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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## City puts proposal for streaming tax on backburner

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The novel coronavirus has changed the habits of folks all over the country, opting for streaming services for their entertainment instead of cable, concerts, and movie theaters.

The change has prompted some municipalities to enact a tax on those streaming services. It was an idea floated to members of the Wilmington City Council during this month's Finance Committee meeting on Jan. 19.

"The idea is that, municipalities are losing out on a portion of revenue that was typically provided in cable packages, and now people are moving away from those cable packages and going to streaming only. I believe the city of Chicago started the trend, and

now other municipalities are jumping on board. It's charging a tax for those streaming services," city attorney Bryan Wellner explained to aldermen.

The Illinois Municipal League put together a draft ordinance for municipalities, which was presented to the members for review.

Scott Shamberg from Azavar Government Solutions explained the purpose of the tax to the members. Azavar works with the city to ensure that Wilmington is getting the proper funding from available revenue sources, which he said includes making sure that revenue continues even as industries change.

"One of those industries that is changing is cable, and how people use video entertainment," Shamberg said. "As people are cord cutting and getting rid of cable, that lowers the cable franchise fees that Wilmington was getting and those people are

"PEOPLE, THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO WATCH SOME MOVIES, SO MAYBE AFTER THIS PANDEMIC CLEARS OUT MAYBE WE CAN GO BACK AND DO THIS, BUT RIGHT NOW I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD HAMMER OUR PEOPLE IN TOWN."

ROY STRONG  
WILMINGTON MAYOR

moving over to streaming services. In the interest of continuing to make sure that you get the revenue from video entertainment, and making sure that you not see those revenues

decline on cable franchise fees, instituting a tax on streaming services makes up the difference for that drop in revenue."

Shamberg said a conservative analysis indicates that the city would initially earn about \$6,000 annually, based on a calculation that one-half of the residences in town subscribe to streaming services.

That money would then be used to help offset lost cable franchise fees that the city already earns from cable and internet providers.

Those fees, budgeted this year to rake in \$77,000 for the city, have so far taken only a small hit. But, Shamberg said, that could change as music and video streaming subscriptions increase.

"That number [of cable subscribers] is just going to keep going down, it's just an industry that's changing into something different,"

he said.

In municipalities where the tax is in place, the tax is calculated based on mailing address. The tax is added to the consumer's bill and collected by the provider, then turned over to the municipality. Shamberg said individual residents would likely see a bill increase of between 40 cents and \$1.50.

But while the recommendation was to consider the tax, city leaders balked at the idea.

"Personally, I don't care for the tax. The pandemic is here. People, the only thing they have to do is to watch some movies, so maybe after this pandemic clears out maybe we can go back and do this, but right now I don't think we should hammer our people in town," Mayor Roy Strong said.

SEE TAX, PAGE 2

## Winter storm more bark than bite



Free Press photo

IN WHAT WAS suppose to be the biggest snowfall so far this winter turned out to be a dud on Tuesday morning when only 1/2-inch of snow was measured in Wilmington. Forecasters were predicting up to 8 inches of snow starting Monday afternoon through Tuesday afternoon, resulting in the school district to cancel in-school classes and switch to remote learning on Tuesday. But the storm system for the most part slid north of I-80 leaving a snow drought for this area.

## Pandemic didn't slow building in Wilmington

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The novel coronavirus pandemic has caused irreparable damage to businesses across the country.

An economic impact report conducted by Yelp last fall showed that more than 80,000 businesses had closed nationwide since the start of the pandemic, and 60,000 of those were small businesses.

Still, there has been some growth locally during the pandemic.

In December, Wilmington

Pharmacy opened its doors. In the fall, two local businesses — Gaby's Candy and Addilyn Rose Boutique — also opened for business.

One of the biggest additions is the anticipated new warehouse at Elion Logistics Park. The city council last week approved the site plan for the new 500,000 square foot building.

Elion Logistics Park also got a new tenant in 2020, Amazon Ultra-Fast Fresh.

SEE PERMITS, PAGE 2

## Municipalities lose out on gaming dollars

Pandemic closures mean fewer dollars for local towns

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The state of Illinois opened up video gaming in September 2012, and the revenue coming into the state and local municipalities has experienced a gradual increase.

Since the first gaming machines went live, the tax generated on the net terminal

income has surpassed \$2.6 billion in Illinois, an amount the state shares with local municipalities.

From that \$2.6 billion, \$430 million has been shared with municipalities who use the funds for road maintenance, community programming and infrastructure projects. In Diamond, those funds have provided residents with a reduction in their utility bills. In Wilmington, the city eliminate vehicle stickers.

The Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) reports the net terminal income in 2020 generated \$381.9 million in tax — \$325 million went to the state

and the remaining \$56 million was shared with cities and counties.

Like everything else, the pandemic has an effect on gaming profits. At the close of the year, the state indicates it took in close to 27% or \$146.3 million less in 2020 than it did one year prior, even with an additional 3,865 machines online.

Even with more machines, the lack of gaming for about five months took a toll on the revenue stream the state and many local municipalities have come to expect.

Under the state's multi-tiered response to slow the

COVID-19 pandemic, gaming — among other businesses deemed non-essential — was shut down on March 16.

It wasn't until July 1 that the machines were turned back on, but a surge in coronavirus cases this fall led to mitigations that once again shut off the machines, leaving no gaming and therefore no revenue that came in after Nov. 20.

According to the monthly gaming reports posted by IGB, the amount of money pumped into machines dropped by more than 32% from 2019 to

SEE GAMING, PAGE 3

## Local liquor law language cleaned up

Drunk in public? That's not a crime

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

An outdated law that bans public intoxication will be removed from the books in Wilmington.

Members of the Wilmington City Council discussed an amendment to the local ordinance that governs alcohol in certain locations during the Jan. 19 meeting of the finance, administration, and land acquisition committee.

City attorney Bryan Wellner told members of the City Council that the local law on file was out of date.

"We had an ordinance on the books that was no good, the public intoxication ordinance," Wellner said. "Back in [the 90s] our legislature passed a statute that said you cannot prosecute someone for intoxication alone. But our ordinance on the books was essentially saying that."

The gist of the law, Wellner said, is that despite

what people may think, public intoxication is not a crime. The amendment will add a subsection to the city's current code on alcoholic drinks to repeal the part of the ordinance that does not comply with state law, and amend a portion of that section of code that deals with possession, sale, or consumption of alcoholic liquor in certain places.

"You can't prosecute someone for being drunk," Wellner said. "What really comes into play is, they're drunk and they commit a crime, then you charge them with that crime. So, if they're drunk and they cause a public disturbance, that's disorderly conduct. If they're drunk and they commit battery, that's battery. But the offense alone of being drunk and annoying people or stumbling... that's not a crime and it can't be enforced as an ordinance."

Wellner said the change

SEE LAW, PAGE 2



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# Tax

The mayor also noted that the initial estimate for how much the city could earn with a streaming tax is too low to seriously consider it.

"I think when we're losing a lot more money, we might revisit this, but right now it's not enough," he said. "This is going to get out and people are going to hear this and they're not going to be happy. Like with the water bills, it wasn't much but how long did we hear that for? Two or three months they're crying."

Alderman Frank Studer echoed the

sentiment.

"It's just going to give all the taxpayers out there another reason to think that we're figuring out another way to gouge them. And, it's not a lot of money we're talking about right now," Studer said.

Alderman Dennis Vice did acknowledge that should the tax ever be implemented, it would help offset the loss of revenue from cable franchise fees.

"These streaming services are kind of replacing cable TV, so it's revenue that we're not now getting from Comcast or AT&T with people signing up for these streaming services," Vice said. "So, we're losing revenue and not getting it back. But... I don't like seeing my cellular bill

every month and seeing the extra \$5, almost \$6 a month for the city of Wilmington either, but that's what it is."

Council members did not take any action on the issue, but agreed to possibly revisit the tax in the future. The tax would be implemented as an amusement tax at a rate determined by the city.

Cable franchise fees are just one source of revenue that the city uses inside its general fund. Other revenue sources include video gaming taxes, utility taxes, property taxes and sales taxes, as well as licenses, permits, fees, local use taxes, liquor licenses, grants, and reimbursements.

# Law

isn't a new local law, but rather language that brings Wilmington's code into compliance with the Illinois statute.

City officials did express some concern if the ordinance would affect citywide events where alcohol may be sold, such as Catfish Days, car shows, or other downtown events where people may have alcoholic beverages while outside.

But, Wilmington Police Chief Phil Arnold noted that the hosts of those events apply for special permits for alcohol sales.

"This is nothing new that we're putting in, we just had to take out the bad law that should not have been in there, I think since 1993. It's just taking that out, there's nothing new in here," Arnold said. "The way the old ordinance was, someone could be charged just for being intoxicated. So, we took that out, so that's gone now. All that's left is what's in the state ordinance."

Arnold added that the city is not able to carve

exceptions into the law to allow open containers in public places just for some events. But, the police always exercise their best judgment when enforcing laws, dependent on the situation.

"We can't make a law that is less stringent than the state statute. We can be more strict, but we can't be less strict than the state statute," he said.

The amendment ultimately clarifies when it is illegal to have alcohol in public.

"It's just clarifying that you can't have open liquor on the sidewalks or in the street. You can't have open liquor in your car, you can't have open liquor in any public area parking lots. That's what we're cleaning up," said Alderman Frank Studer.

The cleaned up language notes that no person can transport, carry, possess, or have liquor on any public street, alley, sidewalk, or public property with the seal unbroken, nor can they sell or consume alcohol in any public area or have open containers in a vehicle.

A violation is considered an offense against the public peace. The penalty may include a fine of \$25 to \$750.

# Permits

Construction continues on the new Fox's pizza building, and the Wilmington Fire Protection District also opened its new Station 2 in August 2020.

While the city saw a brief pause in permits being issued in March, residential and commercial permits continued throughout the pandemic.

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According to the city's monthly newsletter, which breaks down industrial, commercial, and residential permits issued each month, the city of Wilmington issued at total of 501 permits for residential residences, commercial and industrial remodeling, solar panels, roofing, residential remodeling, siding, fencing, and other work over the calendar year 2020.

The total fees collected via those permits, according to the city, was just under \$528,000.

For the current fiscal year, which ends on April 30, the city has reached more than 200% of its projected revenue for building permits.

One change that did occur during the pandemic was how some permits were issued. With homeowners ask-

ing for permits to complete home improvement projects during the lockdown and subsequent safer-at-home proclamation, the city began to process all building permits via email while collecting all fees electronically.

Inspections continued via scheduling while maintaining social distancing and mask wearing.

Monthly income from permits varied wildly, with permits taking in as little as \$2,235 in February, and as much as \$307,431 in October.

The total value of permitted works in October, which substantially went to commercial permitting, was \$26.1 million.

In addition to permit fee income, the city also received funding from the federal CARES act to help offset costs associated with the response

to the novel coronavirus.

As of August 2020, the city received \$276,308 from the Will County Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

The city used those funds for the following expenditures:

- PPE — \$12,323.99 for masks, gloves, safety glasses and protection kits for staff
- Public Health Expenses — \$4,402 for included antiviral decontamination of public spaces, sanitizer and disinfectant
- Miscellaneous — \$64.70 for expenses including postage due
- Personnel — \$39,450 for services from employees diverted from roles
- Payroll — \$220,066 for public health and safety

**Attorney Fisher files Tinges 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 Michael J. Tinges, Deceased. Case No.: 20 P 1020.

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Michael J. Tinges of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2021 to Mary Ellen Hendron as Independent Administrator.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 20, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for 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 15, 2021.

Mary Ellen Hendron, Independent Administrator

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: [jeff@jeffisherlaw.com](mailto:jeff@jeffisherlaw.com)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Jan. 20, 27 and Feb. 3, 2021.

**Attorney Fisher files Ziller 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 Alice I. Ziller, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 1019.

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Alice I. Ziller of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2021 to Veronica M. Orr as Independent Executor.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 20, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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Dated: January 15, 2021.

Veronica M. Orr, Independent Executor

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: [jeff@jeffisherlaw.com](mailto:jeff@jeffisherlaw.com)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on January 20, 27, and Feb. 3, 2021

**Attorney Berardi files Badie 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 Thomas P. Badie, Deceased. Case No. 2020 P 000730

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Thomas P. Badie of Mokena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 15, 2021 to Jeanne M. Badie as Independent Administrator.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 27, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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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 22, 2021.

Jeanne M. Badie, Independent Administrator

Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 6305463, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708) 942-8030. Email: [mark@berardilawoffice.com](mailto:mark@berardilawoffice.com)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 10, 2021.

**Attorney Adler gives notice of Vela Estate**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF WILL  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JUAN C. VELA, DECEASED NO. 2020 P 000994

**PUBLICATION NOTICE AND NOTICE OF CLAIMS**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Juan C. Vela. Letters of Office were issued on December 23, 2020 to Veronica D. Vela and Oralia Vela as Independent Co-Executors. The attorney for the Independent Co-Executors is DANIEL J. ADLER, 1616 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Notice is given to his, heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in this proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on December 23, 2020, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act. You also have the right under 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under 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 representative or with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson St., Joliet, IL or with the representative, or both, on or before the 27th day of July, 2021. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred unless otherwise permitted by law. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney of record within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

ADLER LAW FIRM, P.C.  
DANIEL J. ADLER #03123945  
Attorney for Juan C. Vela Estate  
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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, January 27, Feb 3, and Feb. 10, 2021.

**Attorney Fisher files Tinges 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 Michael J. Tinges, Deceased. Case No.: 20 P 1020.

**CLAIM NOTICE**

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Dated: January 15, 2021.

Mary Ellen Hendron, Independent Administrator

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: [jeff@jeffisherlaw.com](mailto:jeff@jeffisherlaw.com)

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Dated: January 22, 2021.

Jeanne M. Badie, Independent Administrator

Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 6305463, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708) 942-8030. Email: [mark@berardilawoffice.com](mailto:mark@berardilawoffice.com)

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Notice is given to his, heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in this proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on December 23, 2020, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act. You also have the right under 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, January 27, Feb 3, and Feb. 10, 2021.

**Attorney Fisher files Zagar estate notice**

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Lou Zagar, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 1005.

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Mary Lou Zagar of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 5, 2021 to Diane L. Nissen as Independent Executor.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 13, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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Dated: January 13, 2021.

Diane L. Nissen, Independent Executor

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

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

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

# Turning trash into cash

The Will County Board approved the next steps to convert methane gas produced at the Prairie View Landfill near Wilmington into compressed natural gas.

The board voted last week to select SCS Energy to design and build a plant to convert the methane to renewable natural gas. Harbour Contractors from Plainfield will lead the construction piece of this project.

Currently, some methane gas is converted into electricity at the landfill with the remainder being burned off.

Electricity currently generated from methane gas at the landfill provides approximately \$450,000 in revenue per year for the county. Converting all of the methane generated at the landfill into compressed natural gas could potentially generate as much as \$12 million per year.

"Will County is a leader in green technology and environmental sustainability," said Speaker of the County Board Mimi Cowan (D-Naperville.) "Whether it is solar electricity for the new courthouse, or trash at the landfill, we have an obligation to reduce our carbon footprint and lead the way toward a more sustainable community."

The money generated will be used to pay off debt for construction of the new methane-to-natural gas plant and to fund other critical county programs in the future.

"We are excited to move forward on this project which will benefit the taxpayers and our environment," said County Board Member and Minority Leader Mike Fricilone (R-Homer Glen.) "We're turning trash into cash for the county, and that's a good thing for taxpayers."

Under the new arrangement, the electricity generation at the landfill will cease operation and all methane gas will be converted to natural gas at a plant that will be constructed at the landfill by SCS Energy.

Last year the County Board selected Eco Engineers to secure permits and find buyers for the compressed natural gas product which could be used as an alternative to diesel fuel. The county has entered into an agreement with US Venture to purchase the natural gas produced at the landfill plant.

Construction of the new plant is expected to begin this fall and is estimated to cost approximately \$40 million.

## City Council hearing to decide on annexation of 20 acres

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
City Council of the City of Wilmington, IL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on February 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. a public hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Wilmington at City Hall located at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL, pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-15.1-1 et seq., for the purpose of receiving and considering testimony and public comment on the request of petitioners, Adar RPLL, LLC and Adar Ridgeport Industrial Partners, LLC, for an amendment to that certain Amended and Restated Annexation Agreement by and among Adar Ridgeport Industrial Partners, LLC, Adar RPLL, LLC, Ridgeport Logistics Center Property Owners Association and the City of Wilmington, Illinois (Ridge Port Logistics Center), as amended by the First Amendment, Second Amendment and Third Amendment thereto ("Proposed Amended Annexation Agreement"), with respect to adding additional property to the scope of the Proposed Amended Annexation Agreement. The form of the Proposed Amended Annexation Agreement is on file with the City Clerk. You are further notified that the Proposed Amended Annexation Agreement may be changed, altered, modified, amended or redrafted in its entirety after the public hearing. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. The property to be subject to the Proposed Amended Annexation Agreement is as follows:

THE SOUTH 20 ACRES OF THE WEST HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 16, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 03-17-16-300-006-0000

All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Pursuant to executive order 2020-07 signed by Governor Pritzker and guidance provided by legal counsel, the City of Wilmington may conduct all or portions of this meeting by use of telephonic or electronic means without a physical quorum present in the boardroom. Public access to this meeting is available as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89350609778?pwd=L3Vlc21CbTc3dUNUbnBkXBNXJzZFFUUD09>  
Meeting ID: 893 5060 9778  
Passcode: 245679  
Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 893 5060 9778  
Passcode: 245679

All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Additional information on such application can be obtained from the City of Wilmington Zoning Administrator at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL (815) 476-2175.

City of Wilmington  
Will County, Illinois  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021.

## Attorney Adler gives notice of Olivero Estate

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
COUNTY OF WILL  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JOHN J. OLIVERO, DECEASED NO. 2020P000999

**PUBLICATION NOTICE AND NOTICE OF CLAIMS**

Notice is given to creditors of the death of John J. Olivero. Letters of Office were issued on January 20, 2021 to Karen A. Plyman, as Independent Executor. The attorney for the Independent Executor is DANIEL J. ADLER, 1616 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Notice is given to his, heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in this proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on January 20, 2021, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act. You also have the right under 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under 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 with the representative or with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson St., Joliet, IL or with the representative, or both, on or before the 27th day of July, 2021. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred unless otherwise permitted by law. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney of record within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

ADLER LAW FIRM, P.C.  
DANIEL J. ADLER #03123945  
Attorney for Independent Executor  
1616 W. Jefferson Street  
Joliet, Illinois 60435  
(815) 744-5300  
email: [danadlerlaw@comcast.net](mailto:danadlerlaw@comcast.net)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 10, 2021.

## Attorney Fisher files Zagar estate notice

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

In the Matter of the Estate of Mary Lou Zagar, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 1005.

**CLAIM NOTICE**

Notice is given of the death of Mary Lou Zagar of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on January 5, 2021 to Diane L. Nissen as Independent Executor.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 13, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for 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 13, 2021.

Diane L. Nissen, Independent Executor

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

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

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

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Classified & Public Notices: Thursday, 5 p.m.

**Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant**  
News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: [news@fpnusa.com](mailto:news@fpnusa.com)  
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor

# November 1860, the election aftermath

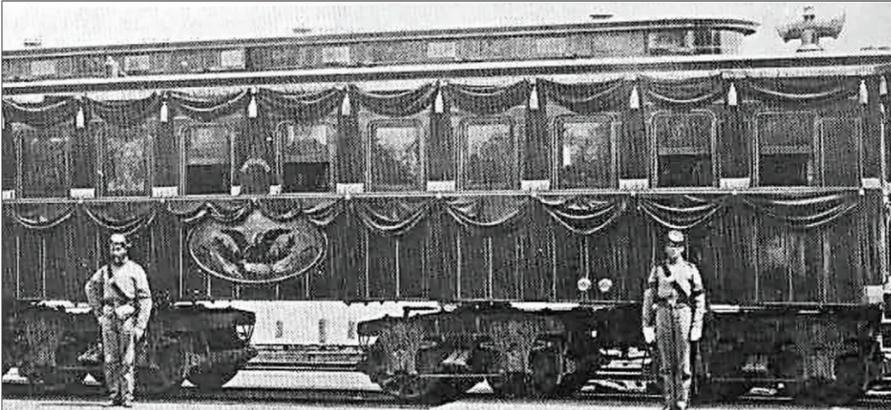
When I research the presidential election of 1860, I get the feeling that I have been here before, or is it after, because of our most recent election. I see the same words, the same strong feeling, before and after the event. Today we look at election day 1860 and the aftermath.



TIME WAS....  
Sandy Vasko

gal voting.”  
I cannot, in all good conscience, print the headlines in the Signal after the election, but let's just say that they would shock almost everyone. But this is what Cal Zarley wrote below those headlines;  
“Such fellow citizenship, as expressed in the lines above, are a few of the results, present and promised, of last Tuesday's election. The abolitionists and fanatics have swept the Northern States and left scarcely a democratic pillar standing.”  
“For the first time in the history of our government has a purely sectional party triumphed, and well may Union men and patriots tremble for the consequences.”  
“We do not wish to create unnecessary alarm, but really the indications are almost certain that there is a terrible future ahead. The Southern States, goaded on to madness by the nullifying legislation of the Northern States and are moving for disunion. Already the notes of secession have been sounded, and it remains to be seen whether there is patriotism enough in the triumphant party to quit the dire-

ful commotion.”  
“The next five months will tell the story - will tell whether the American Union is to be preserved and perpetuated or sacrificed to the wild ambition of fanatics and sectionalists.”  
Wild stories prevailed about what went on at various places across the county. One of them involving Wilmington. I doubt that the events of this story actually took place, but it will give you the idea of the craziness that was abroad.  
“The election of Lincoln brings about some strange things. On Saturday last, the Republican officials of the town of Wilmington, in this county, brought from the calaboose a vagrant - a white man - and put him up at auction the same as they would a horse or a cow. The highest bidder proved to be a big black, but the darkie told him that Republicanism ruled now and that negroes were as good as white men, and led him off. The Republicans have much to say about the horrors of negro slavery in the South, and yet, here in the North, they doom a white man to be a slave to a negro. Such is republicanism!”  
The scaremongers were vocal across the country, even before Lincoln was inaugurated, they blamed him for the drop in the economy. In



A PHOTO of the Lincoln funeral car, which passed through Will County and Wilmington carrying the body of Abraham Lincoln in the early morning of May 3, 1865.

December of 1860 the Signal wrote, “Hurrah for Lincoln! Before the election, wheat was selling in this city at \$1 per bushel. Now it sells at 2 cents. Hurrah for Lincoln! Before the election, corn was selling in this city at 35 cents a bushel. Now it is dull at 24 cents. Hurrah for Lincoln! Before the election, oats were selling in this city at 20 cents a bushel. The price now is 15 cents. Hurrah for Lincoln!”  
“Before the election, Rock Island railroad stock was selling in New York for 76 cents. Now it will bring only 52 cents. Hurrah for Lincoln! Before the

election, Illinois central railroad stock was selling in New York for 83 cents. Now it is selling at 27 cents. Hurrah for Lincoln!”  
Zarley and many in Will County continued to criticize Lincoln during his time in office, but when Lincoln was assassinated, he said this. “We are aware that on the occasion of the demise of great men, it is too often customary to indulge in hypercritical and unqualified lamentations, which are poured out for mercenary and political ends - such an accusation cannot be brought against us.”

“For Mr. Lincoln's spotless purity of life, for his proverbial kindness and simplicity of heart, for his many estimable qualities, none of his political friends entertained truer or higher respect than ourselves; and none lament his sad death more sincerely. We repeat that we are fearful of the future, since the President of the republic has been cut down and his place filled by another whom we know little about, and that little not much in his favor. Let us trust that our unfortunate country is not yet given up as utterly lost.”

## Gaming

2020, a difference of about \$2.1 billion. However, when it comes to the amount players cashed out, the percentage from one year to the next was steady at 74%.

On a local level, the pause on gaming in the past year finds the average revenue loss between nine towns and two counties to be around 37%.

In a comparison on gaming revenues received in 2019 and 2020, each of the towns lost funding in a year that had the machines stayed on pointed to increases.

Utilizing the IGB's municipal revenue totals for the two calendar years, the village of Braceville took in 45% fewer dollars, or \$3,417.03.

Wilmington received \$56,267 fewer dollars last year, but it also lost six terminals between January 2019 and November 2020.

Among the nine towns looked at for this report, Braceville had the largest percentage of loss and Essex had the least, even though it took in \$2,659 fewer dollars. It should be noted the town's licensed establishments added a combined five terminals in 2020.

The new year started without gaming, although the machines started back up mid-month as pandemic restrictions started to lift.

It's unclear what impacts the ongoing pandemic will have on future revenues at the state and local level, however, the past year will likely be taken into consideration as municipalities across the state begin to build their fiscal year 2022 budgets.



MUNICIPALITY	2019 REVENUE	2020 REVENUE	DIFFERENCE
Braidwood	\$43,769	\$21,532.48	-\$22,236.52
Carbon Hill	\$13,837	\$8,981.03	-\$4,855.97
Coal City	\$62,543.59	\$41,960.21	-\$20,583.38
Diamond	\$84,259.88	\$54,193.01	-\$30,066.87
Wilmington	\$132,847.51	\$76,579.79	-\$56,267.72
Braceville	\$7,562.70	\$4,145.67	-\$3,417.03
Godley	\$10,886.04	\$7,479.07	-\$3,406.97
Essex	\$11,250.06	\$8,590.97	-\$2,659.09
Symerton	\$3,626.85	\$2,740.98	-\$885.87
Grundy County	\$36,691.40	\$25,189.32	-\$11,502.08
Will County	\$224,371.35	\$143,492.04	-\$80,879.31

## 209-U school breakfast

- Mon., Feb. 1:** Cinn. Toast Crunch, goldfish, apple juice and choice of milk
  - Tues., Feb. 2:** chocolate chip waffle, orange juice and choice of milk
  - Wed., Feb. 3:** Lucky Charms, goldfish grahams, fruit punch and choice of milk
  - Thurs., Feb. 4:** blueberry pancake, orange juice and choice of milk
  - Fri., Feb. 5:** Cocoa Puffs, cinnamon goldfish, fruit punch and choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.

## 209-U Lunch this week

- Mon., Feb. 1:** meatball sub, celery sticks/pb, Baked Lays, applesauce and choice of milk
  - Tues., Feb. 2:** biscuits and gravy, Go-gurt, hash browns, strawberry cup and choice of milk
  - Wed., Feb. 3:** ham and cheese on bun, V8 juice, teddy grahams, pineapple and choice of milk
  - Thurs., Feb. 4:** ravioli, green beans, garlic toast, peach cup and choice of milk
  - Fri., Feb. 5:** 2 tacos, refried beans, salsa, pears and choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

## WHS seniors of the week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES  
WHS STUDENT REPORTER



EMILY DOOLEY

Each week the Free Press Advocate features seniors from the Class of 2021. Wilmington senior this week includes Emily Dooley.

**Emily Dooley**  
*What do you plan to pursue upon graduation?* After graduation I plan on pursuing a degree in music education.

*Do you have a hobby you're good at?* My free time is mostly spent playing and listening to music. I also learned to crochet a year or two ago.

*What is one thing most people don't know about you?* I've been playing piano for about ten years.

*What is one skill you wish you had but don't?* I wish I knew how to speak more languages like Italian or Latin.

*What is your favorite thing to eat?* Probably pizza or pasta

*I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)...* TI

*Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why?*

*If you could create a class, what would it be?* I really wish we had a jazz band class.

*Funniest memory from high school?* Not a specific one, but band camp and marching band in general throughout the past four years.

*What advice would you give to underclassmen?* Don't listen to anyone else, take AP US History. APUSH was one of my favorite classes.

WANT TO SEE YOUR SCHOOL NEWS HERE?  
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Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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## Seems fair

COAL CITY—In regards to the missing Coal City Area Club funds. Every club member should be reimbursed due to the fact that the increase of club dues over the last few years are reflective of these missing funds and that comes out of every area club member's pockets.

Coal City Area Club member

## Lack of transparency

COAL CITY—Is the Coal City Area Club board hoping everyone has forgotten about the money taken from the club? Seems funny how nothing has been mentioned or reported about any action taken or any reason for the delay in pursuing this matter. Hopefully we will have some new board members elected soon who actually care about keeping members updated on club matters instead of just sliding things through and hoping nobody notices.

## With utmost respect

AGREE WITH PENNY—Margo, I must agree with Dear Penny. You certainly showed no respect for Dr. Jill Dolittle Biden and her husband Joe Donelittle Biden. Follow Penny's example and treat our elected officials with the utmost respect. I also agree with Penny about the Capitol Hill riots. It was one of the worst things I have ever seen. At first I thought they were showing reruns of the Kavanaugh swearing in ceremony. But closer inspection showed this debacle had a few more people. I hope when those people are rotting in jail they realize they should have put up Chaz or Chop Autonomous zone signs and all would have been forgiven. M. Holmes

## This isn't reform

WILMINGTON—After reading about the Illinois "police reform bill" passed by the House and Senate I am disgusted how Chicago Democrats and the Black Caucus have brought their "reform" upon the entire state. Letting criminals run free without bail before they go to trial is not reform. It is an invitation for criminals to commit more crime. And where do they think they will go to commit more crimes? In the small towns closest to Chicago. Hijack a car in the city and get caught? No problem because a judge will let you free without bail. So now that you're marked by the police in the city it's easier to will move to the suburbs and small towns to do your carjacking. Is this a law change to bring equality? I don't think so. It just gives the criminals more opportunity to terrorize their victims. Gov. JB Pritzker needs to veto the bill and send it back to lawmakers to leave cash bail alone.

## Mute point

WILMINGTON—Hey Dan, if you're not a Jew or a Christian, the Bible is irrelevant. Your point is mute.

## Traffic problem

COAL CITY—When was it decided that it's OK to completely take over North DeWitt Street to park for elementary school pickup? What a disaster that has turned into. Cars don't even make an attempt to pull off to the side of the road. They just completely block the entire street for about two blocks. I'm not sure why they changed Second Street to a one way street in the opposite direction of what it was for years but that's when this problem started. Obviously the police don't monitor the situation or I think it would have been stopped when it first started.

## Hope you're happy

BRAIDWOOD—Congratulations to all of you cowardly voters, Democrats and some Republicans I'm sure, who relentlessly pursued our President Donald Trump, for four years and even today continue with their hate toward him and anyone who supports him. It doesn't really matter which party you belong to because your vote didn't really matter in a stolen election. Yes, I said stolen, because there is plenty of proof to back this up, but the crooked politicians and judges who thrive on hate chose to ignore it all. I am sickened even by our Republican congressmen who chose to go against Trump. So sit back and enjoy your temporary victory all of you dumbed-down Democrats, you are getting what you wished for. Men in women's bathrooms, open borders for all illegals to enter, instant amnesty for illegals, 11,000+ jobs lost instantly with the stroke of a pen and more to come due to increased lockdowns, a \$15 min. wage which contributes to even more business shutdowns. If you're a business owner and have lost your business you know what this means. Illegal aliens filing into an already depleted job market due to covid. Higher gas taxes, instant path to citizenship for the millions of illegals in this country. This should really upset those of you who have ancestors who came to this country and became naturalized citizens the legal way. I hope all of you Dems are happy because this is the beginning of a dark four years ahead for us all. You got what you wished for, now accept the consequences. I will guarantee you this, President Trump is not going away, nor is the belief in Democracy and freedom. No matter what the new corrupt administration tries to force upon us, this is a country founded on God. So wake up America and fight back for your freedom. Not with violence but with your brains, before it is too late.

## Biggest fraud election

SHADOW LAKES—You Biden supporters and fake news watchers have made a big deal out of the violence in Washington, DC. But yet when President Trump won the election there were big riots all over the country and in Washington, DC with a lot of destruction. But the media, your media, fake news has not reported on that with the riots associated with Biden. You people are definitely mixed up. You're communist, there is no doubt about it. Trump has done more for this country than any person in my lifetime. But the deep state and it is deep, does not want to allow it. And the Democrats even admitted by Joe Biden, which was on the news twice but not your news. While stating when he was campaigning in Pennsylvania he said I do not need your votes to win. Later he said this is the biggest fraud election in America. What more do you need?

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The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

To voice your opinion, please go to

[www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com), Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

That is if you would have watched what was really happening. Good luck because they're gonna tax you heavily and lose a lot of money because all you do have is investment in retirement and I'm sure none of you disliked the stock market going up under Trump. It definitely helped your retirement funds. So good luck and good-bye, Dan Hill

## Reasons to leave

SHADOW LAKES—You can't drive in Chicago without fear of being carjacked. Murders are up and the Democrats just passed new laws to make it harder for the police to do their job. Eighty thousand residents have moved out of the state in 2020 thanks to Pritzker. Can't blame this state's crime and taxes on Trump.

## Stop the mess

WILMINGTON—I have voted in 13 presidential elections. Some candidates won, some lost. It didn't matter. I am still an American. I remember the protesting during the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. I was a college student during the Vietnam War. I was lucky I went to Illinois State because it wasn't quite the powder keg that Kent State and other universities were. But I have rarely witnessed anything compared to what has happened in the past year. Peaceful protests turned into violence and looting. Our Capitol building, a symbol of our democracy, was attacked and vandalized. I'm not pointing fingers at either party because there is plenty of blame to pass around. But my children and grandchildren, as well as yours, are living in this mess. And it has to stop. T. Lockwood

## Running the show

COAL CITY—How many Democrats are going to complain when the mental capability of Joe Biden is put to question. When it is brought up about the two aneurysms that he has had since, with each one a steel clip is put into the brain to stop the leak of a blood vessel. When an individual has one aneurysm they must take medication. Joe Biden has had two brain surgeries. Each time it affects the mental capability of a human being's mind. So you Democrats can stop complaining about Donald Trump he is no longer in office. So who is going to be running the White House, Big Tech, Corporate America, Kamala Harris, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer or the Chinese government? Remember you get what you ask for and when your taxes are raised to help foreign countries and more American citizens go into poverty you have no one to blame but yourself for believing the propaganda the Democratic leadership put out or how they censored the real news.

## Four years of lies

BRAIDWOOD—Some of the awful lies of Donald Trump. The most telling: It didn't rain on his inauguration-It rained during Trump's inaugural address. The most dangerous lie: The coronavirus was under control-But it's reasonable to venture that his dishonesty led to a significant number of deaths. The most alarming lie saga: Sharpiegate-Trump tweeted in 2019 that Alabama was one of the states at greater risk from Hurricane Dorian than had been initially forecast. The federal weather office in Birmingham then tweeted that, actually, Alabama would be unaffected by the storm. The most ridiculous subject of a lie: The Boy Scouts- that no call ever happened. The ugliest smear lie: Rep. Ilhan Omar supports al Qaeda-Trump grossly distorted a 2013 quote from Rep. Ilhan Omar to try to get his supporters to believe that the Minnesota Democrat had expressed support for the terrorist group al Qaeda. The most boring serial lie: The trade deficit with China used to be \$500 billion- So he said well over 100 times that, before his presidency, the US for years had a \$500 billion annual trade deficit with China -- though the actual pre-Trump deficit never even reached \$400 billion. The most entertaining lie shtick: The burly crying man who had never cried before-They were also pure shtick. The most traditional big lie: Trump didn't know about the payment to Stormy Daniels-Trump knew, because he had personally reimbursed Cohen. The biggest lie by omission: Trump ended family separation-Yes, Trump signed a 2018 order to end the family separation policy. What he did not mention is that what he had ended was his own policy -- a plan announced by his own attorney general that had made family separation standard rather than occasional, as it had been under Obama. The most shameless campaign lie: Biden will destroy protections for pre-existing conditions-though the Obama-Biden administration created the protections, though the protections were overwhelmingly popular, though Biden was running on preserving them, and though Trump himself had tried repeatedly to weaken them The lie he fled: He got Veterans Choice- Obama signed into law in 2014 The Crazy Uncle lie award: Windmill noise causes cancer-After Trump amplified another conspiracy lie in 2020, NBC's Savannah Guthrie admonished him by saying that "you're not, like, someone's crazy uncle who can just retweet whatever." The most hucksterish lie: That plan was coming in two weeks-Trump's big health care plan was eternally coming in "two weeks." So were a bunch of other plans and announcements. Trump was once named Michigan's Man of the Year-Trump has never lived in Michigan. Why would he have been named Michigan's Man of the Year years before his presidency? The most depressing lie: Trump won the election-Trump's long White House campaign against verifiable reality has culminated with his lie that he is the true winner of the 2020 presidential election he clearly, certifiably and fairly lost.

## Open borders again

COAL CITY—The new administration has decided that the borders will be open again to allow everyone to enter the USA and be given benefits that the American citizens will not be able to receive. The politicians will not care if there is more crime against Americans while immigrants receive total protection and economic prosperity from the taxpayers funds. American citizens struggle for survival from criminal activity and to put food on the table while the politicians turning their backs on the



people that pay their salaries and give benefits to themselves and their families to live an easy life as they impose new restrictions. U.S. citizens will have to pay for all the free stuff that will be given to all the people throughout the world. Say good bye to USA and say hello to global poverty.

## Does not compare

WILMINGTON—To the caller who said the Democrats are worse than the Nazis. I say until we kill 6 million Jews the Nazis still rank #1 for evil. By the way your hateful rant is no way to start the healing. But what do I know? I'm a stupid pin-headed brain idiot.

## Don't believe it

COAL CITY—Well it's official, Biden/Harris are president. Now they can get down to the business of fixing this country. No borders, no more wall, let all the illegal aliens in, give them free health care, free housing, free food stamps and let's not forget their free stimulus checks. The Wuhan virus will disappear, just wear your masks. They will vaccinate 1 million people a day. Open everything up now it's safe. They can't wait to rejoin the Paris Accord, stop the Keystone pipeline, or rejoin the World Health Organization who screwed up the response to the Wuhan virus. By taking China's word on everything like it's from a market (not a biohazard lab) it's not that contagious and that they didn't send citizens all over the globe. Then they can get down to the economy, new regulations on businesses, pause student loans, tax the rich, stop fracking, raise the minimum wage to \$15, raise taxes and jobs will magically appear. What's he got a magic wand? Best of all, a divided nation will heal itself and become civil again. But the thing I can't wrap my head around is the giant double standard of the pompous, privileged, over important self worth, of the politicians and the main stream media. For months last year you didn't hear a word on the riots (peaceful protests), the property damage and the killings in all the major Democratic run towns and cities. Mayors and governors made excuses for the rioters, (social injustice, racism, white privilege), decry any help from the feds, even told cops to stand down. Their answer was to defund the cops. But storm the Capitol and that gets their attention (what happened was wrong). The over top outrage displayed by politicians and media was a joke. Do we really need 25,000 National guardsmen for the inauguration? Hundreds of millions spent on locking down Washington. Do members of Congress really need security guards and the 24/7 nonstop coverage of the riot by the main stream news media? Really? Paradise is just around the corner, Biden/Harris are president, don't worry be happy!! KL

## Killing jobs

SHADOW LAKES—Did or did not China Joe say he was or was not in favor of fracking? It seems to me when he was asking the question, by our president, he never answered the question. As I remember he has a stupid numb look on his face, and never really answered it. Well, it looks like he is not in favor of it. It is really funny here is the people in Pennsylvania voted for China Joe to put themselves out of a job. Or did they really vote that way? We will never know...always, Margot Lane.

## Naive voters

SHADOW LAKES—The new vice president would prefer to release people from jail rather than to honor the oath taken to the sovereignty and other laws of the USA. The vice president did the same thing when she was attorney general, which brings the idea to mind that the new administration is in favor of illegal activities and their oath to the USA is meaningless in their eyes. All the people that voted for the Democrat party into office were completely naive about the propaganda that they were being fed since the big tech companies and the main stream news media censored the real news about the corruption that exists within the Democrat party. Maybe the people that voted in the Democrat leadership will begin to realize they were being treated like nitwits.

## Melania had class

DWIGHT—My name is Walter, I can't believe how the media degraded Melania Trump. She's probably the most elegant First Lady, well mannered and intelligent. She spoke six languages and yet the media degraded her for everything she did.

## Profits unappreciated

It's amazing how you people can vote for Biden. Biden even admitted on national TV that this was the biggest fraud election ever. He said that while he was campaigning. But what he did to bribe foreign officials so his son Hunter could make a lot of money through the governments overseas. Trump has done more for this country than anyone in the past 72 years that I've been aware of politics. One of my neighbors who really hated Trump for no legit-

imate reason, I asked her have you been happy with your retirement funds? Yes, she said. Well how were they during the Obama administration? She said, not as good. My reply was, how can you vote against him? He has done more for your retirement than Obama ever did, or Bush, or H.W.Bush, or Clinton and probably Reagan. She couldn't answer, she just looked at the ground. So I suggested, the profits you made, why don't you send them back.

## Rage of Americans

COAL CITY—We will remain a deeply divided country. Where is it headed? Who knows? The anger that raged while attacking the US Capitol on Jan. 6 wasn't just over an election. It was an explosion of rage by whites who see their dominance threatened by the multiracial coalition of Americans who brought President Biden to power carrying Confederate flags. They weren't fighting just to defend Trump but to defend white America whose hold on power is becoming less. President Trump never called for violence during his rally speech. He told his supporters to march on the capitol peacefully and patriotically. Sorry that it went the wrong way.

## Laugh a little

COAL CITY—I read a Kentucky man used a flame thrower to clear the snow from his driveway. He was dressed in a white bathrobe, black socks and sandals as he calmly sprayed long lashes of fire instantly melting the snow and with his other hand he puffs a cigar and takes long swigs from a can of beer. He concluded the work throwing the beer can into the snow expressing God Bless Rednecks. If you want to get through this life, keep a good sense of humor.

## Talk about overkill

COAL CITY—Do you believe 25,000 National Guards were sent to Washington, DC to guard the Capitol and put up fencing to lock down many blocks in the city for the inauguration? We watched on TV many troops sleeping on the floor of the Capitol next to one another, not six feet apart, some with or without masks. Tell us how many porta potties were required for 25,000 troops. Talk about overkill and spreading the Covid virus. The Democrat Party Celebration.

## Ignoring the protests

COAL CITY—Jan. 21, 2021, anarchists riot, burning, looting, attacking law enforcement in Seattle, WA, Portland, Oregon. Guess who they blame? Trump, and he's gone and no longer our president. The Democrat authorities don't press charges because the thugs belong to the Far Left and are Democrats.

## Signs everywhere

COAL CITY—So the Ultimate Ride sign is on the move again huh? They couldn't make it in Morris and they're too cool for Coal City. They got the talk and the walk. They are better off in Braidwood. Mike M.

## Taxpayers always pay

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the article "Bottom Line" by Kurt K. He says that the Secret Service agents aren't allowed to invade Ivanka Trump's house to use the bathroom, which they have seven. So taxpayers must foot the bill for a \$3,000 a month apartment costing a total of \$100,000 to date essentially for the use of a toilet. Well Mr. Kurt, when the Clintons left office, on their property with one of their mansions, they had another house in the back and they rented it out to Secret Service which the taxpayers had to pay for. Did we forget about that?

## More for veterans

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the article in last week's sound-off about Trump not liking veterans and not doing anything for veterans. Whoever the person is who put this article in obviously is not a veteran because they don't know what they're talking about. Trump has done more for the VA than Obama or any other president ever did in my lifetime. Also, the military had a much-deserved raise which did not come under Obama. The military loves Trump. They hated Obama and they hated Clinton. So where this person gets their information obviously is CNN, MSNBC and the rest of the fake news media. I am a veteran and things are greatly improved under Trump at the VA. Dan Hill

## False flags

WILMINGTON—I'm watching the Fox News coverage of the riots out on the west coast and they are blaming it on Antifa. But from what I can see I think it's a false flag operation by the proud and/or boogaloo boys. Anyone remember the red squad in Chicago?

## What a joke

WILMINGTON—I want all of you Biden supporters to remember one thing. Obama said you could keep your doctor. A very big lie. Joe

# Midwin renews program, exchanges seed from nearby state wildlife areas

## Online program for gardeners offered Saturday

The USDA Forest Service, under a long-standing agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, is resuming a seed exchange partnership involving state natural areas near Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington.

The seed exchange partnership allows for more robust and diverse populations of prairie plants at state parks and the Midwin property.

At one time, tallgrass prairies dominated over 60 percent of the landscape in Illinois – over 21 million acres. Now, less than 1/100th of one percent of native tallgrass prairie remains in Illinois.

Restored prairie at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie has added twice as much as all of the remnant prairies that remain in Illinois, combined. Volunteers, partners and staff hope that progress in restoration can continue.

Under terms of the partnership agreements and permits that were first issued almost 20 years ago, Midwin NTP volunteers, partners and staff would resume collecting and cleaning seeds of a number of native species of prairie grasses and forbs from some State of Illinois sites. Some of the sites are Grant Creek Prairie State Nature Preserve, Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area near Wilmington, Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (Morris) and more.

Lead plant, prairie dropseed, purple oxalis, Michigan lily, yellow star grass; and various sedges and gentians are some of the native Illinois plant species that have been involved in the program, at some point, over the past 20 years.



USDA FS — Midwin NTP Photo by Veronica Hinke  
**LORRIE CERKVENIK** uses an electric seed cleaning machine to separate chaff from seed at the USDA Forest Service's Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie. For nearly 20 years, the USDA Forest Service and the State of Illinois have been working together in seed exchange partnerships to encourage more robust, diverse prairie plant populations in the Prairie State.

"Because many of the plants on these sites are somewhat isolated by surrounding land uses, this harvesting and seed swapping helps

foster some genetic mixing of neighboring populations and can help ensure that they remain robust and diverse," said Midwin NTP

Restoration Team Leader Mike Redmer.

Once harvested, seeds are brought to Midwin NTP where they are cleaned using hand-held cleaning shakers and other devices and electric seed cleaning machines. Cleaning seed involves separating seed from chaff, which is part of the outer protective layer of a seed. Removing chaff gives the seed a much better chance to germinate.

Twenty-five percent of the seed is returned to the I-DNR to help restore State of Illinois natural areas.

"Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie has much to celebrate in this Silver Anniversary year," said Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Supervisor Wade Spang. "The seed exchange partnership with the USDA Forest Service and the State of Illinois is just one example of strong collaborations over the past 25 years that have brought together neighbors and partners in this whole-community restoration process."

To observe National Seed Swap Day, Saturday, Jan. 30, information about planting a prairie garden at home will be held with a virtual National Seed Swap Day Tea at 10 a.m.

What worked well last season and what are you planning for this year? This program will be a discussion for all ages to learn and share inspiration.

Midwin NTP staff and partners presented webcasts on prairie gardening at home in 2020, and webcast recordings are available online, here:

- "Plant A Patch of Prairie at Home": <https://tinyurl.com/y4jbmtd2>;
- "Wetland Plants at Home" by Wetlands Initiative Ecologist Anna Braum: <https://tinyurl.com/y3feuf7l>.
- Pollinator Plant List: A list of prairie pollinator plants that are essential to restoration at Midwin NTP is available online: <https://tinyurl.com/v3gjawv>.

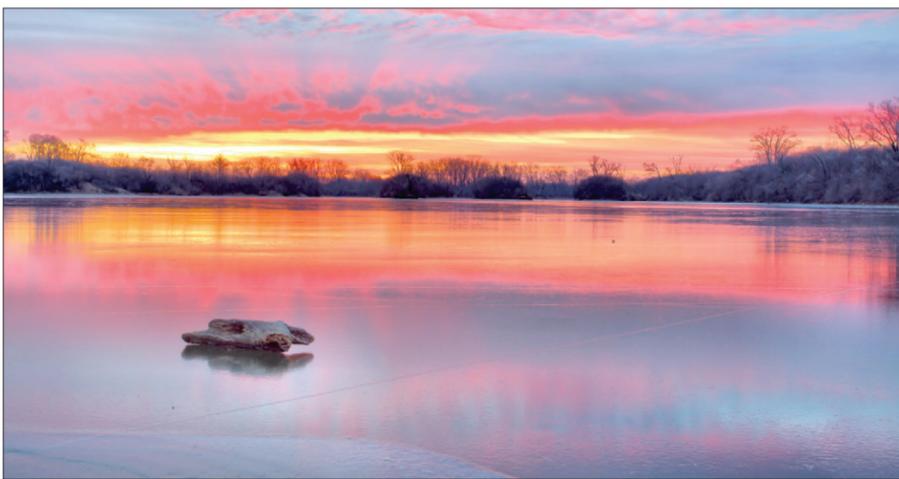
# Channahon man's sunrise photo takes top honors

Channahon resident Kevin Kuchler's sunrise photo rose above more than 1,000 photo entries to win the Forest Preserve District of Will County's 2020 Preserve the Moment Photo Contest.

The winning shot featured the golden glow of the sun sandwiched between blue-gray ice and clouds at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield. The photo was deemed the best for the month of December and then won top honors in the overall contest competing with seven other monthly finalists in online voting this month.

Coming in second in the overall contest was Matthew Serafini of Lockport for his photo of a yellow-crowned night heron snacking on crawfish at Whalon Lake in Naperville. In third place was Naperville resident Bertrand Leclercq for his close-up of a praying mantis at Riverview Farmstead Preserve in Naperville. All of the 2020 contest entries can be viewed on the Forest Preserve's Flickr page, [Flickr.com/WillCoForests](https://www.willcountynature.org/).

Kuchler, Serafini and Leclercq will receive MasterCard gift cards worth \$500, \$250 and \$150, respectively. The photo contest is sponsored by The Nature Foundation of Will County, <<https://www.willcountynature.org/>>



Courtesy photo by Kevin Kuchler  
**CHANNAHON RESIDENT** Kevin Kuchler's photo of a sunrise at Lake Renwick Preserve in Plainfield was the top photo in the Forest Preserve District's 2020 Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. Kuchler's picture won in December and then beat all other monthly winners in online voting via the Forest Preserve District's Facebook to win the top prize of a \$500 gift card.

More than 1,500 votes were cast online to narrow the eight monthly winning photos to

three final contenders. In the last round of voting, Kuchler's sunrise photo was deemed the best of the best.

Kuchler said he loves taking sunrise and sunset photos in the preserves and has been doing so since 2010. The day he took the winning shot, he and his wife ventured out early and walked the trail along the water's edge until the sun emerged from the horizon.

"I am so excited! There were great photos taken this

year and I can't believe that my photo won," he said via email after being notified of his win. "The praying mantis and the heron eating the crawfish were amazing photos."

Kuchler said he loves landscape photography because he can capture the beauty of the world around him.

"The earth has such amazing places and to be able to capture those places and share them with people is something that I love to do," he said.

He explained that winning the contest will provide more motivation to get outside and take photos and he will use a portion of his prize money to get a new camera bag. The contest was a much-needed stress reducer in 2020, he added.

"2020 I think was tough for just about everyone," Kuchler said. "Walking through the preserves in such a peaceful environment, you really were able to forget about all the craziness going on and just relax."

The Forest Preserve received 1,092 photo entries from 467 individuals, the most since the contest began in 2016.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit [ReconnectWithNature.org](https://www.willcountynature.org/)

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# Illinois Comptroller will no longer withhold state payouts for red-light camera fees

BY COLE LAUTERBACH  
 THE CENTER SQUARE

Local municipalities will soon lose the leverage of seizing state tax returns or other expected Illinois payouts to pay off red-light camera fines.

Illinois Comptroller Susana Mendoza announced that, starting Feb. 6, the state will no longer collect fines against drivers who receive red light camera tickets.

"As a matter of public policy, this system is clearly broken. I am exercising the moral authority to prevent state resources being used to assist a shady process that victimizes taxpayers," Comptroller Susana A. Mendoza said.

The announcement comes on the heels of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announcing the city will ticket speeders caught on camera going 6 mph over the limit. Mendoza's office hasn't collected the fees in Chicago since 2016.

First allowed in 2012, red-light cameras have come under scrutiny in recent years, with some arguing that they are merely revenue generators that could cause more accidents than they prevent.

An investigation by ABC7 found most motorists fined by the cameras were actually turning right when the light was red, something legal in most instances.

Illinois-based SafeSpeed was named by former Illinois Sen. Martin Sandoval as an organization that paid state and local officials to allow their cameras into intersections with a potential for high profitability.

Illinois lawmakers have previously filed legislation to ban red-light cameras entirely but none have been successfully enacted.

After the change, local municipalities will have to employ private collection agencies to collect fees.

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# New Speaker says Illinois House is 'back in business'

House Speaker Michael Madigan avoided calling the General Assembly back into session during the pandemic for several reasons, many of them having to do with himself.

But Speaker Welch told me earlier this month that "The legislature is back in business. We're going to work in 2021."

"We're going to probably use the BOS Center for a little while," Welch said of the Springfield convention center that the House has been meeting in. "But that's a pretty costly place. So we're also trying to explore how to safely transition back into the Capitol. There will probably be a hybrid version of remote committees and

limited things at the Capitol, but we're about to go back to work."

The remote legislating bill failed to pass both chambers during the recent lame duck session, but Welch said there are some new things they can do. "And we can do it pretty quickly if we're actually working."

Here are some more highlights from my interview:

• Chief of Staff: The new Speaker said he's asked Madigan's chief of staff Jessica Basham to stay on through the end of the remap process and she has agreed. Basham has been diligently studying the remap process for the past two years, but she is also Madigan's

former appropriations director, which is crucial knowledge and experience to have during what looks to be a possibly horrific budget-making process.

"I'm looking forward to working with Jessica," Welch said. "I think she's been a great chief of staff. She knows this process and I'm going to lean on her as well. And I think everyone would understand the need to have a transition period. You don't come in a door and immediately start making changes, especially when three days ago you didn't even expect to be in the position."

• Speaking of the Remap: Welch told reporters after he was elected Speaker that he supports "Fair Maps." I asked how committed he actually is to the concept of redistricting reform.

"I've believed in fair maps



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

since I've been in the legislature," Welch said. "And so we're going to begin that process. We're going to work with Democrats and Republicans, we're gonna work with the Senate, we're gonna work with the governor. Because my definition of fair maps may be different from what everyone else's is. So, we have to do this in partnership. Remember that if we're not doing this in partnership, we already have a difficult task ahead of us, it's only going to get more difficult if we don't do this with all the voices around the table."

• New Rules?: Speaker Welch said he wants to talk with his members before making any decisions on new House rules, "because I heard a lot about that in my conversations," with House Democrats during his election. "After I talk to the mem-

bers, I'll reach out to Durkin," he said of the House Republican Leader. Welch said he will "take a quick hard look" at the rules "and make changes where we deem appropriate."

• Campaign Structure: The House Republicans years ago separated their government staff from their campaign staff. Madigan never followed suit. The House Democrats' Issues Staff does double-duty on campaigns. Does he plan to change that?

"We're talking through with a number of folks getting guidance, and we'll see how things go," Welch said.

"I want to say this," Welch continued, "because there's 73 Democrats in the House. Two years ago, we had 74. That's a super-majority. So Madigan was doing something right. And his structure was doing something right. And so we're not gonna throw the baby out with the bathwater."

"What we're gonna do is take a good system and add a little polish to it, and fine tune it and add some modern touches to it, give it a little bit

more transparency. But we're gonna do some things that are already being done because they're proven things that elect Democrats."

Welch said he hasn't yet talked with Madigan about control of the caucus' Democratic Majority PAC, "but that's on the agenda."

• Madigan: Asked if Madigan had left him a letter of advice like many governors do for their successors, Welch said he hadn't.

"But you know, he is available to me, we've sat and talked twice," Welch said. "And both of those conversations have been very helpful to me already."

"He has told me to call him for advice on anything I need. And trust me, with his type of knowledge, I'm gonna do that. I'm gonna lean on that institution."

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

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## Commentary

# Electric vehicles and their drawbacks

BY GEOFFREY POHANKA

Electric-powered cars are now the rage. Tesla's market capitalization is seven times larger than that of General Motors and 14 times larger than Ford's, though it builds a fraction of the vehicles that those companies do. Many politicians are even considering banning gasoline-powered cars within a few years in favor of electric vehicles (EVs), all in the name of saving the planet.

This has significant meaning to me. As a third-generation automobile dealer, I need to get ahead of the curve and prepare for what is next. I want to sell what people want to buy. I have driven the Volkswagen Golf EV, the Honda Clarity plug-in (PEV), and now the Hyundai Kona EV. All have good road characteristics and operate similarly to gasoline-powered cars, with the exception of how they are powered.

I installed a Level II charger at my home. The cost: about \$850. I am fortunate that my fuse box is located in the garage, so I did not need much additional wiring. The garage is where I charge these EVs overnight.

Some say that a 250-mile range is a must for an EV, and I agree. Charging one with a normal 120-volt plug requires about 54 hours so a Level II, 240-watt charger is needed – the same voltage that a home drier uses. To fully charge the Kona with its 64 kW battery requires up to ten hours. Plug in when you come home, and it is ready by the time you leave for work in the morning. A 250-mile range gets me just about anywhere I want to go.

The question remains: What is it like to have to depend upon a public charging station? Tesla has a robust, nationwide rapid-charging infrastructure, but Tesla uses a proprietary charging plug that does not work with other makes of vehicles. Volkswagen,

as part of its diesel settlement, has constructed a large charging network under the name of Electrify America. Electrify America has the closest rapid chargers to both my home and my office.

Driving from my home and with about 25 miles of battery range (10% of capacity), I headed off to the Reston Virginia fast charger, located in an office park. It is a few miles farther than the local gasoline station that I normally use. It had three charging towers, each with two cords. One of the cords fits only the Nissan Leaf. There were four 350 kW chargers and one 50 kW charger to select from. I chose the 50 kW charger, plugged in the cord, inserted my credit card, and experienced my first public fast charge.

How long it takes a battery depends upon four things: the capacity of the charger, the capacity of the battery, the battery discharge condition, and the rate of charge that the battery will accept. The Kona will accept up to a 75 kW rate of charge.

Fast chargers will bring the battery only to an 80% total charge due to the limitations of lithium batteries. Charging above 80% will damage the battery. Since I arrived at the charging station with ten percent capacity remaining, I received an additional 70% charge, which gave me about 190 miles total range. It required one hour and ten minutes. The cost was \$21.07, or 43 cents per kW. The cost would be about 34 cents per kW if I joined Electrify America for four dollars per month. Filling my gasoline vehicle for the same range would cost less – about \$13. Charging an EV at a fast charger costs more per mile of range than filling up a gasoline-powered vehicle.

What struck me first was how this could possibly work for me if I had to rely entirely on fast chargers and instead of

my home charger. I drive at least 80 miles each day, which means I would have to recharge my Kona every other day assuming that I did not do more driving than just between my home and the office. Since it required over one hour to charge the battery, I would have to spend over 200 hours annually charging my vehicle – the equivalent of 25 eight-hour working days. And this assumes that I never had to wait in line for another vehicle to finish charging and that the charging station was nearby when I needed one. If I lived in a town home, or an apartment, without access to a Level II home charger, I would have to rely entirely on the public fast-charging network. And instead of a 250-mile range, I would have only about a 190-mile range to work with.

I later charged with a 150 kW and 350 kW charger, but the time expended was no less. It was quite cold when I used the 350 kW charger. The charging time was actually about five minutes longer than when using the 50 kW charger. Perhaps the periodic cycling of my car's heater was the reason. Using fast chargers can be quite boring, so make sure that you bring something to do.

Next, I used the nearest fast-charging station from my office. It is 12 miles distant, a 20-minute drive each way. If I had to rely entirely on this charger, it would require one hour and 40 minutes every other day, or 300 hours every year. This would be equal to 37 eight-hour work days annually.

I know that some EV drivers combine shopping and other activities while they charge their vehicles. This might work with the more common, publicly accessible, and slower Level II chargers, but probably not with the Electrify America charging network, since there is only a ten-minute grace once the 80 percent charge is achieved. Otherwise, 40 cents per minute is tacked on to the cost of charging.

Questions also arise about how many chargers would be needed to keep cars like mine on the road. One electrical cord could charge only about 20 cars each day (80 miles per

day driving and 170 miles available driving range). Perhaps a more realistic capacity would be 12 cars a day, since it is doubtful many would be doing this in odd hours. Ten thousand cars like mine would require 416 charging cords (or 208 towers with two cords each). It would require only about 14 gasoline hoses (or seven towers) to fuel the same number of gasoline-powered vehicles at 50% capacity. One hundred thousand EVs would require over 4,000 available charging cords.

The other drawback to EVs is their higher cost. The MSRP of the 2021 Hyundai Kona Ultimate I have been charging is \$46,985. The same model powered by gasoline has an MSRP of \$31,370, or over \$15,000 less. I have read that one reason for the price differential is that to manufacture a 1,000-pound battery requires the processing of 50,000 pounds of ore, and one must move 500,000 pounds of overburden to get the ore. The lithium, cobalt, copper, and rare-earth minerals required to manufacture the battery largely come from overseas. Eighty percent of battery manufacturing takes place in China, so this is likely to have an impact on our trade imbalance and energy independence.

EVs start their lives with a larger carbon footprint than gasoline vehicles. Another question is how these batteries will be charged, since electricity mostly comes from non-renewable energy sources such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy. Some speculate that EV costs will decline with mass production, and that battery-charging times will be reduced with newer technologies. If this does not occur, then affordability, lack of range, and charging times will be major handicaps.

Besides the extra cost to purchase an EV and the larger carbon footprint, the greatest drawback by far will be what to do with all those hours spent waiting while one's car is charging.

Geoffrey Pohanka is president of Pohanka Automotive Group in Capitol Heights, Maryland.

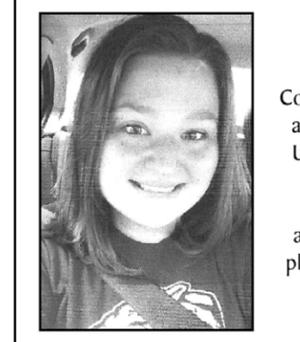
## Iowa State dean's list

More than 11,000 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2020 dean's list. Students named to the dean's list must have earned a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a

minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Recognized by the University were Samantha Hanley, sophomore, of Braceville; Kit Clayburn, sophomore, from Coal City; Emma Hennessy, of Gardner and Melissa Woodall, of Wilmington.

## Congratulations

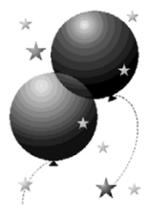


### HOLLY SWISHER

Congratulations on your academic achievements at Eastern Illinois University during the Fall 2020 Semester. As a result of your outstanding performance of above 3.75 GPA you have been placed on the Dean's List for the College of Education.

Holly is the daughter of Bob & Dyanna Swisher from Braceville.

Best wishes for continued academic and professional success!



They say there is no reason.

They say that time will heal.

But neither time nor reason, will change the way we feel. For no one knows the heartache that lies behind our smile. No one knows how many times we've broken down and cried. We want to tell you something, so there won't be any doubt. You're wonderful to think of but so hard to live without. Life goes on so they say and months pass one by one.

We try to stay so busy that soon each day is done.

But all too soon the year has passed and we think about you every day.

Keep loving watch over all of us till we're back with you to stay.

Sadly Missed by Husband,  
Son and Grandchildren

January 31, 2020

# How the White Russian accidentally inspired the Mudslide

It's good to be in the right place, at the right time. This is especially true in the bartending world as some of the world's most enduring cocktails were created either by chance, accident, or pure luck.

The original Mudslide perhaps benefited from all of the above when it came together in Grand Cayman at Rum Point Club's Wreck Bar in the 1970s. It was supposed to be a White Russian, and ended up being the club's signature cocktail that makes the register ring over 30,000 times in a typical year.

The Mudslide is a bit of an anomaly considering its origin, a "rum bar" in the Cayman Islands. The Mudslide doesn't start with a hefty pour of Caribbean rum, and it wasn't even supposed to be a tropical drink. It was supposed to be a White Russian, but then fate stepped in.

Sometime in the mid-1970s, a customer entered the Wreck Bar and ordered a White Russian. The bartender had heard of the drink, but was not familiar with how to make it. The patron informed the bartender that the White Russian is Kahlua, vodka, and cream. Simple enough.

There was one problem: The bar had no heavy cream. The bartender figured he would give it a try anyway, substituting Bailey's Irish Cream for heavy cream. The result was not a White Russian, but something completely different. The drink quickly caught on, and after a bit of experimentation the bar settled on a garnish of cherry and grated

cinnamon for the newly created Mudslide.

There are countless regional variances in the Mudslide, but the recipe below is the original and one of the few recipes that actually allows the spirits in the drink to shine. Contrary to what the bartender at a resort may tell you, the original Mudslide was not made with ice cream and chocolate syrup, nor was it topped with a baseball sized scoop of whipped cream.

If turning your Mudslide into a chocolate sundae for grown ups makes you happy, go for it. Having said that, you owe it to yourself to try the original as it is optimally balanced in notes of coffee, cocoa, and cream.

Is substituting Bailey's Irish Cream for regular cream really that much of a game changer? Absolutely. Bailey's may be a cream-based liqueur, but it carries a bit of a kick from Irish whiskey and some sweetness from the drink powder, Nesquik. Yes, that's right, Nesquik. The end result is a creamy, cocoa flavored liqueur that adds both depth and texture to the right cocktail.

Do you have a favorite Irish Whiskey? With a bit of DIY you can make your very own Irish cream at home following any number of recipes online. You'll need whiskey, cream and Nesquik.

Kahlua is the secret



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL  
Brian Rung

weapon in the White Russian, and has any number of dessert applications as well. Kahlua is a rum-based coffee liqueur from Veracruz, Mexico that combines the flavor of 100% arabica coffee with rum. Coffee flavor notes, in any amount, add incredible depth to drinks. If you pick up a bottle of Kahlua be sure to try it with ice cream, or in an Espresso Martini.

Even though the grated cinnamon is the garnish in the classic Mudslide, do not hold back! Don't even think of skipping the cinnamon.

Now that we have sufficient background on our ingredients, let's pour an original Mudslide.

Begin by pouring equal amounts of vodka, Kahlua, and Bailey's into a blender. Next, add a cup of crushed ice. Always add crushed ice immediately before blending to minimize dilution. Also, using crushed ice in your blended drinks will yield a smoother consistency, free of large chunks of ice.

Blend for 20-30 seconds, or until the drink is nice and smooth.

Once poured into the glass, the folks at the Wreck Bar add a special touch before serving. They fill a straw with Kahlua before they place the straw in the drink. I could take or leave that part, but that's

how they do it in Grand Cayman.

If you are counting calories as part of your New Year's resolution, the Mudslide comes in at 556 calories. If you are researching statistics around New Year's resolutions, approximately 80% of them are broken by February.

The original Wreck Bar



Mudslide is built in a blender and served in a chilled Collins (tall) glass.

Combine in blender:  
1.5 oz. vodka  
1.5 oz. Kahlua  
1.5 oz. Bailey's Irish Cream  
1 cup crushed ice

Blend to slushy consistency and pour into tall glass

Dip straw into Kahlua bottle, fill straw by placing finger over top of straw

Transfer straw to drink, garnish with cherry and grated cinnamon

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

## New cases of COVID-19 variant reported in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced eight additional Illinois cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) variant B.1.1.7, first identified in the United Kingdom.

Health officials previously announced a single case of the variant in Chicago on Jan. 15, for a total of nine cases that have now been reported in Illinois. The nine cases range in age from 12 to 63 years and live in Cook County, including Chicago. Specimens testing positive for the variant through genomic sequencing were collected between Dec. 29 - Jan. 15.

"With reports of this variant already in many states in the U.S., we anticipated its spread here in Illinois," said IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. "Early studies have found that this variant spreads more easily than what we have seen with the current prevailing variant. We are following closely to see if there is evidence that infections by this variant cause more severe disease or death. Based on the information available now, the vaccine will still be effective. Continued masking and vaccination when it is your turn remain our best path to defeating this virus as quickly as possible."

"We expected to see more cases of this variant crop up, and people should know that the best way to protect themselves is continue wearing a mask, washing hands often, staying six feet away from others and getting vaccinated when it is your turn," said CDPH Commissioner Allison

Arwady, M.D. "CDPH is working closely with the CDC and IDPH to contribute to national SARS-CoV-2 strain surveillance, and building regional capacity and coordination for this more advanced, specialized molecular laboratory public health work is a top priority."

IDPH will continue to work with local health departments, academic partners, laboratories, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor for cases. IDPH has increased its surveillance for this and other variants by performing genomic sequence testing on an increased number of specimens.

Viruses constantly change and new variants are expected. In addition to the B.1.1.7 variant, another variant, 1.351 has emerged in South Africa, and another, P.1 in Brazil.

Public health experts are working to better understand the potential impact of this variant, including how the variant spreads and how it affects people who are infected. The same measures that have helped protect Illinoisans from COVID-19 will also help protect residents from the variant. Wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, avoiding crowds, ventilating indoor spaces, and washing hands frequently remain the best tools for preventing the spread of this virus, no matter the strain.

COVID-19 vaccine information and data can be found on the IDPH website at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vaccine-faq>.

## Free Zoom event to highlight bird behavior

The Will County Audubon Chapter will host an entertaining program online entitled "The Enigma of Bird Behavior" presented by John Kricher.

Kricher taught ecology and ornithology at Wheaton College (Massachusetts) for 48 years. His quest to learn ecology and to watch birds has taken him to over 30 countries and to all the continents.

He is a fellow in the American Ornithological Society and past president of the Wilson Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, and the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Massachusetts.

The free program will be

held at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 11 via Zoom. A short business meeting of the Audubon chapter will be held at 7 p.m.

Kricher has authored 10 books including The New Neotropical Companion (2017). His most recent book is Peterson Reference Guide to Bird Behavior (2020). He lives with his wife Martha Vaughan in Hingham.

Will County Audubon meetings and programs are free and open to the public.

Newsletter recipients will get the zoom invitation via email. The public will find the zoom invitation at [www.will-county-audubon.org](http://www.will-county-audubon.org)

## NIU names fall dean's list

Northern Illinois University in DeKalb announces its fall 2020 dean's list students.

Area students included in the list are Skyler Hibbard, Alicia LaRouché and Reid Scott, of Coal City; Marissa Osborne, of Essex and Araya Benegas and Zoe Noonan, of Mazon.

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.

## Illinois gas prices keep rising

Illinois gas prices have risen 1.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.48/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 12.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 6.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.14/g while the most expensive is \$2.99/g, a difference of 85.0 cents per gallon.

The lowest price in the state is \$2.14/g while the highest is \$2.99/g, a difference of 85.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.40/g.

Wilmington's lowest price for gas is Gas for Less, on 204 E Baltimore St. at \$2.29/g. Coal City's lowest gas price is at the Shell on the corner of Division and Broadway at \$2.47/g. All Braidwood gas stations are at \$2.49/g.

The national average is up 14.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 12.6

cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"Finally, after several weeks of sharply rising gas prices, the pace of price increases has slowed significantly in recent days as prices are now largely caught up to oil's increases as of late," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"While the national average remains at its highest level since the pandemic, increases are likely to slow down in the immediate short-term unless and until oil prices see renewed momentum. When it comes to demand, Pay with GasBuddy data showed last week's gasoline demand at its highest level since November, another bullish factor as the nation continues to see slow improvement from the pandemic."



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# OBITUARIES

## Margaret Adams

COAL CITY—Margaret Marie Adams, 95, of Coal City, passed away Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 at Heritage Health in Dwight. She was born on Aug. 11, 1925 to Dominic and Julia (nee Peredetto) Bertoglio. She was born and raised in the Coal City area, graduating as Salutatorian from Coal City High School class of 1942. Margaret married John Adams, who was from South Wilmington, on March 7, 1943 in Morris. She worked as a secretary for many businesses over the years including in the 1940's at the Joliet Arsenal, in the 1970's at Kerns Furniture, North American Furniture and McCluckie Oil, and in the 1980's as an Assistant H.R. Manager for Stepan Chemical, all while raising her family. Margaret was very active in her community, belonging to the Assumption Catholic Church, the Martha's and the Coal City Junior Women's Club. She was also honored as Woman of the Year. After retirement, Margaret provided in home care to many local residents. She enjoyed being a seamstress, crocheting, quilting and baking. She was an avid card player and enjoyed cooking Italian Sunday dinners.

She is survived by her children: Sue Ann (Steven) Wright, Julie (Gary) Hughes and John Jr. (Bonnie) Adams; nine grandchildren: Stacy (Doug) Rivara, Adam (Amber) Walsh, Joanna (Michael) Filippini, Jason Hughes, Gina (Matt) Weidling, Sara (Steve) Paulsen, AJ (Liz) Adams, Emily (Mari) Adams-Vielma and Seth Adams; eight great-grandchildren: Bailey and Riley



Rivara, Davis and Maddie Walsh, Morgan and Maggie Filippini and Taylor and Kaitlyn Noel; sister, Lucille (the late Bill) Wolfe, sisters-in-law, Sharon (the late Dominic) Bertoglio and Betty (the late George) Adams. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Dominic and Julia Bertoglio; her husband of 58 years, John Adams; brother and sister-in-law, Joseph and Janice Bertoglio; brother, Dominic Bertoglio; brother-in-law, George Adams; brother and sister-in-law, Cody (Shirley) Adams and Bill Wolfe and sister and brother-in-law, Edna Mae (Celestine) Ciluffo.

Memorials in Margaret's name may be directed to the Coal City Food Pantry, 245 S. Kankakee St., Coal City, IL 60416.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City with Reverend Raed Bader officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood.

Pallbearers were Margaret's grandchildren: Doug Rivara, Adam Walsh, Michael Filippini, Jason Hughes, Matt Weidling, Steve Paulsen, AJ Adams and Seth Adams.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City were entrusted with arrangements.

## Gary Arnold

TAMPA, FL—Gary "Poppa" Arnold, 74, passed away in Tampa, FL after a 30 year battle with heart disease, a heart transplant, and kidney failure. Born Dec. 7, 1946, Gary was raised in Coal City, where he graduated and married the love of his life, Donna (Benson). They raised their three girls in Coal City before moving to Florida in 1991.

Poppa was an auto body repair man, detailing vehicles, tinkering in the garage and in the kitchen. He was the master of the grill, baked the best cinnamon rolls, loved bowling, cruise vacations, casinos, and cruising to the oldies in his Dodge Ram. His lasting legacy is that he taught his children and grandchildren the importance and value of family.



Gary is his survived by "his girls:" Kalene (Brian) Farrell, Krystl (Paul) Nicoletti and Kandi Custer; his grandchildren, who he loved so deeply: Brandan (Lynze) Nicoletti, Kyle Custer, Jakob (Misty) Nicoletti and Bethani Nicoletti. The last seven years he was also blessed with five great-grandchildren: Braylyn, Weston, Briella, Blake and Tristan. Poppa also proudly called Juan, Lisa, JJ and Lia Alfonso, Tara Cooper, Jessica Brosey and Jen Lynch his family.

Gary was preceded in death seven short months ago by his wife, Donna, on June 9, 2020. A private ceremony scattering their ashes together at sea at sunset on Jan. 29, 2021 is planned.

## Paul Ashley

CHANNAHON—Paul Scott Ashley, 49, of Channahon and formerly of Joliet, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 at Amita Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born March 29, 1971 in Oak Lawn, IL, Paul Scott was a son of Anne Marie (Czajka) Bombis. He was raised and educated in Chicago and attended Brother Rice High School.

Paul was an active member of Families of Faith Church in Channahon, and a fan of both the Chicago Cubs and Bears. A true outdoor enthusiast, Paul enjoyed hiking and kayaking with his wife, Gretchen, as well as traveling and taking road trips.

Paul was a true selfless individual, and was always looking to help others. Above all, Paul cherished his beloved pets, and simply loved spending time with his family, as well as his church.

Survivors include his wife, Gretchen (nee Budde); mother, Anne Marie Bombis; daughters, Olivia Ashley and Christina (Brandon) Andreasan; three grandchildren: Jaxson, Tyler Jr. and Macauley; one sister, Michelle Bombis; his father-in-law, Mike (Kathy) Budde; mother-



in-law, Diane (Joe) Twardak; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Mike (Gina) Budde, Breanna Briar, Brittany Budde (Kory Webb), Lindsey (Devinder) Dhaliwal and Stephanie Twardak, and nieces and nephews: Travis, Kylee, Michael, Dominic and Adelyne.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Families of Faith Church, 24466 W. Eames St. (US Route 6) in Channahon on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 from 12 p.m. until the time of service and celebration of life at 2 p.m. Pastor Joe Pospischil will officiate, and cremation rites will be accorded at the conclusion of the services.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Paul's memory to Families of Faith Church, P.O. Box 518, Channahon, IL 60410.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Paul's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.Reeves-Baskerville.com/obituary/Paul-Ashley](http://www.Reeves-Baskerville.com/obituary/Paul-Ashley)

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

## Rosetta Billings

BCUSTER PARK—Rosetta Billings, 83, of Custer Park, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021 at her home surrounded by family.

Born Nov. 7, 1937 in Ethel, WV, Rosetta Dale was a daughter of Hilary Herman and Cynthia Rebecca (Metheney) Jones. She was raised and educated in West Virginia, and on July 16, 1960, Rose married Bobby Billings in her sister's home in Cicero, IL.

Rose was an avid Chicago Cubs and Green Bay Packer's fan. She enjoyed playing cards and traveling. She was blessed to have visited more than 45 states throughout the country; loved camping in their 5th wheel camper, and enjoyed being able to spend many winter seasons in Florida. Rose worked for the Custer Park Elementary School for 10 years as a lunch server, and will be most remembered as a wonderful homemaker and caregiver of her family. She was truly a beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Bobby; children, Cindy (Wayne) Erdmann, of Custer Park and Harold (Jackie) Billings, of Coal City; grandchildren: Megan (Tyler) Graham, of Buckingham; Beth (Steve) Gans, of Odell; Colton (fiancée Haley Kenny) Billings, of Coal City; Caleb (Paige) Billings, of Bourbonnais; Grant (fiancée Mary-Caroline Kennis) Billings, of Louisville, KY; Brandon Billings, of Manteno and Mia Billings (T.J. Daufenbach), of Coal City; great-grandchildren: Steven Gans, Finley Graham and Brooks Billings; siblings: Jeanetta (Shirl) Wolfe and Ray (the late Dreama) Jones, both of West Virginia; James (Faye) Jones, of Florida and Loretta (Mike) Hambrick, Kathy (Floyd) Clay, Vernon Bailey, and Hollie David (Mary) Bailey, all of West Virginia; sisters-in-law,



Janie Jones and Mary Jones, both of West Virginia and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rose was preceded in death by her parents, step-father, Vernon Bailey and two brothers, Paul Jones and Thomas Jones.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Grant Billings and Tim Wolfe will officiate. Face masks will be required and social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family in maintaining current restrictions and guidelines.

Those wishing to participate in the funeral services virtually are welcome to join the live stream beginning on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at 1 p.m. A link for the event will be available on Rose's memorial page.

Burial will follow in Custer Township Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be: Colton Billings, Caleb Billings, Grant Billings, Brandon Billings, Tyler Graham and Steve Gans.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Rose's memory to: Uplifted Hospice, 482 Main Street NW, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Rose's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Rose-Billings](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Rose-Billings)

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

## John M. Hentze

WASHINGTON—John M. Hentze, 73, former resident of Wilmington, passed away on Nov. 26, 2020 in Spokane, WA.

He was born March 31, 1947 at Morenci, AZ, the third child of Melvin and Doris Hentze. John graduated from Wilmington High School, was a member of the class of 1965 and graduated from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL in 1969. He was drafted into military service and served in Vietnam. At the conclusion of his service he was honorably dis-



charged. John is survived by three sisters: Charlotte (Henry) Dieringer, of Venice FL; Pam (Joe) Ewan, of Colville, WA and Janet Hentze, of Vancouver, WA.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin (Mel) and Doris (Bullock) Hentze.

Cremation rites were accorded. John's remains will be inurned at a later date at Veterans' Administration Cemetery in Spokane, WA.

## Celeste Edwards

COAL CITY—Celeste Marianna Edwards, 101, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021 at Heritage Health of Dwight during the COVID Pandemic of 2020-21.

Born April 23, 1919 in Coal City, during the Spanish Influenza Pandemic of 1918-19, Celeste was a daughter of Celestino and Marianna (Savant) Togliatti. She was the 7th child born to Celestino and Marianna. She was raised by her mother and older siblings due to her father's death, which was a result of the 1918-19 Spanish Influenza 5 months prior to her birth. She graduated with the class of 1935 from Coal City High School, and on Sept. 24, 1938, Celeste married John "Jack" James Edwards in the Rectory of Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City. Following the death of Jack in 1961, Celeste gained employment with UniRoyal, where she worked until her retirement. She was a member of Assumption Catholic Church and served as Secretary for the Village of Eileen.

One who loved handiwork, she was a skilled and talented seamstress, Celeste enjoyed quilting, and was proud to have made many quilts for her relatives. Each new bride and new baby in the family was the recipient of one of her quilts. In addition, she tailored many clothes and passed a great amount of time knitting and crocheting. Celeste was a pristine homemaker, and will be remembered for her homemade ravioli, as well as kolaczki and gnocchi. She also took pleasure tending to her home, flower beds and garden.

Survivors include her three daughters: Sharon (Gary) Bunton, of Coal City; Karen (Jack) Nicoletti, of California and Jacquelyn (Raymond) Hren, of Coal City; 10 grandchildren: Celeste (Mike) Sheridan, John (Ellen)



Bunton, Ryan (Sheila) Bunton, Brock (Natalie) Bunton, John (Annie) Nicoletti, Jason (Suzi) Nicoletti, Jenelle (Joe) Maris, John (Jill) Hren, Christopher (Kelley) Hren and Nicole (Gideon) Blustein; 24 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Celeste was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Jack and six siblings.

A private Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding. Those wishing to participate in Celeste's services virtually, are welcome to watch the live-streamed service on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 beginning at 10:30 a.m. A link for the event will be available on Celeste's memorial page.

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Celeste will be laid to rest with her late husband, Jack. Her grandchildren will serve as pallbearers and honorary pallbearers.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Celeste's memory to Assumption Catholic Church, Unit #1 Foundation and Joliet Area Hospice.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs, and share Celeste's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Celeste-Edwards](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Celeste-Edwards)

To read a comprehensive biography called 'Celeste Edwards - A Remarkable Life,' which was compiled by Celeste's granddaughter, Celeste Sheridan, follow the link: <https://online.fliphtml5.com/kaqqw/blbd/?1611462427873>

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

## Faye L. Cassingham

GENEVA, IL—Faye L. Cassingham, 92, of Geneva, IL, passed away Friday, Jan. 15, 2021.

Born June, 11, 1928 in Wilmington. Faye was the daughter of Louis and Josephine (Jacque) Cassingham. Faye lived most of her life in Batavia and Geneva. She graduated in 1950 with a bachelor of arts degree in education from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. She was a member of the Kappa Delta Sorority.

After teaching school for a few years, she joined Pier 1 Imports as an administrative assistant for many years. Later in life she



worked as a volunteer at Delnor Hospital in Geneva for 13 years and was a member of the Friends of the Batavia Public Library. She also loved classical music, travel, golf and reading. She wove large, comfortable area rugs in her spare time.

Survivors include six nieces and nephews and their families and many cousins.

Faye was preceded in death by her parents, sister, Gwen who died in infancy; and her brother, Jacque.

Yurs Funeral Home in St. Charles, IL is assisting with private arrangements.

## Margaret M. Richie

Margaret "Peggy" M. Richie, 85, died Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Morris Hospital.

Margaret was born Sept. 8, 1935 in rural Dwight to Kenneth and Mary (Wilkey) Black. She married Robert Richie on Feb. 14, 1970. He preceded her in death on May 6, 2002.

Margaret graduated from Dwight Township High School in 1953. She retired from Natural Gas Pipeline Company, Herscher in 1997. She enjoyed watching Wheel of Fortune, gardening, fishing, and puzzles.

She is survived by four daughters: Brenda (Bob) Chellson, of Campus; Tamela (Troy) Quinley, of Odell; Elizabeth (fiancée: Jeff Friddle) Hausman, of Coal City and Gina (Gregg) Dockins, of LaSalle; two sons, Craig (Kelli) Rafferty, of Campus and Jeffery (Stacy) Richie, of Dwight; 10 grandchildren: Kiedra (Craig) Meece, Jason (Kimberly) Simmons, Shane (Shawna) Cuddy, Jamie (Josh) Horton, Patrick (Ashley) Rafferty, Tanisha (Luke) St.



John, Taylor Richie, Sophia Richie, Allison Hausman and Logan Hausman; 13 great-grandchildren, two sisters, Juanita Cable, of Mazon and Linda Oster, of Godley; one half-sister, Shirley Nelson, of Glasgow, KY; one half-brother, Lee (Lisa) Black, of Kentucky and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, a son, Daryl Harlon Rafferty; two daughters-in-law, Lori and Sabrina Richie and one sister, Jean Bunting.

Margaret would like to be remembered as a loving Mother and Grandmother.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Campus/Emington Fire Department or a charity of the donor's choice.

Family and friends can sign the online guestbook at [www.calvertmemorial.com](http://www.calvertmemorial.com).

Cremation rites were accorded. Hager Memorial Home is in charge of the arrangements.

## Jean Sarrazin

WILMINGTON—Jean Sarrazin, 90, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 at Regency Care of Morris.

Born Jan. 19, 1931 in Middlesex, England, Jean was a daughter of Edwin and Edith (O'Brian) Powlesland. She was raised in the suburbs of London and on Feb. 14, 1953, Jean married Paul E. Sarrazin on the South Ruislip USAF Base in London. Soon thereafter, Jean immigrated to the United States with her husband and first born son. They lived throughout the United States where Paul was called to duty until moving from California to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois in 1964. It was here that Paul retired from the service, and the family relocated to Wilmington in late 1966.

In addition to raising her family, Jean worked for Braun Sales in Wilmington before gaining employment with Royal Willow Nursing Home, where she worked for 25 years until her retirement. Jean was proud to have gained her US Citizenship in the late 1980's, as well as attain her driver's license. She never lost sight of her heritage and was honored to hold her dual citizenship with the US and England. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington where she enjoyed singing in the choir, and was a diehard Chicago Cub's fan.

One who had a servants heart, it was not uncommon for Jean over the years to bring home a resident from work for the holidays, and she always put others ahead of herself. She was a true prim and proper English lady, who enjoyed a good cup of tea, and excelled in the kitchen with notable dishes such as her roast beef, shepherds pie and Yorkshire pudding. Having not gained her driver's license until later in life, she could often be found riding her bike, and she cherished looking after her grandchildren. Jean enjoyed knitting, and leaves behind both heirloom blankets and sweaters. She was a wonderful ballroom dancer; enjoyed listening to her albums on the record player, and indulging in Kit Kats and Cadbury Bars. Jean loved going out to eat, and many memories were created at Al's Steakhouse and Red Lobster, or as Jean would refer to "The Lobster."

Gone from our sight, Jean Sarrazin, a wife, mother, nan, sister and friend, leaves behind a priceless collection of memories to those who were honored to know and love her. May her memory be eternal.

Survivors include her four children: Paul "Stephen" (Pam) Sarrazin, of Streator, IL; Dale



(Jacqueline) Sarrazin, of Paris, IL; David (Valerie) Sarrazin, of Robbins, NC and Carolyn (Randy) Koehn, of Dwight; nine grandchildren: Bridgett (Jason) Broman, Brian (Kristine) Sarrazin, Tiffany (Troy) Cassidy, Veronica Sarrazin, Gabrielle (Mike) Frey, Eric (Carly) Koehn, Todd (Marissa) Koehn, Alec Brownlee and Alyssa Brownlee (Kaidon Hibler); 11 great-grandchildren and one sister, Daphne (Jim) Murphy, of Perth, Australia, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Paul on June 1, 2012 and three brothers.

The family will receive friends for a COVID observant walk through visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 from 10-11 a.m.

Face masks and measures of social distancing will be followed, and the funeral home staff will assist the family to ensure current restrictions are in order.

A private family service will follow with Rev. Dr. Roy Backus officiating.

Those wishing to participate in the funeral services virtually are welcome to join the live-streamed service on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 beginning at 11 a.m. A link to the event will be available on Jean's memorial page.

Burial will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Jean will be laid to rest with her late husband, Paul.

The family wishes to extend sincere appreciation to Heritage Woods of Dwight, as well as Regency Care of Morris, especially Jessica Wilkey and Kaitlyn Harty for their continued love and support over the past years. A heartfelt thank you is also extended to Joliet Area Community Hospice for their tremendous services provided to Jean in her final days.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jean's memory to Regency Care of Morris Activities Department or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Jean's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Jean-Sarrazin](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Jean-Sarrazin)

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

# OBITUARIES

## Margaret Stahler

DWIGHT—Margaret Ann Stahler, 84, a resident of Heritage Health in Dwight and formerly of Watska, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

Born Oct. 9, 1936 in Granville, IL, Margaret Ann was a daughter of Charles and Mary (Gordon) Talty. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School. On April 19, 1958 Margaret married Frank Joseph Stahler Jr. and together they raised three children.

Margaret was a member of St. Edmund Catholic Church in Watska, and was a member of the Grandmothers Club, as well the Royal Neighbors, Farm Bureau and Rural Letter Carriers Association. She greatly enjoyed traveling, having visited all 50 states, and she enjoyed playing bingo. Margaret was also a great collector and took pleasure in going to yard sales.

Survivors include her three children: William (Betsy) Stahler, of Coal City; Teresa Stahler, of Bradley and David (Julie) Stahler, of Bartlett; seven grandchildren: Mary (Sam) Spurney, of Kohler, WI; James (Cassie) Stahler, of Cambridge, IL; Andrew LaReau, of Chicago; Melissa LaReau, of Bradley, IL and Rebecca Stahler, Joseph Stahler and Stephen Stahler, all of Bartlett; two great-grandchildren, Lena



Spurney and Theodore Stahler, and one sister-in-law, Helen Talty, of Coal City, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Margaret was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Frank (1999); brothers: James Talty, Thomas Talty and William Talty, and one sister, Patricia at birth.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021 in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Raed Bader presiding.

Burial was in Saint Patrick Cemetery in Ransom, where Margaret will be laid to rest with her late husband. Her grandchildren acted as pallbearers.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Margaret's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Margaret-Stahler](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Margaret-Stahler)

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

## Thomas Vaughn

ELWOOD—Thomas Lucas Vaughn, 40, of Elwood and formerly of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021 as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

Born June 15, 1980 in Joliet, Thomas Lucas was a son of Tammie (nee Lucas) Parrish and Douglas Vaughn. He was raised in Elwood, moved to Braidwood in Junior High, and graduated from Reed Custer High School in 1998, where he excelled as a linebacker with Reed Custer football. Tom went on to go through the apprenticeship program with Local 150, and has worked as an operating engineer for the past 20 years. In addition to being a member of Local 150 Operating Engineers, Tom belonged to the South Wilmington Sportsman's Club.

One who loved the outdoors, fishing and four wheeling, Tom had a dare devil demeanor and was known to always be on 'Tom's time.' He will most be remembered for his contagious smile and laugh.

Survivors include his two children: Lucas Austin Vaughn, of Essex and Bailey Grace Vaughn, of Glen Ellyn; his parents, Tammie (Ronald) Parrish, of Morris and Douglas Vaughn, of Elwood; brother, Mark (Ashley) Vaughn; sisters: Rachel Gibson, Bre Parrish and Alyssa Parrish; nieces and nephews: Makiah, Tyler, Caeden, Nolan, Annistyn, Elliette, Audrey



and Kade, as well as Lydia and Zoi, who are the children of Megan and Corey Mikula; grandparents: John Lucas, of Shorewood and Lily Simenson and Don and Susie Parrish, both of Wilmington and aunts and uncles: Barb Lucas, Angela (Wes) Breton, Tony Lucas, Bob Lucas, Jody (Lyle) Sabotta, John Vaughn, Brooke Grimes, and Jill (Brian) Gill, as well as his girlfriend, Melinda Botha.

Tom was preceded in death by his grandparents: Sonja Lucas, Sherrie Lucas, Thomas Vaughn, Peggy and Bob Benham, and John Simenson, and his nephew, Liam Vaughn.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. First St. in Braidwood on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 4 p.m. Pastor Jeff Whittum will officiate.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Tom's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Thomas-Vaughn](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Thomas-Vaughn)

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

## Linnea Winter

REDDICK—Linnea Ann Winter, 77, of Reddick, IL passed away Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021 at Spring Creek Nursing Home in Joliet. Born Oct. 9, 1943 in Chicago, she was the daughter of Francis and Helen Kujawski.

Linnea was a member of the Church of Hope and the American Legion Auxiliary Post #663, both in Gardner. She was previously the part owner of Natures Gifts that was located in the Yorktown Mall and retired as a field worker within the mental health organization. Linnea was a former Girl Scout leader and also enjoyed teaching CCD. Her hobbies included playing bingo, knitting, crocheting, reading, and most importantly, enjoyed spending time with her family and her grandchildren.

Surviving is her husband of 26 years, Jerry Van Winter Sr., who she married Nov. 18, 1994 in Wheaton, IL; one son, Jerry Van (Laura) Winter Jr., of Geneva, IL; three daughters: Dawn Murphy, of Bolingbrook, IL; Dayna (Don)



Schallar, of Orlando, FL and Desiree (Rick) Mahr, of East Brooklyn, IL; nine grandchildren: Christopher Murphy, Melyssa (Pat) Goulding, Justin and Josh Schallar, Max and Ashley Winter, Madeline Mahr, Samantha Mahr, and Eric Murphy; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Marlene (Russell) Kasten, of Wheaton, IL and Judy Bernico, of Louisburg, TN; and numerous nieces, nephew, and their families.

Linnea was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded and memorial services will be held at a later date. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Mark S. Wilber

KINSMAN—Mark S. Wilber, 63, of Kinsman, passed away Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born April 8, 1957 in Gary, IN, Mark was a son of Lloyd and Elizabeth Grace (Johnson) Wilber.

A guy who loved being outdoors and was a gun enthusiast, Mark will most be remembered for his love of fishing, and an avid motocross rider.

Survivors include three brothers: Craig (Denise) Wilber, of Newburn, NC; Michael Wilber, of Kinsman and Russ (Theresa) Wilber, of Verona; nieces and nephews: Kelly Wilber (Jason Kuder), Rachel (Justin) Kolthoff, Michelle Wilber and Scott Johnson, and great-nieces and great-nephews: Aiden, Jackson, Emma and Avery.



Mark was preceded in death by his parents and three brothers: Howard, John and Brian in infancy.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City with Rev. Dr. Roy Backus officiating. Burial was in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington, where Mark was laid to rest in the Wilber family lot.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mark's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: [www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Mark-Wilber](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Mark-Wilber)

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

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## Firefighter/Paramedics Needed

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

**Starting Salary: \$50,500.00**

### QUALIFICATIONS

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

Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 20th - February 22nd between the hours of 8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

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

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 4:30 pm on February 22, 2021. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: February 24, 2021 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: March 8th and March 10th.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

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



Wilmington Fire Protection District  
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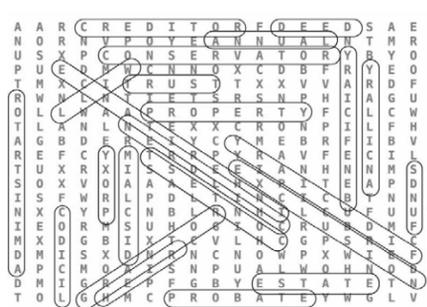
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Courtesy Photo

EMILY MAZON signed a letter of intent to play softball at Loras College in Dubuque, IA. Emily is joined by her parents Aaron and Kris Mazon during her signing day in the Wilmington High School library.



Courtesy Photo

IT'S OFFICIAL—Wilmington senior Halle Haga signs a letter of intent to play volleyball at Joliet Junior College next fall. She is joined by Wilmington volleyball coach Laura Wakefield (left) and JJC volleyball coach Dan Brown in the Wilmington High School library.

# Haga, Mazon sign to play college sports

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

Two Wilmington seniors have made their minds up—they're playing sports in college.

Wilmington volleyball player Halle Haga has decided to take her game to the next level, signing a letter of intent to play at Joliet Junior College while Emily Mazon has signed will play softball at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

Haga said with the threat of the coronavirus and the uncertainty of the year, she thought JJC would be the best option.

"With COVID and everything else going on, I thought it would be better to be closer to home," said Haga. "It was a cheaper school and Dan (Brown JJC coach) reached out to me and asked me if I wanted to play and I was like sure, why not. I don't know if we're going to have a season this year for school so I wouldn't have to be done playing volleyball just yet. Alyssa (Ohlund) was just another factor that added onto it. She actually committed after I did but she signed before I did."

It would be worse for Haga if she didn't get to play Club Volleyball this spring.

"We just started up practices a week ago," noted Haga. "And last practice, we just started up—we can have more than one team in a gym so now we can start scrimmaging. We have a tournament in Indiana because Illinois won't let us have tournaments just yet."

Haga said her coach told her she'd play middle blocker but says she could also be moved around to different spots on a Wolves' team that finished 14-19 last season under Brown.

"Since we have been trying to play with Club and school, that could change because he was not sure which positions he would have the most at and that he was hoping for a good season where everyone is and hopefully help us improve our skills.

And for Haga, it's not going to be that much of a problem because she played every position when playing Club.

"At Club, I was a floater so I learned how to play every single position."

Haga likes how coach Brown manages his players. He's very accommodating.

"I feel like he is really good with his team and like helping them get through everything. When I went for my tour, he told us everything about how the program runs, what the teammates do, how they handle drama which hopefully there isn't any and he told us if we ever needed anything, we can just come straight to his office."

Haga has been around the game since she could start playing volleyball for the middle school in sixth grade. She also ran track, played basketball, played in-house softball and travel baseball.

She played volleyball with her family a lot and it just grew on her a little more than the other sports. She did still run track and played basketball in high school but chose volleyball simply because she was better at it.

"I stopped playing softball and baseball after eighth grade," commented Haga. "I got hurt so from there on, I did volleyball, basketball and track, and Club volleyball on top of that. When I wasn't playing volleyball at school, I was playing basketball and volleyball or track and volleyball. After I stopped playing baseball, I realized I was a lot better than I was at basketball."

Haga wasn't sure she was going to play after high school until Brown's phone call and she still wanted to play so she jumped at the idea.

Haga will be majoring in Biology with a minor in Neuroscience. She ultimately wants to go into Pre Medicine.

Haga, who has a 4.1 GPA at Wilmington High School, knows what it takes to balance both sports and school. She's done it for years and her plan is to use her time wisely.

"During sports season, I would usually do my homework super late at night or just when I had time. I would stay up late at night. I would have to get up early the next morning and I felt like I drank a lot of coffee and I was already living college lifestyle, living off of coffee and Ramen (noodles) and doing my homework late at night. To stay balanced with sports and school, I did a lot of stretching and it definitely

cleared the mind so I could get as much done as I possibly could."

And while Haga would jump at a chance to play at the pro level if given a shot, she would love to start her career in the medical field.

Mazon, a pitcher for the Wildcats, was swayed by Loras College's campus which is located in the Iowa bluffs with trees surrounding the campus. She also liked how helpful the coaches were. It also didn't hurt that the Accounting Department there is top notch.

"I really like the campus because it is really pretty there," added Mazon. "I really liked the coaches because they told me things that I could fix and they were really helpful. I really liked the accounting program there and that's what I'm going to major in."

Mazon began playing softball when she was nine. She also danced and played soccer but loved softball.

"I started to play more competitively when I was 13 and then I realized I wanted to play in college so with that, I realized I had to focus more on getting better at pitching and everything before playing two sports at once.

"When I was 15, one of my coaches told me I had really good movement on the ball that was better than a couple college pitchers that he had seen," added Mazon. "That's when it made me want to play more in college," commented Mazon.

Mazon, who features a fastball (60 mph), changeup (43mph), a curveball (56mph), a drop curveball (56mph) a screwball (56mph) and a rise ball (54-56mph), will pitch for The Duhawks who finished the shortened season with a 6-6 record and a 4.92 team earned run average.

Mazon spent time behind two good pitchers in Jenny Kurcharski and Katie Kurcharski at Wilmington but when she did get to pitch, she made the most of it, fanning nine batters in 14.1 innings. She'll definitely be able to help her new team. She said she picked up things off of the two girls.

"They were just really smart about what pitches to pitch next and their pitch combination and everything so I kind of learned what I

need to throw on certain batters. What I need to throw in what count."

For example, Mazon would start a right-handed, who is crowding the plate, with a screwball high and inside to jam them. She would mix up their timing with a drop curve that sinks out and down off the plate. She'd finish them off with a changeup off the plate, looking for the batter to chase on an 0-2 count.

Her pitching coach Kevin Schuchmann told her she'd get a lot of use freshman year but that's not the only position she'd be playing.

"The pitching coach told me he really liked my movement and I would get a lot of pitching time my freshman year," said Mazon. "They also said they would want me to play some first base because they've seen me play there and they like how I track the ball into the glove. They also said I had a really strong bat so they wanted me to hit in the lineup which is rare for a pitcher because usually they can't hit."

She says it's been tough for the team through COVID but they hope to start practicing more at the end of February.

Mazon's biggest goal is to adjust to living on her own while away at college.

"I want to figure things out on my own and not have to ask my parents how to do things because I've been relying on them since I was young. I want to be more grown up."

Mazon is pursuing a degree in accounting.

At Wilmington, she currently has a 4.5 GPA so she knows exactly what it takes to work hard. She's already made up a schedule to when she's going to study so the organization will help her.

"I have set times to when I study and when I do homework," added Mazon. "And I actually have a job too right now so I've been juggling softball, work and school work."

Mazon and Haga will hopefully get to play their seasons out this spring and summer with volleyball set to start on February 15 and softball not starting until April 19. The girls will hope to help the Lady Wildcats one last time before graduating.

After graduation in May, it's off to Loras for Mazon and to JJC for Haga where they will begin their careers.

# Where Wildcats would be without pandemic

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

If winter sports had started back in November, there's good reason to believe Wildcat wrestlers would be gearing up for regional and sectional placings to advance to individual state, the girls basketball team would continue their rise and the boys basketball team would be improving from their winless season two years ago.

In the case of the Wildcat wrestlers, while they weren't the best team in the conference, they were young and gained another year of experience. There's reason to believe those pieces would be coming together.

The Wrestling 'Cats welcome back five talented matmen including state qualifiers Jack Narine (145) and Nick Gornik (220).

Narine made it to state for the third straight season with a 28-11 record at 145 pounds. In his sophomore year, he placed sixth at 126 and as a freshman came in fifth at 105. If he was wrestling now, you can bet he'd be out for another placement to close out his high school campaign that consisted of 110 wins and 36 losses.

Last year, Narine was ranked honorable on the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association website and this year, the senior might still be able to uphold that ranking or raise it as he searches for a path back to the state tournament for the fourth straight year.

Nick Gornik made it to state for the first time last season and he will be back to fill 220 in order to help the 'Cats win. Gornik finished fourth during the Sectional, grabbing

the bottom seed for himself while having to face the top wrestler in the class Bryan Caves from Riverdale in the first round of the state tournament. Two of the top wrestlers in the area are graduated in

Reed-Custer's Bobby Moorman and Coal City's Gage Leake so that might open up an opportunity for Gornik, Gornik is currently an honorable mention wrestler in the IWCOA rankings.



File Photo

WILMINGTON JUNIOR TYSEN MEENTS will be back to help the Wildcats boys basketball team when their season starts. It's slated to start anytime. It all depends on the Illinois High School Association's Board meeting that will take place today (Wednesday).

Wilmington junior Julian Decker didn't compete in the regional last season but he made state his freshman year finishing with a 28-20 record. Decker is a good wrestler who has gotten better with experience. He has posted 47 wins in his first two seasons and has the potential to get to state with the departure of Coal City's Evan Rivera, who was a senior last season, out of his weight class.

Another talented wrestler that the Wildcats might welcome back is incoming senior Aiden Wooters, who bowed out during the regional. Wooters was impressive in his junior year, compiling 29 wins at a talented 170-pound class that included Bishop McNamara's sixth ranked wrestler Donovan Golden, who sent Wooters packing with a technical fall in wrestlebacks during the regional. Golden was a senior last season so Wooters might have a chance to make it to state in his final season. He still will have to beat Coal City's Ashton Harvey though, who made it to state for the second straight season.

Those 'Cats and others will try to get Wilmington's dual team back on the map. There's no telling if they'll make state as a team but they will be competitive against Coal City and Reed-Custer, who will both bring back some talented wrestlers if they do get a shot to wrestle when the season is slated to begin on April 19.

## Boys basketball

If the boys basketball team was playing now, they would be shaking up the conference. Last season was the first time in six years that they got to 10 wins. The 'Cats have had just

23 wins over the last five years. And last year was definitely an improvement as they were 14-18, winning their Christmas Tournament. They got knocked out of the regionals by a very good Coal City team that won the regional championship.

There's reason to believe they would be right there in the conference race with the return of key players including seniors Ben Kreitz and Trey Shaw.

Kreitz did everything for the 'Cats, averaging a double-double per game in points and rebounds (15-11) while also averaging three blocked shots a game. If he gets to play this season, he'll be looking to go out with a bang and to lead his 'Cats to at least a regional title if not further.

Shaw was a great defensive point guard for Wilmington who averaged 13 points per game. He also patrolled the floor very well, leading the team in steals and assists. Shaw may be questionable for 2021 as talk is he injured his knee while playing basketball last month.

The 'Cats would welcome back five other seniors and a talented junior Tyson Meents, who came on strong, leading the 'Cats in scoring in most of their games, including a 21-point performance where he connected on three key three-pointers. They'll also have height too with juniors Kyle Winker (6-4) and Nick Sanford (6-3) coming up to varsity so that would help in the rebounding game which would ultimately help in their overall success.

## Lady 'Cats roll

As for the Lady 'Cats, who have been improving year after

year, going from a 1-25 season four years ago to last year's 15-14 record.

While they lost six talented seniors who changed the foundation of the girls basketball program, they'll gain talented youthful players who led the fresh/soph team to an 11-win season. And they'd also get three seniors in Halle Haga, McKenzie Marcum and Faith Mendoza if they are set on returning.

The 'Cats would really depend on sophomores Kaitlyn O'Donnell and Jaylee Mills, and junior Anna Liaromatis.

Liaromatis logged the most time of the three, scoring 43 points with 39 rebounds and four assists. O'Donnell was one of the better outside shooters with 30 points, connecting on two three-point shots with 22 boards, six assists and 17 steals. They both would play big roles as would Mills, who didn't play on varsity but was one of the reasons for the sophomore team's success. She's tall and would be great at grabbing rebounds.

There is still hope for a basketball season as Will County has been lowered to Tier I restrictions meaning practices can start this week. Hopefully, this will lead to the start of winter sports which have been sidelined since November 20.

Basketball and wrestling are categorized as high risk sports so the region will have to drop another level before games can be played. Wrestling season starts April 19 so there is time for the situation to improve. But for basketball, time is running out as football and volleyball seasons start practicing Feb. 15th.