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## Water loss issue sees resolution in Wilmington

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

In 2021, the city of Wilmington was facing a water dilemma. Each month, during the regular meeting of the water, sewer, streets and alleys committee meeting, public works officials told the city that as much as 50% of the city's water was unaccounted for, leaving the city with unexplained water loss of at least half the water it was producing.

But, things seem to have turned around, thanks to some new equipment and tracking.

Mayor Ben Dietz said the average monthly water loss has now been reduced to 10%, with efforts continuing to cut that even further.

"The water loss came from multiple different issues and while getting it down from 50% to 10% is a great improvement, and the staff should be very proud of the work they have

done, we are still focused on getting that lower," Dietz said.

Dietz said a portion of that previous loss came from meter issues, while some could be attributed to billing and some from correcting past mistakes.

One area where things were cleared up was in reading meters. Dietz said three years ago, the city was estimating water use for approximately 1,500 meters in town. Now, the number of estimated accounts is down to 211.

"We also have meters that are well beyond their life and the longer they are out in the system, the less accurate they can be," Dietz said. "This year we also completed some upgrades at the plant with more to come next year. My goal right now is to continue working from the top users down and focusing on the more complicated issues. I would also encourage any user that is on an esti-

mated bill to get in touch with city hall so we can update your consumption estimate and get you scheduled to get a new meter."

The city's meter replacement program is, by design, ongoing, as meters have an estimated life expectancy of eight to 10 years.

Dietz said most of the water billing issues were not with the meters themselves, but rather with how they were read. If the radio communications that transmit the meter readings fail, bills are then estimated based on prior usage.

"This brings a couple of big issues," Dietz noted. "Users that have been estimated too low for too long and their meter gets replaced suddenly find themselves with a large bill. This is because the meter itself recorded every gallon used but couldn't transmit the read to the city, so it was estimated. After the communication issue is resolved the City now

gets the back usage as well as the current usage and the user gets an accurate bill of all the water they have used."

The problem then results in higher bills for some people, who then may have issues getting caught up.

"Right now we have about \$120,000 owed to the city that falls in this category. The city is working with anyone who is past due and waiving any fees or penalties as long as they are keeping current and paying down on the balance," the mayor said.

But, if there is one thing the mayor has learned in his time as both an alderman and then mayor, it's understanding how the city gets that water to its residents. Dietz said he has focused much of his attention on the entire water system from intake to sludge press, and has asked aldermen to tour the water and wastewater facilities to understand the process as

well.

Dietz said that while the issue of billing will always be frustrating to some residents, folks should rest assured that their water is safe and properly produced.

"I know not everyone is going to be happy about their bill, but we are making significant improvements to the issue," Dietz said. "An example of a significant cost saving is our water meter fees. Prior to 2021 this fee was the same for every user, including commercial and industrial users. The problem is that commercial and industrial meters are five to 15 times more expensive than residential meters and more expensive to install, so we were losing tens of thousands of dollars in meter replacement costs. An industrial user may have paid that \$2 per month replacement fee for years (\$240 over 10 years), but the

SEE WATER, PAGE 2



Photo by Eric Fisher

SPENT GRAIN is scooped away by head brewer Pauly Bidne at Rt 66 Old School Brewing, 110 Bridge St., Wilmington where 300 pounds or more is being used to feed local livestock. The malted barley and rice mixture is steeped in water to breakdown the grain's starch and convert it into a clear sugary liquid.

## Four-legged customers like what's brewing, too

BY ERIC FISHER  
PUBLISHER

In 2015, Joe Spurlock opened Spurlock Farms in Wilmington with his son Jared. He purchased the property from his wife's parents and together the two learned everything they needed to operate the successful animal farm. They raise pigs, goats, cows, chickens, turkeys, ducks and more, supplying to local buyers.

An avid home brewer, Joe always finds his way into local breweries. When Rt. 66 Old School Brewing opened in Wilmington in 2019, it wasn't long before Joe found himself talking to owners Steve and Tina Nelson and head brewer Pauly Bidne.

They talked shop—everything from farming to brewing—and quickly realized the synergy that could exist between their two businesses. Rt. 66 was amassing between 200 and 300 pounds of spent grain each week in the regular brewing process, and Joe was spending hundreds on grain feed for his animals.

Now, instead of that spent grain ending up in the landfill, Joe picks it up each week, redirecting the grain from the landfill and back to the Earth through his farming operations.

"All the good stuff in the grain ends up in the beer," shared Joe. "But there's real value in the spent grain, especially for farmers like me who require thousands of pounds



WHAT'S ON TAP? Up to 16 kinds of beer at Rt. 66 Old School Brewing where owner Steve Nelson surveys the refrigerated keg room.

a month of feed for the animals. There's a nice financial incentive, but it's more than that."

Bidne, head brewer at Rt. 66 Old School Brewing, said partnerships like these are an important step for breweries

who want to achieve zero waste.

"Our industry relies so much on the hard work and dedication of our farmers, and it's a delight to help a fel-

SEE BREW, PAGE 2

## City on track for huge savings this fiscal year

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

At the close of the third quarter, the city of Wilmington is on track to end the current fiscal year significantly under budget.

Finance director Matt Hoffman updated the members of the City Council during the Jan. 18 meeting of the finance committee on where the city stands with its budget projections for the 2022 fiscal year (FY22), which ends on April 30.

"Right now, we'll be at about 82% below budget," Hoffman reported. "We initially thought we'd spend \$3.3 million, we're going to end up somewhere around \$600,000. So, there's a \$2.7 million difference."

Those numbers account for spending across all city wide funds. Hoffman said a portion of those savings is due

to a significant increase in sales tax revenue over what was projected for FY22.

"About \$600,000 is just due to increased sales tax, and building permits mainly from the TIF district," Hoffman said. "We also have about \$158,000 in sewer cap fees which is also related to the TIF district... The formulation is done to figure out the impacts it will have on the sewer system over time, and we charge a fee to buildings that are being built, so that's what that is."

Currently the city has collected \$912,119 of its budgeted \$1.05 million in state sales tax—which represents 86% of the budget with three months still to go in the fiscal year.

In building permit fees, the city has currently collected \$506,035, more than \$200,000 more than the budgeted projection of \$300,000.

SEE FINANCE, PAGE 3

## Parents await ruling on mask mandate lawsuit

STAFF REPORT

A lawsuit filed by parents across the state to try to overturn the statewide school mask mandate may get a ruling by the end of the week.

Districts Wilmington 209-U and Elwood 203 are among 145 school districts named in a lawsuit filed in October to end the mandate put in place this school year by Gov. JB Pritzker.

Circuit Judge Raylene Grischow heard oral arguments last week in a class action lawsuit against 145 school districts that was filed last year by Greenville attorney Thomas DeVore, who has unsuccessfully challenged the state's COVID-19 mitigation measures in several other lawsuits.

The lawsuit was filed on Oct. 20, 2021 in Macoupin

County by DeVore on behalf of dozens of parents across the state. The case is being heard in Sangamon County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit contends that school districts have "implemented and are illegally enforcing the exclusion directives" issued by Gov. JB Pritzker and enforced by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

The filing argues that state law requires that "no person may be ordered to be quaran-

SEE MASK, PAGE 2



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# Water

new meter may cost the city \$12,000 to install. That issue was resolved starting last year by changing the meter fee depending on the size required.

"Another thing to consider is that we have fresh water, not well water," Dietz continued. "Users on well systems are replacing their major water appliances every 3-5

years due to the minerals and deposits in the water. Most of the well users also do not drink the water coming out of their taps and buy bulk water, water softeners, or conditioners. Not only is our water great from the tap, but our appliances do not fail like the well system ones do."

Dietz added that the city has updated its billing software to include new features and provide better reporting, including usage trends to help illustrate usage patterns such

as filling a pool or lawn watering.

"Our new meters are also smarter so we know when you may be experiencing a leak due to higher-than-average use as well as when the meters have been tampered with," he added.

The mayor said residents can also proactively work to reduce their water usage by keeping an eye on what's going on at home.

"Running toilets and leaky faucets also are a huge

cause of higher water bills," Dietz said. "One drip per second equals 3,000 gallons yearly. A leaking toilet can go through 17,000 gallons per year. Our staff is there to provide resources to help eliminate leaks and questions with your bill."

Information on utilities, including how to sign up for E-Pay for monthly bills, can be found on the city's website at [www.wilmington-il.com](http://www.wilmington-il.com) under the departments tab by clicking on "clerk's office."

## Attorney Wysocki files Huguelet 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  
CAROLYN T. HUGUELET, Deceased; No.  
21 P 1135

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of CAROLYN T. HUGUELET. Letters of Office were issued to LANCE J. HUGUELET whose address is 2216 Parkrose Ave., Crest Hill, IL 60403 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 26th day of July, 2022 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki  
For the Estate of Carolyn T. Huguelet, Deceased

BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki  
1861 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-725-8000  
Atty No.: 06275404  
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9, 2022.

# Brew

low business owner. But this is a first step toward deepening our commitment to sustainability through our brewery and our supply chain."

Don't get the wrong idea, Spurlock's farm yard has no party animals nor tipsy critters. The grain is the byproduct of brewing process long before fermentation of alcohol begins.

"The grain is used for the first steps in the brewing

## Hometown Storage to dispose of property

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Notice of Lien**  
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.

Tenant: Corbyn West, 118 Cedar Ln., Wilmington, IL 60481, Unit 70.  
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Feb. 8, 2022 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.  
Published in the Free Press on Jan. 19 and 26, 2022.

process which helps create a clear sugary liquid called wort," Bidne explained. "From there we work with the wort to create the beer."

Bidne, an award-winning brewer of 27 years, said it takes about two pounds of grain to yield about one gallon of wort. He works in 201-pound batches to create 93 gallons per vessel.

"I learned early you have to use really good grain. After milling (crushing) we end up with a coarse grist, neither too coarse nor too fine so it doesn't harden in the bottom of the vessel. It also brings out the most flavor," Bidne said.

The wort is filtered into a brew kettle where it's steeped for an hour, bottom to top, until 168 degrees. That's when bittering and aromatic hops are added in intervals, up to five times, depending on the intensity and flavor of the beer. The liquid is eventually pumped into tanks, chilled and brewer's yeast is added to turn the wort into alcohol and carbon dioxide. The kind of yeast used and the fermentation temperature determines whether it becomes a lager or an ale.

## Attorney McGrath files Donners estate notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of CAROLYN DONNERS, Deceased. Case No.: 21 P 1258

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of CAROLYN DONNERS, of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued January 3, 2022, to RAYMOND DONNERS, Independent Administrator, whose address is 1152 Anderson Ave., Joliet, IL 60433, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of July 19, 2022, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Raymond Donners,  
Independent Administrator  
of the Estate of Carolyn Donners,  
Deceased.

Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170  
McGrath Law, P.C.  
440 S. State Street  
Manhattan, IL 60442  
(815) 478-4020  
mcgrath@mcgrathlaw.com  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 2022.

## Attorney Fisher files Holloway estate notice

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary K. Holloway, Deceased. Case No.: 2021 P 1142.

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of Mary K. Holloway of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 14, 2022 to Donna J. Hale as Independent Executor. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 19 2022, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.  
Dated: January 14, 2022  
Donna J. Hale, Independent Executor

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Fisher Meents LLC, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481, (815) 476-7635. Email: [jeff@fishermeents.com](mailto:jeff@fishermeents.com)  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 26 and Feb. 2, 2022.

"Fermentation can take two days, two weeks or even two months, depending on the style of beer," Bidne explained. "So in the scheme of things, the grain is short lived in the process but we use the most of it."

A batch of beer yields about three plastic garbage cans of spent grain. Bidne will hand-scoop the mixture into the cans and place them outside the front of the brewery where Spurlock or others will take it for feed.

Owner Steve Nelson said since the brewery opened, he recalls only one time when the grain went to the landfill. "Joe isn't the only one who comes and takes it. We've got other regulars who will use it for feed. It's great we can help them out, it's a give back to the community partnership which we've always believed in."

So not only are there a lot of happy customers at Old School Brewing, with 16 different brews on tap, there's an expanded group of four-legged customers who are happy too.

Julie Thorson of Tassi Communications, Inc. contributed to this story.

## McClintock Fireplace Services files as new business

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Assumed Name**  
**Publication Notice**

Certificate 34391 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on January 25, 2022 wherein the business name of McClintock Fireplace Services, located at 25640 McGowan Woods Rd., Minooka, IL 60447 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: William L. McClintock  
Owner Address: 25640 McGowan Woods Rd., Minooka, IL 60447  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at this 7th day of January, 2022.

Deborah Butler  
Notary Public  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, and 9, 2022.

## Attorney Lynch files Sobun 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  
BLANCHE E. SOBUN, DECEASED; No.  
21P1119

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Blanche E. Sobun. Letters of Office were issued to Thomas J. Sobun whose address is 2672 Canyon Drive, Plainfield, Illinois 60586, as Independent Executor whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of July, 2022, 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 claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch  
For the Estate of Blanche E. Sobun, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch  
1861 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-725-8000  
Atty No.: 06275404  
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 12, 19 and 26, 2022.

# Mask

extracurricular activities. Attorney Kathleen Gibbons, who represents one of the districts, said the potential harm of possibly spreading COVID-19 by not requiring everyone to wear a mask is too great.

"These decisions do not affect just these individual students and their parents, they affect all the rest of the children in [school districts], all the teachers, all the staff and all the parents and other family members in those homes," Gibbons said.

But Will Gerber, an attorney who is also representing some parents, said students' rights should not be taken away based on hypotheticals.

"[The mandate] is allowing schools to take healthy children out of school, remove them from public education, without the right to be heard," Gerber said.

The lawsuit versus Wilmington 209U was filed by DeVore on behalf of Kasey and Jeremiah Martin, Marissa and Gregory Hall, Cara Devens, Elizabeth Del Real, Brandi and David Schlieper, Nicole and Joel Marchio, Jessica Turk, and Samantha Smith, and on behalf of their minor children.

In Elwood, the lawsuit was filed by Danielle and Ryan Keuch, Jodi Bruno, Heidi Fullriede, Danielle Grenck, and Vanessa Rossolillo, and on behalf of their minor children. All the parents listed in the suit filed for themselves "as well as on behalf of all other parents and guardians of students similarly situated," the lawsuit states.

The defendants include all 145 named school districts, including Wilmington 209U, Elwood 203, Manhattan 114, Minooka 201, Minooka 111, Plainfield 202, Naperville 203, Herscher 2, Bradley Bourbonnais 303, and Channahon 17, as well as the IDPH, IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, the ISBE, state superintendent Dr. Carmen I. Ayala, and Gov. JB Pritzker.

Illinois is one of 13 states that still requires masks for children attending public schools. Sangamon County Circuit Court Judge Raylene Grischow said not to expect a ruling before Friday, Jan. 28.

The Center Square contributed to this report.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor

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## Sheriff's sale of 31330 S. Seltzer Rd.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

1 OAK RICHLAND LLC, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
RODOLFO BOTELLO A/K/A RODOLFO BOTELLO, Defendant.  
No. 21 CH 0070

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**  
Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 25th day of August, 2021, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 3rd day of February, 2022, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

THAT PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SOUTH HALF; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 292.24 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 38 SECONDS WEST, 273.03 FEET, PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH HALF; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 40 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 38 SECONDS EAST, 53.03 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH HALF; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, 252.24 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE EAST LINE OF SAID QUARTER TO THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTH HALF; THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 55 MINUTES 38 SECONDS EAST, 220 FEET ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH HALF TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 31330 S. Seltzer Rd., Wilmington, IL 60481  
Description of Improvements: Single Family Home  
P.I.N.: 13-19-30-200-008-0000  
Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

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

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

**FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**  
NOONAN and LIEBERMAN  
33 N. LASALLE STREET SUITE 1150  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602  
P: 312-431-1455  
F: 312-431-1450  
Mike Kelley,  
Sheriff of Will County  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 12, 19 and 26, 2022.

# Water makes paper, paper makes money

Take Water Street north, go under the tracks and look in front of you. The ruins that you see were once the place where money was made and lots of it.



TIME WAS....  
Sandy Vasko

It was prime location for any business that could use the water power of Forked Creek and the Kankakee to move gears and produce goods. Put on your wayback glasses and look around, it all looked different then.

Mayor Dr. Trott purchased that lot in 1875. There had been a nut and bolt factory there, but it had gone out of business in less than two years. We read, "It appears that Dr. Trott has purchased the "nut and bolt factory" property, and is casting about with a view to establishing a paper mill in that building.

The doctor is in correspondence with practical men and it is to be hoped that his efforts will be successful. Now, gentlemen, is an opportunity for organizing a stock company in an enterprise that will pay."

"It will manufacture what is known as "straw board," for boxes, etc. As to its requirements, it will consume an average of 8 tons of straw, and 7 tons of coal, daily. As to the number of operatives to be employed, we are not posted."

"Now, a word to you grangers. This enterprise will make a market for all the straw you can raise. The market is

already established for the product of the mill, and its success does not at all depend on local demand.

Rye straw is preferable to oat straw, and will command \$1 (\$25 today) more per ton; present prices paid are \$5 (\$123) for rye and \$4 (\$99) for oat; inasmuch as some 3,000 tons per year are required, farmers will do well to consider this starting at once."

It wasn't long before teamsters were being hired to haul straw from all over the area. In fact, they made it into a real contest, "Billy Stewart, the "boss" driver of the "boss" mule team in town, hauled the "boss" load of straw to the paper mill last Friday.

The load weighed 5,200 pounds, net. "Billy" says the boys needn't kill their teams trying to beat that, for they can't do it, still, if anyone is foolhardy enough as to put on an extra 10 pounds, he will go out and show them what a 4-ton load looks like."

How was the straw converted into strawboard? Editor Conley took a tour and told us. "First we start with a load of straw. It was pitched onto a carrier, which carried it to the second story; there it was fed into a chopping box.

From there it was carried to the roof where it was fed through manholes into two large bleachers that were 8 1/2 ft. in diameter and 32 feet long.

After these tanks were

filled with straw, limewater was added and the tanks were rotated using waterpower, and heated using heat from the boiler."

"After 12 hours of cooking the mixture was discharged into a pit and transferred in small cars, not unlike coal cars, to the beater engines. There were 4 of those measuring 3 ft. by 3 ft. each.

There it is beaten until it turns into a jelly-like pulp. It then descended into a forming box, then onto a gauze cylinder where most of the water was removed. The remaining pulp was then thoroughly stirred and sent to a belt made of woolen blankets. Eventually the woolen blankets were brought together and the pulp was squeezed dry between them."

"After this, the newly formed sheets of straw board passed over 27 heated rollers, coming out the other end as hard and dry pieces of rough cardboard. It went through cutters, making it into cards 26" by 38".

Inspectors removed the imperfect sheets and recycled them. The good sheets were stacked in 50-pound stacks, and then loaded onto railroad cars for their trip east."

"At any one time 700 tons of straw were stacked outside. The lime was stored in a lime house. The power for the mill came from two water wheels on the millrace, 55 inches in diameter, with 72 four-inch fins, which put out 80-horse power each. The daily output of strawboard was seven tons."

But then came the news, "The startling and rapid tones

of the fire bell alarmed many Wilmington citizens on Sunday morning, June 28, 1879. "The paper mill's a-fire!" passed from mouth to mouth, and hundreds of feet hurried toward the scene, to find the fire in full possession of the mill.

The costly machinery rapidly became a heaping blackened pile of ruins, notwithstanding every effort of the hook and ladder company and scores of willing citizens."

"The buckets of the company - numbering 30 or 40 - were about the only ones on the ground, so all that the greater part of the crowd could do was to look on idly as the bucket brigade was formed from the river to the mill."

"The origin of the fire was unknown. At 10 minutes after 6 a.m. the only employee in the mill, Solomon Mead, filled a lamp at the oil tank, which contained three barrels of kerosene.

He then went below to the boiler room, to his usual Sunday morning work of cleaning out the boilers. Ten minutes later a man who was fishing close by discovered the flames and warned Mr. Mead, who saw the oil tank was on fire."

"He tried using the water pump, but it did not have the power and the flames quickly spread. Strangely enough thousands of tons of straw, stacked on the windward side of the building, survived the fire."

This story does not end here, more next time.

## Finance

Video gaming revenues are also up, with the city currently at 126% of its budgeted projection.

"Right now, I've got us at \$190,000 [at the end of the fiscal year]," Hoffman said. "We budgeted about \$100,000 [in gaming revenues], so we're nearly double where we thought we'd be. In years past, we have been anywhere from \$70,000 to \$130,000, but as of right now we've already surpassed that."

While those numbers represent higher than expected revenues, Hoffman said the story on expenditures is much of the same.

"In addition, we have about \$1.3 million in savings [in overall expenditures], and \$160,000 of that is meters. We thought we were going to do more meters than we did," he said.

Hoffman noted that much of the city's savings are in the water and sewer department, where some projects have been delayed,

keeping that money unspent until the next fiscal year. For example, work on a lift station and some structural work on the water plant was budgeted for this year, but will instead be added to next year's budget utilizing those same dollars.

Hoffman said the city was also able to bank some savings with a delayed bathroom project on the north island.

"Right now, they're doing preliminary engineering on the north island. But, it won't be built yet," he said, adding that the city had only spent a portion of the \$489,000 allocated to that project for engineering expenses, meaning a savings of \$314,000 will roll over to next year.

Overall, Hoffman said the positive financial outlook was due to a combination of savings and keeping to budgets across all departments.

"A lot of savings in various departments, and we're under budget in a lot of categories," he said. "So, it adds up."

The next meeting of the finance committee is Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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WITH YOUR STORY IDEAS

## WHS Student Council to host Feb. 17 blood drive

The Wilmington High School Student Council will be hosting its annual blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 17 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the small gym.

Blood donors can sign-up in advance online through <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results...> using the location code "wilmingtonhs" to receive an Amazon \$10 gift card as long as you provide an email.

Blood donors must be age 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and free from cold or flu symptoms on the day of donation. In Illinois, 16-year-olds may donate with written approval from a parent or guardian. Donors will be required to wear a mask while inside WHS.

Donors should bring a photo ID with proof of age. Those planning to donate should eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating.

## Kempes appointed to school board



Photo by Marney Simon

**WILMINGTON NATIVE** Lauren Kempes was sworn in as the newest member of the Wilmington School District 209-U Board of Education on Monday, Jan. 24 by board president Terry Anderson during a special meeting. Kempes replaces board member Katrina Plese, who resigned from the board after moving out of Florence Township. Kempes has a 20-month-old daughter who will eventually enter into 209-U, and said she was looking forward to playing an active role in the district. "Now is the time to get involved and advocate for the school district," she said. "I want to help make District 209-U a place where people want to stay." Kempes' appointment will run through spring 2023, when the remainder of the original term will be decided at the April 4, 2023 consolidated election. She is the daughter of Connie and Joe Hermes who both retired as a teacher and WHS principal, respectively, for District 209-U.

## Caring Closet to observe 10-year anniversary

A big anniversary is coming up for Our Caring Closet. On Feb. 1st, it will be ten years since the organization was first incorporated in Wilmington.

The community group is a non-profit that provides free clothing and household items to those in need.

It was founded when we realized that there was no place for children in need to get new clothes when their parents didn't have the money

to spare.

It started as a church group, and since then has grown to be a 100% volunteer-run, not for profit organization located at 205 N. First St., Wilmington.

No one takes a salary, and expenses like the rent are paid solely with financial contributions from the community. Our Caring Closet is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, except holidays.

## Gardner man killed in wreck

STAFF REPORT

An accident on I-55 Friday afternoon left a Gardner man dead and traffic jammed up through Wilmington for several hours.

The Illinois State Police reported that the preliminary investigation into the crash showed that Timothy Thomason, 36, of Gardener, was traveling northbound on I-55 around 11:45 a.m. on Jan. 21 when his sedan crashed into the back of a semi-truck.

The accident occurred around mile marker 244 in Elwood. As a result of the accident, I-55 was closed at River Road for the investigation, forcing all interstate traffic to exit the highway and travel through Wilmington on Route 53.

Will County Coroner Laurie Summers reported on Friday that Thomason was pronounced deceased on the scene. An autopsy was scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 22.

The final cause and manner of death will be determined at a later date pending police, autopsy and toxicology reports.

The incident remains under investigation by the Illinois State Police.

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## The Liberal takeover

Twenty six Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives are retiring and leaving office for the next election in 2022. Unhappy with the direction the Democrat party is headed with the Bernie Sanders liberal progressives taken over.

## Seven forged documents

WILMINGTON—While Republicans pretend to moan and groan about an alleged stolen election, it's been discovered that Republican electors in Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico and Pennsylvania submitted fraudulent documents falsely claiming that Trump won these states when Biden actually did. In other words, after all the hoopla about "Stop the Steal", the hard evidence indicates that Republicans, not Democrats, were the ones doing the stealing. It goes to show the extent of how big the "big lie" really was and that Republicans should hang their heads in shame. But of course they won't because as members of Trump's cult, Republicans do what they're told no matter how downright treasonous.

## Free, free, free

COAL CITY—It's free free free. I hate that phrase! All last September threw December we heard JJ scream it's "Free, free, free" hundreds of time a day. We all told ourselves, "Oh man I can't wait until everybody signs up for that insurance. Then we will not here those irritating words. But guess what, JJ is back. I am just hating the word free. I used to like JJ too. I cannot say that, any more. When Captain Kirk was doing it, it was with finesse. He didn't have to scream at you. I couldn't help but notice that JJ has dressed up now, more casual, and a full shave. The new commercial is cool now, if you turn the volume off. Just imagine he is telling a joke. And as for Joe D, I can't go there. It would hurt a lot. Sorry Joey.

## MLK Day

BRAIDWOOD—Republican Texas Governor Abbot pretended to pay homage to Martin Luther King Jr. But the restrictions on voting rights due to the Texas law Governor Abbot signed has resulted in the rejection of about half of voting applications in Travis, Harris and Bexar counties since the law went into effect. The people want to vote but are denied the vote. The dream of Martin Luther King Jr. is being slashed, shredder, hacked, mangled and dismembered. Our nation is going backward instead of forward. Is this American democracy? No, it's the oppressive tyranny of the Republican Party. Doug K.

## Must be frustrating

I read in the Kankakee paper detainees being held in a detention center in Kankakee through an agreement with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE will be moved to another facility outside Illinois or released. The Democrat court in Chicago denied any further stay of illegals between ICE and jail facilities affecting McHenry, Pulaski and Kankakee counties. The law was signed in August by Democrat Gov. J.B. Pritzker. How frustrating for law enforcement. They were here illegally and have committed crimes and our Governor and courts say it's OK. Why would anyone want a loved one to be a police officer or work in the prison system in today's society?

## The I-55 death trap

WILMINGTON—Another life lost in the deathtrap known as Interstate 55. Unfortunately, I have to drive it every day to get to work and I am amazed at the number of drivers who are on their phones flying down the interstate at 70 mph. It's not worth it people. But down your phones and pay attention. You may think you know this deadly stretch of interstate but you never know when there could be a backup and you're slamming on the brakes. My heart goes out to the family from Gardner who lost their loved one on Friday. Everyone needs to pay more attention.

## Enabling the criminals

BRAIDWOOD—Do you feel safe? All these

carjackings, shootings and smash-and-grabs happening at the mall means I will no longer be taking the kids there. What is happening to our country? The Democrats in Illinois keep pushing for police reform, meanwhile crime is growing with expressway shootings happening every time you turn on the news. Are they cracking down on these criminals? Heck no, the Democrats are doing the opposite by slapping an ankle bracelet on them and letting them back on the streets. That's not reform, that's what you call enabling.

## They can't read?

WILMINGTON—I am astonished that so many people in Wilmington are illiterate. Otherwise they would put a mask on before they entered a store. They can't read a sign that says please wear a mask.

## Dumbing up the works

WILMINGTON—West Virginia's population is a million less people than the city of Chicago. It's not fair that the dino Democrat name only Joe Manchin is dumbing up the works demanding bipartisanship when this current Republican party has no interest in anything the Democrats put forth. These Republicans were raised on the NFL, NASCAR, professional wrestling and the mantra, winning is the only thing. Bipartisanship requires cooperation and compromise. But these qualities are seen as weakness among this bunch of cruel bullies that must dominate their enemies because mercy is for the weak. So, Manchin must give up his fantasy of Republican cooperation and start thinking about the rest of the country.

## Shipped from China

COAL CITY—President Biden decided to follow the new Fauci white mask N95 mandate as he continues to spend billions with the Covid variants continuing. He ordered millions of masks made in China.

## On a whim

WILMINGTON—The Senate needs to get rid of the filibuster. It's not in the Constitution and it's current form has only been in place since 1970. It flies in the face of majority rule. If it has to stay it should be returned to the tradition of speaking on the floor with no break like Jimmy Stewart did in that movie. Use words and not just threaten to stop legislation on the whim of one Senator.

## Politics in schools

COAL CITY—If the Chicago Teachers Union takes federal dollars they should be held accountable for their handling of all Chicago schools. If not doing right for the Chicago parents and taxpayers, they should be de-unionized, plain and simple. Too much politics in our school systems.

## Minnesota nice

WILMINGTON—Did you hear about the chain of more than 900 cars at the Dairy Queen drive-thru that paid for the food for the car behind them? This optional 'pay-it-forward' lasted 2 days and took place in Brainerd, MN about a year ago. It started randomly by one customer and continued as an opportunity for each following customer. Of course, if you've ever been to Minnesota you probably know about the kindness that people refer to as 'Minnesota nice'. Just think of Betty White's character on the TV show The Golden Girls. It gives us hope that our country will return to those days of compassion and reject the divisiveness of Trump.

## They're old news

SHADOW LAKES—Penny, "Could be" and "Maybe" are not facts, they are your dreams. Putin is interfering in every free world election, it's what he does. And then he lets you know he's doing it to make you wonder if our elections are fair and you can see it works. Trump, like Obama and Clinton, are not president. I let them go as old news, you should try it. Eddie

## Read the Bible

SHADOW LAKES—This message is to all the extreme right and extreme left and the ones



in the middle. Billy Graham, one of the greatest evangelist of all time, made a statement: He does not worry about the future because he read the Bible. Dan Hill

## Couldn't remember

WILMINGTON—Listening to Biden's speech yesterday which he tripped up and couldn't remember things and had to keep looking back to his book in front of him. He did make a statement that said he didn't know if the next election would be legit. So what do you liberal, progressive Democrats have to say about this?

## As a soldier, yes

SHADOW LAKES—This in regards to the sound-off column in this week's newspaper about me talking about government mandates which related back to a previous article about having to register for the draft and then today having to take vaccinations. Yes we did, because the vaccinations were because the majority of us were going to be leaving the country. But there has never been a vaccine, medication demand in my lifetime for people who are born and lived in this country. And as far as Penny Lane goes, quoting me about Eddie, whoever Eddie is, I think Penny Lane whoever he, she or it is, had better study their history. I'm sure he, she or it has never served this country. Dan Hill

## Dumb and dumber

BRAIDWOOD—After the huge national debt resulting from Trump's tax cut for the wealthy, all 50 Senate Republicans joined Democrats a month ago to modify the filibuster so as to raise the debt ceiling, but last week not a single Senate Republican voted to modify the filibuster for voting rights. And double disgrace goes to the twins of shame, Democrats Manchin and Sinema, the latter who is simply stupid and the former who is simply cruel. Sinema cannot explain herself and Manchin cares more about his Maserati than his poverty-stricken constituents in West Virginia and doesn't know that almost half of voting applications, specifically in Texas, are already being denied. Greed and gluttony, dumb and dumber. Mike

## Refreshing

WILMINGTON—When it comes to press conferences, former President Trump rarely held them. He preferred to launch bombastic

declarations on Twitter from the comfort of his bedroom where the press couldn't challenge him. When in front of reporters, Trump lashed out, insulted them individually and blamed the nation's problems on whatever scapegoat came to mind. His press secretaries also treated the media with contempt thereby disgracing the freedom of the press. Thank you, President Biden for the longest press conference in the nation's history and doing so with dignity, confidence and skill. What a refreshing change after the previous four years. K. L.

## We the people

COAL CITY—These words are recognized by the majority of American citizens. But they don't seem to matter to choice individuals or groups of seemingly well wishing individuals. As we have seen in the press and super media, we do not. In the past few years, we have seen only a couple of prosecutions for obstruction of civil rights by a convicted person for killing or to be the cause of another's death. Such as in a manslaughter or vehicular death cases. So the problem as I see it lands on the doorstep of the "DOJ." That is the Department Of Justice as we know it. But to the lawyers it means big lawsuits, with big pay checks. And big stories for the media. Why aren't all convicted murderers and manslaughters also charged with depriving someone of there civil rights to live. No matter if you are white, black, yellow, brown, no matter what your skin color is. Even green, when they choose reveal themselves. And if I read the Constitutions correctly. That also means liberty, and justice for all.

## Rules for teen drivers

WILMINGTON—I read where they're talking in Springfield about making more rules for teenagers before they can get a driver's license. I say it's about time. Teenage drivers need more experience before they should be given the keys to the car because they put the rest of us drivers at risk. One thing I think they should do is fine any driver under 18 years old who gets behind the wheel while talking on a cell phone because it is a major distraction. Also anyone of all ages caught on the phone while driving should have their phone taken away for two weeks. If people knew that then they'd not get on the phone.

# Republicans want crime reform bill repealed

BY BETH HUNSDORFER  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Republicans are calling for their Democratic counterparts in the Illinois House to join them in efforts to repeal criminal justice reforms, known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act, commonly known as the SAFE-T Act.

Representatives. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, and Deanne Mazzochi, R-Elmhurst, joined House GOP Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, at a news conference Thursday, Jan. 20 to announce their support for legislation, House Bill 4499, introduced a week ago, to repeal the SAFE-T Act.

"Spain called the SAFE-T Act "damaging and dangerous with real consequences for the people of the state of Illinois."

Democratic proponents of the SAFE-T Act, who called the effort by super minority Republicans "all for show," pointed out that many of the substantive changes created by the bill had not yet taken effect.

That includes a measure that would eliminate cash bail in favor of a pre-trial detention method that prioritizes aspects such as the level of danger a suspect poses rather than their ability to post bail. The exact parameters for pre-

trial detention will be determined by the courts. That measure takes effect in January 2023.

The original SAFE-T Act also changed use-of-force guidelines for law enforcement, created a new police certification system and expanded detainee rights.

Spain said crime has skyrocketed in Illinois with increases in retail theft, carjacking and murders, citing 800 murders last year in Chicago.

"Illinois has become the wild, wild Midwest," Durkin said.

Tweaks to the bill, including a measure passed last year diluting some of the use-of-force language in the original bill, aren't good enough, the Republicans said on Thursday, and the SAFE-T Act should be repealed entirely. Mazzochi said it would only take a few Democrats to cross over to get it done.

"Repeal is a realistic solution. The original, underlying legislation passed with a bare minimum of 60 votes," Mazzochi said. "... It almost didn't pass the first time."

The bill, supported by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, passed on Jan. 13, 2021, one year to the day the bill to repeal it was filed.

The Black Caucus countered the SAFE-T Act made the justice system fairer for minorities, according to statement released after the press

conference on Thursday. The statement went on to say they continue to work with law enforcement groups, including by passing two follow-up measures.

"...When fully implemented, experts say the SAFE-T Act will help improve public safety by supporting a more holistic approach for first-responders. Instead of coming up with solutions to address crime, Republicans are just trying the same racial scare tactics we see across the country," Democrats said in a statement.

Durkin and Windhorst, both former prosecutors, said the bill made the state more dangerous. Durkin said Democrats would have to answer to their constituents for the bill's passage and Republicans would use public safety as an issue in upcoming elections.

Earlier this month, an amendment passed to clarify issues related to detainee phone calls, pretrial services and moving back effective dates for body cameras and police decertification. The House voted 67-42 to approve the Senate amendment.

Spain said the Safe-T Act will have half of the county sheriffs in Illinois leaving their posts and has left city and county police departments scrambling to recruit and retain officers after a wave of resignations in the wake of the bill's passage.

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# FAMILY

## NEW ARRIVAL



### John (Jack) Francis Schmucker

JP and Amy Schmucker, of Estero, FL, are proud to announce the birth of their son, John (Jack) Francis Schmucker, born Dec. 24, 2021 at Healthpark Hospital in Ft. Myers, FL. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and was 21" long.

Maternal grandparents are John F. and Mary A. Kerulis, of Wilmington. Paternal grandparents are Pat and Kathleen Schmucker, of Wilmington.

## Kerulis, Lathum united in marriage

Madison Ann Lathum and Joseph Telesfore Kerulis, of Birmingham, AL were united in marriage on Oct. 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at Region's Field in Birmingham, AL. Pastor Greg Darden of Faith Presbyterian Church in Germantown, TN performed the ceremony. Daniel Akin played the bagpipes.

The bride is the daughter of Sharon Perry Lathum and Mike (Tina) Lathum, all of Germantown. The groom is the son of John and Mary Kerulis, of Wilmington.

The bride wore a full-length white, A-line wedding gown with lace detail on the top half of the dress. The dress was sleeveless, with a v-neckline and an open back, with button detail going all the way down the back and down the train. The flowers were white, cream and dusty blue, with a mixture of roses, hydrangeas, eucalyptus and many other flowers.

Maid of honor was Morgan Lathum, the bride's sister, of Germantown, TN. Matron of Honor was Caroline Cole, friend of the bride, of Birmingham. Bridesmaids were Bailey Pinckernell, of Memphis, TN; Hayden Gregg, of Spanish Fort AL and Lennea Kite, of Birmingham; Axee Lambert, of Birmingham and Aimee Hadley, of Bay Minette, AL, all friends of the bride and Amy Schmucker, sister of the groom, of Estero, FL.

The bridesmaids wore full-length dusty blue dresses, all wearing a different style and their bouquets looked like smaller versions of the bride's.

Co-Best Men were John Kerulis, brother of the groom, of Wilmington and Anthony Parkman, the groom's friend, of Monroe, GA. Groomsmen were David Plaxco, of Daphne, AL; Collin Reaves and Tyler English, both of Birmingham; Logan Spangler, of St. Louis, MO; Matt Figora, of Colorado, all friends of the groom and JP Schmucker, of Estero, the groom's brother-in-law.

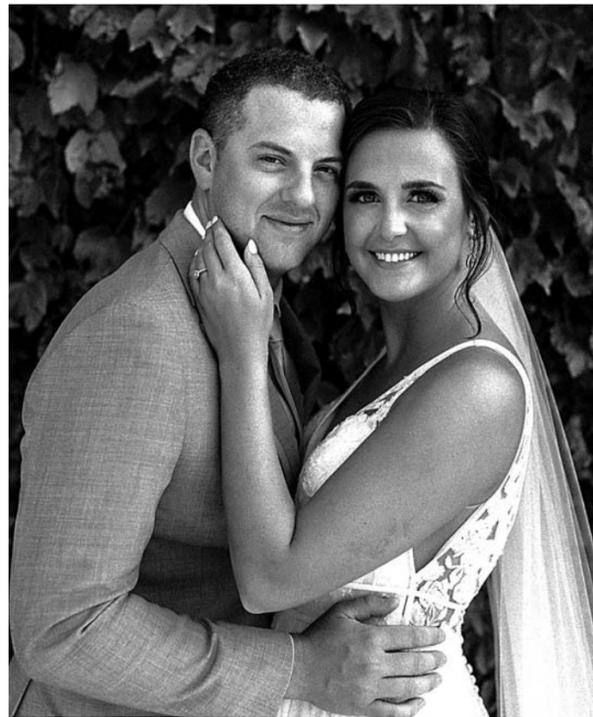
The groomsmen wore light gray suits, with white under shirts, a light gray bow tie and brown shoes. They had boutonnières of white flowers.

The reception was held in the same room as the ceremony, with a room-flip during the cocktail hour. The day-of wedding coordinator was Sidney Nomberg with the Engaged Wedding Library in Birmingham. The venue coordinator was Jennifer McGee with Events at Regions Field

The bride graduated from Auburn University in May 2018 with a B.A. in Public Relations and a minor in Marketing. She currently works as a Marketing Campaign Specialist at Altec Industries

The groom graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in August 2019 with a degree in Business Management and Sports Marketing. He currently works as a Territory Sales Manager at Devin Cahn Associates.

The couple honeymooned at Secrets Maroma Beach Riviera Cancun in October 2021. Their new address 5326 Willow Ridge Drive, Pinson, AL 35126



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kerulis

## MVK seniors meet

The MVK Seniors met Jan. 18, 2022 at the Mazon American Legion Hall for lunch through the CNN and supplied by The Whistle Stop in Diamond.

President Sherry McIntosh called the meeting to order and all gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. A silent prayer was said for the military, firemen, police and elected officials.

Happy Birthday was sung to June Elam and sent to Marlene Clappool.

The secretary and treasurer reports were read and

approved by Bob Hollenbeck and seconded by Rita Mills. Door prizes were won by Carol Bryant, Shirley Peterson and Linda Poppleton. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Linda Poppleton and seconded by Shirley Sterba.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022 with Euchre starting at 10:30 a.m. with Bingo following the business meeting.

Anyone older than 60 is invited to join for a small donation. Be sure to call CNN at 815-941-1590 and make a reservation.

## Murder mystery night returning Feb. 12 at Braidwood church

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood will again host a mystery night of fun for all to attend.

This casino-themed interactive evening will involve games for fun, food, drinks and entertainment. For an entry fee of \$25 participants will be assigned a character to dress and play as and will receive equal fun money to spend at the casino.

A mysterious twist will ensue, requiring the charac-

ters to figure out "who done it". The event will take place on Saturday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Fr. White Hall (Lady Lux Casino) 110 S. School Street, Braidwood.

Participants must be 21 years old and request their character choice by Feb. 5.

Entry forms can be found on the parish website icparishbraidwood.org/mystery-night or on Facebook at Immaculate Conception Braidwood.

## New COVID therapies available but scarce

Options for the treatment of coronavirus are changing quickly. Recently, the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] issued Emergency Use Authorizations [EAUs] that allow the use of two new antiviral COVID-19 therapies—Paxlovid and Molnupiravir.

These new therapies, as well as some existing medicines like Remdesivir, require a doctor's order and may be difficult to obtain.

The Will County Health Department reminds people who are interested in any COVID-19 therapy need to

consult with their healthcare provider. When talking to their doctor, people should make sure they understand the potential risks and benefits of any COVID-19 therapy.

Supplies of all COVID-19 therapies are very limited. The "Covid-19 Outpatient Therapy Locator" page on the Illinois Department of Public Health website can help locate outpatient therapy.

Even with these new medicines, the best way to avoid severe illness from COVID-19 remains being up to date with vaccination recommendations—including a booster.

## For some, money owed for unpaid fines won't come out of Illinois tax refunds

BY KYLE KIMBALL  
THE CENTER SQUARE

For the second year in a row, Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza's office will allow low-income Illinois earners the option to defer payment of certain fines and fees.

Hardship brought on by the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic is the reason.

For the tax year 2021, that means a family of four, consisting of a single parent with three children, earning \$57,414 or less, or a single person earning \$21,430 a year or less, won't have outstanding

fees or fines withheld from their income tax refund.

"Payments on things like parking tickets, your water bill, certain court fees qualify for the deferral and will not be withheld from taxpayers' state refund checks," Mendoza said.

This is not, however, a debt forgiveness, something the Comptroller's office has no power to do.

What's more, things like child-support payments will still be collected for distribution in a timely fashion.

At this point, the Comptroller's office does not expect the deferrals to continue beyond this year.

## Wanted: Your engagement or wedding announcement

There is no charge to submit an engagement, wedding or anniversary announcement with a photo in this newspaper. Forms are available for these special occasions at 111 S. Water Street, Wilmington; 271 S. Broadway, Coal City; or at [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com) -> Submit-> (choose your form). for details call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315 or email [news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)

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# Local students named to NIU fall 2021 dean's list

Northern Illinois University in Dekalb, IL has announced its fall 2021 dean's list students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Local students named on the list are Stormi Ham and Alicia LaRouech, of Coal City; Alex Gernenz and Zoe Noonan, of Mazon; Allison Neumann and Nicole Neumann, of Morris; and Rachel Day and Anthony Romano, of Wilmington.

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# Going back to basics with the IBA Official Margarita

It's never too early on the calendar to enjoy your first Margarita of the year. Summer may be months away, I won't let that stop us from getting an early start on Margarita season.

This week we are going back to basics by pouring the "official" Margarita, not one of the pink or blue sugar-laden chain restaurant concoctions marketed as "Margaritas".

Wait, there's an "official" recipe? Who determines which recipe is the official recipe?

There is a governing body that determines what is, and is not included in recipes for certain cocktails. The organization overseeing the official lists of cocktails and recipes is the International Bartenders Association, or the IBA.

The Association was founded in Torquay, UK in 1951 and originally consisted of bar professionals from 7 European countries. Over the last seven decades the Association has grown to include members from 64 countries, with 3 additional observing countries.

Have you ever read the term "IBA official" in reference to a cocktail or cocktail recipe?

The IBA recognizes a around 80 official cocktails in three categories: The

Unforgettables, Contemporary Classics, and New Era Drinks. The "New Era" category is updated when the association deems a cocktail worthy of inclusion.

So, despite the nearly infinite number of Margarita recipes, what is the official recipe according to the experts from the IBA?

The IBA official Margarita recipe calls for three ingredients: 100% agave tequila, triple sec, and freshly squeezed lime juice. The type of triple sec to be used is unspecified, but the IBA recipe specifies 100% agave tequila as opposed to a blended tequila. The recipe also specifies that the lime juice is freshly squeezed.

A bit of label reading will guide you in your search for the perfect Margarita tequila. If the words "100% Agave" appear on the label, it's a respectable tequila and will make a nice addition to your Margarita. If those magic words appear on the label it means that 100% of the alcohol content is distilled from the agave plant. If the tequila is not 100% agave, it will con-



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
 Brian Rung

tain artificial coloring, artificial flavoring, and who knows what else.

The beginning price point for the 100% agave tequila brands that are found in most bars is around \$20 depending on state and local taxes. Some ideal brands for Margarita mixing include Olmeca Altos, El Amo, Jimador, and Don Julio.

Triple Sec is a specific type of orange liqueur, but not all orange liqueurs are triple secs. Many restaurants use orange curacao, or even a splash of orange juice to build citrus notes into the drink instead of using a proper triple sec. The reason that triple sec specifically is used in the Margarita is that the orange flavor is more of a bitter orange or orange peel rather than a sweet orange flavor.

Cointreau is the best and most popular triple sec on the market, but that quality comes with a price tag. The next best option at less than half the price is Bol's Triple Sec. If you are going to make Margaritas a regular part of your home bar service, go ahead and spring for a bottle of Cointreau.

In addition to listing specific ingredients for the IBA official cocktails, the Association also provides instruction for preparation: Add all ingredients into a shaker with ice, shake and strain into a chilled cocktail glass.

Be sure to give this one a good shake. Tequila by nature has a bit of a burn to it, even the good stuff. Shaking with ice for 10-20 seconds will give just the right amount of dilution to all three of the ingredients which will yield a more balanced drink.

Can you add a splash of orange juice? Sure, most restaurants do. Blue curacao? Add 1/2 oz. for a "Moonlight Margarita". What about adding Jalapeno? The sky is the limit, it's your Margarita.

Seriously though, try the basic Margarita first. You may find it to be "just right".

The **IBA Official Margarita** is built in a shaker, served in a chilled cocktail glass.

- Combine in shaker:
- 1 3/4 oz 100% agave tequila
  - 3/4 oz triple sec
  - 3/4 oz fresh lime juice
- Shake with ice, strain into chilled glass over fresh ice  
 Garnish with lime wheel  
 Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

# Next phase of construction along I-80 to begin

State to invest \$32 million into I-80 road improvements

BY GRACE KINNICUTT  
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Gov. JB Pritzker announced the next phase of construction along the Interstate 80 corridor that will modernize Houbolt Road in Joliet.

The state investment in the public-private partnership is \$32 million, according to the governor, who continues to highlight the ongoing benefits of one of his major first-year legislative accomplishment, the Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure plan. The infrastructure plan passed with bipartisan support in 2019.

The state's investment will widen the road and reconfigure the I-80 interchange into a diverging, diamond design.

"This project will go a long way to alleviate congestion and improve safety," Omer Osman, Illinois Department of Transportation director, said. "The work that will be taking place here over the next several years is transformational."

Improvements are expected to minimize emissions caused by traffic, cut down a long commute, make the daily drive safer and provide more business to the surrounding



Photo courtesy of Office of Gov. JB Pritzker  
**GOV. JB PRITZKER announces that the state is investing \$32 million to help rebuild the I-80 interchange during a virtual news conference Thursday. The interchange is expected to alleviate congestion and improve safety for drivers.**

communities.

"These improvements are making it safer and more efficient for truck drivers [and] tens of thousands of commuters and families who drive this interstate as they navigate their daily lives," Pritzker said.

CenterPoint Properties, an inland port where goods are

transferred between freight trains, is investing up to \$170 million that will go towards building a new toll bridge on Houbolt Road over the Des Plaines River. The toll bridge will provide I-80 access to CenterPoint's intermodal facilities in Joliet and Elwood that will bring more opportunities

to workers, logistic companies and industries that rely on the infrastructure of the region.

"I'm happy to see the progress being made on the construction of the Houbolt Road Bridge. We know, moving forward, the critical role this will play as development continues around the two intermodal ports in our region," Joliet Mayor Bob O'Dekirk said.

A portion of I-80 to U.S. Route 6 is expected to be completed this October with a portion of I-80 and the interchange to be completed by the summer of 2023.

Work is expected to begin on Houbolt Road with relocating utilities this winter followed by construction in the spring. Houbolt Road construction is part of Rebuild Illinois' vision to rebuild 16 miles of I-80 over the next six years. Construction along I-80 began this past summer that replaced more than 50-year-old infrastructure.

The project is part of Rebuild Illinois that is expected to invest \$33.2 billion into the state's aging transportation system, create jobs and promote economic growth. It is the largest program in state history to improve all modes of transportation across the state.

The city of Joliet will oversee the \$33.5 million Houbolt Road project.

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# How wind farms are impacting our wildlife

Dear EarthTalk:  
Has anyone figured out how to build wind farms that don't negatively impact birds, bats and other wildlife? Does building them off-shore help?  
-- Mary B, Hyannis, MA



Scientists are focusing their efforts on site analysis, species monitoring and wildlife deterrents. Large birds of prey are the bird species most at risk. In response, some wind farm developments are incorporating new technology that can recognize eagles, hawks and other raptors as they approach in enough time to pause any turbines in the flight path. This tool, called Identiflight, can detect 5.62 times more bird flights than human observers alone, and with an accuracy rate of 94 percent.



**GENERATING CLEAN, renewable wind power is all well and good except for the killing of birds and bats — but new technologies to mitigate wildlife strikes are giving hope to clean power advocates.**

As the U.S. tackles the issues of climate change, the Biden administration is investing in wind power as a key strategy for sustainably meeting the country's energy needs. Federal officials estimate that the U.S. coastline could host 30,000 megawatts of wind energy by 2030, which would be enough energy to power as many as 10 million American homes.

Wind power is a necessary tool for fighting climate change, but it can be a threat to birds. A 2013 study by the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute found wind turbines to be responsible for killing up to 328,000 birds annually in the U.S. alone.

Bats, another species playing a vital role in ecosystems, are also seeing negative impacts by wind farms. Research has shown that larger, migratory bats are at the greatest risk. In response to these problems, the federal government has allocated \$13.5 million specifically earmarked to addressing the impact of windfarms on birds, bats and marine species.

Developing the best strategies for protecting bats is a bit more of a challenge, but the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is investigating migratory bat behavior with an interdisciplinary approach that will analyze migratory movements, mating and feeding behaviors to determine if they can find patterns that play a role in turbine collisions.

Locating wind farms offshore has been identified as a potential solution to species loss caused by on-land wind turbines. But as with any man-made structure, it is important to subject this potential solution to environmental impact assessments to have a clear understanding of the risks and possible benefits.

One study in the United Kingdom found evidence that offshore wind farms could actually increase biodiversity if siting and timing of construction are chosen carefully. The study describes the structures acting as artificial reefs, mimicking natural habitat that can then be colonized by a diverse set of species.

Indeed, as we move towards utilizing more renewable energy, efforts to mitigate impacts on wildlife and surrounding ecosystems will take on increased importance to optimize the overall benefit to humanity and the environment we depend up on to sustain us.

EarthTalk® is a Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

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## Masonic Lodge encourages reading



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE WILMINGTON MASONIC LODGE awarded a new bike and safety equipment to Sophia Naughton, a kindergarten student at Bruning Elementary School, Wilmington. Presenting Sophia with her prize are (from left) Masons Jim Strong - senior warden and Jeff Cromer - secretary, who noted that the bike was her reward for reading so many books. Teachers tracked her reading as part of the Pedals for Progress incentive by the Masons. For eight years they have rewarded two bikes per school year to top-reading students. Funds for Pedals for Progress are raised during the annual Chili Cook-off which will be held Sunday, Feb. 6 from 4-7 p.m. at the lodge, 311 N. Main St., Wilmington.

## Weekend lane closures on eastbound I-80

The Illinois Department of Transportation said repairs and pavement patching on eastbound Interstate 80 in Joliet will require lane closures beginning, weather permitting, Friday, Jan. 28. Major travel delays are anticipated, and alternative routes are encouraged.

Starting at 10 p.m. Friday, lane closures will take place on eastbound I-80, between Wheeler Avenue and Briggs Street.

Additionally, the entrance ramp from Chicago Street (U.S.52/Illinois 53) to eastbound I-80 will be closed. During that time, a detour will direct motorists to U.S. 52 and Richards Street to access the expressway.

At least one eastbound

lane will remain open at all times and westbound I-80 will not be impacted. The ramp and all lanes are anticipated to reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, Jan. 31.



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## Angelee needs a home

MEET ANGELEE (aka Nala), she has been with her foster mom since August and has adjusted well to her comfy life of toys, bones, and lots of cuddles. She is good with other dogs and has been good around kids as well. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at [hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com](mailto:hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com).



## Masons to host annual chili-cook off, bake sale

The Wilmington Masonic Lodge #208 will host its annual chili cook-off and bake sale on Sunday, Feb. 6, from 4 to 7 p.m., at 311 N. Main St.

The tasting and a bowl of house chili will be \$10. Children over the age of 11 will be \$5, and those under 11 will eat free. Hot dogs will be \$1.

To register your best chili for the contest by calling Tony Collachia at 708-772-7312 or George Roesel 815-509-7001.

The Freemasons of Wilmington Lodge will donate the proceeds to the Bruning School Pedals for Progress.

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# OBITUARIES

## Carol Adducci

GARDNER—Carol Beth Adducci, 78, of Gardner, passed away on Jan. 18, 2022 at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago.

Born Nov. 22, 1943 in Evergreen Park, IL, she was the daughter of William Arthur and Dorothy Marie (Roberts) Herman. She was a long-time resident of Dolton and Manteno.

Carol is survived by her son, Gregg (Laura) Stephens; daughters, Lisa and Dawn; five grandchildren, including Kyle (Natalie) DeMik, Natalie (Mike Horn) Stephens and Jared Stephens; and two great-grandchildren, Liliana DeMik and Decker



DeMik.

She was preceded in death by her parents and longtime companion, Richard Stachyra.

Funeral services will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022 at 3 p.m. with a visitation beginning at 12 p.m.

For more information and to sign her online guestbook, log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Darlene M. Biniak

COAL CITY—Darlene M. Biniak "Doll," 85, of Coal City, (Central City) and formerly of Chicago, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 at Rock Run Place in Joliet.

Born April 5, 1936 in Chicago, Darlene was a daughter of Edward and Margaret (Vraney) Vesley. She was raised and educated in Chicago, and on Oct. 1, 1955, Darlene married John "Beans" Biniak in Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Chicago. She was a dedicated homemaker and wonderful seamstress.

Following Beans retirement, together, Doll and Beans made their new home in Central City. She was an active member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, and in recent years became involved with The Martha's. She and Beans were original members of the Wilmington Recreation Club, and the family served on the board of directors for many years. Darlene loved to snowmobile, as well as fish, and her love of fishing was evident throughout her entire married life beginning with her honeymoon in Canada to planning countless fishing trips over decades with family and friends. She loved to cook, and in recent years took great pride in sharing her recipe's and skills in the kitchen with her grandchildren. Darlene was a dedicated wife, loving mom and devoted grandma who will be remembered for always having the ability to make people laugh. Her legacy will forever live on in those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include two sons, Edward (Kerry) Biniak and Daniel (Cheryl) Biniak; nine grandchildren: Kristin (Bryan) Barrett, Alicia Bare, Ryan (Kelly) Biniak, Matthew (Kacie) Biniak,



Jessica Biniak, Jamie (Jay) Jaskiewicz, Joe (Anny) Biniak, Michael Biniak and Adam Biniak, and six great-grandchildren: Luke, Erin, Evan, Emma, Hannah and Hailey.

Darlene was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John (2015); son, Raymond Biniak (2008); daughter, Cheryl Bare (2016) and one brother, Wayne Vesely.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022 between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow on Friday morning, Jan. 28, 2022 at 10 a.m. in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presiding, and assisted by Deacon William Dunn.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Darlene will be laid to rest with her late husband, John.

Pallbearers will be: Ryan Biniak, Matthew Biniak, Joe Biniak, Michael Biniak, Adam Biniak and Jay Jaskiewicz.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Darlene's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431.

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

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

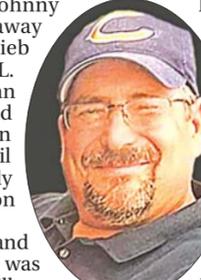
## John Boris

WILMINGTON—John Boris "Johnny B," 59, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park, IL.

Born Dec. 8, 1962 in Joliet, John Joseph was the son of Michael and Mildred Jean (Ashley) Boris. He began his primary education in Joliet until moving to Wilmington with his family where he graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1981.

John's career was in HVAC Sales and Service, and throughout the years he was employed with Ferguson in Naperville, as well as Excelsior Supply in Joliet. He was a member of First Christian Church in Wilmington, and will most be remembered for his love of music. A true drummer at heart, John was a member of the house band at The Rustic, and played in various bands including: Redliner, The Trend, Junkyard Dogs and Whatever. He loved the outdoors, enjoyed scuba diving around the globe and was a lover of animals, especially his dogs. Gone from our sight, John's unforgettable personality will live on in all of us who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife, Julie, who he married July 16, 1994; son, SFC Nicholas Orr, USA (Tracey), of Fairview Heights, IL; six grandchildren: Alexis Orr, Nicholas "Joey" Orr Jr., Gracie Orr, Cannon Orr, Keenan Orr and Jessica Jeffries; one sister, Linda Born (Michael) of Bourbonnais; two brothers, Michael Boris (Jan), of Morris and Robert Boris (Eileen), of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Lester Forsythe (Carolyn), of France; Ron



Forsythe (Mary), of Marseilles; Susan Roach (Michael), of Camden, TN and Delana Forsythe, of Big Sandy, TN.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Michael and Mildred Boris; son, Kevin Orr; sister, Carol Boris and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Lester and Shirley Forsythe.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 from 4 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 7 p.m.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live-stream or watch on-demand through a link available on John's memorial page.

Private family burial will follow in Bakers Chapel Church Cemetery in Big Sandy, TN, where John will be laid to rest with his father-in-law and mother-in-law.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Wounded Warriors Project or through the memorial contribution link on the memorial page.

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

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

## Ida Davis

WILMINGTON—Ida Fae Davis, 92, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born April 12, 1929 in London, KY, Ida Fae was a daughter of James Franklin and Aggie Drucilla (Hamblin) Higginbotham. She was raised in Noblesville, IN and graduated from Noblesville High School. On Nov. 24, 1950 Fae married Lewis "Kelly" Davis and together they made their home and raised their family in Wilmington. She worked on the line at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant and later gained employment with Johnson and Johnson Personal Products from where she retired following 20 years of service. Throughout the years, Fae also worked at Tenn's Store in Wilmington during the holiday seasons. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington, and will be remembered for her cooking, especially that of fried chicken, her potato salad and cherry cheese cake.

A 30 year breast cancer survivor, Fae babysat for many kids throughout the years. She enjoyed camping at the Wilmington Recreation Club and the Miners Club, gardening and canning. She and Kelly took pleasure in wintering in Lake Placid Florida for many years, where she participated in various craft pastimes.

Survivors include three children: Pamela Sue Kammann, of Limestone and Steven L. (Cynthia) Davis and John Kevin Davis, both of Wilmington; 10 grandchildren: Lisa Marie (Brad) Raymond, Sara (Eric) Rabideau, Heather Davis, Kathryn Davis, Patrick Davis, Shawn Davis, Josh Davis, Kellie Jean (Mark) Adams, Erin Michelle (Andrew) Molloy and Molly Rose



Davis; eight great-grandchildren: Alyvia Marie Raymond, Carter Raymond, Dominick J. Rabideau, Danicka Rabideau, Alexis Tinsley, Jacob Cerruti, Lillian Autumn Davis and Hayden A. Molloy; one sister-in-law, Shirley Higginbotham of Noblesville, IN and numerous nieces and nephews.

Fae was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Kelly on Nov. 28, 2011; son, Ronald on Dec. 13, 2013; son-in-law, James Kammann; sister, Laura Sylvia in infancy; four brothers: Monroe, Charles, Glen and Douglas and a niece, Ruthann Higginbotham.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022 from 4 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 6 p.m. Reverend Harriette Cross from the First United Methodist Church in Wilmington will officiate. A private family interment will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Thursday, where Fae will be laid to rest with her late husband, Kelly.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live-stream or view on-demand after the conclusion of the services by following the link on Ida's memorial page.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Fae's memory to the American Cancer Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Fae's memorial page online through social media. Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Mary Jane Davy



WILMINGTON—Mary Jane Davy (nee Krauss), 92, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully with her family by her side, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022 at her home.

She was born Aug. 7, 1929 in Joliet. Mary retired from Deaton-Kennedy in Joliet in July of 1989. She kept busy with volunteering for many organizations, such as baking cookies for "Mom's Cookies" which were sent to soldiers overseas and she also volunteered 25 years at the Manteno Veterans Home. She was past president and lifetime member of the Wilmington VFW Post #5422 and the American Legion Women's Auxiliary. Mary enjoyed cooking, baking, and most importantly spending time with her family.

Surviving are two sons, Richard (Racquel) Princko, of Wilmington and George (Teresa) Princko, of Kentucky Lake, KY; daughter-in-law, Jill Princko, of Wilmington; two grandchildren, Jamie Princko and Jason (Deanna) Princko; four great-grandchildren: Keleila, Jadyne, Makiah,



and Arynna Princko; one great-great-grandchild, Makhli Beels and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her paternal grandparents who raised her, Caroline and John Krauss and her husband, David Davy (10/11/2018), who she married Nov. 11, 1967 in Wilmington.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial visitation for Mary will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 from 1 p.m. until the time of the memorial service at 3 p.m. Inurnment will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the Bank of Pontiac to be used for dinners at the VFW.

For more information and to sign her online guestbook, log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Merryon E. Marnell

MORRIS—Merryon E. Marnell (Braun), 95, of Morris, formerly of Burbank, IL, passed away Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

She was the loving wife of Walter J. Marnell for 76 years, who passed away Jan. 17, 2022.

She is survived by her children: James (Dee) Marnell, Sherry (Ben) Toman, Donna (Ted) Decker, Merrilly (Ken) Maloney, Karen (Tom) Sheridan and Chris (Sam) Rusenovich; grandchildren: Michael Marnell (Michelle), Brian Marnell (Kari), Carrie Piszro (Joe), Kevin Toman (Stacy), Debbie Pagoria (Mike), Lynn Terrell (Reese), Keith Decker, Steven Marnell, Laura Moll, John Marnell (Stacy), Melissa Hefner (Rob), Jean Kosch (Doug), Julie Kosch (Norb), Jenny Maloney, Tom Sheridan, Sam Rusenovich (Ewa) and Jim Rusenovich (Laura); great-grandchildren: Tyler, Mariah, Jesse, Brandon, Dylan, P.J., Kaylee, K.J., Anthony, Emily, Lexus, Christopher, Taylor, Ethan, Leah, Sadie, Claire, Haylee, Douglas, Jasmin, Kamryn, Kelleen,

Mike, Vinny, Max, and Lucas; great-great-grandchildren: Averie, Kobe, Mercedes, Dominic, Karson, and Oaklynn and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Clara Braun; brother, Richard Braun (Joan); brother, Thomas Braun (Carole); sister, Janet Welke (Charles); son, John Marnell (Becky), and grandson, Tony Sheridan.

Per Merryon's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and she will be laid to rest at Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery in Orland Park with her husband, Walter.

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

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

## Walter J. Marnell



MORRIS—Walter J. Marnell, 95, of Morris, formally of Burbank, IL, passed away on Monday, Jan. 17, 2022 at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

Walter enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard on Dec. 3, 1942 as an apprentice seaman. He was assigned to the USCG Cutter Modoc during World War II. He was honorably discharged on March 25, 1946 as Seaman 1st Class, earning the American Theater of War/Victory Medal and European Theater of War/Victory Medal.

He is survived by his children, James (Dee) Marnell, Sherry (Ben) Toman, Donna (Ted) Decker, Merrilly (Ken) Maloney, Karen (Tom) Sheridan, and Chris (Sam) Rusenovich; grandchildren: Michael Marnell (Michelle), Brian Marnell (Kari), Carrie Piszro (Joe), Kevin Toman (Stacy), Debbie Pagoria (Mike), Lynn Terrell (Reese), Keith Decker, Steven Marnell, Laura Moll, John Marnell (Stacy), Melissa Hefner (Rob), Jean Kosch (Doug), Julie Kosch (Norb), Jenny Maloney, Tom Sheridan, Sam Rusenovich (Ewa) and Jim Rusenovich (Laura); great-grand-

children: Tyler, Mariah, Jesse, Brandon, Dylan, P.J., Kaylee, K.J., Anthony, Emily, Lexus, Christopher, Taylor, Ethan, Leah, Sadie, Claire, Haylee, Douglas, Jasmin, Kamryn, Kelleen, Mike, Vinny, Max, and Lucas and great-great-grandchildren: Averie, Kobe, Mercedes, Dominic, Karson, and Oaklynn and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 76 years, Merryon, on Jan. 14, 2022; his mother, Josephine Marnell; son, John Marnell (Becky) and grandson, Tony Sheridan.

Per Walter's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and he will be laid to rest at Good Shepherd Catholic Cemetery in Orland Park with his wife, Merryon.

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

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

## Fred Richmond

MORRIS—Fred Richmond, 45, of Morris, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 at Morris Hospital, following an extended battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Born Oct. 9, 1976 in Joliet, Frederick Reed was a son of Barbara Jeanette Richmond (nee Cantrell), of Morris and Frederick Reed Richmond Sr. of Inverness, FL. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1994. Fred began his employment with R.R. Donnelly and continued on through their merger with LRI Logistics in Romeoville.

Fred loved basketball and took pleasure in Magic the Gathering Game, which he was a great collector. His greatest hobby and accomplishment was his daughter, Alexis, and he cherished spending time with her, as well as family.

Survivors include both of his parents, wife, Donna (nee DeBoard); daughter, Alexis; step-daughter, Becca Rathbun; four sisters: Christina Smith, of Marseilles; Cynthia (Bret) Barr, of Rinard; Angela Sartore, of Coal City and Clorisa Lynn (Jon) Yeakle, of Edwardsville; nieces: Jessica Kinser, Amanda Harrison, Hailey Yeakle and Aimee Barr; nephews: Mark (Stephanie) Salliez, Jason (Alicia) Kinser, Kyle Kinser, Jarrod Richmond and Nathan Yeakle; great-nieces: Danielle Kinser, Aubree Kinser, Izabella Salliez,



Zoe Harrison and Elisa Harrison and great-nephews: Cameron Harrison, Brendan Harrison, Michael Kinser, Christian Salliez, Austin Salliez and James Lee, as well as numerous aunts and uncles.

Fred was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, George Cameron and Henrietta (Haines) Cantrell; paternal grandparents, Bert Richmond and Pearl Brown; one sister, Carlena Richmond and his niece, Gayle Marie Kimmel.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Friday, Jan. 28, 2022 from 4 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 5 p.m.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live-stream or view on-demand after the conclusion of the services by following the link on Fred's memorial page.

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

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

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

## Milton Spaulding

FLORIDA—Milton Ross Spaulding, "Milt," 84, of Moore Haven, FL, formerly of Wilmington, Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022 after a long courageous battle with Parkinson's.

Born July 19, 1937 in Illinois, Milton was a son of Arthur and Leona (Scurrah) Spaulding. He worked at Uniroyal and retired from Northern Petrochemical in Morris. He was a member of the Moose and was an avid sportsman, who loved to fish and golf. He enjoyed karaoke, playing the guitar, going to the beach and hosting parties.

Survivors include his loving wife of 42 years, Mary; children: Tina (Rob) Murphy, of Wilmington; Tracy (Bill) Whitsel, of Moweaqua, IL; Jason Spaulding, of Moore Haven, FL and Peggy Johnson, of Joliet; grandchildren: Rachelle Nesbit, Aaron (Shannon) Sowa, Robbie



(Amanda) Murphy, Jake (Gina) Murphy, Erin (Robert Fultz) Murphy, Fabiola (Justin Smith) Trujillo and Tatiana (Sydney Harmeier) Garcia; 12 great-grandchildren, three great-great-grandchildren, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law; numerous nieces and nephews and special friends Gayle and Larry Cowan.

Milt was preceded in death by his parents, stepmother, Margaret, four brothers and his son, Donald.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Florida and Illinois at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made to Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation for Research at [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org) or to Trail of Hope Animal Rescue in Okeechobee, FL at <http://trailofhopeanimalrescue.org>.

# OBITUARIES

## Heather Davis

COAL CITY—Heather Davis, 40, of Coal City passed away Monday, Jan. 24, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. Born July 22, 1981 in Joliet, Heather Ryan was a daughter of Diana Sue (nee Boyle) and the late Ronald Davis. She was raised and educated in Braidwood, attended Reed-Custer High School, and later completed cosmetology school. Heather loved working in the beauty industry, working for several years at Naked Sun in Diamond. She then opened her own salon, Allure Beauty Gallery in Channahon, and then worked most recently at Impressions in Wilmington.



Gibson, of Coal City; Debbie (Charlie) Douglass, of Wilmington; Pam Kammann, of Limestone; Steve (Cynthia) Davis, of Wilmington, and Kevin Davis, of Wilmington and numerous cousins. Heather was preceded in death by her father, Ronald Davis; maternal grandparents, Carmel and Marcine Boyle; paternal grandparents, Kelly and Ida Davis; one aunt, Kathy (Billy) James and one uncle, Jim Kammann.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Monday, Jan. 31, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 4 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow on Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 in the funeral home at 11 a.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral services.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live-stream or watch on-demand through Heather's memorial page. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Heather's memory to: National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd St, New York, NY 10016.

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

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

Heather lived for her family, especially her niece and nephew who were so important to her. She was their biggest cheerleader, always supporting them in their activities in school. Heather lived her life to the fullest, truly appreciating the time that was given to her. She enjoyed traveling to Disney World, and though she had medical issues, her positive outlook was an inspiration to others that were struggling. Heather's selfless attitude and big heart guided her through the ups and downs life had to offer, never quenching her desire to be her best self.

Survivors include her mother, Diana Sue Davis, of Coal City; one sister, Katie Davis, of Coal City; one brother, Patrick Davis, of Chicago; her niece and nephew, Alexis Tinsley and Jacob Cerutti; aunts and uncles: Kay (Steve)

## Timothy U. Thomason

GARDNER—Timothy U. Thomason, 36, of Gardner, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Jan. 21, 2022.



Cook; his siblings, Andy Moreno and Holly (Jacob) Jaynes; his nieces, Parker and Everlie Jaynes; aunts: Barbara Jean Daugherty, Nedra (Bill) McGee and Kathy Livingston; special cousin, Denise (Jim) Ellis and numerous cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Phil Cook; two brothers, Scott and Sean Moreno; maternal grandparents, Imogene and Gene "Tut" Livingston and paternal grandmother, Nadine Cook.

Visitation for Tim will be on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, from 3-7 p.m. at Forsythe Gould Funeral Home with a funeral service at 7 p.m.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, 507 S. State St., Manhattan, IL, www.forsythegouldfh.com.

Tim graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 2004. He was a dedicated employee of Jewel Osco since 2009. Tim was a loyal member of the Masons attaining the degree Worshipful Master of Landmark Lodge No. 422, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Plainfield, IL on May 30, 2021. Tim was also an honorary member of several other Masonic Lodges and was also a member of the Shriners. Tim was generous and caring and will be remembered for his funny comments and his genius. He was a loving son, brother, uncle, nephew, cousin and friend who will be dearly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his mother, Judy Beth

## The candidate who has a shot at Pritzker

Richard Irvin is a Republican. Period.

Irvin might not be enough of a Republican for the purists. And Democrats might want to weaken Irvin in the Republican primary for governor by pointing to some of the nice things he's said about Democrats (including the governor) over the years. But Richard Irvin is still a Republican.

I've covered and watched the Aurora mayor for years and it's always been obvious to me that he's a Republican.

If he was a Democrat, why would then-US Sen. Barack Obama, Sen. Dick Durbin, Sen. Tammy Duckworth and House Speaker Michael Madigan all campaign against a Black candidate over the years and instead work to elect various white, openly Democratic opponents?

Those Democrats were trying to stop Irvin from gaining any kind of foothold because they all knew he was talented enough that he could eventually do something really damaging to their party, like running for governor as a Republican with plenty of cash to spend. Oops.

Maybe he's not a pure Republican for gubernatorial candidates like Sen. Darren Bailey, who took a Democratic primary ballot in 2008; or Jesse Sullivan, who appeared to back Obama in 2008; or Gary Rabine, who financially supported Ald. Ed Burke and his ward organization. But if somebody tells you for two decades that they're a Republican while fending off numerous, well-funded, high-profile Democratic attacks, I'd believe them.

And, while I'm at it, Gov. JB Pritzker needs to stop helping and enabling the far-right wing of the GOP in this state. No way would Jeanne Ives have given Gov. Bruce Rauner such a run for his money in the 2018 Republican primary had it not been for the generous intervention of the Democratic Governors Association (funded by Pritzker) on Ives' behalf.

The governor regularly bemoans the fact that Republicans here are too tied to Donald Trump and Bruce Rauner and that they don't want to come to the table and negotiate. Yet, he seems fully prepared to unsubtly support the ultra-right Republican Darren Bailey.

I get that Pritzker doesn't want to have to face someone backed by Ken Griffin, who is worth almost 10 times what Pritzker is. But if he wants to stamp out the far right, then don't fund it.

I also get that Pritzker and pretty much



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

everyone else have good reasons to suspect that Irvin won't be his own man. Irvin could very well turn out to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the billionaire Griffin who once said that rich people have "insufficient influence" over politics in this country. Irvin should definitely have to answer for that on a constant basis. Not to mention that almost his entire campaign team elected Bruce Rauner in the first place. Who are they bringing us now?

Irvin should also expect to get a much closer once-over than any of the other announced Republicans have received. Hardly anybody has so far taken any of the other Republican hopefuls seriously. The election would effectively end on primary day so why even bother vetting them?

Irvin, though, is the opposite of that. He may not make it through the primary, but if he does win, he has a shot at giving Pritzker a run for his money. And so he will likely be vetted much more closely.

And how can Irvin win the primary? Griffin's money, for one. He also threw around some buzzwords in his kickoff video about children being "indoctrinated" and how "All lives matter" and crime is skyrocketing, and the state is broke, and all those other things written by Griffin's people. Much of it seemed out of place because that's not the Richard Irvin we've seen over the years. But every consultant's dream candidate is one who says and does whatever he's told.

Slightly more than half the Republican primary electorate lives in Downstate, but former Gov. Jim Edgar pointed out to me that if you count the exurban counties within the Chicago media market, that's most of the primary vote. Even so, it's still an uphill climb.

It's also past time for Ken Griffin to publicly account for the tens of millions of dollars he's spent on campaigns here. Whatever else you can say about the billionaire Pritzker, he (and the self-funding Rauner before him) regularly takes questions from reporters on whatever subjects they want to talk about. Griffin's money defeated a Supreme Court justice and killed a graduated income tax, and he is now reportedly trying to elect a governor and several others without once ever having the guts to submit himself to public questions. That's the opposite of democratic.

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

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The Coal City Public Library District is seeking a part-time, 21 hour per week Circulation Clerk. Hours include days, evenings and Saturdays. Basic computer knowledge is required. Starting pay is \$12/hour. Applications are available at 85 N. Garfield Street, Coal City. Please attach a resume. ch 26b

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SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 31330 S. SELTZER RD., WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (SINGLE FAMILY HOME). On the 3rd day of February, 2022 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: 1 OAK RICHLAND LLC Plaintiff V. RODOLFO BOTELLO A/K/A RUDOLFO BOTELLO Defendant. Case No. 21 CH 0070 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and

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legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **NOONAN AND LIEBERMAN** 33 N. LASALLE STREET SUITE 1150 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602 P: 312-431-1455 F: 312-431-1456 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wed., Jan. 12, 19 & 26, 2022

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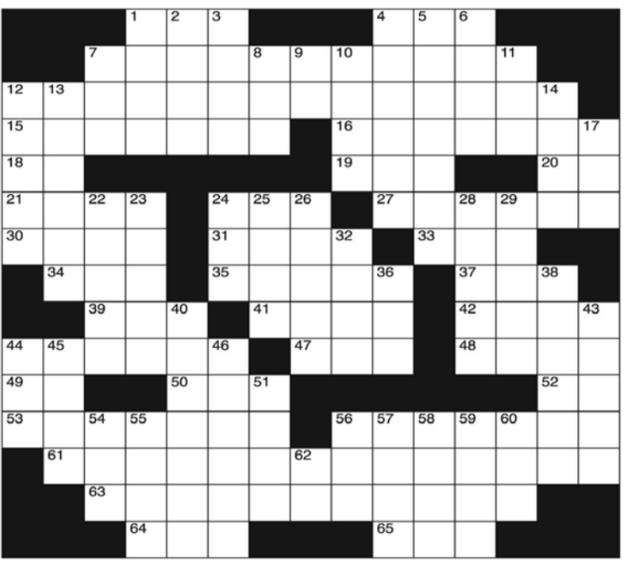
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21. Scored perfectly
24. Space station
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30. Edible seaweed
31. Iranian city
33. Lakers' crosstown rivals
34. Nothing
35. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
37. \_\_\_ student, learns healing
39. Military official (abbr.)
41. Matchstick games
42. Gasteyer and De Armas are two
44. Distant planet
47. A type of residue
48. Punk art icon Jimmy De \_\_\_
49. Millihenny
50. Canadian media firm
52. Type of withdrawal
53. Spicy
56. Dish of minced meat or fish
61. Noted previously
63. Happily
64. "Partridge" actress Susan
65. Not present

### CLUES DOWN

1. In a way, brought to an end
2. Scandalized actress Loughlin
3. This (Spanish)
4. Essay
5. Continuing indefinitely
6. Tool for lifting food
7. Partner to Adam
8. Dry white wine drink
9. Spanish be
10. Smaller quantity
11. Last or greatest in an indefinitely large series
12. (Scottish) island
13. Church officer
14. Large wrestler
17. Polite address for women
22. Famed Susan Lucci character "\_\_\_ Kane"
23. Mason \_\_\_ Line
24. Disfigure
25. Asian nation
26. Rage (Span.)
28. Khoikhoi peoples
29. Opera solo
32. Database management system
36. Sillar
38. Move up and down playfully
40. Alfalfa
43. Satisfied
44. Baseball official
45. Large, flightless bird of S. America
46. Money given in support
51. Flower cluster
54. Beginning military rank
55. Russian weight measurement
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58. Midskirt
59. Weapon featuring balls
60. Used of a number or amount not specified
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# WILDCAT SPORTS



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WILDCAT GUARD Cade McCubbin loads up to pass the ball during Friday's home game.

## 'Cats win battle with Coalers, Dragons

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington boys basketball team beat Grant Park 59-42 on Saturday.

The 'Cats (7-10) were led by Reid Juster and Ryder Meents, who scored 20 points each.

Ryder drilled four threes while Juster gathered eight boards with three steals.

Tysen Meents added 10 points with five assists.

Cade McCubbin added another six points and played very well defensively.

### Wilmington 51 Coal City 45

The 'Cats beat Coal City with a late surge Friday.

The 'Cats were down 11-5 in the second when McCubbin launched his first of three to

bring them back within three, 11-8.

They trailed 20-18 in the second and just like clockwork, McCubbin made another three to give them a 21-20 lead.

After starting fast, the 'Cats caught up to the Coalers and they made it a six-point game at the half, 27-21.

Wilmington went on a 16-3 run in the third and finished them off scoring another 14 points in the fourth.

Coal City regained the lead and Juster took it right back for Wilmington, nailing a three from the top of the key to make it 32-30.

With a 34-30 lead, Tysen got into the action as he knocked down a three to grow the lead to 37-30.

McCubbin hit his third three early in the fourth quarter to give them a 10-point

cushion, 40-30.

They kept their foot on the gas, scoring another 11 to close out the Coalers.

Tysen led the way with 15 points, clinching the win with four consecutive free-throws.

Ryder added 12 points with three steals.

McCubbin did work from behind-the-arc, drilling three treys with five assists.

Juster added 10 points and corralled eight boards.

The 'Cats were very efficient from the line, making 14-of-18 shots.

### Wilmington 42 Manteno 62

The Wildcats fell to Manteno on Tuesday.

Tysen and Ryder put in 14 points each while Juster had 10 but it was not enough to keep up with Manteno.



Courtesy Photo

**LADY 'CATS PLACE**—Wilmington's female wrestlers competed in the Oak Park River Forest Invitational Tournament and all four wrestlers placed in the top five while Wilmington placed eighth as a team. The WHS girls wrestlers are Priscilla Prescott (3rd at 125), Aubin Shields (5th at 120), Dezirae Yanke (5th at 155) and Alivia George (5th at 105).

## All four Lady 'Cats place at OPRF Invite

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

While the Wildcat boys wrestlers were competing in the Illinois Central Eight Tournament, the girls went to Oak Park and River Forest High School for a female wrestlers invitational on Saturday. It was the first all-girls tournament that Wilmington has ever competed in.

Wilmington wrestling coach Rob Murphy made some calls to give his dedicated female wrestlers a shot at placement in a big tournament and they didn't disappoint, placing all four wrestlers.

The Lady 'Cats were eighth out of 27 teams with 62 points. OPRF won it with 182 points. Andrew (118), Morton (110), Homewood-Flossmoor (96) and Glenbard West (80) rounded out the top five while Coal City placed 19th as a team with 19 points. The 'Cats came in ahead of teams like Evanston which consisted of 12 girls.

Priscilla Prescott did the

best out of the four girls as she placed third at 125 pounds.

Aubin Shields (120), Alivia George (105) and Dezirae Yanke (155) all placed fifth.

### Girls battle back to placement

Prescott started out by gaining a 5-0 lead over Grayslake North's Alexa Panigua before earning a pin to move into the quarterfinal match with the eventual runner-up from Lane Tech Uyen Le, who would pin Prescott 3:28 into the match to put her in the third place bout.

Prescott (10-4) got a lightning fast pin on Elgin Larkin's Quetzali Lara to earn third place.

Shields began her day with a bye before she met up with the eventual third place medalist Ximena Juarez, who would work a 7-0 decision over Shields to send her to wrestlebacks. Shields would pin Evanston's Priscilla Hartwell in 35-seconds to get to the fifth place match where she would outlast Lane Tech's Nyah Lovis pinning her with six seconds left in the second period to

earn fifth.

George had a tough battle with Hubbard's Diana Cervantes who would pin her a minute in to send her to wrestlebacks. George would battle back, pinning Elyssa Ann Guleng with a lightning fast pin to earn fifth.

Yanke started with a quick 1:55 pin over Maine East's Jessica Domain to move onto the quarterfinal round where she would get pinned by Giselle Ayala and get bumped to wrestlebacks.

Yanke did her best battling back with three straight pins over Evanston's Sophie Brown (1:08), Miyalanna DeJesus (:22) and Evanston's Alize Ramirez (1:20) in the fifth place match to earn fifth place.

The fifth place bout with Ramirez was tight as Yanke took Ramirez down and escaped her to earn three points while Ramirez earned two points with a takedown before Yanke pinned her.

Coal City's Carly Ford placed third at 130 pounds.

## Lady 'Cats fall to Tigers late, cage Bulldogs

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington girls basketball team just came up short to Herscher in a 33-28 nailbiter on Monday.

The 'Cats had a 28-27 lead late in the game but had to sit and watch Herscher sink free-throws late to end the game.

The 'Cats were led by Anna Liaromatis who had nine points, hitting three lay ups. She also hit three free-throws. Anna pulled down 13 boards with an assist.

Kaitlyn O'Donnell had a big game with eight points, knocking down one of their two threes. She also collected 11

rebounds with an assist.

Lexi Liaromatis added six points, making two shots from the floor with two free-throws. Lexi also had four boards with an assist.

Breanna Horton added five points with a three. She also pulled down five board with an assist.

Alexa Clark corralled six boards with an assist while Clara Smith and Gracie Sanders added a rebound.

The defense stole eight and blocked four.

They were led by Lexi, who had three steals while Anna had two and Clark, Horton, and O'Donnell pick up a steal. Lexi, Anna, Smith and O'Donnell each batted down a

shot attempt.

The Lady 'Cats will next take the floor on Thursday at Reed-Custer.

### Wilmington 49 Illinois Lutheran 33

The Lady 'Cats beat Crete on Saturday.

They gained the lead with a quick, 12-8 run before taking an 18-13 lead into the break.

They kept going and outscored Crete 31-18 the rest of the game to finish them off.

The Wildcats were led by Horton, who scored 12 points with six lay ups. She also pulled down 10 rebounds for a double-double.

O'Donnell added 10 points, hitting a three. She also

corralled five rebounds.

Lexi, Anna and Sanders had six points, all of which were scored on lay ups. Anna led the pack with 10 boards and an assist while Lexi had four with an assist and Sanders chipped in another four.

Alexa Clark had five points on two lay ups with a free-throw. She also dished out six assists with four boards.

Alaina Clark and Smith added a lay up. Smith also had two rebounds while Carlie Freis chipped in a rebound.

The girls picked up 15 steals led by Alexa and Lexi, who had five each. Anna swiped four and Smith another one.

### Wilmington 48 Streator 25

The 'Cats powered through Streator on Wednesday.

The Lady 'Cats put together two runs to start the game and led 30-13 at the half.

They added on but didn't need it as they cruised to the win.

Anna had 20 points, hitting a three with five free-throws. She also pulled down five boards with an assist.

Lexi chipped in four lay ups with eight points. She also had six assists with five rebounds.

O'Donnell added seven points, making one of their five

threes. She also pulled down five boards with one of their 17 assists.

Alexa had four points with four boards and three assists while Skylar Rossow, Horton and Smith added three more points. All three girls hit threes.

Horton had four boards with four assists while Rossow and Smith added a rebound.

Alaina Clark chipped in three rebounds with two assists while Freis also had two boards.

They had 16 steals led by Lexi and Sanders who both had three. Alexa, Anna, Horton and Rossow stole two while Freis, and O'Donnell stole another one.

## KofC names winners of the free throw championship



THE WILMINGTON WINNERS of the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship were (from left): Veronica Geiss (9-year-old girls), Tyler Redwite (9-year-old boys), Tracy Jones (11-year-old girls), Hunter Kaitschuck (11-year-old boys) and Ian Turcahy (12-year-old boys). Also pictured is Alex Egizio who competed in the 11-year-old boys category.

## WHS Cheerleaders receive All-Conference honors

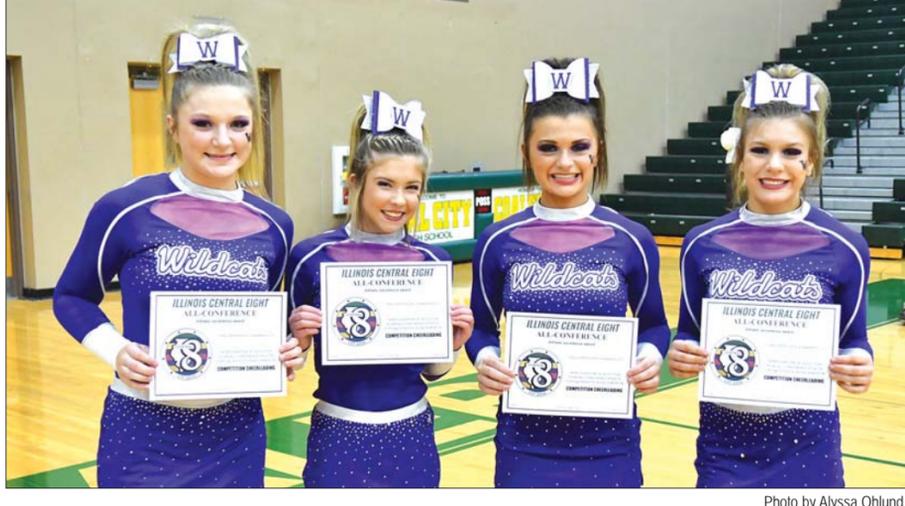


Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

ALL-CONFERENCE - Four members of the Wilmington Competitive Cheer team were named as All-Conference Athletes last week during the Illinois Central Eight All-Conference Invite held in Coal City. Awarded certificates were (from left) Hannahn Melvin, Ava Rabideau, Katelyn McCann and Aliza Hannan. It was the fourth time McCann was named All Conference.

## Coach Murph honored during senior night

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington matmen honored coach Rob Murphy on Tuesday night during their senior night dual team match with Clifton Central. Even though they dropped the match, 60-18 to the Comets, the night was about a whole lot more than a wrestling match. It was about celebrating their wrestling coach who has done so much for the program. It was a night when past wrestlers and even opposing coaches came out to support him, and he was grateful.

"I just want to thank everybody that came here," said Murphy. "To have success it takes a lot of people. Everybody that came here from the past, I had my old junior college coach that was here. Right over here, this guy here Bob Waska, we played football in college together and wrestled together. We went on the other side of the world to Japan and Korea and wrestled in Seoul, Tokyo and Japan together in freestyle and Greco in the summer of 1987 before the 88 Olympics.

"To have success, you've got to have athletes, you've got to have great parents--I've been lucky, my wife has been doing stats. Dana Knight has been doing stats and working our head tables and for many years our team mom Jodi Shields--she's done that for a number of years. There's so many people you just want to thank them all. It's just amazing how many people you meet that you like. I've seen my opposing coaches that I've been against, the Bishop Mac coach Dave Zinnani was here and other coaches, I see Mark Masters from Coal City is over there and Yale Davis from Reed-Custer is over there. They're coming over here to support and congratulate me and that's just awesome. Everybody thinks it's all about competition but it's also about fellowship and the friends you make and the people you meet. It's very humbling."

Murphy started coaching the wrestling program in 1994. A year later he had his first win-

ning season and in 2001 his first regional title and his first year qualifying a team to state. He brought teams to state seven other years, winning three state titles (2007, 2008, 2009). He led teams to two runner-up trophies (2006, 2017)

and a fourth place trophy in 2010. Murphy has led the 'Cats to 563 of the program's 887 all-time wins with a winning percentage at .771, one of the best in school history. Only football coach Jeff Reents has a higher

sit there 'I want to do this I want to do that' No. Just go there work hard, bust your butt, wrestled as hard as you can or play that football game as hard as you can and good things will happen. That's basically it in a nutshell. I give all the credit--I couldn't have done this without my wife Tina and I give her all the credit. She's been working that table there for 28 years. She's been everything from when I was Lincoln, we had wrestling cheerleaders and she was the sponsor of that. She was in charge of being a stat girl in high school when I was on the Coal City team and just the support and being there. She's been at every national tournament I wrestled in college. She's done everything from doing hospital-ity room and everything. In those early years, Tina did it all. I thank her for being here. I thank my kids for being here and my grandkids and I love them all."

Murphy has been an icon for the school's wrestling program and for its football program where he's helped win two state titles and a runner-up trophy. He made one thing clear when asked about whether or not he'll miss coaching. He wants to live his life and do things while he can.

"I'll miss the Friday nights being on the football field in the Wildcat Den, especially here in Wilmington. I'll miss that. I'll miss being at the state meet and stuff like that. But there's more important things to do. I want to go out and do stuff when I can physically do stuff. I can hunt, I can fish, I can walk, I can swim and I can do stuff while I'm healthy...so that's what I want. I don't want to be there when I retire from doing stuff and I can't even walk and I've got a cane. I'm looking forward to going places with my wife and doing things and supporting her the way she supported me all those years. So we're looking forward to this together and we're going to have some fun."

The 'Cats got 18 points from two forfeits and two decisions but after that Clifton Central took over. But it didn't matter to Murph what the outcome of the match was. He's been proud of his wrestlers all year.

"Our Wilmington kids will always go out and battle," commented Murphy. "That's never been a problem of not wrestling hard. That's our team and they wrestled tonight. I've been proud of them all year. They're a good group of kids and we've had a lot of fun this year."

The Wildcats will prepare for the Seneca Regional which will be Saturday, Feb. 5.

### Wilmington 18, Clifton Central 60

- 152 - Parker Adams (W) 17-10 dec. over Andrade.
- 160 - I. Alvarez (C) fall over Dezirae Yanke, 1:27.
- 170 - Perzee (C) win by FFT.
- 182 - A.Miller (C) fall over Joel Greenridge, 1:10.
- 195 - G.Alvarez (C) fall over Karsen Hansen, 3:26.
- 220 - Hull (C) win by FFT.
- 285 - Gomez (C) fall over Blake Shirey, 2:26.
- 106 - Alivia George (W) win by FFT.
- 113 - B.Hemp (C) fall Abigail Lafreniere, :16.
- 120 - Landon Dooley (W) 13-10 dec. over K.Cody.
- 126 - Aubin Shields (W) win by FFT.
- 132 - G.Panozzo (C) fall over Nate Romano, :31.
- 138 - B. Morris (C) win by FFT.
- 145 - K. Krumwiede (C) fall over Skyler Ortiz.



Photo by Shawn Long

**HOLD LEADS TO WIN**—Wilmington's Landon Dooley puts Clifton Central's Kayden Cody in a chokehold which leads to a 13-10 decision over Cody.



Photo by Shawn Long

**HARD FOUGHT WIN**—Wilmington's Parker Adams helped his team get points on Tuesday as he worked a 17-10 decision win over Clifton Central's Andrade to give them three of their 18 points.

## Wildcat matmen place three at ICE tourney

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington matmen competed well during the Illinois Central Eight Conference Tournament on Saturday as they earned sixth with 34 points.

The 'Cats placed ahead of Herscher (30) and Streator (21) with Coal City (204), Reed-Custer (109.5), Peotone (104), Lisle (92) and Manteno (46) rounding out the top five.

The 'Cats had all three of their wrestlers place as Jake Prescott (138) place third while Parker Adams (145) and Karsen Hansen (182) placed fourth.

Prescott, an Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association honorable mention, began with a quick pin of Herscher's Logan

Norris in a five-man, 138-pound bracket. That put him in a semifinal match with Peotone's 10th ranked Marco Spinazzola. Spinazzola ended up pinning Prescott (14-8) in a little over a minute which sent him to a third place bout with Norris. He dismantled the Herscher sophomore this time, working a 17-2 technical fall in three and a half minutes to earn third place.

Adams (9-11) pummeled Lisle sophomore Caden Carnes with a 21-6 technical fall that took 4:54. That put him in the semifinal match of a six-man, 145 pound bracket with state HM Peotone's Kevin Hogan.

Hogan would work a pin over the scrappy wrestler Adams at the five-minute mark to send him to the third place bout with Coal City's HM

Mataeo Blessing. Blessing would power past Adams with a 13-5 major decision to earn third place, handing Adams fourth.

Hansen (2-6) began his conference tournament in a tough match with Coal City's 10th ranked Braiden Young, who would end up working a 15-0 technical fall to send the Wildcat senior to wrestlebacks.

Hansen would end up pinning Herscher's Gavin Collins (3:00) and Lisle's Bradley Kohnen (4:32) to earn himself a spot in the third place match with state HM Peotone's Oscar Villalobos, who would pin him in :23 to earn third, handing Hansen fourth.

Reed-Custer placed nine, including two champions while Coal City placed 13 with eight champions.

winning percentage. His teams have also captured nine sectional titles, 18 regional championships and 11 conference titles.

Individually, Murph's wrestlers have been some of the best around the area as well as in the state. He's coached 122 state qualifiers with 67 state placers. Of those placers, there's been 13 state champions, including his son Rob Murphy Jr, who won his in 2005. That opened the door for so many more, including in 2008 which was their best year when they not only won state but had three champions. Rob Jr. and Rob Sr. are tied with nine state trophies.

"My son Rob there. I'm now tied with him with the most state medals because he got three in baseball, first, third, and first. He got one in football, the first year we took second. When he was a state champion, that was five and then he coached the first year we took second, first, first and fourth so he's got nine and I've got nine. They won't count my Coal City third place one--they say it's not a Wilmington medal but I've got the tiebreaker. All my kids they grew up being in gyms all the time. They're all really good athletes including my daughter Erin. She's the only one that was for all four years, she was a varsity athlete in three sports for all four years. Rob and Jake never did that so she's got the bragging rights over the two brothers."

Accolades and statistics are great but it's not what has been important to Murph. It's about making progression.

"When you go into something to do something, you don't set goals. I'm going to win over 500 duals. You just try to practice hard and work hard and good things will happen for you. Those things that happen that you accomplish they just happen naturally. I think people they



Photo by Shawn Long

**WEAR DOWN TO WIN**—Wilmington's Karsen Hansen takes his opponent Gabe Alvarez to the mat and attempts to wear him down.

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