is also added to roadways prior to snow and ice events. The city's brine solution is a mixture of salt, vodka, and rum.

Strong reminded residents that not all streets are under the jurisdiction of the

"The city of Wilmington crews plow most streets within the city limits, however, there are a number of roads that are the responsibility of other government agencies," Strong said, "For example, the Illinois Department of Transportation plows Route 102 and Route 53. The Will County Department Transportation plows west River Road, Stripmine Road, and north River Road."

Treating roads also goes in a specific order.

This is kind of how it works. If it's freezing rain out, we go out and salt. But, this is the following order [after an event]: Major arterials, school routes, hills, railroad crossings, and the bridges are first. Subdivision mains and collector streets second, then all remaining subdivision streets," he said.

Strong noted that after

those roads are addressed, crews will attend to cul-desacs, dead ends, alleys, city parking lots, then areas where parked vehicles have moved.

The city also has a new sprayer at its disposal, which can help spread its brine solution in parking lots and on sidewalks in front of city prop-"We just got that liquid salt [spreader]," Strong said.

'They can spray and cover a lot of areas... It works on colder temperatures and stays longer. That will be an asset we have there."

Strong also asked for residents to be patient, since winter weather can always be unpredictable.

'This last little deal we had... a couple of people on vacation and we had somebody hurt, so we didn't have the drivers. But, somebody came off vacation and drove a truck anyway. So, that was pretty nice of them," he said.

Strong also said the city's public works crews deserve credit for how they managed through the last two storms.

People don't call me a lot, but I had two people call me and compliment the city on the storm removal. So, I got two compliments," Strong said. "If we've got one person

unhappy but 99% of the people happy, I think that's a pretty good job. We can't make everybody happy, that's impossible. Anything we do, somebody out there is not going to like it... But I think the crew deserves a pat on the back, they did a good job this last ice and snow we had in

Meanwhile, the members of the Wilmington Police Department will attempt to contact residents who may have vehicles in the street before moving ahead with issuing citations for violating any of the city's snow related ordinances. Our guys do a really good

job of trying to knock on doors and get people to move their cars before they are ticketed or towed," Police Chief Phil Arnold said. "They work with public works when they know they're going to go to a certain area to plow, they guys are out knocking on doors and asking people to move their cars."

The full winter street guidelines can be found on the city's website, www.wilmington-il.com, under the Winter Snow and Ice Accumulations Guidelines

School

changed.

Superintendent Dr. Matt Swick told the board that new guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has reduced the mandatory quarantine time by four days. "We're

down from 14 days to 10 days. And, that's a move in the right direction, less time out of school and still protecting all of us," Swick A close contact is

defined as a person who has been within 6-feet for 15 minutes or longer of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. Swick said the excep-

tion t that new timeframe is those who are quarantining whose close contact lives in the same house-

hold. Those students or staff will have to remain on quarantine for the full 14 days. The district reminded families and staff members who are participating in in-person instruction to conduct self-checks each

morning before leaving

the house to come to

school for any potential

covid-related symptoms. Anyone experiencing symptoms, including a fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea should stay home.

Wilmington City Council last

phase la of the distribution,

which is health care workers

and long care facilities, The

next step will be EMS workers,

paramedics and EMTs, and

then eventually we'll get into

firefighters and law enforce-

ment and the other first

responders. But, of everyone

could please take that. It's not

just for government employ-

ees, it's for everybody, every

citizen in Will County, they're

asking them to take that sur-

vev just so they can get an idea

of who is going to want a vac-

on the department's website,

www.willcountyhealth.org
On Tuesday, Jan. 12, the

Illinois Department of Public

Health (IDPH) announced

6,642 new cases of confirmed

and probably COVID-19 infec-

tions, and 117 additional death, including eight in Will

include three people in their

90s, two people in their 80s,

one person in their 60s, one

person in their 50s, and one

total number of positive cases

recorded in zip code 60481

since the start of the pandem-

Wilmington, Shadow Lakes,

Symerton, and surrounding

The total number of cases

which

person in their 20s.

areas, was 1,023.

Those Will County deaths

Also as of Tuesday, the

County.

The survey can be found

cine when they are available.

"Right now, we're still in

Elion

Amanda McGray lives on Kavanaugh within that half mile radius. She said that while she received her offer to purchase from Elion, she was concerned about the

"They're going off something based in 2010, and we did not purchase our house until 2015, so that worries me a little," McGray said. "I don't have any issues regarding the plans, I think the plans actually look really good. I like what they're doing out here. "But, at the same time, I want to

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES

WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free

Press Advocate features sen-

iors from the Class of 2021.

Wilmington's senior this

Rebecca Horton

pursue upon graduation? I

will be attending the

University of Missouri and

you're good at? Playing vol-

people don't know about you?

I love the books and movies.

wish you had but don't? I

wish I was artistic, I cannot

draw whatsoever.

am a nerd for Harry Potter.

Do you nave a novy

What is one thing most

What is one skill you

What is your favorite thing to eat? Any type of

I want to give a shout out

Famous person (dead or

(favorite staff member)...

Mr. Farrell for being a cool

dude and making WHS fun.

alive) you would like to meet

majoring in nursing.

leyball

pasta.

What do you plan to

week is Rebecca Horton.

make sure that we're actually compensat-

WHS seniors

of the week

ed for our house how we should be versus something that was on 2010 when we hadn't purchased it yet," she continued.

'That may have been the agreement, which I absolutely understand that, but we didn't even purchase this house until 2015, so the appraisal was different. So, I'm asking to please consider that, as we did not live at this address in 2010, so we were not part of that original agreement.'

Stellino said that Elion made two offers on that home in the past, and received a response in February of 2020 that was significantly more than what they are required to offer per the agree-

"I will assure this board that we will meet all our obligations and that I will continue in active negotiations with this owner to see if we can come up with an agreement," Stellino said.

A second homeowner, Stacey Johnstone, had previously approached the zoning board regarding the agreement and the possible purchase of her home on Kavanaugh. In November, Johnston said in a letter to the board that Elion's offer on her home was not in accordance with the original agreement, but did not elaborate. Johnstone was not in attendance at the Jan. 7 meeting.

The logistics park currently houses 6.4 million square feet of industrial buildings fully developed, with a 100% occu-

The site plan will now move to the full City Council for approval.

I didn't have to drive to school.

Instead, I just traveled from my

bed to my desk. Many students

just stayed in bed for all of

meet my classmates' pets.

Many students' dogs and cats

made appearances on my

to pop in and say hi to my sis-

ter's choir class during a break

our time more efficiently than

we would have in a classroom.

Since students weren't physi-

cally next to each other, there

was a lot less chit chat, which

allowed classes to go smoothly.

my short virtual learning expe-

rience, I'm very thankful our

district is offering in person

learning. I'm glad to be back in

a real classroom next to my

classmates.

Even though I did enjoy

I also enjoyed getting to

Being at home allowed me

In some classes we used

their classes.

computer screen.

between my classes.

Glad to be back in

break, remote learning

class after winter

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES

WHS STUDENT REPORTER

I survived a week of e-

learning! The first week back

from winter break, WHS stu-

dents went remote from Jan. 6-

8. This way, we are prepared in

case we have to go remote in

building. I no longer have to

worry about my Internet

crashing and getting kicked

out of my Google meet classes.

between my first two classes,

but I'm very thankful my

teachers were understanding.

high school's math teachers,

said, "I would probably say

that I don't really enjoy teach-

ing virtually, but if it comes

down to being the only option

that we have, than I am more

than willing to make the most

cult to learn with all of the

technical difficulties, I did

enjoy some parts of learning

Although it was very diffi-

I was able to sleep in longer in the morning because

out of the situation.

via Google meets.

got kicked out six times

Mrs. Maupin, one of the

I am glad to be back in the

Covid

25% capacity, and must follow mitigations for bars and

· Organized group recreational activities, including sports, but excluding fitness centers, will be limited to the lesser of 25 guests or 25% of overall room capacity both indoors and outdoors.

• Groups are limited to 10

The Will County Health

"Please, we all need to continue do our part to help slow the spread of this virus, the department posted to social media. "Wear your mask in public places and whenever spatial distancing is not possible, wash your hands often, and watch your distance, maintaining six feet of separation when possible. And please when possible, avoid crowded places and close contact with others who do not live in your household. Stay home if and when you can."

The Will County Health Department has continued to ask the public to fill out an

that survey. "It's just to allow them to get a count of how many vac-

The preliminary seven day statewide test positivity rate for Jan. 5 through Jan. 11 is 8.6%. As of the start of this week, 334,939 people in the state of Illinois had received

restaurants, if applicable.

Meetings, social events and gathering are limited to 10 guests in both indoor and outdoor settings.

or fewer people.

Department issued a plea to all residents to stay vigilant.

online survey to assist in planning for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

Wilmington Police Chief Phil Arnold has urged all Will County residents to fill out

cines they may need, it's pretty important to get that done," Arnold told members of the recorded in 60408, Braidwood,

COVID-19 vaccinations.

WANT TO SEE YOUR SCHOOL NEWS HERE?

SEND STORY IDEAS TO

news@fpnusa.com

Keep a level head in an

up and down market.

Thank You

REBECCA HORTON

and why? Luke Combs

because he is my absolute

class, what would it be? A

high school? Any homecom-

ing week activity, but espe-

cially when the boys in our

grade dressed up as cheer-

leaders and performed for

give to underclassmen? Make

the most of your high school

experience, it goes by in the

What advice would you

If you could create a

Funniest memory from

favorite country singer.

cooking class!

the school.

blink of an eye.

The Christian Help Association would like to thank our wonderful community for filling a tough year with so much goodness.

We were able to provide 260 families with holiday meals for Thanksgiving & Christmas, extra food, toiletries, gifts for the children, coats, hats & mittens, and blankets for our senior neighbors during the Christmas season at our Holiday Distribution.

Thank you to all who donated food, gifts, blankets, coats, or monetary gifts. Your generosity has not gone unnoticed.

Thank you to all the local churches, businesses and organizations for hosting Toy Tag Trees, Elf Contest Boxes, Coat Collections Boxes. We appreciate your support. Special thank you this year to our VOLUNTEERS and Committee

Chairs. Your flexibility with the many changes along the way is much appreciated. We look forward to the next holiday season when we can hopefully have our full force of volunteers return. Our community was able to bring so much joy to many families.

We are forever grateful. The Christian Help Association

Coffee & <u>Newspapers</u> One wakes you up

One opens your eyes

Dean A Shepherd, AAMS® Financial Advisor



311 W Baltimore St Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-6856

Edward **Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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Marney Simon, editor

Eric D. Fisher, publisher

A manly diversion, shooting pigeons in the park



Sandy Vasko

Accuracy with a weapon has always been a trait to be admired. I imagine cavemen had spear throwing contests. Today we go back to 1874 to witness the great Captain Adam H. Bogardus shoot down small helpless birds with deadly accuracy.

Adam H. Bogardus hailed from Elkhart, Illinois. During the Civil War he did two short 100-day stints in the Union Army; his job was sharpshooter. When the war was over, he found that the only skill that he had to make a living with, was his accuracy with a gun.

It wasn't long before Bogardus was earning a good living traveling around the country, challenging the best local shots to a pigeon shooting contest. Money came not only from the prize purses for the match, but also from side bets he made against individual marksmen.

In February of 1874 a local Wilmington merchant and

gaming man, Thomas Bulpin sweepstakes resulted in ties, organized a shooting contest. We read in a letter to the Joliet Signal, "Our city has been quite enlivened the last few days by the presence of several wellknown "Knights of the trigger," who have visited us to take part in the little pigeon shooting enterprise gotten up by our friend Bulpin, who seems always alive to anything in the shape of manly diversion.'

"The shooting came off on Wednesday, the 18th inst., on the race track - admirably adapted for the purpose; the river on one side and the range of bluffs on the other forming as suitable a place for the enjoyment of such sport as anywhere in the State.

The champion shooter of America, Captain A. H. Bogardus, took part in the proceedings, also O. T. Cook of Joliet, Thomas Bestford of Morris, and several distinguished "shootists" Braidwood, Chicago and elsewhere."

'The two first events were won by our young townsman, James Bogart - he killing all his birds without a single miss - bet on himself, he wo thus placing himself among more money. Simple. the foremost shots of the day."

feathered victims, but was unfortunate in three of them

and a division between Messrs. Bogardus, Baldwin, Meredith and Cook."

"A match game was afterward made upon the ground to come off the following day between the veteran Bogardus and Bestford, to shoot at twenty-one birds each for one hundred dollars (about \$3,100 today) a side, the Captain shooting at twenty-four yards from the trap and his opponent twenty-one; handle and trap for each other. The result at first was a tie, each man killing twelve birds. They agreed to shoot it off at three birds each, the first miss to lose. Bestford failed to kill his bird; Bogardus scored and won the match. The wind blew fresh from the river and the birds flew very swift."

This is my take on that match. Bogardus was bested by a local boy, and only won second prize. But I believe it was a shill that is, I believe he lost on purpose. Then when he challenged Bestford the following day, the odds against him would be greater, thus when he bet on himself, he would make

the week The noble "Captain" also Wilmington Advocate had this slaughtered the whole of his to say, "If reports be true, the pigeon shooting between Bogardus and falling outside of bounds. The Bestford on Thursday of last second and third prizes in both week, near this city, was a



A PHOTO OF Adam Bogardus and a advertising card with Bogardus and his three sons during the time they all traveled in a show togather.

shameless, gambling fraud. Such "put up" matches are on a par with pocket-picking.'

The following Bogardus won the American sharpshooting championship. He promptly left for England to defend his title, remaining there for 3 years.

In 1882, using glass balls he had invented for the purpose, Bogardus broke 4,844 balls out of 5,000 over an eight hour and twenty-minute exhibition at Madison Square Garden in New York.

In 1883 Bogardus became partners with the great Buffalo Bill Cody in Cody's Wild West Show. He put on nightly exhibitions of his skill, and eventu- put on exhibitions and take on



ally put his four boys into the all comers into his 70's, dying act as well. However, he did not get on with Cody's other partner, Dr. Carver and he parted company with the Wild West Show after one year.

Bogardus continued to

at the age of 79. He is buried back in Elkhart next to Governor Oglesby. In 1969 he was posthumously inducted into the Illinois Trap Shooters Hall of Fame.

Symerton passes ordinance regulating public comment

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of the Village of Symerton, Will County, Illinois Pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/1-2-6: ORDI

NANCE 2020-5, AMENDING THE MUNIC-IPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF SYMERTON, ESTABLISHING RULES THAT GOVERN PUBLIC COMMENT AT OPEN MEETINGS, was approved and passed by the Village Board of Trustees on January 11, 2021. A copy of the ordinance can be viewed by contacting the office of the Village Clerk, Village Hall, 18385 W. Commercial Street, Symerton, Illinois during regular working hours at (815) 476-6266.

Dated this 11th day of January

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021.

> Attorney Fisher files Zagar 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 Mary Lou Zagar, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 1005. **CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Mary ou Zagar of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of

Office were issued on January 5, 2021 to Diane L. Nissen as Independent Executor. The estate will be administered with-

out 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 July 13, 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.

E-filing is now mandatory for docu-ments in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/

service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk with your local circuit clerk's Dated: January 13, 2021.

Diane L. Nissen, Independent Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law,

Law Offices of Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (81 Email: jeff@jefffisherlaw.com (815) 476-7635

Irvin L. Masching, Attorney at Law, 105 E. Chippewa Street, P.O. Box 247, Dwight, IL 60420. (815) 584-1700 Email: imasching@maschinglaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate Newspaper on Jan. 13, 20, and 27. 2021.

Mazon named to dean's list at Lawrence Tech

Lawrence University has announced Haley Mazon, of Wilmington, has been named to the school's dean's list for the 2020 fall semester.

Mazon is majoring in nursing and has achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher for the term.

Technical, located in Southfield, MI, offers more than 100 programs of study.

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 office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Cynthia C. Martin Owner Address: 406 Moen Ave., 1b.

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, Jan. 6 & 13, 2021.

> 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 Olszewski, Case No. 20 MR 2829 NOTICE

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 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 20, 2021.

Southeast University dean's list

Lexi Orr and Nolan Smith, of Wilmington have been named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Southeast Missouri State

Students named to the list earned at least a 3.75 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, completed at least 12 hours of standard graded credit, achieved no grade below a B and received no failing grades in enrolled, credit/no credit or pass/fail courses.

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 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

Manhattan Fire Protection Dist. to hold budget hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on the Amended Tentative Budget of the MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT in the County of Will and State of Illinois for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2020 and ending April 30, 2021 at the Manhattan Fire Station located at 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois on February 16, 2021 at

4:00 p.m.

The Amended Tentative Budget for the MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for said fiscal year ending April 30, 2021 is now posted on the bulletin board of the Manhattan Fire Station, 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois and is conveniently available for public inspection.

Dated January 13, 2021
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021.

Getting vaccinated really pays



OAK KNOLL INSURANCE & Tax Strategies in Wilmington presented \$3,000 in donations among three local charities concluding its recent vaccination campaign. From September to December, anyone who was vaccinated for influenza, shingles or pneumonia was encouraged to bring their receipt to Oak Knoll who then agreed to make a \$5 donation to each of three local organizations that help families less fortunate. Over 200 vaccines were given resulting in \$1,000 each for Our Caring Closet, The Christian Help Association and Kumza Care Cottage. Oak Knoll owner Steve Francis (from left) presents the \$1,000 checks to Anthony Ritz of the Our Caring Closet, Judy Johnson of CHA and Heather Hobbs of Kuzma Cottage. Individuals and businesses are invited to participate in the challenge to make a donation of any size per shot to one or all of the organizations (even 10¢ a shot is only \$20!)

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THINK ABOUT IT!

www.freepressnewspapers.com, Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

Vaccine will flow

Vaccine, Vaccine...where is the vaccine! Not to worry, on Jan. 20, China Joe will step out on the portico of the White House, and if he knows where he is; raise his arm, and announce to the people of this county, "Let the vaccine flow!" and the vaccine will flow. Always, Margot Lane

Signs of TDS

SHADOW LAKES— Nice rant Guy Jones but you forgot that Trump shot JFK, faked the moon landing and was behind 9 11. I now understand Trump Derangement Syndrome.

Rescuing the arts COAL CITY—Read for many hard-hit arts

institutions, 2020 ended on a hopeful note when Congress passed a \$900 billion stimulus bill that included \$15 billion in aid for theaters, movie houses, live music venues and museums. Hundreds of venues have closed for good and caused \$33 billion decline in live music industry alone. Both Republicans and Democrats in Congress responded by authorizing the largest government rescue of the arts in U.S. history. Our tax dollars at work.

Time to move on

SHADOW LAKES-Jan. 6, 2021 will go down in history as one of the saddest days in our country. In my lifetime, this is the closest l have ever seen this country come to a coup, something that only happens in countries run by dictatorships. Our constitution has legal avenues that allows to legally challenge the results of an election. Trump had and took advantage of every possible way to challenge the results of the election, even the Supreme Court, where six out of the nine judges are Republicans (three appointed by Trump) rejected Trump's claims of fraud. I'm sorry to say to Trump supporters that the election is over and that it's time to move on.

Domestic terrorism

CUSTER PARK—The terrorists committing deadly insurrection at the Capitol were handled with kid gloves. They would have been blown away instantly if they were black or brown. Let's call what happened in Washington for what it is, deadly white domestic terrorism.

Prosecute each one

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching on TV the insurgents marching into our U.S. Capitol breaking down doors and windows, desecrating the most important symbol of democracy in our country. Even though they were enticed by a Republican president, I refuse to believe that those people represent the Republican Party. I refuse to believe that Republicans are okay with that. Every American should be demanding that every one of those participants are found, arrested and prosecuted.

What really matters

COAL CITY-2020 was a bad year but not the worst. It's not even a contender, 1919 after World War I killed 20 million and devastated Europe. When the death toll of the Spanish flu epidemic reached 50 million or 1968 when Martin Luther King Jr. and Bobby Kennedy were gunned down. A losing war in Vietnam divided our nation. The Hong Kong flu killed a million. Or any year of the Civil War or the deadliest months of the Holocaust. When it comes down to suffering over the ages we haven't seen nothing! Maybe we're learning to

value what really matters. Total embarrassment

WILMINGTON—The riot in D.C. on Jan. 6 is an embarrassment to our country. This was not instigated by George Soros but by our selfish president. All he cares about is himself and his golf game. President Bush and President Obama are saints compared to him.

Honoring his oath

SHADOW LAKES—Adam Kinzinger stated that he was a Republican Congressman and a Air Force officer. But he does not appear to be honoring any oath he took either as an officer or a Congressman. The oath he took in both places were clear but his memory seems to be conveniently lost since all he does is go along with everything the Democrat party wants to do with this country. He will still collect his salary like all public servants. Maybe we should put him into the Democrat party in the same category as a General that wanted to turn over West Point into England during the American Revolution. So what should we call these people with no scruples, and are more willing to destroy American citizens' lives by rejecting the very oath that they took to protect the sovereignty of this nation so they can fill their wallets at the taxpayers' expense?

A deathly toll

COAL CITY—Read 90,000 Americans died of drug overdoses between, June 2019 and May 2020, the highest 12- month total in history. Isolation, stress and depression caused by the pandemic have hit those with substance use disorder very hard. According to the CDC director, our state legalized marijuana use. 'SAD" watch those numbers go up.

Feeling older SHADOW LAKES—Next time you go into a

bar the sign over the bar will say you must be born in 2000 or earlier to drink here. That make you feel old? Eddie

Mob rule

WILMINGTON—What is Trumpism? It's mob rule patterned after dictatorships throughout the world. It's property damage to the house of the people and it's death wrought by Trump's minions. Sound-off writers who complained last summer about property damage from protesters of George Floyd's horrific death must now eat their words. Sound-off writers who falsely accuse others of being communists and socialists must wear the label of fascists and anarchists. When Trump insulted third-world countries as 'blankety-blank', we didn't realize our country itself would soon earn the 'blankety-blank' title thanks to Trump's acts of sedition. Trump considers himself above the law and through insurrection

turned our democracy into chaotic autocracy, inciting riots that killed at least 4 people at Capitol Hill. Trumpism is the total humiliation of our nation. Irene D.

Lame duck losers

WILMINGTON—It is the morning of Jan. and I am flipping around the various news channels and C-Span watching how the events at the Capitol are being covered. The right is equating this terrorist attack with Black Lives Matter protests. Let's be clear the BLM protests were about the murder of unarmed black people by police and racism. This assault on our Capitol was a tantrum rooted on white privilege and fomented by the lame duck loser in the white house. These people chant about taking their country back but that is a false construct. Trump has never gotten near 50 percent approval ratings so the majority of this country can claim ownership, not these terrorist that don't understand the constitution or how democracy works. The right are also blaming Antifa but not the Proud Boys. Antifa is short for anti fascist so I guess that makes me Antifa though I don't have a membership card. This attack on Congress was planned in advance so when Trump told the Proud Boys to stand by they started getting ready for insurrection. And with no sense of irony they flew hundreds of American flags. Willful ignorance and stupidity are dangerous to our Democracy. Penny Lane

Bunch of nonsense

COAL CITY—The Democrats have passed a new law to have gender neutral language in Congress. This type of waist of taxpayer funds shows that the Democrat control finds that correcting someone's speech is more important than using the finances to help the homeless and people who have lost their businesses and homes because of the lock downs by the Democrat politicians. You are no longer allowed to say: Husband or wife, but spouse; Mother in law and father in law, but parent in law; and you can't say brother or sister, rather sibling. The list goes on. Someone please explain why these people in congress do not have to have psychological examinations since they would rather prefer to discuss stupidity rather than to perform their duties as public servants that work for the American citizens. Why do they get paid for this type of nonsense?

No TVs looted

SHADOW LAKES—Watching protests in Washington D.C., I find it very interesting that they're reporting violent protests by Trump supporters. But yet when Antifa and BLM protested, the news reporters with burning buildings standing in the background reported this as peaceful protests. At least the Trump supporters weren't seen stealing TVs, gym shoes, clothing and anything else they could get their hands on like BLM and Antifa. I would have to say that the media is by all means very biased. And with BLM and Antifa more than one person died and the police were ordered to stand down. This time the police were there. Is this a little hypocritical? Dan

Goon squad

COAL CITY—It's no surprise that President Trump incited his supporters to riot, promising them he was leading the march to Capitol Hill only to disappear like the coward that he is. The next day Trump further betrayed his followers by announcing a lame apology written by his staff showing that the only thing more befuddled than Trump are his loony-tune followers who are plug-ugly punks. Watching footage of Trump's Neanderthals storming through the Capitol exposes Trump for the thug that he is as leader of a goon squad. Give Trump enough rope, he hangs himself every time. One week remains of Trump's presidency and that is a week too long.

The world laughs

BRAIDWOOD—After viewing the vicious, grunting marauders that pillaged our nation's Capitol, I feel nothing but disgust for the depraved blackguards, perverse miscreants, murderous villains and degenerate scoundrels who committed acts of insurrection against our nation. My question is, how do white people have the unmitigated gall to criticize the Black Lives Matter movement when white supremacist groups have persistently planned acts of violence such as the kidnapping of the Michigan governor and now followed through with desecration of the sacred house of the people? Black people have been brought to this country against their will shortly after the first colonists arrived and labored to build this country only to suffer exploitation, degradation and disenfranchisement from that day to this at the hands of the white establishment. But Trump and his sycophants are living in the past as this practice has long been universally rejected. The rest of the world is way ahead of us and laughing their heads off.

Still closed to public BRAIDWOOD—I'd like to know the reason

why the lobby at city hall has been closed since March of last year. We can go to big box stores, we can go to the gym, we can go to grocery stores, we can go to church and we can even attend city council meetings. I see no good reason why we cannot go into our own city hall during regular business hours to not only conduct business, but to also look at the table of useful information that, in the past, has been available there. It's not like there are 50 people a day that filter through there. When things are put on display for the public to view like contracts, budgets and the levy, we have to go to the window and ask to see them and hope that someone doesn't pull up behind you before you're done looking. My guess is that the city administrator likes it this way so that he doesn't have to deal with the public. And while we're at it, why hasn't he or the mayor resumed the Pace Bus service? I understand that when they shut down the service everything was on lockdown and there was nowhere to go, but that certainly isn't the case anymore. Again, another

The build up

Undo America WILMINGTON—The undermining of

amenity that they would rather not deal with.

JACKPOTS: election integrity did not start with President Trump. After Trump's victory in 2016, Democrats spent four years loudly claiming Russian President Putin had installed a puppet (Trump) in the oval office. Then there were three years of attempting to impeach our president. Unending warfare in Washington, D.C. finally erupted into a real terror when Congress sought to certify the presidential Biden win. Both Republicans and Democrats, as well as

MEGA MILLIONS

4 POWERBALL

and still do. Thugs

WILMINGTON—The bloody shock of insurrection is as severe as 9/11 because the deadly white enemy from within is more despicable than the foreign brown enemy from without which struck our nation on that infamous day in 2001. The white offenders live down the street, within our families and among our friends but nevertheless are not to be tolerated. These are thugs who are willing to shed blood for the sake of a pathological liar with no moral compass who, by some freak of politics, happens to be our president. They are members of the cult of hatred and ignorance that values race and privilege alone. Every rider on the Trump bus accepts the deception from their craven leader, a sick and dangerous man, a coward who cares only about power, who is incapable of absorbing knowledge, who has blood on his hands and who cares only about his own precious hide. Revolutionary? Trump's empty head offers nothing, his greedy heart devours his followers.

the national media, were ranting for months

about the election results. Why should anyone

be surprised or shocked about what went on in

Washington, D.C.? Welcome to the new normal,

74 million of us supported President Trump

An extra week

BRAIDWOOD—Could someone at city hall give an update as to when Ultimate Rides will have their building in place? The finance commissioner was crucified when he asked to have an extra week to look into the finances of this company before voting yes on this matter. He specifically said that he thought bringing this business to town was a good idea. But he requested a week to get some things straightened out and everyone threw a fit. The business owner said he needed to know immediately because his building was coming and he already had his loan and he needed to get everything done as soon as possible. Well, here we are in 2021 and still no building. Looks like the finance commissioner should have been given the extra week he asked for. So, could the city give us an update?

Six months

WILMINGTON—President Donald Trump is by far the most popular, as well as the most unpopular, political leader in the country and the only one for whom many thousands would stand for hours in the cold and rain for an opportunity to hear him in person. Give it six months of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris and working class America will wish Donald Trump was back.

Never admit it

WILMINGTON-Some minions have learned their lessons well from their fearless leader. Never admit mistakes, shift blame and take no responsibility for your crimes. Part of being a conservative is hypocrisy and Bizarro spoken. Bizarro was an enemy of Superman who spoke in opposites. An example would be when they claimed to love America they would hate more than half of us. Remember, Trump may have won the popular vote twice but the liberals are playing the victim card but turn around and blame the media, Hollywood, the universities and now Big Tech for their failure to win hearts and minds. First, Fox News claims they are number one in news, Rush Limbaugh is number one in Talk Radio. In fact the top 10 radio talkers are conservatives except for Tom Hartman at number 10. He's a progressive but can be heard locally on WCPT out of Chicago. Other than the New York Times and the Washington Post, most media is conservative. I canceled the Kankakee Journal years ago over their editorial policies in columnists like Michelle Malkin and others. Same with the Joliet Herald. They hate universities because young people are exposed to new ideas and tend to conflict with old beliefs and as a rule conservatives resist change. Their ideas and policies are like religion to them never to be questioned or replaced. As far as Hollywood goes, whatever that means, why don't rich conservatives create their own movies and TV shows and let the market decide? No, it's easier and cheaper to scream censorship and all that applies to Big Tech too so they continue to claim people are out to silence them instead of admitting they have been heard and rejected. And the song says Go eat some worms.

WILMINGTON—President Joe Biden was

Penny Lane

first elected to public office at age 27. He's spent all but four of the last 48 years on the public payroll. He has already told us he will undo all the changes the Trump administration has made to US immigration policy and cease building the border wall on day one. He'll be taking in 125,000 refugees a year and changing the asylum process. His plan is to please the left wing base of the Democrat Party, the Elizabeth Warrens, Bernie Sanders, Rep. Acasio Cortez. He will rejoin Paris climate change accord, rejoin World Health organization, end the Keystone XL pipeline which would send Canadian oil from Alberta to Texas. He promises a new ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines as well as stiff federal tax on guns and ammunition and on and on. Happy New Year.

More than one

WILMINGTON—Apparently we are going to need more than one basket for the deplorables.

Starts with censorship

BRAIDWOOD—I thought Adolph Hitler was dead, but from what I can see, he's not. Conservatives are now banned from Twitter and Facebook. President Trump is banned from both as well. They do not want any Conservatives to have any rights. And now Pelosi wants to impeach Trump so he can never come back again? I'll tell you, this is exactly like Nazi Germany started. Believe me, I have watched and read the history. You people better be careful because I never thought I would see this in my lifetime. But I knew it was coming and unfortunately it's here.

Reading deeper

COAL CITY—This is regarding textualism and originalism. Why do people have to read deeper than what the Constitution of the United States of America and the Bill of Rights read? Why do they try to confuse it? It reminds me of a police officer that stopped a man and the officer walked up to the car, asked for the man's license and the man asked "what did I do?" The officer told him he didn't stop for the stop sign. So the officer asked the man to step out of the car and the man said "well, I almost came to a complete stop." So the officer took out his Billy club an started beating on the man. When the man was on the ground he started yelling stop, stop, stop and the officer said "shall I stop or just slow down?" What is the problem with people not understanding the

English language? Send him your check

WILMINGTON—Hey Dan, you can send your check to the Trump legal defense fund.

Made millions

WILMINGTON—Trump supporters brag that he didn't take a salary but ignore the mil-lions he made violating the emoluments

After four years

WILMINGTON—After four years of Trump pitting Americans against each other the Republicans want the Dems and Biden to get over it and unite the country. To quote the Dixie Chicks, "I'm not ready to make nice."

Trump blew it

BRAIDWOOD—I would like to throw my two cents in about our illustrious president. Let me just say Trump should have a new name, Tritler, a combination of Trump/Hitler. He knew about the pandemic but yet sat on it. Want to know why? Because he wanted to swoop in on his white horse and save the day to clinch his re-election, but guess what? It blew up in his face. Any good that he did do has come unraveled at the seam. Case in point, what happened at the Capital fiasco where people died needlessly. The man is the Anti-Christ. He is a malignant, narcissistic tumor on this country and he needs to be removed. GBA

Show some pride

WILMINGTON—Hey Proud Boys, quit blaming Black Lives Matter and Antifa for your handiwork. Show some pride boys.

Washington frenzy

WILMINGTON—There is a false equivalency being promoted on Fox News and other conservative media comparing the Black Lives Matter protests to the Right Wing terrorism last week. Yes, there was rioting and looting that happened but Black Lives Matter was protesting being murdered by police. Trumps edition and insurrection mob was attempting to murder. If you think that is not true explain that guy in the Capitol with a belt full of zip ties. Explain the Molotov cocktails, pipe bombs and guns. They set up a gallow and screamed hang Mike Pence. Trump, Trump Jr. and Rudy worked this angry mob into a frenzy and turned them loose on the capitol. They killed a cop. Putin must be so proud boys. So much for the law and order

Madigan suspends speaker campaign

Challenges opponents to find 60 votes to lead Dems in 102nd General Assembly

BY JERRY NOWICKI CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - House Speaker Michael Madigan announced Monday he would suspend his campaign for House Speaker of the 102nd General Assembly, but his statement made clear he was not withdrawing

"This is not a withdrawal. I have suspended my campaign for speaker," Madigan said in a statement. "As I have said many times in the past, I have always put the best interest of the House Democratic Caucus and our members first. The House Democratic Caucus can work to find someone, other than me, to get 60

The last sentence of the brief statement is indicative of the uphill battle Madigan's challengers will have to climb – they will need 60 votes, or 42 more than any challenger appeared to have Sunday night.

The House speaker is chosen by House members, and can receive both Republican and Democratic votes. There are 73 Democrats and 45 Republicans who will be seated in the 102nd General Assembly.

Traditionally, however, a majority party speaker receives votes from members of their own party.

In the first closed-door unofficial ballot conducted between Democrats in a private room at the Bank of Springfield Center on Sunday night, Madigan received 51 votes, according to several reports confirmed by Capitol News Illinois.

The speaker also has the endorsement of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus - two key voting blocs that make up the majority of his support, although some individual members of those caucuses have said they would not vote for The second leading vote-getter in

closed-door meeting was Representative Ann Williams, D-Chicago, who had just 18 votes. Representative Stephanie Kifowit, Dhad three Representative Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, dropped out of the race before the vote, giving her support to

The official vote does not happen until Wednesday, when the 102nd General Assembly is scheduled to convene, seating new and reelected

Until then, lawmakers are set to consider a flurry of transformative legislation backed by the Black Caucus during the final two days of the 101st General Assembly – measures that have also received Madigan's blessing.

Over the first three days of session, the discussions of who will be the next speaker have punctuated long days of policy-oriented discus-

Capitol News Illinois was awaiting callbacks from several lawmakers Monday afternoon to discuss the impact of Madigan's announcement, but committee hearings were ongoing at the Bank of Springfield Center which is hosting the House session amid the pandemic.

A House source said there would likely be another vote for speaker Monday evening.

With 36 hours left before the swearing-in of a new General Assembly, Michael Madigan continues to create uncertainty and misdirection," House Minority Leader Jim

latest statement about suspending his bid for speaker, but not withdrawing, is typical of his style and appears to be another ploy or a head fake. For the sake of the institution, his caucus must demand that he be direct and honest about his intentions – in or

Madigan's announcement could also pave the way for more Democratic members to announce their bids for the speakership.

Representative Kelly Cassidy, a Chicago Democrat who voted present in the first round of voting and has pledged not to support Madigan, issued a statement Monday as well.

This is truly a historic moment for our caucus and our state. Speaker Madigan's decision to suspend his campaign is an opportunity for us to come together as Democrats and carve a new path forward," Cassidy said. "Our caucus' growing diversity is our strength, and we need to respect that as we decide what our leadership team looks like going forward. I anticipate that this debate will be robust and impassioned, but in the end, we are all Democrats, and we will come together to turn the page and fight for new solutions for the people of

shock to a lot of the caucus," noting she expects the race "will change dramatically as a result," but she stopped

short of announcing a candidacy of her own. 'This is a time to hear what all of our colleagues have to say about their visions for a new leadership team. I have nothing to announce right now,

that should change," Cassidy said. Gov. JB Pritzker addressed Madigan's statement during an unrelated news conference Monday afternoon in his office at the Capitol.

but will keep everyone apprised if

"As I have said many times, I will work with whoever the members of the House of Representatives elect as their speaker," he said. "Choosing the speaker is the sole responsibility of those representatives, and it is clear that the members are taking their choices seriously."

He said the last time he spoke to Madigan was "a couple days ago," discussing a measure to decouple the state's tax code from federal tax code in regard to a measure passed in a federal COVID-19 response bill.

"He is still the speaker now, we're trying to get the decoupling done during this lame duck," Pritzker said.

Masonic Lodge installs new officers



WILMINGTON LODGE No. 208, A. F. & A. M., held its annual installation ceremony Saturday, Jan. 2. Officers installed (from left, front) Michael Salato, Senior Steward; Jeff Cromer, Secretary; Richard Leach II, Senior Deacon; RWB William Swope, Installing Officer; RWB David Lynch, Installing Officer; Frank Kiper, Marshal; Anthony Milton, Junior Deacon; and Marvin Dew, Tiler. In the back row are: Michael Towe, Senior Warden; George Roesel, Worshipful Master; and James Strong, Junior Warden. Not present for the picture were: Allen Pflibsen, Chaplain; David Carino, Treasurer; and Luke Gehris, Junior Steward.

Forest Preserve holds 'Sculpting WILD' art contest

Now is the time to channel your inner Michelangelo by submitting photos of your 3D nature-themed artwork to the Forest Preserve District of Will County's "Sculpting WILD" juried art show.

being accepted online through Jan. 29. All kinds of sculpting mediums can be used including wood, ceramics, rock, metal and upcycled materials, to name a few. Artists could build habitats, carve wild animals or mold beautiful wildflowers.

For contest rules and a submission link, http://www.reconnectwith- nature.org/sculpting-wildjuried-art-show-application> reconnectwithnature.org/scul pting-wild-juried-art-showapplication.

Once the artwork is chosen for the show, it will be displayed at the Plum Creek Nature Center in Crete Township from March 2-April 2. Winners will receive \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$200 for third place and \$100 for a people's choice award. The contest is sponsored by https://www.will-



JAN. 29 IS the deadline to submit photos of your nature-themed sculptures to the Forest Preserve District of Will County's "Sculpting WILD" juried art show. Artists can use all types of sculpting mediums including wood, ceramics, rock, metal or upcycled materials.

countynature.org/>The Nature remain on display through Foundation of Will County. April 2.

Artists who submit their notified on Feb. 9 if it has been Will

For more information on work for consideration will be the Forest Preserve District of chosen for the show. https://www.reconnectwith- Sculptures can be sold during n a t u r e . o r g / > the show, but the artwork must ReconnectWithNature.org.



He treats customers with respect



(right) who works at CVS pharmacy. Presenting the trophy is chamber ambassador Stefany Gumm, branch manager at Grundy Bank. Mroz started working at Doc's Drugs in 2015 as a delivery driver and has advanced to cashier/photo department since it became CVS in 2017. "All the customers love him and he treats them all with respect and good manners," said Mike Bess of CVS, "We are very glad to have him here and we will be sad when he graduates from college and has to move onto his career path." Mroz said it is the best first job he could have asked for. "I have been fortunate to be able to work here all through high school and college with a great group of people. It is truly a family here and I am glad I had the opportunity," Mroz commented.



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Rep. Kinzinger's punches may come back to haunt him

Republican Party anymore!" Donald Trump Jr. declared January 6th during a fiery speech near the US Capitol.

'This is Donald Trump's son insisted. Today, Republicans, you get to pick a side for the future of this party. I suggest you choose wisely.' And then, later in the day,

all hell broke loose. A large number of furious cretins stormed the United States Capitol in an attempt to stop a legitimate presidential election from being certified. Five people died in the resulting melee, including one member of the US Capitol police force.

Freshman Illinois U.S. Rep. Mary Miller (R-15) spoke at a rally that same day and made a bizarre comment about how Adolph Hitler was right about kids being the

Both Miller and U.S. Rep.

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southern Illinois, and after tion. He took it to a Congress reconvened that much higher level evening, they voted against certifying the presidential election results.

Bost and U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood (R-18) signed on last month to a doomed attempt to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the election While U.S. Rep. Rodney

Davis (R-13) did not go as far as his three GOP colleagues, he has been an ardent President Trump supporter for the past four years.

Those are not the public faces the party needs in the Chicago suburbs. And you simply can't win statewide in Illinois without carrying that U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger

(R-16), on the other hand, has made a national name for himself by occasionally, yet forcefully, criticizing the president, and he has stepped up his game ever since it became Mike Bost (R-12) represent clear that Trump lost the elec-

on the day of the insurrection, how-

outright condemn garbage, Kinzinger said of Miller's Rep. speech. He called the storming of the U.S. Capitol a "coup attempt." He slammed fellow Republicans for

refusing to certify the results. And he said the President is a 'weak self-absorbed man" who was attempting to "overthrow the will of the people." "He is no longer the leader of our party," Kinzinger said of

Trump. "And our party must reject these treasonous acts." Back when then-Congressman Ray LaHood about running against Gov.

Rod Blagojevich, I wrote that



Rich Miller

those statements could erase a whole lot of whatever can be thrown at him if he decides to run for governor or U.S. Senate, especially in a state that Trump twice lost by 17

Republicans usu-

ally have voting

don't look at all

moderate when

voted with Trump

92 percent of the

time and definite-

ly has a conserva-

statewide

Kinzinger

tive record.

But,

which

One should never make predictions during times of massive upheaval and change, so let's not anoint him yet. Plus, we've all seen politicians (Darin's father) was thinking rise like rockets only to fall like meteors. And I've seen plenty of very solid, hard-working "moderate" Washington, D.C. candidates fail simply because

they lived in the "wrong" district or state.

With that being said, Kinzinger has a sharp wit and obviously knows how to land a hard punch.

Kinzinger won a McLean County board seat when he was just 20 years old and then joined the Air Force after college and went on to fly missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. He won his first congressional race against an incumbent Democrat and then soundly longtime defeated Republican incumbent in a post-remap primary. The dude has serious chops.

I was impressed with the way he rhetorically knocked Gov. Pritzker back on his heels last month over the LaSalle Home debacle, Veterans' where 35 residents died of COVID-19. Then Kinzinger has not exactly been out front about warning his constituents to take precautions during the pandemic. The virus was raging through the surrounding community when it found its way into the

The money to fund the Republican Party is in the Chicago area, where most corporate types tend to shun the far-right's views. Those folks are definitely not going to want to reside in Donald Trump's GOP going forward, no matter what the President's son says. So they may be eager to someone Kinzinger.

But Kinzinger went so far out on a limb on Trump (even calling for his removal from office) that he may have seriously damaged his chances of winning a statewide primary. And even if he does win that round, a significant chunk of his party's base might angrily choose to skip over him in a general election.

Keep watching.

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

Lunch this week Fioritto's

Mon., Jan. 18: no school Tues., Jan. 19: chicken alfredo, romaine salad, roll and butter, craisins and choice of milk

Wed., Jan. 20: french toast sticks, sausage, hash browns, orange slices and choice of

Thurs., Jan. 21: homemade chicken noodle soup, Ceasar salad, bosco sticks, grapes and choice of milk

Fri., Jan. 22: taco wedges, black bean salad, salsa, mixed fruit and choice of milk

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

Elwood School names honor students

BOARD SCHOLAR 6th Grade

Logan Baker, Nathaniel Gabriel, Ruby Gasaway, Andrew Kemp, Gabriela Pinon-Urrego, Stasiak, Kaydi Tallon, Lincoln Tomalewicz and Luke Trujillo. 7th Grade

Fynn Bernhard, Emily Duering, Karly Kruchten and Delany Moran. 8th Grade

Castillo, Jersy Aaliyah Hauert, Ariana Lawson, Nathan Tallon and Brody Walsh. HIGH HONOR ROLL

Mia Buss, Lindsey Flood, Cameron Olsen, Irlanda Rivas Mireles, Christopher Roche and Colson Ruettiger.

Anthony Cimino, Da'Niya Foster, Lillian Ingram, Bradley

Pich, Leo Smith and Christian Winters. 8th Grade

Nathan Butt, Madison Mader, Cody McLaren, Vai

Stulga and David Wright. HONOR ROLL

Laney Bernard, Anthony

Castillo, Ayanna Jackson, Jacob Keuch, Andrew Leeth, Kiara Schneider Tiffini and Thompson. 7th Grade

Chimmy, Caleb Christos, Alyssa Flood, Connor Gualandi, Garrett Johnson, Ryan Lipke, Tyler Long, Payton Parks, Lianna Stipanovich, Sydney Tacchia and Amiraah Warner. 8th Grade Rusten Deihs, Christopher

Sommerfeld, Liam Walsh and

Register to get COVID-19 vaccine

into the new year before COVID-19 vaccine is being will be posted and updated as given to the general public, the County Health Department has established a survey registration link that is accessible on their website.

By going to the WCHD website COVID-19 vaccine information page at willcountyhealth.org/covid-19/covidvaccine/ and clicking on the survey, Will County residents will be able to provide important information; such as their age, occupation, and medical condition. This will allow WCHD to

prioritize their registration list and contact residents on which vaccination phase they

Éligible participant categories necessary on WCHD's website and social media. 'We are very excited to

begin this vaccination registration process," said WCHD Executive Director Olenek. "We ask everyone to be patient as we move through the different phases. Please educate yourselves and be prepared when it is your turn. În addition, we ask everyone to remember that even after vaccination vou are required to practice the 3Ws: washing hands, wearing face coverings properly and watching your distance.'



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Crude oil is at its highest level in nearly a year

per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.41/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 24.5 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and

stand 20.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.08/g, while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of 81.0 cents The lowest price in the state is

\$2.08/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of 81.0 cents per gallon. The motorists continue to face gas prices that

Illinois gas prices have risen 7.4 cents risen 4.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.31/g. The national average is up 14.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 27.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The cheapest gas in Wilmington is

\$2.39/g at the Circle K on Baltimore St., while Braidwood has all gas stations at \$2.49/g. Coal City's cheapest gas is at both Shells on Division St. at \$2.39/g. The lowest gas price you can find off the highway is at Mohsen, 24001 Lorenzo Rd, at

"With oil's meteoric rally continuing, national average price of gasoline has continue to advance. With a barrel of

crude oil now at its highest level in nearly a year, there's no where for gas prices to go but up," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"In a normal year, this is the time we tend to see gas prices struggle, and according to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand is indeed seeing seasonal struggles, but that has not tempered the appetite of the market as many remain bullish over the continued rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine. How long we may be on this road relies on continued reduction in new COVID cases, but we may for the coming weeks seeing gas prices continu-

What caregivers should know about medicare

Dear Savvy Senior,

I am the caregiver for my 81-year-old mother, who recently fell and broke her hip, and have a lot of questions about how original Medicare works and what it covers. Where can I get some help understanding this program? Overwhelmed Caregiver

Dear Caregiver,

Excellent question! Having a working knowledge of Medicare can help you take full advantage of the coverage and services it provides to ensure your mom receives the best care possible. Here's what you should know.

Medicare Assistance

A good starting point to get familiar with Medicare is the official "Medicare & You" handbook that overviews the program. It's mailed to all beneficiaries every fall and provides an up-to-date description of all services and benefits. You can also see it online Medicare.gov/medicareand-you.

If you have a particular question, you can call and visit with a Medicare customer service representative at 800-633-4227. Medicare also works closely with State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP) to provide free health insurance counseling. To find a SHIP counselor vour area ShiptaČenter.org or call 877-839-2675.

Caregivers also Medicare's secure website « MyMedicare.gov < especially useful. After setting up a personal account for your mom, you can view the details of her coverage, track recent health care claims and keep up to date on the preventive services she qualifies for. **Compare Tools**

Medicare can also help you locate the right health care providers for your mother. At

Medicare.gov/care-compare

you can find and compare doctors, hospitals, health agencies, dialysis facilities, inpatient rehab facilities, long-term care hospitals and nursing homes in your mom's area.

What Medicare Covers Medicare can

reduce many outof-pocket medical expenses your mom incurs, but it doescover everything. Understanding what Medicare does and doesn't cover can save you time and spare you

frustration when navigating

the caregiving maze. Here are some key points for caregivers: Besides basic hospital and physician services (which includes telehealth services) and optional prescription drug benefits, Medicare covers home health care too. To qualify, your mom must be homebound, under a physician's care and in need of part-time skilled nursing care or rehabilitative services like

physical therapy.

Medicare also helps pay for oxygen, catheters and other medical supplies that a doctor prescribes for home use. The same is true for medically necessary equipment like oxygen machines, wheelchairs and walkers.

In addition, Medicare covers skilled care in a nursing home for limited periods « up to 100 days (following hospital stays. But it doesn't cover long-term stays. Patients who need custodial care (room and board) must pay out of pocket unless they're eligible for Medicaid or have private long-term care insurance.

Medicare pays for hospice care too, for someone with a terminal illness whose doctor expects to live six months or less. The hospice benefit also includes brief



Jim Miller

lar eye exams or eyeglasses, and hearing exams and hearing aids. Likewise, it won't pay for nonemergency ambulance trips unless a doctor certifies they're medically necessary.

care at a hospice

facility, hospital or

nursing home to give the patient's

long-term nursing

home stays, origi-

nal Medicare typi-

cally doesn't cover

regular dental care

or dentures, regu-

Besides

occasional rest.

caregivers

To find out what Medicare covers, visit Medicare.gov/coverage and type in the test, item or service you have questions about, or download the Medicare "What's covered"

periods of respite app in either the App Store or

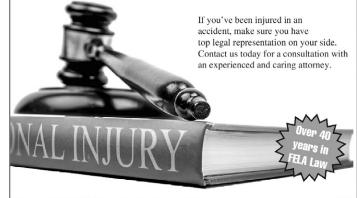
Google Play. Financial Assistance

If your mom lives on a limited income, you should check whether she qualifies for help with prescription drug costs or with other Medicarerelated premiums, deductibles and co-payments.

For help with drug costs, visit SSA.gov/prescriptionhelp or contact Social Security at 800-772-1213 and ask about the "Extra Help Program." For help with other Medicare costs, go to Medicare.gov or call 800-633-4227 and ask about the "Medicare Savings

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

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Get a taste of 80's with a Madras cocktail

Madras was "must know" drink that was taught in every bartending school. The drink is still taught, but thanks to the resurgence of pre-prohibition cocktails it is not a drink that is widely ordered. The peak for Madras popularity was the 1980s into the early 1990sm this week we re-live the magic!

The Madras is one of the spinoffs in the vodka/cranberry family, and one of the most influential as this is the drink that is regarded as the predecessor to the iconic Cosmopolitan. The vodka/cranberry, also known as the Cape Codder originated in the Northeast around 1945 and has been the launching pad for countless spinoff recipes, a few of which we will discuss below.

We know what the drink is, a little about where it came from, but what is a "madras",

For those two young to remember, "madras" was a lightweight cotton fabric from India used in lightweight summer clothing. Madras clothing was most often plaid, and these plaid pattern cotton garments became popular in the 1960s with the "preppy" baby boomers of the post-World War II generation.

during the Great Depression, madras clothing was literally a status symbol. The only way to obtain madras clothing in the 1930s was to take an exotic vacation, typically Caribbean destina-

Depression, but if

during

THE SUNDAY Not many Americans were taking lavish vacations

you were able to land a madras plaid shirt dur- a few extra bucks and at least ing your travels it was seen as a sign of affluence when worn.

Fast forward to the late 1960s or 1970s, and the Madras cocktail was named. I have to believe that orange juice has been added to Cape Codders since the 1940s, but the contrast in the brightly colored ingredients gave the drink the name. Every iconic cocktail needs a name, and perhaps the red cranberry and bright orange juice made someone think of the plaid cotton shorts worn in the summer of '65.

This is a light, refreshing drink. The tart of cranberry paired with the sweetness of orange, held together by vodka. It is a Highball, and as is the case with most Highballs



Brian Rung

the drink, this is no exception. On that note, avoid the temptation to use a vodka. "cheap" Most vodka is cheap compared to other quality spirits, but spend

mostly mix. Vodka

has a way of tak-

ing on the flavor

or flavors of what-

pick up a quality vodka. Smirnoff is a great all around vodka, as is Tito's, and Ketel One. If you want a higher quality (usually one that has been distilled more than three times), reach for Grey Goose, Absolut, or Belvedere.

Other than pouring a quality vodka, you will need quality mixers to round out your Madras. Ocean Spray cranberry can be found behind nearly every commercial bar on the planet, it remains the gold standard among cranberry mixers. If you have a favorite orange juice, use your favorite, but if you are going shopping reach for Tropicana

The Madras, and others in responsibly.

excellent party drinks that are as approachable as they are easy to prepare.

Madras preparation is straightforward, no special tools or mixology know how required. If you have never mixed a drink before, you can do this. Fill glass with ice, add ingredients, stir, and serve.

Speaking of easy to make vodka drinks, substitute grapefruit juice for the orange juice and you will have a Sea Breeze. Substitute pineapple for the orange juice and you will have a Bay Breeze.

Do you have a vintage madras shirt in your closet? If so, wash separately as the early garments were notoriously not colorfast and bled easily when washed. At some point the issues were resolved and the madras plaid shirts have come in and out style a few times since their heyday in the 1960s. The Madras is built and

served in an ice-filled Highball

Fill glass with ice, then

1 1/2 oz. vodka

4 oz. orange juice

1 1/2 oz. cranberry juice Stir, garnish with orange

Until next week, enjoy

Pritzker says widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccine,

BY GREG BISHOP

THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker's plan to reopen Illinois with no restrictions, or Phase 5, is having a vaccine or therapeutic for COVID-19 "widely available." The governor still can't say exactly when that'll be.

A 12-member state legislative panel Tuesday could take up a new emergency rule in place until June requiring masks and social distancing, but some want the entire 176-member state legislature to be more involved in managing the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on the economy.

Outside of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules process with only a fraction of state lawmakers involved, Pritzker's administration has largely managed the pandemic by itself.

After more than two months of stayhome orders last Spring, Pritzker revealed his five-phased plan to reopen the state.

Phase 5 he said would come about with vaccines or therapeutics. Illinois is currently in Phase 3, Tier 3 restrictions with no indoor service for bars and

educational outline for con-

sumers to learn about federal

relief options when it comes to

evictions, mortgages and stu-

dent loans.

Financial and Professional time of financial hardship, it is

Regulation wants Illinois con- essential that consumers know

sumers to be aware of COVID- and understand their options.

qualify for,"

Secretary Deborah Hagan.

tal city, officials are allowing for 25 per-

the governor unilaterally drew can begin phasing to fewer restrictions if the regions meet certain metrics.

As for therapeutics for COVID-19, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Ngozi Ezike said things like Remdesivir or monoclonal antibodies are available.

in some cases they may be not," Ezike said Monday. "I think if you look at the

Pritzker still couldn't say exactly when to consider it "widely available" as the state works through phases of distribution for certain populations over others.

mine when we'll get to a number that people can really be safe," Pritzker said.

The governor didn't say what that

number would be to enter Phase 5.

Deadline nears to apply for housing, student loans

Morrisonville, said since the goalposts moved, and no clear indication of if things will change, it's beyond time for lawmakers to get involved.

'You can kind of expect to see that the governor might change his opinion. Bourne said. "So that's why it should be a legislative action as we've discussed so we know exactly what these parameters are and we can count on them being fol-

It's not just downstate that's frustrated, state Rep. LaShawn Ford, D-Chicago, said it's beyond time for the legislature to get involved. He faults legislative leaders for being hands-off.

"I don't like it," Ford said of the governor's unilateral actions. "I've always been ready to come back and deal with the pandemic, and the impact that the pandemic is having on poor impoverished communities and businesses.'

It's been nearly a year since the first case of COVID-19 was discovered in

Pritzker says widespread availability of COVID-19 vaccine, treatments needed before state can lift restrictions.

Rezin launches Valentine's for seniors program

To help uplift the spirits of long-term care facility residents, State Senator Sue Rezin [R-Morris] is collecting Valentine's Day cards for her newly introduced Valentine's For Seniors Program.

This past year has been an extremely difficult time for everyone, but it has been especially difficult for those who live in our local senior homes," Rezin said. "For their own safety, the residents of these homes have had very little contact with their families and friends which has unfortunately left many of them feeling isolated and alone."

Rezin is encouraging churches, schools and community members of the 38th Senate District to write Valentine's Day cards that can be dropped off or mailed to her district offices Once all the cards have been collected, they will be delivered to the various long-term care facilities that make up the district. Delivering these cards to the residents of these facilities is

the least that we can do considering everything that they have

had to go through because of COVID-19," said Rezin. "I just want to ensure that they know that people care and are thinking about them, and that they are not alone. The collection of Valentine's Day cards will run through Wednesday, Feb. 10. Those wishing to participate will have the

option to either mail their card or drop it off. For those choosing in-person deliver, please remember to maintain social distance ing and to wear a mask when entering the office. Mail-in or drop-off at her Peru office, 350 5th St., Ste. 264

Peru, IL 61354, or mail [only] to the senator's Morris office, 1802 N. Division St., Ste. 314, Morris, IL 60450

For more information or to arrange a separate drop-off time

Bill would allow liquor to be delivered to your door

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—In a committee hearing Friday, Jan. 8, on the Bank of Springfield Center floor, Illinois lawmakers advanced Senate Bill 54, which allows for the home delivery of liquor throughout the state.

The bill allows retailers to use third-party groups via phone applications or internet service while removing liability for retailers if those services violate age verification laws.

In what came as a surprise to some members, the committee allowed testimony through videoconference—a first for the Illinois House. No one aside from lawmakers or staff is other-

The Illinois Craft Brewers Guild testified to ask for an amendment to allow for small brewers and distillers to deliver their own products, which the bill does not allow for, despite wineries having those abilities.

wise allowed on the BOS Center's floor to testify.



Wilmington Baseball/ Softball Assoc. **2021 Sign - Ups**

Fri., Jan. 22, 5-8 p.m. Sat. Jan. 23, 9 a.m. to noon Where: **Park District Building**

When:

315 N. Water St., Wilmington 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 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 sign up. For more information please visit:

leaguelineup.com/kane

treatments needed before state can lift restrictions restaurants allowed, but even in the capi-

Starting Jan. 15, regions of the state

"In some cases, they may be helpful,

World Health Organization, they're not giving it a veritable thumbs up. Even with the vaccine going out,

'You can do your own math to deter-

State Rep. Avery Bourne, R-

"At this unprecedented that consumers take action

Mortgage deadlines

- FHFA forbearance must 19 relief options that are availThrough our agency's outber requested by 1/31/21. reach, we hope to ensure that

 - The IDFPR released an every Illinois resident takes has been extended to 2/28/21. advantage of the relief they FHFA foreclosure morasaid IDFPR
 - torium ends 1/31/21. Federal deadlines are fast • VA foreclosure moratoriapproaching. It is imperative um ends 2/28/21.

· HUD foreclosure moratorium ends 2/28/21.

Student Loan Deadlines

• Relief has been extended HUD loan forbearance until 1/31/21. This includes interest being waived on all loans, collections on defaulted loans is halted, and loan payments are suspended.

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OBITUARIES

_ Mary Bonnivier_____

BRACEVILLE-Mary L. Bonnivier, 73, of Braceville passed away Jan. 8, 2021 at Heritage Health Center in Dwight.

She was born Jan. 7, 1948 in McLeansboro, IL, the daughter of George Lewis and Minnie (Good) Millenbine. Mary was a graduate of Coal City High School and earned her associate degree in nursing at Joliet Junior College. Mary had been a nurse for several area hospitals. She was an animal lover, greatly enjoying her dogs and cats. She enjoyed boating and camping with her fam-

Mary is survived by her children, Rheta Bredesen, of Chicago and Edward A. Bonnivier, of Braceville; grandchildren: Allysha Bredesen, Corrina Bredesen and Olivia Bonnivier; sisters, Nancy Rader, of Braceville and Ruth Hagen, of Murphysboro, TN and her former husband, Edward S. Bonnivier, of Coal City. She was preceded in death by her

Prayers will be said for Mary at First Baptist Church, Pontiac and a memorial gathering will be held at Lake Sara in Effingham, IL later this summer. Cremation rites will be Memorials can be made to the

Grundy County Animal Shelter, 310 E. DuPont Rd., Morris, IL 60450. Online condolences may be made to the

family at calvertmemorial.com.

Hager Memorial Home in Pontiac is in charge of arrangements.

Carol Higgins

GODLEY-Carol Ann Higgins, 71, of Godley, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021, surrounded by

Born Aug. 29, 1949 in Chicago, Carol Ann was a daughter of Eugene and Dorothy Marie (Peine) Higgins, and was raised and educated in the Burbank area. Carol worked most her life in hospitality, which included waitressing and bartending throughout the years. She was a mom to all, and absolutely cherished her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include nine daughters: Sherrie, Jolene, Candy, Beth, Nikki, Jenny, Krissy, Ashley and Sarah; many grandchildren and greatgrandchildren; one brother, Bobby (Kelly) liggins; two sisters, Jeanette (Jim) Finnen and Vickie Knapp, and her dear longtime friends: Tina Palmer, Lynn Pinson and Alice Tkachik, as

well as numerous nieces and nephews. Carol was preceded in death by her parents, two sons, Joey Martingello and Eugene Higgins; sister, Nancy Godell and brother, Johnny Higgins.

Per Carol's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded, and a celebration of her life will be planned for a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Carol's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Carol-Higgins

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

Eleanor Jackson

MANTENO— Eleanor Jackson, 91, of Manteno, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 2021 at Amita St. Mary's Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Jan. 31, 1929 in Morris, Eleanor was a daughter of John and Catherine (Broderick) Bols. She was raised in Morris; graduated from Morris High School, and later went on to attend the Gallagher Business College in Kankakee. Toward the end of World War II, Eleanor gained employment with the

Joliet Arsenal before marrying Nobel "Keith" Jackson. Together Keith and Eleanor in addition to making their home in Rockville Township. farmed together and raised their family. She worked aside Keith both in the fields and with the cattle. Later in years, she held employment at Marshall Field's in Louis Joliet Mall, where she was a manager and worked for over 30 years until her retirement.

Eleanor was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, and belonged to the Wilmington Recreation Club. She served as a 4-H Leader for many years, and took great pleasure in both flower gardening and vegetable gar-

Survivors include her children: Judi Jennings, of Foristell, MO and Jerry (Barb) Jackson, of Wilmington; grandchildren: Stefanie (Greg) Behme, of Carlinville, IL; Matt Jackson (Jennifer Doss) and Kathi (Mark) DePoister, both of Manteno and Scott (Janet) Jennings, of Boise, ID; great-grandchildren: Alex Behme, Ellie Behme, Izzy DePoister, Lincoln Jackson, Thomas Jackson, Jayla Nitsche, Blake Nitsche and Maryanne Jennings; and sistersin-law and brothers-in-law: Ruth Bols, of Morris; Eloise (Kenny) Bertrand, of Manteno and Bobby (Janice) Gordon, of Bourbonnais, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Eleanor was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Keith (2004); son-in-law, Charlie Jennings (2020), and siblings: Frances (Howard) Clennon, Leonard (Winona) Bols, Kathleen (Robert) Lawrence and Edwin Bols.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and Eleanor and Keith will be laid to rest together at

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Eleanor's memory to a charity of the donor's choosing. Family and friends are encouraged to sign

the guest book, upload photographs and share Eleanor's memorial page online through social logging www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Eleano r-Jackson

Green flameless cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in

Patricia Kucera

FAIRFIELD—Patricia Lynn Kucera, 32, of Fairfield, formerly of Joliet and Dwight, passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 at her home.

Born Jan. 19, 1988 in Joliet, Patricia was a daughter of David Kucera and Barbara (Edburg) Kucera. She was raised and educated in Dwight, and graduated from Dwight High School with the class of 2006. As a teen, she had a paper route that she worked for many years to be able to spoil her loved ones with gifts around the holidays and their birthdays. Patricia enjoyed spending time outdoors fishing and camping, and looked forward to any opportunity to go for a long walk with friends or her sisters to talk about anything and everything. She found great joy in watching movies, singing, or going for long car rides. Patricia never needed an excuse to bake brownies and always made sure she got to have some of the extra brownie batter for herself. She loved

spending time with her boyfriend and her chil-Survivors include her parents, Barbara Kucera, of Fairfield and David (Kathleen)

Kucera, of Newark; her boyfriend, Timothy Snyder, of Fairfield; five children: Owen Moreno, of Ohio and Ethan, Slater, Sophia and Emmalia Snyder, all of Fairfield; three brothers and five sisters: Allison (Richard) Bianchi, Cristopher Kucera, Joshua (Tiana) Kucera, Nicole (Matthew) Gehris, Katie Kucera, Kevin (Alyssa) Kucera, Mallory (Andrew) Davidson and Emma Kucera (James Gaspard); 26 nieces and nephews, many aunts and

uncles, and numerous cousins. Patricia was preceded in death by her

grandparents. Private funeral services will be held, and

cremation rites will be accorded following the

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Patricia's memorial page by logging onto: www.baskervillefuneral.com

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



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_ Eugene F. Housman _____



BRAIDWOOD— Eugene Francis Housman, 78, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Franciscan Health Hospital in Dyer, IN. He was born July 22, 1942 in Braceville.

Eugene was a Veteran of the United States Navy. He enjoyed yard work and had a knack for He also loved to study history, specifically religious history.

Surviving are two children, Jesse (Kristi) Housman, of Essex, and Barbara Housman Cline Engel Galarza, of Bloomington, IL; four grandchildren: Madison Christensen, Olivia Housman, Dennis Engel, and Michael (Melissa)

Engel; three great-grandchildren: Bently White, Sophia and Wil Engel; and one brother, Gerald (Sue) Housman in Joliet.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Dorthea Housman.

book, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuner-

Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Micetich _

MORRIS-Mary Teresa Micetich, 79, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Morris.

Born May 28, 1941 in Morris, Mary Teresa was a daughter of James William and Marie Gloria (Papach) Barr. She was raised in Morris, attended St. Angela Academy until its closing, and graduated from Morris Community High School with the Class 1959. Mary then went on to attend both Joliet Junior College, as well as Saint Xavier

Mary worked in real estate, and was an agent for Century 21 in Morris from 1978-2001. In addition, she gained employment with Morris Hospital, where she worked as a financial counselor and patient representative from June of 1998 until her retirement. Mary was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris and the National Realtors Association.

One who will be remembered as a very kind and charitable individual, Mary in her free time took great pleasure in cooking, baking, candy making and reading.

Šurvivors include her children: Dr. Kara Lynn Micetich, of Fort Collins, CO and James

Cremation rites will be accorded and private services will be held at a later date. For more information and to visit his online guest-

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and

(Dawn) Micetich, of Morris; grandsons,

Rosemont, IoAnn (Henry) Jamestown, RI and numerous cousins. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, and one sister, Noreen

Grant Sisson and Troy Sisson; one sister,

Family graveside services were held on Friday, Jan. 8, 2021 in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris. Honorary pallbearers were Grant Sisson and Troy Sisson.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may

A celebration of Mary's life and Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be planned for a

be made as gifts in Mary's memory to the Morris Fire Protection District, 2301 Ashton Road, Morris, IL 60450 or to a charity of the Family and friends are encouraged to sign

the guestbook, upload photographs and share Mary's memorial page online through social logging onto: media by ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Mary-Micetich

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

Katy H. Dunn _

WILMINGTON—Katy H. Dunn, 98, of Wilmington, and formerly of Berwyn, passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Born Oct. 8, 1922 in Clinton, KY,

Katy Helen was a daughter of Johnny Carl and Sally (Hollingsworth) Jackson. She was raised in Cairo, IL, where she went on to graduate from high school. It was in 1961 that Katy married William Dunn, and together they made their home in Berwyn. Katy worked as a ticket agent for the Chicago Transit Authority for 38 years, until her retirement in 1985. She wintered in Holmes Beach, FL, and was fortunate to spend decades as a snowbird making countless friends.

She was a member of St. Bernard Catholic Church in Holmes Beach and enjoyed volunteering for the Island Players Community Theater on Anna Maria Island. Katy traveled extensively over the years, domestic and abroad, as well as at sea. She took pleasure in playing bingo, cards and visiting the casino, and when at home could be found vegetable and flower gardening. She will be remembered as a true social butterfly, who just enjoyed being in the company of others.

Survivors include nieces and nephews: Ken (Pat) Wise, Michael (Shirley) Jackson, Jay (Sharon) Jackson, Sarah (Ed) Armbruster, Tammy (Brian) Cook, Mary Kasch (fiance'-John Tahlier), Amy Wise, Taylor Cook, Jarrett Cook and Samantha Armbruster, as well as cousins: Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Betty Mitchell, Lindy Henley, Virginia Bryant,

Mitchell. Katy was preceded in death by her parents, husband, William (1991) and

Nancy Henley, Ruth Harmon and Grant

siblings, Mary Louise (Kenneth) Wise and Carl (Jeannie) Jackson. A private family funeral service will be held at Baskerville Funeral Home. Reverend Harriette Cross from

the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington will officiate Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the livestream service beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. A link for this event will be avail-

able on Katy's memorial page. Burial will follow in Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Hillside, where Katy will be laid to rest with her late husband.

A public celebration of Katy's life will be planned for a later date. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts

in Katy's memory to the Island Players, Inc. Community Theater, 10009 Gulf Drive, Anna Maria, FL 34216

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Katy's memorial page online through social media by logging onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Katy

Funeral services and arrangements have en made under the direction and care of

Traci Tyler -

BRACEVILLE—Traci Lynn Tyler (nee Winchell), 60, of Braceville, passed away suddenly, Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee with family by her side.

She was born July 26, 1960 in Morris and grew up in South Wilmington. She was a lifelong resident of the South Wilmington, Gardner, Braceville area. Traci married Dale Tyler on Aug. 8, 1998 at the Braceville United Methodist Church. They

lived in Gardner for a few years with their two sons, Patrick Winchell and Kevin Winchell. The family then moved to Braceville, where they lived for the last 15 years.

Traci held many jobs through the years, and became sort of a jack-of-all-trades. Her passions were poker, where she could hold her own at any table, especially Texas Hold-Em, and pool leagues. Many a laugh and wonderful times were had with "her girls" on Thursday night BCA and ACS and those of you who knew her will vouch for her heart of gold, and if you were in need, she would be the first one by your side. Her infectious laugh will forever be missed

Traci is survived by her husband, Dale Tyler; son, Patrick (Megan) Winchell and their two daughters, who were the light of her life, Vanna Winchell and Emme Winchell; son, Kevin Winchell; sisters, Terri (Jim) Schultz and Tommi (Robert) Sorensen; brothers, Joe (Cindy) Winchell and Dan (Lynnette) Winchell and many special aunts and uncles. Also surviving are brother-in-law, Karl (Karla)

Tyler; sister-in-law, Lynn (Lindy) Hahn; and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her mother, Janis Winchell.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021. Funeral services were private. Cremation rites

were accorded following services. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-

funeralhomes.com. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory,

401 E. Main St., Braidwood was in charge of

Dora Wilson

BRAIDWOOD—Dora (Heck) Wilson, 80, of Braidwood, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Jan.

8, 2021 at her home. Born Jan. 19, 1940 in Wilmington, Dora Ellen was a daughter of Arthur J. and Alpha (Sitter) Heck. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and attended the Wilmington schools. Dora worked for many years as a school bus driver for the Gardner South Wilmington School District. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood and enjoyed quilting and crocheting. In her free time, Dora took pleasure in tending to her vegetable garden, canning and

Survivors include her husband, Daniel Wilson, of Braidwood; four children: Tina Hendrex, of Coal City; Terry (the late Gerald) Champion, of Paducah, KY; Duane Hendrex, of Braidwood and Bryan (Lori) Hendrex, of Morris; seven grandchildren: Lee Heafner, Stacy Burt, Michael Esparza, Jeremy Esparza, Nathan Renae Champion Esparza, Mariner, and Brandon Hendrex; numerous great-grandchildren, two brothers. Arthur (Carol) Heck, of Lafayette, IN and Larry Heck, of Wilmington; three sisters: Mary Ruth (the late Charles "Bud") Bullock and Betty Marlene (the late Herbert) Akins, both of Wilmington and Joanna (Glen) Schwartz, of Hiawatha, IA and sisterin-law, Sandy Heck, of Joliet, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Dora was preceded in death by her parents, son, Orman Heafner; sister, Anna Heck and brother, John Heck.

Cremation rites have been accorded and Dora will be laid to rest at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington with her parents.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dora's memorial page online through social media by logging onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Dora-Wilson

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

410 N. Broadway St. Coal City, IL 60416 v Phone: 815-709.0920 E-mail: grundywill@hopeforafuture.com V www.preganancyresourcecenter.org

BITUARIES

Stanley Olewinski

BRAIDWOOD—Stanley Olewinski, 84, of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021 at his home.

Born June 29, 1936 in Chicago, IL, he was a son of Stanley and Josephine (nee Jakcic) Olewinski. He was a Veteran of the United States Army. In 1998, Stan retired from the Sheet Metal Workers' Local #73 Union in Hillside, IL. He was the best handyman and was known for always tinkering around with

Surviving are his beloved wife of 57 years, LaMora Grace (nee Abney) Olewinski, who he married May 4, 1963 in Oaklawn, IL; four children: Mike (Leta) Olewinski, of Morris; Steve (Laura) Olewinski, of Mesa, AZ; Michele Salustro, of Worth, IL and Tina (Greg) Seiler, of Wilmington; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one sister, Helen (the late Robert) Capodice, of Antigo, WS and numerous nieces nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and one brother, Walter (Janice) Olewinski.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, memorial services for Stan will be held at later date with an inurnment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. For more information and to visit his

online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-

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

Rose Marie Wright

WARSAW-Rose Marie Wright, 85, of Warsaw, formerly of Bourbonnais, went home to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 surrounded by her family and friends.

Rose was born in Evansville, IN on Aug. 27, 1936 to Jesse and Louise (Kelly) Barnett.

She attended church Wilmington where she played the drums and sang her songs. She was employed at Armstrong as the Captain of Security and retired in May of 2016.

Rose is survived by her 11 children: Tom Durham, MaryJean Rowland, Joyce Schleged, Karen Harter, Kenny Durham, Cindy Germano,

Darrel Pitman, Scot Pitman, Rex Pitman, Tina Grell and Jesse Cox. In addition, she is survived by several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and greatgreat-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father and mother, Jesse and Louise Barnett and four sisters: Ruby Hayden, Mary Vencent, Margie Lockyear and Vera Johnson, and three brothers: Herbert Barnett, Clarence

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 at the Christian Faith Center, 1800 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 from 5 to 7 p.m.

"Butch" Barnett and Jesse T. Barnett Jr.

Gayle Graham

WILMINGTON—Gayle Graham, 48, of Wilmington, passed away on Dec. 19, 2020 at Riverside Hospital. Gayle was the third of five girls born to John and Phyllis (nee Ariel) Graham.

She was born at Mercy Hospital in Chicago on Dec. 5, 1972 and grew up in her beloved Bridgeport neighbor-hood. She graduated from Gordon S. Hubbard High School and continued on to receive an Electrical Engineering degree from Illinois Institute of Technology University.

She was a friend and surrogate mother to all and was always there for those that needed an ear to bend, a place to crash or food to eat. She always made time for everyone else. She was the keeper of the family stories and history. If you needed to know something just ask

a great conversationalist. Intelligent, crafty and a big heart she will be truly missed by all.

Gayle is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Kenny) David Garcia Jr and Matthew Allen Tamburich; sisters: Angela Graham AhSue, Kathleen (Keith) Skoryi, Julia Graham, Laura Graham and Victoria Olivia. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews. aunts and uncles and a bunch of close

Gayle was preceded in death by her father and mother, John and Phyllis (nee Ariel) Graham and her brother, John Phillip Graham.

In lieu of a funeral service at this time, the family will hold a celebration of life service in the summer of 2021. All arrangements were handled by Jensen Funeral home of Kankakee.

Joan A. Bailey.

WILMINGTON—Joan A. Bailey, 70, Wilmington, formerly Bourbonnais, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021 at Silver Cross Hospital Born Jan. 14, 1950 in Joliet, Joan

Arlene was a daughter of George

Austin and Arlene (Richmond) Puckett. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1968. While in high school, Joan was proud to be named the 1967 Honored Queen by Ĵob's Daughters. On Oct. 17, 1970, she married the love of her life, Donald Roger Bailey, in Symerton. Joan worked for CIGNA in

retired in 2018 after 20 years of service. Joan was a past member of Bethel Baptist Church in Bourbonnais, and was well known for being an avid reader. She enjoyed books immensely and was always looking for the next one to begin. Joan also loved to do puzzles and handcrafting such as knitting and crochet.

Bourbonnais as a Medical Claims Adjuster and

Survivors include two children, Andrew (Theresa) Bailey, of Braidwood and Donna Jo Weigel, of Coal City; seven grandchildren: Austin Weigel, of Coal City; Brandy (Morgan) Wood, of Bradley; Andria (Jeremiah) Denoyer, of Paxton; Garret Welsh, of Elwood; Gabrielle Welsh, of San Antonio, TX; Stephanie Frederick, of Carlinville and Bradley Clark, of Bourbonnais; nine great-grandchildren: Xavier,

Jude, Marley, Rain, Autumn, Lincoln, Zayden, Odin, and Harper; one sister, Mary (James) Walcher, of Wilmington; one brother-in-law, Robert (Mary Anne) Bailey, of Orland Park and several nieces and nephews including special nieces, Rachel Walcher (fiancé Bryen Zimmerman) and Jessica (Benjamin) Dietz.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, husband, one brother in infancy, Richard Austin, and her father-in-law and mother-in-law: Charles and Flossie Bailey.

A COVID observant and walk through visitation will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. A private funeral service will follow the visitation, and burial will follow at Wesley Cemetery in rural Wilmington.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021. A link is available on Joan's memorial

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

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

Western IL University dean's list

A total of 1,313 under- average on a scale of 4.0, the list are Joseph Svododa, graduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the fall 2020 dean's list.

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point

which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

Area students named on

Braceville; of Flickinger, of Mazon; Kylie Winsor, of Verona; Kalli Markle, of Braidwood and Jacquelyn Damien and Carlene Vanduyne, Wilmington.

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Economic slowdown gives climate change a break

Dear EarthTalk: Given the economic slowdown around the world due to the coronavirus in 2020, was there a positive impact on climate changes

M. Stiles, Meriden, CT

The coronavirus pandemic has certainly led to a decrease in industrial activity and resulting greenhouse gas emissions during its reign over the planet in 2020.

A recent study by German researchers calculated that global carbon dioxide emissions fell by about eight percent over the past year. While this is no doubt a good result from an otherwise bad situation, the researchers warn it represents nothing but a small drop in the bucket compared to what we still need to accomplish-even bigger annual emissions drops every year for decades to come-to avert cataclysmic climate change.

According to study coauthor Ralf Sussmann, we would need to achieve zero emissions around the world by 2055 to limit global warming at 1.5°C. The declining rate of greenhouse gas emissions during the global pandemic would not only need to be upheld, it would need to be amplified to zero emissions. achieve Sussmann and other study authors stated that to achieve

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

these reductions "political measures have to be taken to directly initiate fundamental technological changes in the

energy and transport sectors." Despite the drop in emissions over this past year, 2020 will likely go down in history as the year things started to really accelerate with regard to climate change's effects. Recent increases in both the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are consequences of global climate

Global warming can contribute to the intensity of heat waves... Increasing temperatures mean a longer wildfire season," reports the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 'Global warming also increases water vapor in the atmosphere, which can lead to more frequent heavy rain and snowstorms." This means stronger hurricanes and flooding.

In 2020, extreme weather

5

9

3

6

events plagued people around the world amid the pandemic. In the U.S. alone, Americans witnessed orange skies clouded with smoke and a number of powerful hurricanes coming from the Atlantic. Globally, there have been

record high average temperatures, double the activity of a normal hurricane season, the hottest temperature ever reliably recorded in human history (54°C), the most costly damages from flooding to date in China, record low Arctic sea ice, and the strongest tropical cyclone to hit land that has ever been recorded (Super Typhoon Goni). These abnormally extreme weather events are all indicators of the accelerating effects of climate change on our planet.

Even though climate change continues to worsen, in small ways all over the world nature has taken this economic slowdown as a chance to breathe. For example, the murky waters of Venice's canals became clearer than they had been in decades-and sea life even returned to the city's urban waterways.

While global warming has not stopped because of the global pandemic, we have learned that Mother Nature responds positively to our improved behavior (even when not intended), which gives environmental advocates hope to keep on working. It's now up to every one of

us to make significant changes in our own orbits-perhaps by keeping up our slower and more stationary existences even after we have a grip on coronavirus-if we hope to mitigate and reverse the effects of nonprofit EarthTalk. See more



STORMS WERE MORE intense than ever in 2020 despite our emissions reductions.

climate change.

at https://emagazine.com. Send EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 questions to: question@earth-

IDES responds to criticisms, adding staff, checks on fraud

BY TIM KIRSININKAS

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – House Republicans continued to criticize the Pritzker administration last week as the Illinois Department of Employment Support works through ongoing staffing and fraud issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since handling a historic number of unemployment assistance claims at the outset of the pandemic in March, IDES has added staff, changed processes and implemented additional measures to prevent fraudulent claims. Some House Republicans are calling

for additional measures to be implemented, such as moving staff from other state departments to assist with the overload of unemployment assistance claims, implementing more anti-fraud measures and holding public hearings to discuss issues at the department. "It is unacceptable how the governor

this crisis that they themselves have caused," Rep. Mike Marron, R-Fithian said. "It is my hope that someone at the administration cares enough to listen to our ideas and to start a dialogue.' IDES officials pushed back on criticisms offered by the Republicans, stating

and the department have responded to

that it is not possible to move employees from other state agencies without substantial training, and that many of the anti-fraud measures being proposed by the Republicans are already in use by the

an economic crisis and stand up five new, complex federal programs while battling fraudsters who have used stolen identities to file for benefits nationwide," said IDES acting director Kristin Richards in a state-

Richards said the department was already short-staffed as a result of years of budget cuts which left IDES ill-equipped to handle the unprecedented number of claims. The current employee head count is roughly half of what it was 10 years ago,

Since the pandemic began, the department has contracted over 1,000 employees to assist in handling unemployment claims, and has been approved for an increase in staffing and resources for the current fiscal year, which is fiscal year 2021. It continues to hire more employees, she said.

It has also implemented a callback only system which allows an applicant with a question to be placed in a queue to be called back, rather than having to experience extensive waits.

"IDES was given an increased headcount for FY21, but adding full-time employees, as all state hiring does, takes time," Richards said. "This is especially true for IDES, whose employees possess a unique and complicated skillset to work on issues and deliver services to claimants.

Richards said a proposal to move employees from other state agencies would be ineffective in fixing delays.

The legislators' call for moving state employees from one hollowed out agency "We are working hard to respond to to another ignores the nuance of what is

involved in these jobs and positions and would create productivity deficits in the agencies from which state employees would be pulled," Richards said.

Richards said the department has worked to stabilize its operations in order to meet the needs of unemployment support applicants in a timely manner. "The idea that IDES has dispropor

tionate trouble processing new claims or paying out claims is misleading," Richards said. "A claimant who provides all the necessary data and submits their claim will be processed in a timely and efficient manner and will receive benefits if they are deemed eligible and continue to certi-The state has begun paying out

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation, which adds an extra \$300 per month to claims from certain individuals collecting unemployment assistance. But the federal rush to expand unemployment assistance amid the pandemic

and associated government shutdowns has led to widespread exploitation of unemployment systems across the nation, including in Illinois. In particular, a federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program which allows certain independent contractors to collect benefits has been ripe for fraud.

Richards and the administration have said the fraud is due to a nationwide scheme enabled by data breaches of private companies that have made individuals' information, such as social security numbers, available to scammers. It is not the result of a breach to state unemploy

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Adequate yearly progress
- 4. Silicon Valley's specialty 8. Gather a harvest
- 11. No (slang)
- 13. Type of molecule
- 15. Play make-believe
- 16. Large barrel-like containers
- 18. Treats allergies
- 23. Cease to live
- 10. Famed mathematician
- 12. Students use one
- 17. Touching
- 21. Calendar month
- 22. Single
- 24. Brew
- 25. What ghosts say 26. Geological time
- 27. Focus
- 34. Discomfort
- 35. A citizen of Iran 36. Trip
- 37. Imitate
- 38. Makes happy 39. Double-reed instrument
- 40. Body parts 41. Transgressions
- 42. One-time emperor of Russia
- 43. Time zone
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Used in treating bruises 2. One who cultivates a small estate

3. One who supports the Pope

- 4. Annuity 5. Geological period
- 6. Grab onto tightly 7. Kept
- 9. Chinese city
- 10. The most direct route 12. Type of tooth

- 15. Popular veggie

- 14. kosh, near Lake Winnebago 32. They make some people cry
- 17. Supervises interstate commerce 34. Forman and Ventimiglia are two
- 19. Foolish behaviors 36. A way to liquefy
- 24. Expression of creative skill
- 25. A way to prop up 26. Midway between northeast and east
- 28. Supernatural power 29. Target
- 30. Threes 31. A type of poetic verse

27. Winter melon

⊠20. Witness

23. Gives

33. Kindest

16 13 16 **23** 9 A. present Clue: A gift B. . wrapped В. 9 11 **23 23** 16 Clue: Covered in paper C16 16 2 8

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to gifting. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = E)

25 22 24 14 5 22 25 20

Clue: An occurrence

Clue: Showing consideration

D.

WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to gifts. BNIRSBO

ment systems.

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Australia on January 13, 1990. Before I became an actor I worked in construction. I made my big screen debut in 2009, and I was in the popular "Hunger Games" trilogy.

Answer: Liam Hemsworth

Answer: Ribbons

GIFT GIVING WORD SEARCH

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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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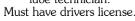
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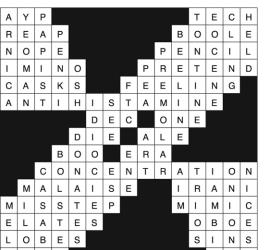
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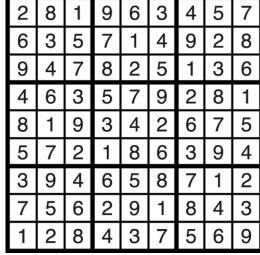
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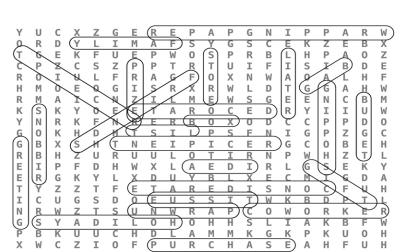
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WILDCAT SPORTS

Wildcats finish third during an 'Ultimate Track Meet'

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

For weeks The Free Press Advocate has been publishing dream team articles that brought up the question: What if those athletes were pitted against one another in compe-

Track coaches Larry Readman and Todd Lockwood came up with the idea of the 'Ultimate Track Meet'.

Lockwood, who organized the chart, broke down the 14 different track and field events for boys and girls. He then predicted the winners based on school record holders in each

What was discovered was high school athletes from Wilmington, Coal City and Reed-Custer have gotten faster and records have become more difficult to achieve. This was best represented

with Vance Templet (Coal City) and Wilmington's Damien Anderson's times during the state tournament in their respective seasons. Templet placed third in 2004 state track finals while Anderson was eighth overall running over his record time in the 1997 state finals. If he had run right at his time of 10.9 seconds, he would have been in a deadlock tie for the state championship. Times change as Templet was in a similar situation in 2004.

The point unfolds as Templet placed third with a time two-tenths of a second faster than that of Anderson's time. The funny thing about that was if Templet had run his

CATHY SHORKEY

DARCIE BARR CORINNE BENSON 100 METER

record time of 10.70 seconds, he'd only have a shot at second place whereas if he ran that same time in 1997, he'd be the

Another instance would be in the 2005 state finals when Wilmington's Anna Strong ran the 300 meter hurdles at the state tournament in 46.87 seconds to finish sixth, a record at

If she ran that today, she'd be closer to seventh or eighth because the record time has increased. Strong is third behind Reed-Custer's Jenny Mandac and Coal City's Lisa Rassmusson, who would both be in the conversation for fifth or sixth in the 2019 state finals. Records can withstand the

test of time. It is best illustrated with Ron D. Hilliard's long iump that stood in the area for the last 72 years until Mike Eller from Reed-Custer broke it in 2008. The only person to approach that range since Eller, set it Coal City's Asa Cooper, who eclipsed 21'05.5. Cooper has his senior year left to set a new standard if there is indeed a summer season. That can also be seen with

Larry Readman's discus record which may never be broken. The record discus toss of 176'00 has stood for 61 years.No Comet, Coaler or fellow Wildcat has come close. Coal City's Chris Shirkey was 22 feet off in 1993 (154'02).

On the girls side, Lady Comet Ryan Eichelberger (Pivonka) has held a record since 2008 with a 1600 meter run of that is currently 10 seconds better than that of the



TERA SMITH is the Wilmington High School record holder for pole vaulting when she achieve a vault of 6-6. She helped the Lady 'Cats accumulate 42 points during the Ultimate Track Meet to place third.

Scoring is 5-3-1 for all events

VANCE TEMPLET

DAMIEN ANDERSON B.J. BAILEY

second place winner. In a race during her junior year, includlike that, 10-seconds is a wide

There might also be points in history where records change hands quite frequently.

For instance, the pole vault record first started with Mike Matlock at Wilmington, who cleared 12'00. Then, there was Scott Norris from Reed-Custer that was over 13'00 (13'03). Finally, Eller launched himself over the crossbar at 15'01. That record made three changes in a matter of 50 years.

How many more changes can it make?

Wilmington and Coal City do not offer pole vaulting so the only other possibility would be Reed-Custer's pole vaulters. Reed-Custer senior Evan

Pickard has been the closest, clearing 14-09 during a shortened season so there may be a chance that Pickard sets a new standard in 2021. In girls pole vaulting, Morgan Zacharias from Reed-

Custer, is the pole vault champion during the Ultimate track meet with a school record of 13-03 in 2013. That set apart from her counterparts Tera Smith and Breanna Whittum at Coal City, who both eclipsed 6-

It will be left up to Reed-Custer girls and Shaelin Ruzich was the closest one to it, clearing 8-6 during the 2018 state finals so that's still a wide gap.

Zacharias is fourth on the state list all-time for pole vault and she also went to Louisville, a division 1 school, where she racked up nine top five finishes

Results from Coal City, Reed-Custer, Wilmington Boys Dream Team track meet

NATHAN DURBIN

Team scoring CC RC W 004 5 1 3

2004

10.70

W

ing a first place during the Lyles/Clark Wood Lenny Invitational (13-06.50) and a second place in the Atlantic Coastal Conference (ACC) Indoor Championships (13-

Sometimes, winners can be determined by mere sec-

That is best described in the 100 meter dash where Reed-Custer's Cathy Shorkey was the winner but just by three hundredths of a second over Wilmington's Darcie Barr. Coal City's Corinne Benson in third place was neck-and-neck with Barr, coming in just two hundredths of a second slower.

Another time this hap-

ened was in the 100 meter hurdles where Reed-Custer's Rick Luna won with a time over two-tenths of a second faster but the race between Coal City's Steve Nicoleti in second place and Travis Quigley from Wilmington in third place was within three hundredths of a second.

The Wildcat boys placed third with 32 total points in the Ultimate track meet while Coal City placed first with 66 points and the Reed-Custer boys were the runner-ups with 64 points.
The Lady 'Cats placed

third in the meet while the Lady Comet girls captured the title with 74 points and the Lady Coalers were the runnerups, accumulating 46 points.

While it's fun to compare records in a hypothetical meet, here's to hoping the Wildcats, Coalers and Comets get to host a real meet this summer.

Results from Coal City, Reed-Custer, Wilmington Girls Dream Team track meet Scoring is 5-3-1 for all events Team scoring

ANDREA SHROBA

ALYSSA MARRS MADDIE CHRISTENSEN

MORGAN ZACHARIAS

CC RC W 1 5 3

1990

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2015 3

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Abby Boyd

Brandon Boyd

Huntleigh Cracraft

Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids

for the months of November and December. Keep up the good work!

¥\0/¥\0/¥\0/¥\0/¥\0/¥



MANDY GALBREATH

Mackenzie Croxton Ethan Donnelly Dillon Graham Kate Graham Blake Huston Kendal Huston Alyssa Johnston Cooper Jones **Hudson Jones** Ava Kennev Hunter Lockhart Audrey Mumma Dean Olson Landyn Peirard Laynah Peirard Mason Roberts Jayce Strong

Madison Strong

Gabby VanDuyne

Gavin VanDuyne

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

TEAM SCORES: REED-CUSTER=74. COAL CITY= 4 6 :

Wilmington athletes and coaches are still at a standstill even after the Illinois High School Assocation met with Deputy Gov. Jesse Ruiz, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois Elementary School Association during a virtual meeting last week.

Athletic directors and high school students across the state were looking for a little more insight as to if and when state officials will give the okay to play sports.

'We appreciate the dialogue with state leadership and believe it is crucial that it continue moving forward," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We understand that the state faces shifting priorities as it continues to fight the pandemic, while also beginning the distribution of the vaccine. There was no expectation that a single meeting would resolve all our questions. However, we believe that collaboration with state officials is vital for the IHSA to be

plan for the 300,000-plus student-athletes and over 800 high schools that encompass the Association."

1:35.74

The big question is what will happen to boys and girls basketball as it's almost too late to have a season.

Athletic Wilmington Director Brian Goff said District 209-U is unsure what will happen. Every board meeting over the last month has left more questions than answers. One thing is for sure, ADs want answers.

We're still on hold," said Goff. "We're going to have to wait until Friday to hear what the governor has to say.

If the mitigations are lifted and the state goes into Tier 4.Goff is unsure they will even get to play football.

The state would need to go into Tier 5 to be able to play football and wrestling. We're going to go to Tier 4 on the 15th but I don't know if that helps us with football and wrestling.'

During a normal year the WHS gym would be packed with fans for winter sporting

able to develop an informed events. The Regional wrestling review the risk levels of all tournament last season had

KEEGAN GRANT

RC

TEAM SCORES: COAL CITY=66, REED-CUSTER=64;

57'03

56'01.5

2010

1970

the school energized. We were shutdown for two weeks so that was nice, added Goff. "The kids were shutdown for two weeks so they'll be back and they'll be back to normal. I don't even think about being home that early every night.'

At present the IHSA has the following timetable established for high school sports. Football, boys soccer and volleyball programs have a start date of February 15. Those seasons will conclude May 1.

Baseball. softball. wrestling and track-and-field seasons are slated for April 19 to June 26.

There has been no information regarding the winter sports like boys and girls basketball and cheerleading that was supposed to run from November 16 to February 13,

The IHSA and the IESA have reiterated recommended mitigations from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory IHSA asked the the IDPH to dragging on sports delays.

Student athletes hoping for answers this week remaining sports, and to consider lowering some from their

> current risk levels. 'We believe that there is both data and science that validates the idea that we can safely conduct sports," said Craig Anderson. "We have seen it work in other states and believe it can in Illinois if we utilize the mitigations provided by IDPH and the IHSA SMAC. Students are already leaving or participating out-ofstate on weekends. We believe that competing for their high school remains the safest venue for participation.

> At present Governor J.B. Pritzker and health officials have Illinois at Tier 3. Low risk sports are not permitted to begin until the state returns to Phase 4.

Gov. Pritzker has indicated that if any changes to the mitigation levels are made they would not come before Friday. It's quite possible they Committee. On top of that, the would remain unchanged,