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City leaders to RV owners: The key word is safety

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The issue of parking RVs and campers came through the Committee of the Whole for continued discussion this month, with residents continuing to express frustration while city officials assured them there is a solution.

In November and December, the city sent out a total of 42 notices to homeowners throughout the city regarding their campers and recreational vehicles being parked on their properties in violation of city code.

In December, several residents of Northcrest approached the City Council looking for answers to the notices, many noting that they had

their campers parked throughout the winter in the same spot, year after year, without issue.

Russell Busby told the council he has kept his RV on his paved driveway on Outer Drive in the off season since 1999. Busby said that most recently, he had a verbal agreement to keep his RV in the front yard with previous Mayor Roy Strong.

Busby and several of his neighbors argued that, particularly in Northcrest, their yards are not conducive to storing an RV or camper in the back yard.

The city's regulation on storage of RVs and campers was first passed in 2000, and last amended in 2009. According to the code, RVs in residen-

"MY BIG ISSUE WITH ALL OF IT IS TWO THINGS: IF IT CROSSES THE SIDEWALK OR BEING OVER THE SIDEWALK, AND SOMEONE OCCUPYING IT. TO ME, UNSAFE WOULD BE IF IT IS CROSSING OVER THE PUBLIC SIDEWALK, SOMEONE COULD POTENTIALLY WALK INTO IT OR RUN INTO IT."

BEN DIETZ
WILMINGTON MAYOR

tial districts can only be stored "provided they are stored in the rear yard or in a fully enclosed building or structure, including privacy fence. They shall not be stored in required front yard or corner side yard setbacks."

City leaders said the code itself offers a remedy: Property owners can seek a written request to be excused from the ordinance at least 10 days prior to the meeting of the ordinance and licensing committee, which meets the second Tuesday of the month as part of the Committee of the Whole.

Mayor Ben Dietz said the city was not looking to fine or otherwise punish those folks who keep their RVs in

the front of their properties. Dietz said the city instead is treating it as a safety issue.

"As I said at the last meeting, my big issue with all of it is two things: If it crosses the sidewalk or being over the sidewalk, and someone occupying it," Dietz said. "To me, unsafe would be if it is crossing over the public sidewalk, someone could potentially walk into it or run into it."

Dietz said for the property owners who are in compliance with the majority of the ordinance, specifically if their RV is parked on a concrete or asphalt slab and is not encroaching on the sidewalk, then earning that

SEE CAMPERS, PAGE 2



ONE OF THE GOALS of the GRC2 is to practice stewardship of water resources, and to engage the community in water stewardship. One objective is allowing public access and encouraging stewardship of community waterways. Mayor Ben Dietz noted how the Kankakee River is one of Wilmington's assets, both as its water supply and for recreational opportunities.

Going green

City to join Mayors Caucus on good environmental practices

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington hopes to show that it is actually easy being green.

Members of the City Council were expected to sign off this week on a resolution to endorse the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact Two (GRC2).



The GRC2 is the update to the original Green Region Compact, which was first signed by dozens of local municipalities in 2007.

The compact is a pledge that municipalities make to improve the environment by engaging in best green practices as they relate to air, energy, land, waste, and water.

City administrator Jeannine Smith said joining with the caucus on the GRC2 is a way for Wilmington to focus on engaging in green practices.

"For instance, the EV charging station would have fallen into one of these goals and objectives," Smith said.

The GRC2 has 49 high-level goals tailored for municipalities and fall into ten sus-

Category		GOAL	OBJECTIVE		Already achieved	In Progress	Planned for next 6 months	Planned for next 12-18 months	Interested in pursuing	Not planned	Not relevant	Contact info	Notes
			> STRATEGY										
			+ ADVANCED STRATEGY										
ENERGY Energy Efficiency		Use energy for building and facilities efficiently	E1	> Conduct energy audits of municipal facilities			X						
			E2	Support energy audits and retro-commissioning studies of residential, commercial and institutional facilities						X			
			E3	> Conduct retro-commissioning studies to optimize public facility performance				X					
			E4	> Implement operational changes recommended in the retro-commissioning study				X					
			E5	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a short-term payback (i.e. lighting, occupancy sensors)	X								
			E6	Implement energy efficiency measures that have a longer-term payback	X								
			E7	Collaborate with utilities and other agencies to upgrade streetlight equipment and integrate smart technologies	X								
			E8	Achieve ENERGY STAR certification for municipal buildings		X							

THE FRAMEWORK FOR the GRC2 centers around 10 categories and 49 consensus goals of the Greenest Region Compact, including energy, climate, economic development, land use, leadership, mobility, municipal operations, sustainable communities, water, and waste and recycling.

tainability categories: Climate, economic development, energy, land, leadership, mobility, municipal operations, sustainable communities, water, and waste and recycling.

Municipalities that adopt the GRC2 by resolution are making a commitment to generally support its consensus goals. Specific actions are pri-

oritized and monitored by communities to best suit their own objectives and abilities.

The pledge includes a framework document that provides objectives, strategies, and tools to address the GRC2. The Framework is flexible—municipalities of all sizes and resource levels can use the Framework to undertake appropriate and impactful

sustainability actions.

The Framework incorporates sustainability programs already accessible and popular with local governments. Utilizing the framework can guide future planning.

Goals within the framework include maintaining

SEE GREEN, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

POPULAR 80S COVER band Hairbangers Ball will be the headlining entertainment at this year's Independence Day celebration in Wilmington. The event, which will include family friendly entertainment and the annual fireworks show, takes place on Friday, June 30 on the North Island Park.

Hairbangers Ball to headline Independence Day Celebration

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It might only be January, but the city of Wilmington is already getting set for summer.

This week, the members of the Wilmington City Council gave a thumbs up to the planning for this year's Independence Day celebration

on the North Island Park, including booking some popular local talent.

The city approved a contract with Hairbangers Ball, a popular band in the Southland known for its live performances all across the region and the Midwest, to perform at the celebration.

SEE SUMMER, PAGE 2

Wilmington emergency responders stay busy

STAFF REPORT

Volunteers with Wilmington's Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA) had a busy year in 2022.

On Jan. 10, ESDA Director Dennis Housman reported to the Committee of the Whole that ESDA responded to 72 calls last year. Members logged a total of 2,860 man-

hours in 2022, including 1,257 manhours on call-outs. The majority of those calls were on mutual aid for other local first responders, including assistance on the sites of fires, acci-

SEE RESPONSE, PAGE 2



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Campers

exception should not be a problem.

While all of the RV owners in attendance said they meet those conditions, they still have to engage in the formal process of petitioning the committee of the whole for

approval.

"If you follow these rules, and it sounds like you are, then you're not going to get a ticket," Alderman Ryan Knight said.

Anyone in the city with an RV or camper who cannot store it in the rear of the property or inside an enclosure, within 10 days of a Committee of the Whole meeting, must send to the city an email

requesting the exemption. Dietz said that email should also include photos to help the committee make that decision.

"The issue I'm having is that I've gone through three mayors sitting in that chair who basically told me to do this, this and this, and there's no proof of it," Busby said.

But, city officials said going through the exception

process will provide that proof, and will still be valid from one administration to the next. The only time the RV owner would have to seek out an exception again is if they get a new RV, as it would only be applicable to the current vehicle on the property.

The next meeting of the Committee of the Whole is Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Green

clean air, engaging the community in climate change mitigation and adaptation, cultivating local and sustainable development, jobs and businesses, advancing renewable energy, engaging the community in clean energy practices, and working collaboratively toward a sustainable region.

"There's no obligation other than pledging that you're going to try to meet these goals and objectives. There are no unfunded mandates or anything, it's a pledge as a region," Smith said, adding that joining also opens up the possibility for the city to participate in grant opportunities and other initiatives.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is composed of municipalities within the collar counties of the city of



Chicago.

"We have a lot of reasons to be a part of it, water is a big one," Mayor Ben Dietz added. "The greener we are, the

cheaper it is... We get access to more support, utilities, there's really no liability for joining this, there's nothing we have to do if we do join."

Locally, Elwood, Coal City, Diamond, Braidwood, and Will County are already members of the caucus and the GRC2.

Wietting to stay on the ballot in Braidwood

Electoral Board dismisses objection to petitions

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

BRAIDWOOD — Public Buildings and Property Commissioner Warren Wietting will stay on the ballot for the April 4, 2023 consolidated election.

Last month, Wayne Saltzman filed an objection to Wietting's petition for the seat, where he is currently the incumbent, in the spring election. Saltzman argued that Wietting made an error on his petition, using his mailing

address—which is also his business address for Warren's Collision Center on EZ Street—at the top of the petition, while writing in his residential address at the lower half of the form below the required signatures.

The issue went before the Electoral Board, which by state statute is comprised of the Mayor, Bob Jones, the City Clerk, Hillary Bohac, and the longest serving member of the City Council, Commissioner Fay Smith.

During a hearing on Jan. 11, Wietting, through his attorney Mario Carlasare, filed a motion to dismiss the objection, arguing that the issue with the address is simply not factual.

"The objector has stated that the respondent's address

of residence is not above the signature line, it does not appear on the signature sheets. The statute itself is pretty clear, it requires that his place of residence appear above the signature line, and requires that it appear on each signature sheet," Carlasare said "When you look at each one of his petition sheets, it shows that not only does his place of residence... on Division Street appears above his signature, but there's also a sworn statement that he resides at that address."

Wietting's attorney also argued that the state's election code does not specify that petition sheets cannot include both a mailing and a residential address.

Carlasare further argued that Saltzman's claim that there may have been confusion for people who signed the petition due to the two separate addresses is conjecture, saying that there is no caselaw in Illinois that suggests inclusion of both a mailing and a residential address applies to cases of voter confusion which would lead to the electoral board invalidating the petition.

Saltzman's attorney Matt Campbell argued that Wietting could not show that his residential address was included at the time the petitions were circulated and signed, meaning the people who signed may not have truly known that he

was a resident of the city

"The only time that the address of the candidate is shown on the petition is presumably after the petitions have been obtained," Campbell said, saying that because the mailing address is shown at the top of the page, signatories were not given enough information about Wietting's place of residency at the time they signed.

But Wietting's attorney argued that there are no affidavits from those people who signed the petition that they were confused, and that the suggestion by Campbell of confusion being "clear" was not backed up by any evidence.

Carlasare said the assumption of confusion, barring any proof that it existed, is not a legal basis for objection to the petition.

After hearing from both sides, the Electoral Board voted 2-1 in favor of Wietting's motion to dismiss.

Mayor Jones and Clerk Bohac voted to grant the dismissal.

Commissioner Smith argued that he did not want to dismiss the motion, disagreeing with the premise that the objection was insufficient.

The Electoral Board further voted 2-1 for Wietting's name to be placed on the April 4, 2023 ballot, with Smith again voting no.

Summer

celebration, set to take place on June 30.

"They are very popular, known throughout the region, and we're excited about it," city administrator Jeannine Smith said.

The band is part of the overall celebration, which will include other entertainment and a fireworks show. The budget for this year's celebration has been increased to \$22,000, slightly above last year's budget of \$20,000. Last year's celebration came in

under that budget.

"Last year we were able to produce an event that cost about \$15,000, and we were able to bring in about \$12,000 in sponsor donations," Smith said, adding that the city expects similar donation amounts this year, but are accounting for inflationary issues. "We're planning on budgeting \$22,000 this year, and looking for \$15,000 in sponsor donations."

The contract with Hairbanger's Ball will take up \$4,500 of that budget.

That total estimated budget includes the cost of fireworks as well as entertainment.

Response

dents, ice or river events, roadway closures, and parade management.

Meanwhile, Police Chief Adam Zink also reported a flurry of activity over the past month for the police department.

According to the report Zink submitted to the committee, the members of the Wilmington Police Department recorded the following activity for the month of December:

During the month the patrol division had the following activity:

- Five Pedestrian/Suspicious Stops
- 165 Business (Walk and Talk) Checks (officers entering businesses during normal hours)
- 9764 Premise Checks (officer checking cursory checks of businesses after hours)
- Three misdemeanor and/or warrant arrests
- One felony arrest
- 86 written traffic citations (up from 46 in November)
- 75 written traffic warnings (up from 35 in November)
- Two compliance (local ordinance) tickets

The report adds that officers handled an additional 564 calls for service and wrote 46 related reports.

The WPD also continued with truck enforcement efforts in December. A total of 25 trucks were weighed based on a suspicion of being overweight and fined accordingly.

The total amount in truck fines issued in December was \$20,564.

Code enforcement was also busy in December, with a total of 19 new work orders submitted, with 11 of them completed by month's end.

Smith named to dean's list

Nolan Smith, of Wilmington, has been named to the Southeast Missouri State University dean's list for academic achievement during the fall 2022 semester.

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.

New little one? Let's start planning.



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The Maus Motors files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice
Certificate 34705 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on January 4, 2023 wherein the business firm of Maus Motors, located at 20711 S. 84th Ave., Frankfort, IL 60423 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Magdalena Revell
Owner Address: 20711 S. 84th Ave., Frankfort, IL 60423

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at this 4th day of January, 2023.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2023.

Singer petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Yelizabeta Singer TO Liz Singer, Case No. 2022 MR 000393

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Yelizabeta Singer adult, shall appear in the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 10th day of February, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Yelizabeta Singer be changed to Liz Singer.

Yelizabeta Singer
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 2023.



CAVITY FREE CLUB

Patrick J. Yerkes, DDS
688 W. Baltimore, Wilmington
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NOVEMBER

Paige Alderson	Ryker Giffin	Whyatt Robinson
Cody Allen	Maddux Giffin	Brantley Robinson
Coltin Allen	Remi Giffin	Kameron Soucie
Lila Conrad	Emmy Hall	Ella Spicuzza
Chloe Conrad	Charlee Hameister	Gionna Spicuzza
Brody D'Orazio	Lorraine Hansen	Morgan Stupak
Emma D'Orazio	Zach Henderson	Reagan Stupak
Raleigh Eddy	Hattie Klover	Oakley Rivera
Izabella Edgeworth	Kaiden Klein	Izabella Rivera
Cynisca Ellis	Kamille Morris	Cooper Rivera
Bennett Giffin	Austin Olsen	Kaylin Walker
		Brayden Wandless

DECEMBER

Bly Bianchetta	Rosaria Mugnolo	Cason Surman
Reese Bisaillon	Enxo Mugnolo	Clay Surman
Bristol Bisaillon	Jayden Norris	Logan VanDuyne
Randy Bisaillon	Ascher Phillips	Eli VanDuyne
Jaida Davis	Harper Stehlik	Violet Webster
Wybrant Klover	McKenna Stehlik	Cooper Winke
Juliana Moats	Chloe Stewart	

Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids for the month of November and December. Keep up the good work!

1862, prosperity floated high hopes in Wilmington

What can I say about the summer of 1862? Yes, there was a war going on, but at home there was gladness everywhere because Alden's improvements on the Kankakee opened Wilmington up to the world and its money.

We have a first hand account of what it was like in May 1862 from the Wilmington Independent.

Our River Improvement - The arrival of six Canal Boats at this port since our last issue, has not only given a pleasing commercial appearance to our town, but has in a degree, demonstrated that practical advantages we are to derive from the construction of this work.

The Abraham Lincoln, Capt. Mallory, and the Monitor, Capt. Wilson, were loaded with lumber for Daniel Small, Esq., who also appeared as Commodore of the fleet and commander of the boat Geo. L. Taylor, which was used as a lighter for the other boats.

The Josephine, Capt. Colby, came up light, for a load of grain, and is now loading at the warehouse of Morgan and Alden, on the Basin. The Maria, Capt. Bickerton, also came up light, and is loading with grain at Dr. Bowen's.

Some difficulty was experienced below Lock No. 1, owing to a bar of stone and gravel having formed during the freshet, at a point about 300 feet below the Lock, obliging the boats to light off a portion of their loads.

We are however informed by Mr. H. O. Alden, Jr., the Superintendent that this difficulty will be obviated in a few days.

We are also further informed that the timber and lumber for the "Steam Tug" is all ready for shipment to this place, where it is to be built, and we may therefore reasonably anticipate that in the course of another week boat building will be added to our increasing branch of industry.

Since writing the above, the Abraham Lincoln and Monitor have cleared for Chicago, loaded with grain from the warehouse of S. D. Willard, Esq.

We believe, however, the Monitor is acting as a lighter for the Lincoln, through the Feeder to the main Canal, and will then return for a load.

We hear that the new Boat built by D. Small, Esq., at Joliet, for the Wilmington trade, is launched, and will arrive here soon.

Such, in brief is the condition and prospect of our water navigation, which, taken in connection with the comparative high prices for grain that have ruled as a consequence in this market, lead us to believe these facts to be cheering to our merchants, citizens, and especially our farmers.

As evidence of the new entrepreneurial atmosphere we read two weeks later:

Within the past week, vessel building has been added to the new institutions of our town.

Messrs. S.P. Carter & Co. have established a shipyard on the margin of the river, north of the railroad bridge, and have already laid the keel and commenced the construction of a river steamer, for H.O. Alden, Esq. designed for towing canal boats between the head of navigation and the main Illinois and Michigan Canal.

These builders, we hear, are from the cities of Belfast and Augusta, Maine, master carpenters of long experience in their vocation, and competent to construct any kind of watercraft, from the light sail yacht to a mammoth chip.

They are ready to engage in vessel building in all its branches, and especially in the construction of all kinds of boats adapted to canal and slack water navigation.

Our citizens may now have built, under their own inspection, any kind of watercraft they may desire, and be sure that their work will be done skillfully and faithfully.

Already, this firm has built the "Charlie of Wilmington" for D. Small, Esq. a grain and lumber boat, 95 feet long, 17 feet wide, and of the burthen of 150 tons.

The mechanical execution of this work is the best advertisement of the builders' skill, She has already entered upon her mission, viz. that of carrying grain to and bringing lumber from Chicago.

This enterprise is, but another indication of the onward march to prosperity of our town, and an additional evidence of the advantages secured to her citizens by the river improvement.

A work which they will learn more and more how to appreciate, and one the value of which to them, they will, one and all, sooner or later, see feel and acknowledge.

And, it wasn't just about commerce either, in true Wilmington tradition, there were party boats. We read: The Wilmington Yacht - It may not be generally known to all of our citizens that we have in Wilmington's waters a very handsome yacht, named the "Stephen A. Douglas."

She has recently been painted, and rigged in good style, and her owners have had some very pleasant sails in her.

Our friend Cozzens, who is a gallant and experienced sailor, volunteered his services in thoroughly rigging her up, and showed that he knew just how it ought to be done. She belongs to Messrs. R. W. Waterman, H. Gardner, Charles Mitchell, Byron Cowan and Byron Warner.

We have had some very fine sails in her, and wish her owners many pleasant hours' pastime with her. It should be borne in mind that while the owners are glad of the company of friends occasionally, they sometimes prefer to invite their passengers, to having them fill the boat to the exclusion of invited parties.

Yes, and it was all due to the Illinois and Michigan Canal.

WHS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The Free Press Advocate features members from the Wilmington High School class of 2023. Featured this week are Olivia Hansen and Colin James who completed our Senior Spotlight questionnaire.

Olivia Hansen
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Forensic Science or Psychology

What is something most people DO NOT know about you? I travel out of state a lot. I have been to 25 different states

What's an every day activity you could win an Olympic medal at? Arguing

Favorite thing on the school menu? Mac and Cheese

What is one thing you refuse to eat? Edamame

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Softball, it has taught me perseverance, teamwork and how to succeed with a busy schedule.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Greece

What class would you create? Home Ec.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Taylor, I've been a huge fan of her since I was young.

Teacher Shoutout? FAR-RELL!!!

Advice you would give to underclassman? It goes by so fast. Work hard and enjoy it while you can!

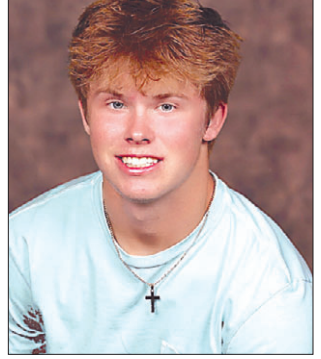
Colin James
What are you going to pursue in college? Economics

What is something most people DO NOT know about you? I like fire trucks

What's an every day



OLIVIA HANSEN



COLIN JAMES

activity you could win an Olympic medal at? Being short

Favorite thing on the school menu? Mini corn dogs

What is one thing you refuse to eat? Asparagus

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Football because it gave me a scholarship

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Europe for a ski trip

What Class would you create? Weightlifting

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Tom Brady, because he's the GOAT

Teacher Shoutout? Mr. Farrell

Advice you would give to underclassman? Do what you love

What's an every day

Wilmington High School students of the month



WHS SENIORS Raena Del Angel and Jacob Hertz were among eight students who were selected at Wilmington High School as students of the month for December. The staff and faculty nominate two students from each class each month who got out of their way to be friendly, do random acts of kindness and/or help out in a big way.



STUDENTS OF THE Month representing the WHS Junior class are McKayla Van Duyne and Landon Dooley.



WHS SOPHOMORES Emma Boudreau and Alex Hertz are the students of the month for December.



WHS FRESHMAN Trevur McLin and Chase Warthen were named students of the month for December.

Breakfast at school

- Mon., Jan. 23: cocoa puffs, cinnamon grahams, fruit punch and choice of milk
- Tues., Jan. 24: pancakes, orange juice, choice of milk
- Wed., Jan. 25: cinnamon toast crunch, cereal, goldfish apple juice and choice of milk
- Thu., Jan. 26: trix cereal bar, chat snacks, mandarin oranges and choice of milk
- Fri., Jan. 27: cheerios, scooby grahams, cutie oranges and choice of milk

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209U Lunch menu

- Mon., Jan. 23: teriyaki nuggets, veggie fried rice, fortune cookie, pineapple and choice of milk
 - Tues., Jan 24: chicken rice soup, romaine salad, rice krispie treat, apple slice/PB and choice of milk
 - Wed., Jan. 25: bacon cheese biscuit, yogurt, hash brown, orange juice and choice of milk
 - Thurs., Jan. 26: chicken nuggets, mac and cheese, baby carrots, mandarin oranges in gel and choice of milk
 - Fri., Jan. 27: pepperoni pizza, fresh veggie/ranch, strawberry cup and choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

OAK KNOLL

Financial

STRATEGIES

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Three questions

SHADOW LAKES—Here are three questions to answer. We use 80% fossil fuel to power our economy. How long will it take you to achieve 80% with windmills and solar panels? Next question. How long will it take to get the CO2 levels to their requirements? Question three. What happened if the CO2 levels ever get too low? Always Margot Lane.

The double standard

WILMINGTON—Show her the money! On two separate occasions in 2022 co-host of 'The View', Whoopi Goldberg, apologized for controversial comments relating to race, Jewish people, and The Holocaust. Her first violation in February brought a two week [slap-of-the-wrist] suspension from 'The View', and her December offense for similar remarks merely brought clap-backs and backlash. For her second inappropriate comments, Ms. Goldberg backpedaled by sharing, impart, this apology: "I believe that the Holocaust was about race, and I am still as sorry as I was then that I upset, hurt and angered people." "My sincere apologies again, especially to everyone who this was a fresh rehash of the subject, I promise it was not." Because of modern-day's scrutiny surrounding anti-Semitism, many who've committed lesser iniquities than Ms. Goldberg have had to face termination repercussions. But the privileged and elitist luminary, Ms. Goldberg, will merely be enabled even more empowerment because of the double-standard entitlement inherent to the absolute powered. Nevertheless, the gossip circulating around the studio suggests that if the production company wanted to negotiate her show's departure, they should begin proceedings by depositing the guaranteed summed-settlement stipulated by their contract into her nouveau riche bank account. And, now that the perfect opportunity has arisen in showing Whoopi 'The View' exit-door isn't it time to "show her the money!"

Inability to govern

CHANNAHON—The new Republican House majority is a collection of election deniers, QAnon conspiracists, and political arsonists hell-bent on gaining power at the expense of our democracy. They'll be in control of the House of Representatives for the next two years and have already shown an inability to govern. They couldn't even elect House Speaker Kevin McCarthy without historic chaos. We should all be concerned about their far-right extremist agenda. Already on the chopping block? Our freedom to vote and our right to an abortion. Rather than focusing on kitchen table issues, these MAGA extremists are pledging to focus on punishing anyone who tried to hold them accountable for their attacks on our democracy, including members and staff of the January 6th Select Committee. It's up to us to resist this MAGA House Majority to protect our democracy and our freedoms. We must call out their lies and combat their far-right agenda starting now.

Banning gas stoves

DIAMOND—Democrats have plans to ban gas stoves. Can you believe it? What next?

Close but wrong

WILMINGTON—Not to nitpick Eddie but JFK was The New Frontier. LBJ was the Great Society as usual you were so close and yet so wrong.

On the move

COAL CITY—Bits and Bites is coming soon. Moving to a place near you soon. See you there. Be watching for us. Mr. Coffee, aka Mic.

Classified documents

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. I am curious as to why Biden's classified documents which were discovered this last week are different than Trump's? The American people, if you do not realize it, are losing freedoms by the day. The Democrats are not the Democrats that I grew up with. They are obsessed with Socialism/Communism and this country is becoming very Communist.

Alarmed and concerned

DIAMOND—Prominent Democrat leaders in congress have presented a 28-page document to the Biden White House that demands President Biden to use "executive action" and Department of Justice too. 1) Crack down on conservative Christians especially churches and ministries. 2) Remove Christians from public office. 3) Deny free speech and liberty to Christians. 4) Remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency. 5) Fully fund comprehensive sex education. Encouraging children as young as elementary and middle school to undergo gender transitions. I am alarmed and concerned about Democrat leaders in congress denying Christians their God given rights in the constitution but give those rights to encourage sex transition information to elementary and middle school children. Wake up America. Speak up America. Vote with well informed ballot decisions. Petition your representatives with your grievances. Sharon

Almost too late

BRAIDWOOD—It has been exactly two months since the mid term elections and I am still trying to come to grips with the complete lack of intelligence and the ultimate stupidity of most American voters. In particular, the voters of Illinois, especially those registered as Democrats. How else can you explain the re-election of Pritzker, a man who seems to think

criminals should walk free, (the Safe-T Act) which he vows to push through regardless of what the courts say. The passage of Amendment One, which has absolutely nothing to do with workers rights. If you had done your homework you would have known what this is about, but apparently most of you did not have time to do any research. Too bad, good luck with your higher property taxes down the road. And speaking of property taxes and taxes in general, Illinois has the highest overall taxes in the nation. The second highest property tax and gas tax, which again is going up thanks to this clown in Springfield and his Democrat-majority legislature. Maybe you re-elected this clown because you favor higher tax, woke ideology, gender affirmation and the destruction of family and Christian values. This state government and all democrat states are trying to rewrite history and to push the notion that all whites are racists. Maybe you have no guts to stand up for moral values because you are afraid of cancel culture, another Democrat ideology created by the current clown government in Washington. The problem, as I see it, is that most of you focused on one thing: Women's rights and abortion. If that is all you based your vote on, then I am truly sad for your lack of intelligence, because this state and this nation is going to hell right before our eyes. And you, the Democrat, is largely to blame. Oh I'm sorry, have I offended you? Well, your ignorance offends me. Your lack of spine offends me. I'm not letting the Republican voter off easy either. You also seem to believe that just because you voted republican, that everything would work out for you in this election. Maybe you should get a little more involved in your community and speak out about this travesty of state and Federal government and demand change. We are headed down a path of destruction to our way of life as we have been accustomed to. Uncontrolled inflation, open borders with Millions of illegals pouring into our country along with enough drugs to kill every single person on this county. But you don't care as long as you have to right to abortion. God forbid you stand up against this travesty. Wake up America, it's already almost too late. In the words of Simon and Garfunkel " The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls"

Blah, blah, blah

BRACEVILLE—Since when did the Coal City newspaper become a political sound off forum? I'm kinda sick of politics. Whatever happens. I hear dogs barking all night long at my neighbors. I'm sick of my neighbors. I'm sick of the people across the street. Politics is getting really old. Can't we find something else to talk about? How about the world is such a nice place to live. Blah, blah, blah.

Election coming

BRAIDWOOD—You sure can tell there is a local election coming up in Braidwood. If you saw the January 10 city council meeting, then you surely noted the emphasis placed on the Engineer's report and a letter written by a local police officer. Both sang the praises of the city council as if it was the best thing since slice bread. Of course both owe their jobs to the present administration. Maybe that should have been mentioned. I guess the council and administrator figured it looks better to be lauded by chosen employees than to pat their own backs, although they've been known to do that also.

Not all departments

BRAIDWOOD—I couldn't believe my ears when I heard the city administrator say, at a recent Braidwood city council meeting, that if anyone would have told him or Mr. Money they needed new equipment he would have been interested in helping out. Mr. Smith has been telling this city council, in public, that his department needs new trucks and other equipment for the past four years. Another example of the city administrator's refusal to work on behalf of all city departments.

Post the bills/payroll

BRAIDWOOD—Why does the city of Braidwood not make their council meeting minutes and bills/payroll lists available to the public on the city's website? Maybe the city clerk, city administrator or the finance commissioner who run the city's Facebook page and website can answer this question publicly. They obviously know how to post their agendas on their website so there is no excuse for not knowing how to do it. Other government bodies in town and surrounding communities do it, why can't they? Residents should not have to come into city hall, show up at a meeting, file a FOIA or join an emailing list just to access documents which should be readily available. The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires all public bodies that have a website that is maintained by its full-time staff must post on its website the minutes of a regular open meeting of its governing body within 10 days of approval. Minutes must remain posted there for at least 60 days after their initial posting. Why is the city of Braidwood not complying with this law and being transparent with their residents?

Self-serving politicians

BRAIDWOOD—I find it ironic the Democratic Party of this state decided to give themselves a raise after the mid term elections. My opinion, these politicians are self serving and completely out of touch with the taxpayers. This pay raise should have been voted on by the over taxed taxpayers in this state.



Somehow these politicians have conveniently forgotten that we do not work for them. Beats me why 142,000+ people left this state last year. Congratulations to those who voted these people into office.

Our Roman Emperor

SHADOW LAKES—Here is the State of Illinois. With inflation going up and the threat of a recession and layoffs our beloved governor, stands there like a Roman Emperor, throwing coins to the poor. He signs a bill of \$1.7 billion, which includes raises for our hard-working legislators.

Always, Margot Lane

Trip to the border

SHADOW LAKES—China Joe's trip to the border, quote from the Wizard of Oz, "Nothing to see here folks."

Always, Margot Lane

Man who served

BRAIDWOOD—At the last Braidwood city council meeting Ms. Dixon appeared and asked that her father be honored by the city by having a street named after him. I wholeheartedly agree. Jack Bunting served our community in many capacities, always with very little, if any pay. He served as a city commissioner, mayor, member and president of the school board, police chief, and held many positions on our fire department. He set an example that are sadly lacking in the makeup of the present Braidwood council. Today it is all about the money. Back then it was about service to the community. Having known him personally, I am sure that the majority of the present council, and especially their appointed leader, could have learned a lot from him. But then again, judging from their blank stares and lack of an acknowledgment when she was done talking, maybe not.

Residents in the dark, yes

BRAIDWOOD—Trash Talk you're 100% correct. Everything is done behind the administrator's closed door actually the mayor's office which he took over. He's not the mayor, maybe a want-to-be. He tells everyone he's in charge and he's the boss. Not everyone has Facebook to go on the city's site or a computer to watch the recordings of meetings to hear what's going on in the city to now there's a document for viewing on the counter inside city hall. But our town is thriving - not. The car dealers aren't here yet and the hotel/truck stop the administrator has been going on and on about for three years now. When he hears comments being made that he's not bringing in businesses then we once again hear about the hotel/truck stop coming in. We'll believe it when we see it. And we need another liquor store - not. What you don't know residents is that in order to have a gaming license you have to have a liquor license with both the city and the state in order to get gambling. So this is why he's bringing in more liquor establishments. The administrator knows that gaming brings in the most revenue from the state. Another sneak attack was Ultimate Rides, the used car dealer. The administrator was pushing council members in October 2020 to pass that night and wasn't backing down. When the outcasted two commissioners asked to review it a little more before passing they were told by the administrator we need to pass tonight because they want to break ground before the cold weather and that two years ago all that's being done there is moving dirt then changing and moving dirt in another direction. Who wanted to be the general contractor there and who wanted to be sub-contractor for concrete? Take a guess and all you need is one guess. The work there has to be a union job with prevailing wages and neither one of them is in a union. Town is thriving writer you're incorrect as to "You can read them," it's obvious it's always the same author. I believe there are several authors doing sound-offs, so you are incorrect in your statement.

Extremist

WILMINGTON—Every time I see Majorie Taylor Greene I wonder who voted for this under-educated, ill informed extremist. Then I remember, Deliverance was filmed in Georgia. Squeal like a pig America.

Omitted on purpose

DIAMOND—Did you know the Democrat National Convention during the 2020 Democrat Leadership meetings captured on video omitted "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance? Sharon

Targeting moral norms

DIAMOND—President Biden has issued over 100 executive orders. Here are just four: 1. Making it all right for transgender biological males to compete in female sports. 2. Send your tax money overseas to organizations that perform abortions (prohibited by all previous administrations). 3. Restore the Obamacare mandate that requires employer provided healthcare insurance. (including churches) to fund abortions including partial birth abortions. 4. Requires Medicaid funds (your tax money) to fund clinics that perform abortions to include Planned Parenthood clinics. Planned Parenthood is America's largest abortion provider. In my opinion these four executive orders target Christians and traditional moral norms. Sharon

Joe in the know

BRAIDWOOD—Last week Joe Biden made the statement that Border Patrol agents had confiscated 20,000 pounds of fentanyl which Biden said was enough to kill 1,000 people. Fact check: 20,000 pounds of fentanyl would kill 4.5 billion people. Just like he said his son died in Iraq...not true. Just like he said he drove a big rig. Never happened. Just like he said he was arrested going to see Nelson Mandela. Never happened. His dad worked in a coal mine? His dad had a car dealership. A high school classmate of his said Joe had a new car every weekend to drive around in to pick up girls. He never marched in civil rights movement but instead was against integration of school. Biden was buddy buddy with Byrd who was at the top of the KKK.

Bill guaranteeing five days of paid leave heads to governor

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—A bill that would guarantee a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year for all Illinois workers passed both chambers of the General Assembly Tuesday, Jan. 10 and will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker, who says he will sign it.

Under Senate Bill 208, workers begin to earn paid leave on their first day at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours of paid leave for the year. They can begin using their leave after 90 days, although an employer may allow them to use it sooner.

Once signed, the measure would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

Republicans who opposed the bill said it would be bad for small businesses, criticizing the legislation for raising costs.

Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, who sponsored the measure, pushed back on that argument.

"The idea that we have to play this zero-sum game of you either support business or you support employees, I refuse to accept that is our reality," she said. "I believe that we can show and have shown with this negotiation that you can support employees, all the while supporting employers by providing the consistency and the implementation of a policy such as this."

Under the law, workplaces would still be able to require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off. If the paid leave is not used by the end of the year, it carries over.

The bill still needs approval from Pritzker, who expressed his support in a statement.

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St. Rose CCW to host a spa day fundraiser

Beat the winter blues at “Sittin’ Pretty”, a pamper day hosted by the St. Rose Church Council of Catholic Women. Proceeds will be shared with the Kuzma Care Cottage, the local food pantry. It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 19, from

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Rose School gym.

The day features Mary Kay facials and make up, mini manicures, hair styling, wine tasting, and coffee tasting. Refreshments will be provided. Make it a day with friends or the ladies young and young at heart in your family.

A children's corner has activities such as face painting, jewelry making, book sale and an ice cream sundae bar.

What spa day would be complete without shopping at our vendors offering jewelry, clothing, candles, soaps and more. There will also be raffles and door prizes.

Ticket costs are \$15 per person and tickets are limited. Tickets can be purchased by texting Kristi at 815-263-4158.

Raffle basket sponsors include: Old National Bank, Fresh Face Spa, Lori Bonarek Realty, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Arnie Bauer Chevrolet, Backyard Pools and Spa, El Patron, Grundy National Bank, Frank Meents Law, Wilmington Pharmacy, Berkot's Super Foods and Allied Nursery.

Take flight with the eight-ingredient Test Pilot

Now that we have turned the calendar to 2023, we are one year closer to a NASA's Artemis III moon mission scheduled for 2025. While this trip to the moon is not a “first”, it will be the first moon mission witnessed by anyone under 50 years of age. New systems, new technology, a new landing vehicle will all have to be tested.

In the modern era of space travel, these systems and equipment tests are unmanned for the most part. That was not the case during the space race, nor was it the case in the early age of jet travel.

Early advances in jet flight were made during highly publicized tests that were often witnessed by the public. In the time between the end of the Second World War and the first manned space flight, the test pilots ruled the day. This week, we toast the test pilot!

You may have heard of the Jet Pilot cocktail, not the Test Pilot. The cocktail platform that would evolve into the iconic Jet Pilot was once a Test Pilot, and like many first incarnations of popular drinks, they

had it right the first time.

Fasten your safety harness, put your helmet on, we're flying back to the early age of jet air travel!

The most noteworthy of these public tests were conducted out of Southern California's Edwards Air Force base in the late 1940s.

In May of 1948, Captain “Chuck” Yeager broke the world's altitude record in a Bell X-1 flying at an altitude of 60,000 feet. For reference, average cruising altitude of modern passenger jets is 35,000 feet.

Before Donn Beach was tiki cocktail pioneer Don the Beachcomber, he served in World War 2 and remained a supporter of the armed forces throughout his life.

He wanted to capture the energy and excitement around this new age of aviation, what better way to do that than with a tribute cocktail?

Is the Test Pilot exciting? It's an eight-ingredient cocktail and all of the stand-alone ingredients are delicious, so we'll check “yes” next to exciting.

This cocktail was so exciting that upon its release in the 1940s other Polynesian-themed restaurants immediately began to copy the Test Pilot. Rival restaurants had their own versions with their own names such as the Astronaut, Space Pilot, Ace Pilot, and the Jet Pilot.

The Jet Pilot adaptation is the one that is most popular today, but it is a bit more complex using three rum instead of two, and also using a cinnamon infused sugar syrup. The original version is less com-



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

plex, but every bit as delicious.

What's in this thing, anyway?

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

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

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

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

Falernum is a sweet and sour lime syrup from the West Indies that can be made at home (search recipes online) or purchased in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic varieties. Over-proof rum is commonly added to falernum as a preser-

vative, but not all recipes call for the addition of over-proof rum.

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

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

Think of the Test Pilot as a tamer version of the Zombie, without the 151 rum and extra spices. A glance at the recipe leads one to believe that the drink would be overly complex, but the drink is surprisingly balanced.

Many home mixologists settle into the Mai Tai and the Zombie as their two main rum drinks, the Test Pilot is a nice change of pace in the rotation.

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

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

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

1 cup crushed ice
Blend on high for 5 seconds, then pour unstrained into double Old Fashioned glass. Add more ice to fill if needed, garnish with cocktail cherry.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Immaculate Conception Church to hold benefit for local family

Immaculate Conception Church Braidwood is holding a multicultural fundraiser to help a church family in need.

Lazara Yanira Carrasco, age 35, was hospitalized on a ventilator for seven months due to COVID. She is currently on a waiting list for a lung transplant.

She, her mother, and

brother Enrique are struggling to pay for her insurmounting medical bills. Lazara also has two small children.

The fundraiser is a multicultural potluck Saturday, Jan. 21, in Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St.

Food will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with carry outs available. Doors will open at 4

p.m. for anyone wanting to help by donating a heritage dish to pass.

A freewill donation for dinner will be accepted to help offset Lazara's medical bills. Please call Tami Favero 815-458-6802 for more information.

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Food prices expected to climb even more in 2023

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

It looks like U.S. consumers will have to stomach another year of historically high food prices.

The latest food price outlook from the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service projects all food prices could increase 3.5% to 4.5% in 2023.

If realized, this year's inflation rate would be much lower compared to 2022, but still higher than average. USDA estimated all food prices increased 9.5% to 10.5% in 2022, with the cost of food at home up as much as 11-12% while prices of food away from home jumped 7-8%.

"Food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2023 than in 2022, but still at above historical average rates," USDA noted in its December food price outlook.

The 20-year average rate of food price inflation hovered near 2% annually prior to the COVID pandemic and war in Ukraine.

Issues with logistics, high transportation costs and freight rates, labor, soaring production costs and weather have all contributed to the recent price surge.

Some of the largest price hikes by category in 2022 include eggs (forecast to



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

CONSUMERS WILL LIKELY see the cost of groceries continue to rise well into 2023, according to the US Department of Agriculture. Egg prices are likely to increase as ongoing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza continue to reduce the US egg layer flock.

increase 30.5% to 31.5%), poultry (up 14-15%), fats and oils (up 18-19%), cereals and bakery products (up 13.5%) and fresh fruit and vegetables (up 7-8%).

"The ongoing outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues to reduce the U.S. egg layer flock, as well as the poultry flock to a lesser extent," USDA noted in its food price report. "This decrease is expected to increase wholesale and retail egg prices for the coming months."

In the first two weeks of

December, USDA reported 4.8 million birds were destroyed to keep HPAI in check, bringing total losses for the year to 57.3 million birds nationwide.

The majority of bird losses due to HPAI (42.5 million) were table egg layers. Roughly 9.4 million turkeys were destroyed since the first of the year, the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report noted.

"Keep in mind there is a lag in price transmission and retailers likely are operating with compressed margins," authors of the Daily Livestock Reported noted. "Given the

trend of the last few weeks, we would expect retail (egg) prices to be sharply higher and unlikely to drop much in January and February."

How does food price inflation affect U.S. citizens? It depends, in part, on your location and income level.

A recent survey-based report released by Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability found stark regional differences about food spending.

The survey of 1,200 consumers across the U.S. found households closer to the coasts are spending much more per week on food. But households farther from the coasts are experiencing higher rates of food insecurity.

"The regional differences are not surprising," said Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor of ag economics at Purdue who leads the center. "The West and Northeast are generally higher-cost and higher-income areas, so we would expect them to spend more on food."

The survey also seemed to indicate consumers reached a choke point in 2022 and responded to rapidly rising food costs by simply purchasing less of it. Grocery spending subsequently levelled off since May, according to the survey.

"There is a similar story for spending on restaurants, but this area still appears fairly robust," Lusk said. "We will watch closely for further declines."

USDA projects the cost of food away from home could increase 4-5% in 2023 compared to a 3-4% rise in food at home.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Gas prices rise for second straight week

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 10.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.48/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 17.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 6.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Local prices on Monday included \$3.36/g in Braidwood, \$3.19/g to \$3.49/g in Wilmington and \$3.48 in

Coal City.

"We've seen somewhat of a mixed week at the pump with some states seeing gasoline prices rise, while others have stabilized for the time being. The good news as of late has been the continued decline in average diesel prices, which fell over a penny per day last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Oil prices have seen a bit of a rally, finishing last week at

nearly \$80 per barrel again as Chinese demand starts to jump as expected, but with Covid cases and deaths now also surging in China, the jump in demand could be short-lived. Gas prices may nudge up slightly in the week ahead in some areas, while others could hold flat. The window on price drops however, appears to be coming up on the horizon as we get closer to what's likely to be a significant refinery maintenance period ahead of summer."

The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.56 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.86/g while the most expensive was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.93/g.

The national average \$3.28/g is up 14.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

Wilmington Freemason's chili cook-off seeks entries

The Wilmington Freemasons Lodge #208 will be having their 13th annual Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tasting and a bowl of house chili \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over 11 and free for

kids 11 and under. There will also be \$1 hot dogs available.

Wilmington Masonic Lodge is located at 311 Main St., Wilmington.

Think you have what it takes to be the Chili King? Register to be a contestant. Call Ben Stickel 815-370-7331 or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilm.

Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry will be distributing food Monday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver

meat, produce and nonperishable items to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars as a "drive thru" method will be used.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Explore snow with the Forest Preserve

The Will County Forest Preserve's Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon will host a "Rivers of Color - White as Snow" on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m. to noon.

Learn all about snow, how it forms, why there are different shapes and if there are different kinds. Free, ages 10 or older. Register by Jan. 20.

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OBITUARIES

Susan Kuykendall

COAL CITY—Susan (Stafford) Kuykendall, 77, of Coal City, formerly of Minooka/Channahon, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Jan. 11, 2023, after a valiant battle with ALS.

Susan's greatest passion was her family and friends. She was known as a caretaker to everyone, no matter what their need. Susan was an honored and dedicated wife, mother, Nana, sister, aunt, and friend. She will be dearly missed and continually remembered through the numerous memories she leaves with those dear to her. Susan is well-known for her love of sweets, especially her award winning fudge and her grandchildren's favorite, "crazy cake." Also for playing cards with her family and friends, delivering mail, keeping numerous homes in immaculately clean condition and for her service to many through volunteering with the Martha's serving committee at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Susan is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 58 1/2 years, Ronald; her dear children: Amy Senato, Cynthia (James) Rice, and Ronald (Dawn) Kuykendall Jr.; cherished grandchildren: Kayla (Scott) Thompson, Justine (Trevor) Simonds, Kristin, Kendall and James Rice, Gabrielle Senato; adored great-grandchildren: Cyrus, Owen and Evan; brother and sisters: David (Lana) Stafford, Phyllis (Michael) Feeney, and Margaret "Peg" (Jim) Furto; sisters-in-law: Cathy Kuykendall and Judith Stafford;



brothers-in-law: Floyd (Marcia) Kuykendall, Lloyd Kuykendall and her Aunt Mary Stafford-Webb. Susan is also survived by a large group of admired nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Susan was preceded in death by her parents, William and Helen Stafford; parents-in-law, Mabel and Cullen James Kuykendall; brother, William "Bill" Stafford; sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn (Jack) Severson; Ron's siblings: Alfred, Doyle, Karl, Dorothy, Joan, Mary, and Wanda.

A Funeral Mass was held Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City officiated by Reverend Joshua Miller. Cremation rites were accorded following the services. Susan will be laid to rest near her parents during a private family burial at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Minooka, IL.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Susan's memory to the Lightways Hospice 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or the Les Turner ALS Foundation 5550 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City.

Thomas Fitzgerald



MAZON—Thomas Charles Fitzgerald, 65, of Mazon, passed away Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

Born Jan. 5, 1958 in Valparaiso, IN, Thomas Charles was a son of Randolph Lee Fitzgerald and Clara Maureen (Zarr) Ulm. He was raised in Valparaiso where he graduated from high school, and went on to honorably and actively serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Thomas was a member of the American Legion, Mazon Post, and formerly the Braidwood Post, and continued to hold pride for his service to country his entire life.

He was one who loved the outdoors, and in addition to fishing and his annual fishing trips, took great pleasure in archery, shooting, knife sharpening, and playing disc golf. Thomas was an amazing teacher who thoroughly enjoyed instructing others and sharing his skills, whether it be carpentry, martial arts or the tricks of his hobbies or interests. He loved riding his motorcycle; his fast cars, and watching westerns in his down time. He had a special canine sidekick, Spade, and no greater hobby or interest was more cherished than that of his family, kids and grandbabies.

Survivors include his three children: Shannon Fitch, Jacob Fitch (Jennifer Bossen) and Todd Fitch (Lindsey Wright), all of Mazon;



seven grandchildren: Miya Scott, Dustin Scott Jr., Colton Scott, Zander Lindner, Nathan Lindner Jr., Lyneah Lindner and Dakota Fitch; three sisters: Linda (Clayton) Wireman, Fay (John) Lowry and Mamie (the late Roger) Gainley; one sister-in-law, Tammy Ulm and his Military brother, Rick Wright.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Randolph "Randy" Fitzgerald and Paul Ulm and his Godson, Kyle Wright.

The family will receive friends for a visitation and celebration of life at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 between the hours of 12 and 4 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation.

Thomas will be laid to rest with full military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Thomas' memory to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306.

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

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

Harold Bissey



DWIGHT—Harold R. Bissey, 95, of Dwight, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at his residence.

Harold was born March 6, 1927 in Huntingburg, IN, the son of Dwight L. and Lela (Rauscher) Bissey. He married Doris V. Denaple on March 14, 1954, at the United Methodist Church in Dwight.

Harold served in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Dwight. He was a farmer and dairy farmer. In 1962, he started working for Caterpillar. He retired in 1987 after 25 years and was retired for 35 years. During those years, he farmed out by Ransom which he enjoyed. He also enjoyed showing his 1942 H.

Harold is survived by his children, daughter, Theresa L. Flowers, of Braidwood and son, Ralph W. Bissey, of Odell; grandchildren: Emily Torres, of Herscher; James Flowers, of Braidwood; Brian (Erica) Flowers, of Cullom; Christina (T.J.) Polk, of Baldwin, IA; Nathan (Jen) Bissey, of Diamond; Courtney Jo (Ryan) Rojkowski, of Elburn, IL; Amanda Price, of Coal City; Danny (Hilarie) Grubaugh, of Covington,



IN; great-grandchildren: Ginny, Mariana, Gwen, Leo, Lucas, Logan, Lyle, Cayden, Colin, Trevor, Bekka, Tyson, Hayden, Brock and Rhett; special nieces, Leta Leach and Margo Scott and Garrett and Gavin Leach.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Doris on April 22, 2019; his two sons, Gail and Floyd Bissey; daughter-in-law, Christina Jo Bissey and sister, Louanna Meyerholtz and brother, Eugene Bissey.

A funeral service was held on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at United Methodist Church of Dwight with Reverend Mary Arnold officiating. Burial followed the service at Allen Township Cemetery in Ransom, IL.

Memorials can be made to Uplifted Care Hospice of Bourbonnais, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, or United Methodist Church of Dwight.

This obituary can be read and condolences made at www.hagermemorial.com or find their Facebook page.

Hager Memorial Home was in charge of the arrangements.

James Perkins



DWIGHT—James Willard Perkins Heynow,, 67, of Dwight, formerly Gardner, Plainfield and Pontiac passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at Park Pointe in Morris.

Born April 24, 1955 in Joliet, he was a son of Willard "Bud" and Dorothy (Papach) Perkins. James was raised in Gardner and graduated from Plainfield High School with the class of 1973. He enlisted and honorably served in the United States Air Force. Upon his discharge, James worked for Caterpillar, retiring in 2020 after 39 years of dedicated service. He was a former member of UAW Local #2096. On Sept. 28, 2012 he married Mary Smith in Pontiac, she survives.

An avid concert enthusiast, Jim loved live music, especially the Grateful Dead. He enjoyed reading and playing both board and video games. His children will struggle enjoying Monopoly or Mario Kart 64 without him. Jim was quite the crafter, having enjoyed both woodworking and tie dying projects. Through the years, he enjoyed playing Dungeons and Dragons, was an avid bowler, enjoyed fishing and loved golf. Trivia with friends and family was one of his favorite pastimes. Trivia team CRS will acutely feel his loss. Jim was a caring, loyal friend. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother who cherished time spent with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Perkins, of Dwight; four children: Stephanie (Michael)



Morehead, of Florida; Sean (April) Perkins, of Florida; Mike Perkins, of Plainfield and Katie (Scott) Mackinson, of Dallas, TX; two step-sons, Michael (Jessica) Galbraith and Brian (Hilary) Dobbs, both of Dwight; 13 grandchildren; one brother, Thomas (Karen) Perkins, of Gardner; one sister, Patricia Weiskop, of Joliet; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many close friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law Leslie Smith; one niece, Kali Sue Perkins Croy; brother-in-law, G. Lee Weiskop; sister-in-law, Julie Smith and his grandson, Rocky.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 Liberty St., in Gardner on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Victory Lanes Bowl, 410 E. Main Ave. in Dwight between the hours of 12 and 3 p.m. Casual attire is encouraged (tie-dye welcome).

Graveside services along with full military honors will take place on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 at 10 a.m. in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

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

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

Jimmy C. Holm

DWIGHT—Jimmy C. Holm, 80, of Dwight, passed away Jan. 10, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Jimmy was born Nov. 30, 1942 in Morris to Curtis and Florence (Carlson) Holm. He married Jackie Fredrick in 1977 in Pontiac. He attended local Gardner-South Wilmington Schools and later managed the Braidwood Recreation Club and the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. After he retired he worked for Walmart to keep busy. Jimmy had a passion for small engines and could always be found tinkering in his garage.



He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and his brother, Delmar Holm, both of Dwight and some nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Dace Holm.

Cremation rites will be accorded and graveside services will be held at a later date at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Memorials in honor of Jimmy may be made to the Livingston County Humane Society.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in charge of arrangements.

Michael R. Johnstone

WILMINGTON—Michael R. Johnstone, 59, of Wilmington, formerly of West Chicago, IL, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL.

Born Oct. 3, 1963 in Evergreen Park, IL, Michael was raised in Winfield and graduated from West Chicago High School. He worked for Armbrust Paper Tubes, Inc. for over 25 years where he would become president of the company. Mike was proud to work for his family's business and loved working alongside his mother until she passed away in 2006. In his free time, he liked going for rides on his Kawasaki motorcycle, and he loved music, particularly talented guitarists such as Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eric Clapton to name a few. Mike had a great sense of humor and loved telling jokes, even if he had told you the same joke countless times. He was a gentle, kind, compassionate man, who was an outstanding father and who cherished his granddaughter.



Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Stacey Johnstone; three children: Nicholas Johnstone (Katy Wheeler), of Channahon; Garrett (Kelly) Johnstone, of Camden, TN and Katherine Johnstone, of Bradley; one granddaughter, Kaya Johnstone; one sister and two brothers: Linda Johnstone, of Carol Stream; Mark (Kim) Johnstone, of Freeport, IL and Jim (Denice) Johnstone, of Portland, OR and several nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothee and Gordon Johnstone.

Per Mike's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a memorial service is being planned for a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Mike's memorial page via social media.

Cremation rites and memorial arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Sharon Hart

WILMINGTON—Sharon Hart, 80, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 3, 1942 on Jefferson Barracks Military Base in Missouri, Sharon Marie was a daughter of Robert G. and Arielle (Roberts) Miller. She was raised and educated in Missouri and graduated from Fox High School in Arnold, MO. On Valentine's Day of 1962, Sharon met Patrick Hart who she went on to marry June 16, 1962 in Arnold. Together they made a home and raised a family.

One whose life was centered on family and faith, Sharon was always active in church, throughout the years having been active with First Baptist Church in Downers Grove, IL; Grace Baptist Church in Lombard, IL and most recently Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. For many years, Sharon and Patrick wintered in Florida, spending more than the past decade in Arcadia, where she also assisted as a secretary at Riverside Church. In addition, Sharon was active with AWANA for many years as a coach and leader and assisted as a cookie coordinator.

Sharon had a deep love of reading, took great pleasure in traveling, and created many memories throughout the entire United States, particularly enjoying to visit the west. Colorado was a favorite destination, as was Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. This was in line with her appreciation of outdoors and love of hiking and biking.



Gone from our sight, Sharon leaves behind a collection of special memories, as well as a legacy of being a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who cherished her family.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Patrick; two sons and daughters-in-law: Patrick Mark and Janet Hart, of Kernersville, NC and Michael Robert and Deborah Hart, of Gurnee, IL; four grandchildren: Glenn Hart and Nicole (Cory) East, both of North Carolina and Bonnilyn Hart and Nathan Hart, both of Gurnee and two great-grandchildren, Levi and Olevia East.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St. in Wilmington on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 4 p.m. Pastor Jeff Logsdon will officiate.

A private family inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Sharon will be laid to rest in the columbarium.

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

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

Michael Thompson



WISCONSIN—Michael "Mike" Thompson, 73, was born Aug. 6, 1949, and passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Dec. 2, 2022.

Mike spent his life loving his wife of 52 years, Lenore. He built a beautiful life with her and for his two children, Lisa and Tommy. Mike was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, who served our great country with honor. Mike worked hard and played hard. He was a talented classic car craftsman who built over 10 street rods with his own hands through ground up restoration. He enjoyed snowmobiling and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle in his spare time. When he lived in Illinois, Mike was a successful Snap-on Tool Dealer. When he moved up to Wisconsin with his wife, he opened a new business as a Cornwell Dealer, from which he retired after 13 prosperous years. Mike loved his grandchildren with all his heart, they were his pride and joy.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Lenore Thompson; his sister, Cindy (Bruce) Dunbar; his children, Lisa (Dave) Stuart and Tom Thompson; his grandchildren, Zoe (Annie) Stuart, Anthony Corrado, Vincent Corrado, Abby Thompson, and David Stuart; nieces, Wendy Dunbar and Bonnie (John) Carroll; nephews: Jeff Dunbar, Darren Thompson, Steve



Thompson and Shawn Thompson as well as too many incredible friends to list.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Albert Thompson; his mother, Frances Thompson; his sister, Jerrie Mercer; his brother, James Thompson; and his first grandchild, Michael Corrado.

Mike will be forever missed by his family and friends who loved him so much. His memory will live on through the legacy of strength and dedication he passed on to his children and grandchildren and the amazing life he built with his wife.

The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Jan. 19, 2023 from 10 am until time of memorial service at 1 pm. Pastor Bob Walker will officiate and graveside services with full military honors will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 2:30 p.m.

Preferred memorials in Michael's memory may be made as gifts to American Heart Association.

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

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

Linda Roberts

GODLEY—Linda Roberts, 76, of Godley, passed away Jan. 16, 2023 at her home.

She was born Sept. 18, 1946 in Kokomo, IN. Linda was raised in Kokomo and went on to earn her bachelor of arts degree from Ball State University. She served as an educator on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona before returning to Illinois where she gained employment with Exelon. She had a love of antiques, shopping, fishing, and most all nature activities. Linda was an avid art collector, particularly of Native American Art, and she enjoyed sports.

Linda is survived by her partner of 42 years, Dorothy Stedman and two nieces, Cindy (Walt)



Roberts, of Florida and Brenda Ryan, of Australia and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Linda's memory to the American Cancer Society or to the American Diabetes Association.

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

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

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Essex Township Request for Proposal for Cemetery Mowing and Trimming

Essex Township is requesting proposals for cemetery mowing services at the two township cemeteries for the period April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024. The two properties total 4.5 acres combined.

Please supply quote on a per-time basis to include mowing, trimming, small debris cleanup, and blowing clippings off markers/monuments. All services will be done on an as-needed basis, not to exceed 3 times per month. Also supply quote for spring and fall cleanup as well as outlining any additional costs or fees. Provider must include proof of liability insurance with proposal.

Quotes due no later than January 30, 2022

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CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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Deadlines

Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.

Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

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Cost


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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington, 2 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in ready. \$800/month. Call and leave a message, will call you back. 815-274-6065. cc3-6

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING MAINTENANCE/ PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE VILLAGE OF GARDNER - Full time position for person with experience and mechanical ability. Responsibilities include general upkeep of Village property, meter reading, water turn on/off, water main repairs, mowing/plowing, other duties as needed. Starting rate up to \$25/hour with CDL license. Requires willingness to obtain Class B water and Class 4 sewer plant operating certification within 18 months of starting employment, with experienced operators \$30/hour plus. Attractive benefits package including nine holidays, vacation, up to 12 sick days per year, IMRF, 100% paid employee medical and life insurance. Mail resume by January 31 to: Village Clerk, Village of Gardner, 302 N Center Street, P. O. Box 545, Gardner, IL 60424 cc3-4

HELP WANTED

Dishwasher (Multiple Positions) - Job located in Will County, Illinois. Krenar, LLC d/b/a Silver Dollar Restaurant. Ensure that the kitchen stays clean and organized, Set up dish stations and turn on dish cleaning machines. Load and unload dishes from dish machines, washing all pans or utensils that come into contact with food, and scraping identifiers off everything. 40 hrs. per week. Six months experience as a Dishwasher required. Wage will meet or exceed Federal Prevailing Wage. M-F 9-5. Send Resume: Attn: Edmir Iljazi, 422 Mississippi Ave. Elwood, IL 60421. cc3-4

LOST & FOUND

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

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Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

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Wanted:
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WANTED

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A	R	E	S		T	O	N			P	E	A	K	S	



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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics



The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$58,275.00

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 17th, 2023 - February 17th, 2023 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on February 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Friday, February 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: February 22nd and February 24th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

Wilmington Fire Protection District
501 N. Main Street
Wilmington IL. 60481

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Adorable & cozy 3 BR, 1.5 BA ranch home which has been completely remodeled! Call Kelly 815-823-6147. HR1113

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DWIGHT \$199,500
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GARDNER \$155,000
3 BR, 1 BA ranch with large kitchen. All appliances stay. 24 ft. above-ground pool and hot tub. Kelly 815-823-6147. EU303

MAZON \$129,900
2 BR home right in the heart of small town Mazon. Lorie+ Owen Toler 715-5959. DC602

VERONA \$108,000
2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg. rooms/yrd. Call Della 815-258-6467. AO432


COAL CITY \$39,900
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WILDCAT SPORTS

Three Cheers for Wilmington!



WHS STUDENT ATHLETE Olivia Hansen signs a letter of intent to continue her softball career in Florida at St. Johns River State College.

Hansen signs with Florida college

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Wilmington High School student-athlete Olivia Hansen, daughter of TJ and Krista Hansen, has signed a letter of intent to continue her softball career in Florida at St. Johns River State College.

Olivia has been playing softball for 13 years and could not imagine a her life without it.

"I love the feeling I get every time I play. The competitiveness that the sport gives me and the friendships that come out of it are what drives me," commented Olivia. Her favorite part about the sport is the feel-

ing she gets when she's on the field.

She began her recruiting process in the Spring of 2022. She was interested in continuing her journey in Florida and after visiting St. John Hopkins State College she liked the coaches and its program.

She is looking forward to playing for her new coach Joe Pound. She said he is a very driven coach that likes to see his players succeed. He is a very good coach that will work her to take her to the next level.

Good luck to Olivia as she finishes her high school career as a Lady Wildcat this Spring and then onto St. John Hopkins State in the fall.



CELEBRATING THEIR WIN are the Wildcat Competition Cheer Team who got first place at the Ice conference tournament held at Reed-Custer last week. Squad members include (from left) Jessica Matyasec, Aliza Hannan, Sara Falson, Rylee Kettman and Ava Rabideau.

Photo By Zadi Sims



THE WILDCATS lift Ava Rabideau in the air for part of their routine during the cheer competition on Wednesday.

Photo by Zadi Sims



WILDCAT cheerleaders Sara Falcon, Kaylen Hansen and Ava Rabideau walk onto the mat before they perform their routine during the ICE conference competition held Wednesday at Reed-Custer. Wilmington ended up in first place.

Photo by Zadi Sims

KofC Youth free throw contest to be held Jan. 21

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

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

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

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

various rounds of competition.

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

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

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

Lady 'Cats fall to Coal City



Photo by Amy Walker

LADY WILDCAT Clara Smith throws the ball to a team while becoming off-balanced and stepping out of bounds on Thursday when Wilmington traveled to Coal City and lost 57-30.

Attorney Meents files Davy estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
MARY JANE DAVY, Deceased; No. 2022
PR 704

CLAIM NOTICE

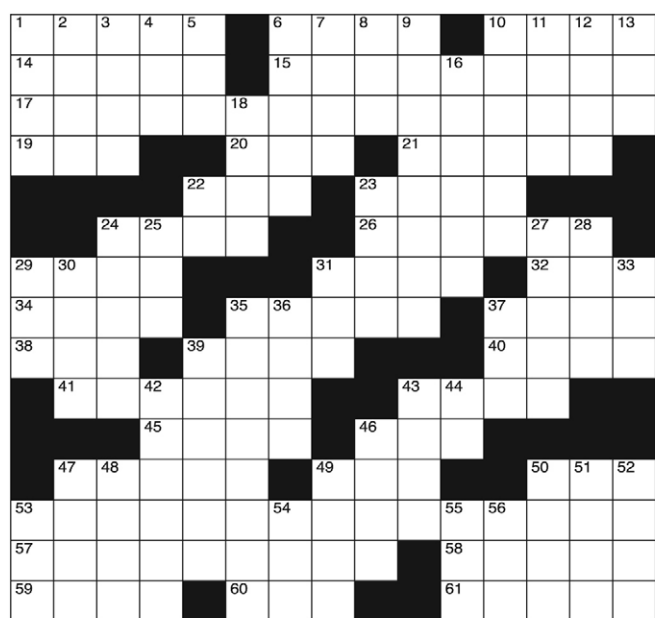
Notice is given of the death of MARY JANE DAVY, Letters of Office as Independent Co-Executors were issued on January 4, 2023, to GEORGE PRINCKO, whose address is 378 Justin Lane, Gilbertsville, Kentucky 42044, and Richard A. Princko, whose address is Post Office Box 282, Wilmington, IL 60481 whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before July 19, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://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 office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

GEORGE PRINCKO and RICHARD A. PRINCKO Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of MARY JANE DAVY, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 18, and 25, 2023.



CLUES ACROSS

- Not invited
- Whale ship captain
- One point south of southwest
- Small cavity in a rock
- Recidivists
- City of Angels hoopster
- A way to mark with one's signature
- OJ trial judge
- Rice cooked in broth
- One point east of due south
- One point east of southeast
- Complements an entree
- Grouped by twos
- Disfigure
- Woods
- Political action committee
- Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
- Kin groups
- Philippine Island
- Contrary to
- Bluish-gray fur
- Comprehend the written word
- Natural depressions
- Felines
- Breathe noisily
- Taxi
- Pancake made from buckwheat flour
- Swiss river
- Foot (Latin)
- Have surgery
- Formal withdrawal
- Monetary units of Peru
- Greek war god
- 2,000 lbs.

CLUES DOWN

- Green and yellow citrus fruit
- A bright color
- Thicket
- Journalist Tarbell
- A place to work or relax
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Helicopter
- Mimic
- Suggests
- More musty
- Large, flightless rail
- Make beer
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- People who account for you
- Taunt
- South Dakota
- Cover the entirety of
- Kids' favorite visitor
- A way to save for retirement
- Fencing swords
- C. China mountain range
- Type of sandwich
- Team
- Paddle
- Partly digested food
- Most cagey
- Shoppers make one
- Cathode-ray tube
- Food supplies
- Backbones
- Concern
- Blood group
- Broadway songwriter Sammy
- Dutch colonist
- Full-grown pike fish
- Deity of a monotheistic cult
- Type of bread
- S. Nigerian people
- Scottish tax
- Young women's association
- Brazilian city
- Hide of a young animal
- Midway between north and northeast

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SEND STATS TO
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WILDCAT SPORTS

‘Cats have three place during Comet Classic

The Wilmington wrestling team had three medal winners and placed 15th overall in the 23-team Comet Classic held Friday and Saturday at Reed-Custer.

Wildcat junior Landon Dooley (113) went 3-1 to land in 2nd place. Senior Hunter Hayes (195) battled back hard in the wrestlebacks to take fifth place with a 4-2 record.

Also making a long run in the wrestlebacks was Parker Adams (170) who placed 6th after battling through eight matches for a 5-3 record.

Wilmington had four other wrestlers who competed including twin brothers Blake Adolfini (132) and Brandon Adolfini (138) who went 2-2, freshman newcomer Matt Crichton (145) who got his first varsity win with a 1-2 record and Matt Swisher (152) who went 2-2 and was one win away from placing.

At Coal City

On Thursday the Wildcats knew they were entering a maelstrom at Coal City against the state-ranked Coalers who are 37-2 and champions of Abe's Rumble and Princeton Invite tournaments.

The Wildcats were shutout 82-0 by the Coalers after giving up nine weight levels to forfeits. Of the five weight classes where there was a match, Dooley was the only one to escape



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

BATTLING AT 113 pounds against his Streator opponent in Wilmington junior Landon Dooley who won the match.

being pinned as Coaler Brody Widlowski won 17-5 major decision at 113 pounds.

At 132 Blake Adolfini was pinned by Evan Greggain 1:10, at 138 Brandon Adolfini suffered a 1:13 pin to Brant Widlowski, at 170 Parker Adams had a 3:41 fall to Coal City's Jack Poyner while at 195 Hayes lost by 3:31 fall to Braiden Young.

The 'Cats also squared off against Streator at Coal City losing 42-33 to the Bulldogs.

Wildcats who won their matches included 113 Landon Dooley, 132 Blake Adolfini, 145 Brandon Adolfini, 170 Logan VanDuyne, 195 Andrew Dedo and 220 Hunter Hayes.

Batavia Girls Tournament

The Wilmington wrestling team, which includes seven girls on the roster, competed in the girls only tournament at Batavia.

"This was our first girls tournament to compete in and it was a huge success," commented coach Nick Dziuban.

Priscilla Prescott, a junior, took 1st place with three pins. Alivia George, also a junior, took 4th place while sophomore Skylar Ortiz finished in 6th place.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WILMINGTON JUNIOR Brandon Adolfini takes on his 145-pound opponent from Streator during a quad meet Thursday in Coal City.



Courtesy photo

WILMINGTON MATMAN Parker Adams had to battle back through the wrestlebacks to finish in 6th place to the Comet Classic tournament held at Reed-Custer.

Wildcats boys are on a roll

The Wilmington varsity boys basketball team won its fifth game in a row on Friday, beating Peotone, 47-42.

With the win it puts the 'Cats at 9-5 overall, 4-3 in the conference.

Wildcat coach Doug Krop credited junior Joey Cortese for muscling his way under the basket with 14 points and five rebounds and to sophomore Kyle Farrell for great defense and for scoring eight points.

The Wildcats got support from senior Ryder Meents who tallied 10 points while grabbing two rebounds while Reid Juster stepped up for 7 points, two rebounds and two assists. Also scoring were Cade McCubbin with six points and three rebounds while Ryan Nelson finished with two points and five rebounds.

The junior varsity 'Cats also won at Peotone to make it three in a row.

The JV 'Cats were paced by Hunter Osipavicius (4 rebounds) and Reegan Bolin who scored 11 points each. Lucas Rink hustled for 10 points and 11 rebounds while Ryan Kettman finished with six points, four rebounds and two assists. Joey Van Duyne recorded four points and four assists.

Wilmington travels to Coal City on Friday and Westmont on Saturday. Their next home game is Tuesday against Streator, co-leaders in the ICE conference with Reed-Custer.



Photo by Eric Fisher

DETERMINED TO SCORE despite being pressured under the basket is Wilmington junior Cade McCubbin.



Put your health first this New Year!

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

If you have fallen behind with your routine check-ups, the New Year is the perfect time to get back on schedule.



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Lady 'Cat netters start with a streak

The Wilmington Middle School 8th grade volleyball team has won its first three matches of the season, most recently on Thursday when they defeated Channahon 27-25, 13-25, 25-21.

Sami Liaromatis led Wilmington with 5 kills and 5 aces. Addison Van Duyne was right behind with 5 aces and 2 kills. Also tallying up 2 kills were Addison Billingsley and Taryn Talley.

The 7th grade lost to Channahon in two games: 22-25, 17-25. Madisyn Knight and Mollie Bohac both had 4 kills to try and keep it close.

The 6th grade A and B teams both lost to Channahon. The A team's scores were 21-25, 18-25. Kelsi Roeder had 2 aces with Natalie Strohm, Nadine Liguist, Taylor Tenn, and Chesnee Geiss all adding another ace each. The B team's scores were 14-25, 16-25. Tracy Jones had 2 aces and Payton Govero had one.

Down the Warriors

The varsity Lady 'Cats upended Coal City in three sets, 25-15, 8-25, and 25-22. Taylor Bova had three kills, five aces and two digs. Kaitlyn

Lantka had three aces. Kirstin Klein had four aces and three assists. Mackenzie Foote had two aces and one kill. Caysie Esparza had two digs. Reese Brown had three aces and a dig.

"It was a great effort and hustle last night ladies!" commented coach Kelly Van Duyne.

WMS' 8th graders opened their season against Coal City, winning in three: 25-15, 13-25, 25-21.

To help in the victory, Sami Liaromatis and Addison Billingsley went on a 11 and 9 point serving streak, respectively. Out of those, Liaromatis had 9 aces and Billingsley had 5. Addison Van Duyne had 4 kills while Taryn Talley was right behind her with 3.

The 7th grade Cats also won 25-22, 25-22. Madisyn Knight led the team with 4 aces and 4 kills. Amara Bown and Sophia Albright both added another 2 aces.

The 6th grade team had their home opener last night losing to Coal City 25-12, 20-25, 13-25. Emilie Strong had 9 aces with Taylor Tenn adding another 5. The B team also lost 7-25, 16-25.