Showtime in Wilmington, 1921



Lady'Cats want to improve in 2021





FREE PRESS ADV

WILMINGTON, IL |

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Return of school sports will benefit more than just the athletes

BY MARNEY SIMON

Student athletes are ready to head back to their respective sporting events, now that the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) has cleared the way to bring sports back, even in a limited capacity. The IHSA Board of Directors met

for a special board meeting on Jan. 27, where the Board provided an updated sports schedule and other guidance for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent restrictions in the state have kept school sports sidelined for most of the year.

The schedule includes boys and girls basketball to start practices as

soon as possible, with the season rundent-athletes due to the unknowns ning through March 13. Boys soccer can begin practices on March 1 with the season running until April 17. Football can start on March 3 for

practices, with the first games set for March 19. The season is set to conclude on April 24 with no state series.

Baseball, softball, and girls soc-

Wilmington High School principal Scott Maupin said the school district is eager to get started with athlet-

are ready to move forward.

when can we play, when will we leave this tier in our region, scheduling timelines, etc. Our coaches have done a great job communicating with their athletes to remain positive and stay active in hopes that we would finally get clearance to play and compete, Maupin said.

cer can start practices on April 5, with the season set to run until June 19.
Wrestling practices can start on April 19, with the season expiring on

"Simply keeping the spirits up has been a big challenge, but our kids have done a great job. Fortunately, form virtually in other activities such as Speech Team, Scholastic Bowl, Fall Play, Music Concerts.

Maupin said the announcement ics, and coaches and students alike are ready to move forward.

"It's been difficult for our stu"It's been difficult for our stu-

"There was a noticeable spark in their step... the day following the IHSA announcement," he said. "It seems like we've strung our kids along for such a long time, and now we have finally reached the point where we can truly practice and compete. "First and foremost, I'm really

happy for our senior student-athhe continued. "Since last March, they haven't had athletics as part of their life in terms of competition. Now, they can rest assured that they will be able to compete and play to close out their high school career.'

But the overall excitement isn't just about the student athletes. Maupin noted that the return of sports will affect the entire student

"It will have a positive effect for sure," he said. "Collectively as a school, it's a sure sign that things are getting closer to normal. We will still continue to follow all mitigations and rules set forth with COVID.

Maupin also urged parents and community members to be patient as schedules are finalized.

"There are limitations on the number of spectators at events so we are preparing for live-stream game action for audiences to capture," he said. "Right now, the limitation is 50 spectators at an event. This will be a fluid situation so this could change from week-to-week or month-to-

SEE IHSA, PAGE 2



HORSING AROUND - WHS senior Payton Koopman and her horse, Prez, jump during a show.

WHS senior taking four-legged friend to college

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES WHS STUDENT REPORTER

WHS senior Payton Koopman loves her horse

so much she intends to take it to college.

Since getting her first pony at the age of two, and her first horse when she turned 11, Koopman has dedicated a lot of her time to being an equestri-

Koopman travels to Morris almost every day to visit and take care of her horse Presidential Čhex, or Prez, at the barn where he is boarded. She is responsible for brushing, riding and taking care of

Koopman gets her love of horses from her mom, who rode when she was younger.

'I've tried a lot of different sports, but that's the one I really liked the most," she said.

Koopman and Prez plan to go to college together. Koopman's top choice is Truman State University in Missouri. She would keep her horse on the university farm, about a mile from the main

"I've talked to their equestrian coach, and she said they have a really good program there, so I would definitely take my horse with me there, and that would be a really cool experience," commented Koopman.

Many colleges in the area have an equestrian

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SEE HORSE, PAGE 2



WHS SENIOR Payton Koopman and her horse Presidential Chex or "Prez" will be going off to college together in the fall.

Park district discusses policy as search for director continues

BY MARNEY SIMON

The Wilmington Park District has been conducting interviews over the past several weeks, searching for a new executive director.

district's The former Chavez, director, Renee resigned her position as of Jan. 8, taking a new position with the Crete Park District. Superintendent Andrew Liaromatis has been fulfilling most of the duties of the director in the interim.

On Jan. 28, the board met for their regular monthly meeting, holding a lengthy discussion on several policy issues with regard to the posi-

include status of staff members, hiring procedures, holidays, vacation leave, use of park district equipment, and the interest use policy. One policy item discussed

that takes on more importance during the COVID-19 pandemic was the district's remote working policy.
A proposed new policy for

telecommuting would allow employees to work from home or off-site with approval of the executive director, and assignments would be approved on a case by case basis. Only those employees in positions that can reasonably be performed off site would be eligible, and, per the proposal, the policy would only apply to those employees who have worked for the district for at least 12

months. The board did not take any action on any of the issues discussed.

However, at least one con-Policy items discussed stituent spoke up at the meeting with an idea for saving costs in the district.

Wilmington resident Ryan

SEE PARKS, PAGE 2

City plans TIF amendment for logistics park boundaries

BY MARNEY SIMON

EDITOR

An amendment to the City of Wilmington's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) redevelopment plan and project has been posted online for the public to view.

The city created the TIF district in 2010. Originally named Ridgeport, the district encapsulates the area of the Elion Logistics Park at I-55 and Lorenzo Road.

The project site was amended in 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019. Amendments to the district has provided for further modifications to the project area, by adding certain properties and removing certain properties.

Since then, Ridgeport Logistics Park has been renamed Elion Logistics Park

While there has been a

change to the name of the logistics park, the name of the TIF project area approved by the original ordinances and subsequent amendments has

not changed. The city is now looking for another amendment to the original plan, in order to again changed the boundaries and include additional properties, in order to better suit the

development of Elion. The redevelopment project at Elion may include construction of new private buildand associated site improvements, improvements and support activities to induce and com-

SEE TIF, PAGE 2





Premium Family Pack Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast Family Pack Center-Cut Bone-In Pork Chops Black Angus T-Bone Steak

Celebrate the BIG Game with Savings.

IHSA

The guidelines provide that sporting events in a region that is not facing any specific mitigation efforts can allow up to 50 spectators, indoors or outdoors.

As of Tuesday, Wilmington had yet to finalize its plans for allowing spectators, while Reed-Custer Athletic Director Chuck Anderson said the Comets were leaning toward not allowing any visiting fans during home games while limiting spectators to two per player for the home

Will County is currently in Phase 4 of

the Restore Illinois plan, and not under any additional resurgence mitigation guidelines.

The state board is considering State Series competition for traditional IHSA spring sports only. Dance and cheerleading will be allowed to conduct virtual Sectional and State Final meets, where they will record their performances and submit them to be judged. "Ultimately, the Board adhered to its

stated goals throughout the pandemic: Providing an opportunity for every IHSA student-athlete to compete safely this year and maximizing opportunities for traditional IHSA spring sports after they lost their entire season a year ago," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson after the decision was issued. "Our Board faced an impossible task with a litany of factors. They were conscientious in considering every possibility and I believe their decisions today are a positive step for the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our students. We are excited to channel our energy into creating as many positive experiences for Illinois high school students as we can between now and the end of this extraordinary The guidelines require all student-

athletes and game personnel to wear masks and adhere to social distancing.

A closer look at how the ruling will affect local teams can be found in sports.

TIF

plement private investment, including addition of streets and sidewalks, sewers, and traffic signals.

Currently, the city has approved a site plan for the addition of a new 500,000 square foot building to be added to the site.

On Jan. 19, the City Council approved the site plan submitted by Adar pending final review by the city engi-

"I think this is pretty much a cut and dry deal, another building which is great," Mayor Roy Strong said.

Elion plans to construct a 500,000 square foot building

> Attorney Fisher files Ziller estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUNIOUS AND THE
TWELFTH WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of Alice I. Ziller, Deceased. Case No. 20 P 1019.

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 with-

out court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested per son 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 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.illinois courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: January 15, 2021. Veronica M. Orr, Independent

Jeffrey L. Fisher, Attorney at Law, Jeffrey L. Fisher Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 S. Water Street, Willmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635

Email: jeff@jefffisherlaw.com
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on January 20, 27, and Feb. 3,

Attorney Adler gives notice of Vela Estate

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS

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 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 representa-tive 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 1616 W. Jefferson Street Joliet, Illinois 60435 (815) 744-5300 email: danadlerlaw@comcast.net Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, January 27, Feb

3, and Feb. 10, 2021.

for Dynamic 3PL.

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

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

Construction is tentatively planned for completion by

In mid-January, the TIF joint review board held its annual meeting.

Greg Smith, Special Council for the city's TIF man-Special agement, gave an update of the financial status of the district at the Jan. 12 meeting. Smith said in fiscal year

2019, the TIF district had receipts of \$4.7 million in TIF increment, for a cumulative total at the end of that fiscal vear of \$7.7 million. In 2019, the TIF district

began producing increments at a much higher level due to new developments, Smith Of the increment collect-

ed, \$60,000 was spent on TIF administration, TIF consultants, legals and accounting

Wilmington School Dist.

seeks pupil

transportation bids

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

Wilmington CUSD 209U, Will County,

Wilmington, Illinois will receive bids for

Pupil Transportation Services for the 2021-

22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years

Bid specifications may be obtained upor

request from the Office of

By and for the Board of Education

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

tees 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 withereset to the Will be open out or other.

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 with-

out court supervision unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person ter-

minates independent administration at any

time by mailing or delivering a petition to

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 bettered where the production provided in the second way to be second with the second way the second way to be second with the second way the

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.

Joliet, Illinois 60435

DANIEL J. ADLER #03123945

Attorney for Independent Executor 1616 W. Jefferson Street

terminate to the clerk.

Notice is given to his, heirs or lega-

Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Wilmington CUSD 209U

10, 2021.

Public notice is hereby given that the

firms, and the remainder was distributed to the holders of the TIF notes and to the payas-you-go obligations, including a payment of \$1.7 million to Michelin and approximately \$600,000 to the holders of TIF notes 2 and 3, with the remaining \$3 million going to the owner of the park, Adar

With regard to development activities within fiscal year 2019, Adar acquired multiple properties that are within their overall master plan but were outside the TIF area, and the city initiate the process to amend the boundaries of the TIF district to add and remove certain properties to allow for their development.

"With regard to the fiscal year 2020 annual report... in this year the TIF district had \$6.4 million in revenues in terms of property taxes, with a cumulative total of \$14.1 million increment. So, between fiscal year 2019... and now 2020, you can see that the amount of increment is rapidly increasing as new projects come online," Smith said.

"Of the \$6.4 million collected, approximately \$67,000 were spent by the city on TIF administration... and the vast majority of the amount being collected, being about \$6.4 million, were paid to the note holders and the owner of the park through the pay-as-you-

go obligation. Approximately \$1.7 million was paid to Michelin for its TIF note 1, approximately \$600,000 was paid to the holders of TIF notes 2 and 3 combined, and the remaining \$4.1 million was paid to the property

By law, a TIF district can last for 23 years. A TIF district works by essentially "freezing" the property tax that any taxing district inside the TIF can collect. As property values and taxes collected increase, the taxing districts collect only the amount of tax that they collected in year prior to the TIF's creation, with the additional dollars now placed into the TIF fund to be spent on TIFrelated expenses, such as infrastructure improvements.

taxing bodies within the TIF district will see an increase in their tax dollars collected.

the TIF district, the affected taxing bodies such as District 209-U, the library district and others will get the increase as new growth, the incremental EAV that the TIF district has experienced between the time of its creation and when it ended, that new growth will come in outside of your tax caps, allowing you to increase your levy by a significant amount when the TIF district is over," Smith said.

EASY TO REMEMBER

www.freepressnewspapers.com

Wilmington School Dist.

seeks bids for waste disposal/recycling services

PUBLIC NOTICE Superintendent, Wilmington CUSD 209U NOTICE Public notice is hereby given that the Wilmington CUSD 209U, Will County, 209U Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481 Phone (815) 926-1751. Please call the Wilmington, Illinois will receive bids for Waste Disposal/Recycling Services for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school Superintendent's office if you are interested in bidding. There will be an optional meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2021 years. Bid specifications may be obtained upon request from the Office of the bids are to be received in the Office of the Superintendent, Wilmington CUSD 209U, 209U Wildcat Ct., Wilmington, IL 60481 Phone (815) 926-1751. Please call the before 2:00 P.M. CDST. Thursday. February 25, 2021, and will be opened Superintendent's office if you are interested in bidding. All bids are to be received in publicly at that time. The Board of the Office of the Superintendent at the date and reserves the right to waive any above address on or before 2:00 P.M. CDST, Friday, February 19, 2021, and will technicalities or irregularities and to reject any or all bids or any part or parts thereof. be opened publicly at that time. The Board of Education will make its decision at a later date and reserves the right to waive Peggy Kunz, Secretary technicalities or irregularities and to Published in the Free Press reject any or all bids or any part or parts Advocate on Wednesday, February 3 and thereof.

By and for the Board of Education Wilmington CUSD 209U

Peggy Kunz, Secretary Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, February 3 and

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 Badie, 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 with-

out court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before July 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. claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed E-filing is now mandatory for docu-

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

service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinois courts.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

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 all 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 with-28-4 of the Probate Act any interested per-

son 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.

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

Horse

team, such as Illinois State and the University of Illinois.

"A lot of people don't know that most colleges have an equestrian team because it's not talked about," added Koopman. Payton has ridden dif-

ferent disciplines. She started riding Western, and she currently rides English. Her horse, Prez, is a quarter horse.

Koopman competes in shows. During a show, She and Prez enter an arena filled with eight to ten different jumps, where they have to memorize and execute a pattern that the judge creates. The shows

attends are the Hunter Jumper/Equitation.

"This means that my

horse and I are both judged on our form and how well we transition from one jump to the next," said Koopman.

The goal is to follow the course perfectly, and not lose any points. Points can be taken off if a jump is knocked down, if her horse refuses a jump, or if Koopman falls off. Koopman typically

travels the Midwest to compete in shows, but due to COVID, she's been limited to shows closer to home. Before the pandemic, she once traveled all the way to North Carolina for a show. This year Koopman is

going to regionals for jumping for the second year in a row. Regionals will be held at Camelot Farms in Oswego. 'I am looking forward

to this year's show season before Prez and I head off to college in the fall," Koopman said.

Park

Jefferies told the board that he'd like to see the job of the director fall on more than one person. "I was just thinking there might be a better way around this,

instead of one person trying to run all of this, maybe split it into three separate part-time jobs," Jefferies said. Jefferies said if different part-time workers could separately

take on tasks such as the gym management, events planning,

and the child care program, with the possibility of incentives for bringing business to the district by way of rentals or gym mem-'That way you could have three part-time jobs that you're not paying insurance or anything else on, for way cheaper than

you could for just one person," Jeffries said. "I think they'd be more dedicated to each individual part of this business to help it grow, and it would be cheaper in the long run, and would be way easier to fill with local people.' Board members said they'd include the idea in their discussions for replacing Chavez, and would come to a decision in the

next several weeks. Liaromatis did note that should the board go in that direc-

tion, tracking employee hours would be critical. "If we exceed 1,000 hours per year, we then have no choice but to opt that particular employee into the IMRF (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) and we have to offer them a benefits package," Liaromatis told the board. "So, that's something to

consider if you choose to look at hiring three separate roles for

Meanwhile, as the election approaches, it appears the Wilmington Park District Board will be one commissioner short in the new term. Two seats for the park board, currently held by Dave

Melhorn and Kevin Pteck, expire this year. However, only one person, Patrick Nugent, has filed papers

to run for the board.

The election is April 6, 2021.

Our process? We listen. Really listen.



one director.'

Dean A Shepherd, AAMS® Financial Advisor

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PERSONAL INJURY



Block, Klukas & Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

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Marney Simon, editor

(815) 744-5300 email: danadlerlaw@comcast.net mark@berardilawoffice.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 27, Feb. 3, Published in the Free Press Advocate on Jan. 27, Feb. 3, and Feb. 10, and Feb. 10, 2021.

When the TIF expires, the "At the end of the life of

February 1921, it's showtime in Wilmington

It is hard to estimate the impact of pictures upon the world. It changed how we viewed the world. Yes, I am saving movies changed life as we know it. In small towns like Wilmington, brought the entire world into view. And

in the cold of winter, curling up with Panorama exhibits this (Saturday) a box of popcorn and a movie is a

great way to spend a few hours.

First let's talk about the first pictures seen Wilmington, they were called Panoramas. According to Britannica, "Moving panoramas were achieved by taking the long, continuous painted canvas scene and rolling each end around two large spool-type mechanisms that could be turned, causing the canvas to scroll across the back of a stage, often behind a stationary scenic piece or object like a boat, horse, or vehicle, to create the illusion of movement and travelling through space. The moving panorama almost always had a narrator, styled as its "Delineator" or "Professor",



as they passed." In June 17, 1871

we read in the People's "Bullard's Panorama of the Empire City was voted a success on last evening. We thought of stepping into Stewart's on Broadway, but concluded we could buy goods as well at home at J. J. White's. The

at 3 and 8 o'clock p.m. at the school house. We recommend "the show by all means.'

These were extremely popular, taking people to places they would never see. Paris, London, Cairo, Vienna - all were now in view, making the world just a little bit smaller.

In 1907 the first moving picture as we know it was exhibited in Wilmington. "Ben Lypsitz, of Braidwood, will, on Nov. 9th, at 5 o'clock, open in the John Campbell building, a moving picture show. Admission 5 cents." One year later there were 5 different places in Wilmington to see moving pictures.

In 1911 Photoplay magazine was founded, first as a promotional tool for the moving pictures, but everyone knew the names. Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish, Harry Carey were on the lips of fans every-

In February of 1921, we see movie-going as a fund raiser. Barrymore in the "Copperhead" at the Opera House on Thursday afternoon and evening was largely attended. The proceeds were for the benefit of the King's Daughters and netted this worthy society the neat sum of \$75. (\$1,100

And "If you like Chas. Ray, you will not be disappointed in "Paris Green" at Opera House, Saturday and Sunday. Next Saturday brings Dorothy Phillips in "Once to Every Woman." Remember her in Right to Happiness? As a village girl she sacrifices home and family to gain fame as a singer. A great moral lesson in this picture.'

Very little else was going on in Wilmington in February of 1921. Oh, a new doctor came to town, "Dr. H. I. Ketchum, Naprapath, nerve specialist, Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 98 percent of human ailments are caused by

who described the scenes later as a movie star magazine. Soon improper nerve action. Commercial National Bank Wilmington."

And there was one other thing of note that month of a serious nature. The Will County Farm Bureau held a meeting in Wilmington that had consequences for all local farmers.

"The members of the Farm Bureau of this community met Tuesday afternoon last, in Exchange Hall, and organized a Will County Shipping Association, and adjunct to the Bureau. Shippers elected were A. J. Ward, Wilmington; Harry Baskerville, Symerton; Charles Wilson, Ritchey." Chairmen elected for the Farm

Bureau are: Julius Luther, Wilmington; Henry Buss, Florence, and A. C. Jones, Wesley. The constitution and by-laws of the Will County Shippers Association were read. They are, in part, as follows:

The purpose of the association shall be to obtain reasonable prices and to secure the best possible results in the marketing of livestock."

Stay warm and safe gentle readers, now where's that popcorn?



MAURICE TOURNEUR

THE LAST OF THE **MOHICANS**

An American drama eternal-by James Fenimore Coper Directed by
MAURICE TOURNEUR and CLARENCE L BROWN The story of a prince without a kingdom

EXCHANGE THEATRE, FEBRUARY 12

A movie poster shows what was playing at the **Exchange Theater in February 1921.**

Wildcat Scholastic Bowl teams start virtual seasons victorious

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The WHS Scholastic Bowl team has started their 2021 season virtually. They started their season off strong, with both teams, JV and Varsity, winning both matches against

During each meet the JV and varsity Wildcats play two

The team's second meet was against Coal City. The varsity team lost both games, and the JV team lost one game and won the other.

At their third meet of the season, which was against Manteno, Varsity won one game and lost the other. The JV team lost both games.

At their most recent match, varsity lost both games against Lisle, and JV did not have a match.

This year's meets are running much different than past years. They are being held virtually through Google Meets.

Most students compete from their own home. Students use an online buzzer system called BuzzIn, so they can answer questions like they would at a normal in-person

Union Drainage Dist. 1 notice of motion for Florence, Wesley Townships

PUBLIC NOTICE

TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE UNION
DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1, TOWNS OF
FLORENCE AND WESLEY, WILL COUN-TY, ILLINOIS. Case No. 76-MC-0000 NOTICE OF MOTION LEVY AND REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a hearing will be held in the Circuit Court of Will County at the Courthouse -Annex Building -Room 236, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Joliet, Illinois, before the Honorable Judge John C. Anderson, or any other judge sitting in his stead, on the 11th day of February, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., on the current Financial Report of the Commissioners and Levy of the aboveentitled District on the question of approval

of said Report and Levy.
PURSUANT TO ADMINISTRATIVE
ORDER 2020-20, SAID HEARING SHALL ORDER 2020-20, SAID HEARING STALL BE HELD VIA ZOOM. Create a Zoom account by going to Zoom.us and click "sign up, it's free" and follow the prompts. Public access to this meeting is available as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 930 2919 0133 Passcode: 236236

Dial by your location by landline or phone without Zoom app:
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 930 2919 0133

Passcode: 236236 Andrea Lynn Chasteen

Circuit Clerk BRIAN D. SCOTT Attorney Reg. No. 6322809 BARMANN, BOHLEN & SCOTT, P.C.

700 N. River Drive Kankakee, Illinois 60901 (815) 939-1133 scott@kankakeelaw.com Published in the Free Press

Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021.

coached by Kip Barnes, includes Ren Jewell, Bryce Emily Watson. Jewell, Ella Cooper, Trey

This team includes Ally Wes Jewell, Devon Mann, to low numbers of students.

Emily Dooley, Mikey Nutt, The junior varsity team, Chandler Wuchter, Noah a regional and sectional this Wilkins, Logan Casey, and

This year's Scholastic Bowl Arnold, and Jonathan Mossell. season will have the same The varsity team is number of meets. The varsity coached by Meredith Barnes. team will play each team in the conference, but there are not Campbell, Andrew Schroeder, as many JV teams this year due they continue their virtual sea-

year. There might not be able to have a state competition this year. This is all dependent on how the COVID cases are at the time of regionals.

The WHS Scholastic Bowl teams hopes for more wins as

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY! Read Time Was... by Sandy Vasko EACH WEEK IN THE Free Press Advocate

WHS first semester honor roll

Superior Honors-GPA of 4.3 or higher

Grade 9: Jenna Dabulskis, Paige Eighner, Alyssa Johnston, Juster, William Alexis Liaromatis, Abigail Mandac, Channing Sexton, McKenzie Shields, Clara Smith, Giana Stahulak, Emma Strong, Talin Yakima

Grade 10: Grace Burkey, Alexa Clark, Ella Cooper, Haley Dempsay, Avrie Desrochers, Karissa Esposito, Olivia Maxwell Higgins, Hansen. Breanna Horton, Colin James, Brenna Jewell, Allison Meyers, Kylie Motykowski, Chloe Proffitt, Veronica Weck,

Grade 11: Jessica Castle, Connor Cieszkiewicz, Raelene Desrochers, Cougar Forsythe, Madison Haga, Kaden Humphries, Jenna Jackson, Knowles, Anna Liaromatis, Katelyn McCann, Tysen Meents, Erik Ostheim, Apryl Proffitt, Abigael Rampa, Ashton Roge, Neve Van Duyne, Chandler Wuchter,

Grade 12: Haley Crescenti, Destiny Dodge, Ellen Dooley, Emily Dooley, Brooklyn Haddon, Halle Haga, Rebecca Horton, Ben Kavanaugh, Payton Koopman, McKenzie Marcum, Gabrielle Mathus, Sydney Ohlrogge, Eren Overmyer. Keegan Parsons, Jacob Plese, Kinsey Roth, Natalie Van Duyne, Alexandra Vargocko, Watson, Tadan Yakima.

High Honors-GPA of 3.9 to 4.299

Grade: 9 Ella Banas, Bryn Bianchetta, Sara Borik, Aubrey

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE Notice of Lien

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

Tenant: Ted Sowko, 800 N.

Washington, Wilmington, IL 60481, Unit 102 and E-28

If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Feb. 28, 2021, the property will be

sold to satisfy the lien.

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

Buza, Jacob Castle, Alyssa Cieszkiewicz, Ava Cupples, Andrew Dedo, Tannya Gross, Brittany Horton, Tanner Kerwin, Avery Kuypers, Claire Lenart, Cade McCubbin, Meghan McDowell, Hannah Melvin, Brendan Moran, Isabella Reyes, Berkley Rink, Collin Tatera, Lily Turcany, McKayla Van Duyne, Aaliyah VanUs, Tarissa Warriner, Kyle Youngquist.

Grade 10: Gwendolyn Boyer, Raena Delangel, Jacob Kaylan Hertz. Hughes-Hawkins, Bryce Jewell, Kaitlyn Lewsader, Mya McCubbin, Abby Pitts, Carter Rezabek, Shields, Morgan Aubin Stenberg, Andi Van Duyne, Drew Walsh, Jacob Wandless, Zachary Willis.

11: Madison Grade Berman, Karsen Hansen. Imhof, Jacob Drake Mackenzie, Katelyn McLin, Nolan Rickmon, Brenna Roberts, Madison Sommers, Drake Swearengen,

Grade 12: Alexis Benaitis, Logan Casey, Jules Dauner, Lauren Fox, Wes Jewell, Karlis Kengis, Devon Mann, Richard McD onald*, Anthony Meyers, Jack Narine, Kyle Noe, Ryan Rezabek, Emma Romano, Jake Rossi, Daniel Sanders, Jeffrey Sexton Jr., Evelyn Shepherd, Stukel, Rachel Alaina Wandless, Tyler Willis, Aiden Wooters.

Honors-GPA of 3.5 to 3.899 Grade 9: Logan Adermann, Blake Adolfino, Treyton Arnold, Alexander Boynton, Hunter Catlin, Emily Cockream, Thomas Corcoran, Ean Couch, Madilyn Dehoyos, Jazlynn Enriquez, Alexander Fernandez, Porter Hazzard, Rylee Kettmann, McKenna Lancaster, Jonathan Mossell, Leilani Perez, Cody Prindiville, Ava Rabideau, Peter Rampa, Izabella Rivera, Yael Rodriguez, Gracie Sanders, Ryan Smith, Madison Stocking, Matthew Swisher, Emilia Williams,

Grade 10: Brittany Bufton, Catlin, Michael Markie Chandler, Tristen Doyle, Gorski, Haley Savannah Harvell, Hunter Hayes, Kade

Bryant, Aaron Burkey, Keegan Hopwood, Salvador Lozano, Julia McCully, Jaylee Mills, Emily Mionske, Mumma, Kaitlyn Odonnell, Logan Petrovich, Hannah Pogliano, Joseph Pogliano, Casey Van Duyne.

Gabriel Grade Aguillon, Ryan Banas, Jacob Batson, Jeanette Demere, Alexander Fender, Freis, Jacob Friddle, Joshua Girot, Chase Juster, Corban Larson, Andrew Lawrence, Kaleb Patterson, Richards, Nicholas Sanford, Andrew Schroeder, Alicea Warriner.

Grade Kaileigh Calhoun, Alexandria Campbell, Kaitlyn Cortese, Justin Esposito, Jayden Feil, Brandon Freis, Madison Nicholas Gornik, Gabriel, Destiny Hall, Peiton Hook, Benjamin Kreitz, Stephanie Lambert, Emily Mazon, Taylor McDowell, Sarah Neve, Alyssa Ohlund, Connor Presler, Courtney Van Duyne, Raegan

In Loving Memory of Charlene Menz



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 or 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

Questions about Medicare?



Let us be your resource!

Call our knowledgeable staff to discuss your healthcare choices.

OAK KNOLL =Insurance +Tax =

STRATEGIES INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

CRAIG LONG Call: **(815) 476-2105** craig@oakknollinsurance.com

OAK KNOLL

— Financial — STRATEGIES

205 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-2105

Stephen Francis

CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER ™ steve.francis@raymondjames.com

www.oakknollfinancial.com

Free Press Newspapers readers

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be

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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

To voice your opinion, please go to

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

Frauding Illinois WILMINGTON—Unemployment insur-

ance fraud is growing in Illinois. From the onset of the Covid virus, fraudulent claims have been an issue as record number of Illinois residents filed for benefits and Congress provides additional jobless aid. Illinois has stopped more than 350,000 fraudulent claims since March 1, 2020. The FBI, IRS and several state agencies have launched a task force to tackle the problem. People complain someone else filed an unemployment claim in their name. Victims should immediately report the fraudulent claims to the states unemployment agency.

Brutally honest

WILMINGTON—In last week's Sound-off articles "The swamp is back", Margot Lane, Shadow Lakes then Essex, Wealthy politicians, Coal City, "When cities burned" then USA or California also "Exposing America" and Wilmington. Thank you whoever you are from the bottom of my heart for being so brutally honest, informative and caring enough to share your thoughts and feelings. Better than the nightly news!

Destruction of America

SHADOW LAKES—I guess people can burn, loot, hurt, maim, kill and cheat in elections because many states did not follow their own election rules and laws. So I guess just do whatever you want, when you want, the way you want and a Democrat will protect you.

So-called adults

WILMINGTON-I taught 8th grade for most of my teaching career. Many people often asked me how I could put up with 13 and 14 year olds. On their worst days, they were still nothing close to the behaviors of the so-called adults I saw on Jan. 6, 2021 in Washington D.C. T Lockwood

lgnoring our own

COAL CITY— The Democrat leadership wants to keep the National Guard in D.C. for their protection. But what about the protection for the American citizens? When they want to defund the police, shut down ICE and open borders while they let criminals out of jail. The Democrat leaders say that the rule of law is important and so is the constitution of the USA. So maybe they should go back and read the laws that they say they honor because they do not practice what they preach unless it's for their own protection or protection of their families while they toss aside the legal rights suppose to be guaranteed for every American citizen. They give money that belongs to the taxpayers to foreign countries and allow American tizens to live in the streets without food. Hypocrite does not even come close to a word that describes the Democrat party. The words power crazy and egomaniacs are better words to describe the Democrat party leaders.

Nuts in Washington

MORRIS-President Biden has signed an order involving gender discrimination which means that any male legally can claim he is female and can enter into any female restroom or locker room without being arrested. Female citizens should not be subjected to this type of crime. Maybe the politicians should go back to school to learn there is a difference between a male and a female gender in every form of animal life on the planet earth. Since apparently some of the politicians in Washington, D.C. and around the USA seem to believe that males and females are built exactly alike, so the politicians and every other White House individuals should take a closer look at photos of Adam and Eve. Would they know the difference or would some scientist have to explain it to them on a TelePrompTer? Call your fearless leaders and see if they are going to reject President Biden's new law or if they care about what you think about anything. There are plenty of psychiatric institutions throughout the USA that will make room for more individuals since all the nuts are not in the cake, they live and work in Washington, D.C.

Parking garage quarters

WILMINGTON—Who would believe the treatment of 25,000 National Guard soldiers by General Pelosi. They were put in the parking garage to sleep with few bathrooms, florescent lights and car ignition fumes to deal with dur-ing the inauguration of President Biden. The word is out and not good response. Many will be sent home to the states they came from yet 10,600 National Guard will be left behind. For what reason? When news broke President Trump offered rooms in his hotel in D.C. to the guardsmen for free all while the Democrats and a few Republicans plan on impeaching our President Trump. It's called unity.

an Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I.

Bringing down USA
SHADOW LAKES— I'm calling about Biden's executive orders, so far. Seems to me that the Democrats want to bring down the American economy and force people out of jobs so they can depend on the government. That is the perfect way to bring in socialism/communism. They also want to disarm the Americans which we have had armament in this country since our founding fathers. Many of which were repeating rifles that could fire 15 rounds in 10.5 seconds. No different then the AR15. So tell me something,

do left wing liberal, Democrats and that includes my neighbor, why do you want to destroy the American economy and be dependent on foreign sources. If Biden is really for American independence he would continue Trump's progress. Dan Hill.

Good quotes

WILMINGTON— Thomas Jefferson once said, "a government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take away everything you have." Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do

Dependents

President Trump was called a xenophobic because he stopped people from traveling from Asia. Biden has stopped people from traveling from 24 different countries. How come he's not called xenophobic. You know it's always the double standard when it comes to the Democrats. They won't be happy until they bring this country down and every one of you are going to be dependent, with a capital D, on the government. That includes you too, Penny

Pace yourself Joe

SHADOW LAKES—Thank you China Joe: Pace yourself China Joe. You have 4 years. You don't have to destroy our country your first week. Always Margot Lane.

Threat of terrorists

BRAIDWOOD-Lock them in, turn on the gas. Ha ha ha! How many cubic feet of space is there in each chamber of Congress? With the barriers about 14 or 18 inches in diameter or more, the length of tubing would have to be extremely long. The number of cubic inch vehicles emissions also being many. Why? Because occupants in the chamber could smell. Not carbon monoxide though. Why? Congress persons have smart phones and might think to phone for help - 911. I'm aware of this because on the radio today was mentioned a group communicated with at least one other in its group; Lock them in and turn on the gas. A substantiation of a conspiracy or satire?

Buying up land

COAL CITY—Read Bill Gates is now the top private farmland owner in America with more than 242,000 acres across 18 states. Cable billionaire John Malone is still our country's biggest landowner with 2.2 million acres of ranches and forests. Amazon owner Jeff Bezos also invests in land and owns more than 420,000 acres, mostly in west Texas.

Liberal agenda

COAL CITY—President Biden is asking for unity in our country while he signs 27 executive orders the first week in office reversing many of President Trump's accomplishments. That is the most executive orders after being in office one week than any other president. His stimulus bill is a liberal agenda it's focused on pandemic relief also bail outs of the badly managed blue states, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles etc. and a 15 dollar minimum wage. That would push small businesses to the brink and erase over 3 million jobs. It's a massive expansion of the welfare state not pandemic relief. Canceling the Keystone XL pipeline that was going to carry oil from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico with 10,000 union jobs lost. It's called unity! 15 percent increase in food stamps.

Arming ourselves COAL CITY—Read 40 million firearms

background checks were processed in 2020, a 40 percent increase over 2019 and by far the most since the FBI began tracking such checks in 1998. Fears of political violence and pandemic anarchy, 5 million Americans bought their first gun last year.

Now there's proof

WILMINGTON—Marjorie Taylor Greene is proof that Sherman didn't do enough.

Wrong again

Here we go again, when I responded to Dan Hill's Sunday school lesson I used the word moot, defined as meaningless, not mute, which is defined as silenced. Although it's not a contest I still have a better vocabulary than the Sound-off editor.

Publisher's note: For experts of vocabulary, such as yourself, from now on submit your sound-offs in writing by email to courant@fpnusa.com. We're tired of flipping through the dictionary trying to figure what in the hell you're saying.

More harm to U.S.

815-476-6364

863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404

Email: ggresham@amfam.com

SHADOW LAKES—We not only have big tech and the main stream media censoring news but there is a call to ban books by people on the left. While the new administration sits back and talks about how they are going to help Americans, with the stroke of a pen they are giving citizenship to foreign individuals who are in the USA illegally so they can collect the taxpayers funds. Raising taxes and opening borders creates havoc in the USA, subjecting citizens to more harm from criminals. The new administration seems to be using the same strategy that was used on the left in European history by using the idea to

deprogram us so they become like a scarecrow before he had

Vote of dissent

DAY AFTER DAY...

MAYBE I'LL WATCH

THE SUPER BOWL

FOR SOMETHING

NEM!

SHADOW LAKES—Did you ever notice in sound-off that some people think Trump was a great president and some people think he was the worst? Now some people think Biden will be a terrible president but no one is saying Biden will be great or even good. He's just not Trump. I don't think anyone voted for Biden, they just voted against Trump. Eddie

So much anger

SHADOW LAKES—Just got done reading the sound-off section of the paper and I can almost see the fury and anger of Trump supporters with the election results. We have had many presidential elections in the past back and forth from democrats to republicans but I've never seen so much anger and hatred like we have now. And there is only one logical explanation. I can still remember when Trump said on national television that he could shoot a person on Fifth Avenue, New York and his supporters will still love him. I try and try but I just can't comprehend what kind of spell Trump has on these people. I honestly believe these people would run into a burning building if he told them to. The sad part is that it's going to take a very long time for all the hatred he created to go away.

Twisted

CITY—In this country Republican Party has taken up arms to beat democracy into the ground as they beat police to death. It turns out the GOP backs the men in blue only when convenient. Meanwhile Russia's people cry for democracy in the streets as tens of thousands gather in subzero temperatures demanding the release of their hero, Navalny, who Putin poisoned. What a twist. Democracy is growing in Russia while it is besieged in America. Regarding our own election, Trump filed 62 lawsuits in the states, appealed the election outcome in the Supreme Court and begged Georgia's Republicans to change 11,780 ballots in his favor. Despite Trump's attempts at voter fraud, Trump lost fair and square. And what's the result? QAnon continues to promote fairy tales and Trump's followers continue to hallucinate.

Looney tunes time

COAL CITY—President Biden claims he wants unity in our country. Really his executive orders that he signed have infuriated conservatives. One of his first proposals is to bailout all the heavy in debt Democrat states to the tune of \$350 billion to be paid for by the Republicans in the red states. Taxes will be increased for everyone. Once again President Biden has us paying for abortions worldwide, something President Trump rejected. Forty executive orders in one week. Looney tune time folks.

Notice how Kamala, our vice president, stands close by as President Biden signs executive orders, ready to take over just in case.

Let's get packing

COAL CITY—Here's a solution to carjacking senior citizens in Chicago. All Chicago senior citizens should buy a hand gun. "No more carjacking. Grandma is packing." Look out.

Out of respect

WILMINGTON—This is for Margo Lane who lives in the notorious Shadow Lakes. When Trump was president I didn't agree with him but I always called him President Trump because he was our president. Now Joe Biden is our president and I think he should be referred to as President Joe Biden. So please stop with the stupid name calling and grow up.

Stupid people

WILMINGTON—Here's a fun quiz. Keep track of the statements you agree or disagree with. Stupid people believe in white supremacy. Stupid people fly confederate flags. Stupic people blame others for their failures. Stupid people believe violence is a means to an end Stupid people don't wear masks. Stupid people think they are smarter than they are. Lastly, stupid people love to hate. They hate liberals, they hate education and they really hate being told they are stupid.

Teach them to obey

MORRIS-I'm sick and tired of all these people blaming the police for all the unnecessary use of force. Why don't these politicians and these businessmen and pastors speaking out against this tell the parents to take care of their kids? Tell them to obey and do what the policemen say. Drop your stupid cell phone and whatever you have in your hand. Put your hands up and show some respect to the police. This is getting ridiculous. They do it because they know they can get away with it and the day after it happens they file a lawsuit and they collect. The Democrats want to give all the criminals their rights and have everything given to the illegal immigrants.

When Jesus comes

printed in the Bible?

SHADOW LAKES—This is regarding the Democrats and all the people who want to save the earth from global warming which has been warm, a ball of tropic, a ball of ice and everything else long before humans were ever here. My question to the people who believe in global warming and climate change is who are they going to blame when Jesus comes back to earth to judge humanity? Who are they going to blame at that time when the catastrophes are

1099-G Forms available for those who got unemployment benefits

The 1099-G tax forms are Pandemic now available for claimants who received unemployment insurance (UI) benefits in 2020, the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced. Claimants who collected UI benefits last year need the 1099-G tax form from IDES to complete state and federal tax returns. The form is necessary for individuals who received state or federal UI benefits

This includes claimants who received regular UI benefits and/or benefits under the new federal pandemic relief including programs,

Unemployment Pandemic Assistance Pandemic Unemployment required). Compensation

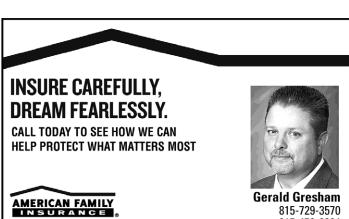
Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Lost Wages Assistance (LWA), and state Extended Benefits (EB).

Claimants who opted to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically, which is an available option claimants establish an IDES account, will receive an e-mail notification with instructions to access the document from the IDES website. Claimants who opted not to receive their 1099-G tax form electronically will receive a paper form via regular mail; these claimants may also access and print their 1099-G form online by visiting (PUA), Federal the IDES website (login Previous years' (FPUC), 1099-G information is also

available for claimants online for the prior seven years.

Individuals who have questions about this form can contact the Department at 800-244-5631 and select the appropriate queue to speak with an expert.

Individuals who did not apply for or receive UI benefits in 2020 but receive a 1099-G tax form from IDES are asked to immediately contact the department at 800-244-5631. Receiving this form without having applied for or received unemployment benefits is an indication of identity theft and that a fraudulent claim was filed using the personally identifying information (PII) of an individual.







Completed in a timely fashion



Palmer vs. Daly on the golf course and cocktails

First came Arnold Palmer, Daly, know that he is then came John Daly. Yes, Palmer's mastery of the game predates Daly's career, but we're not talking about the players. We're talking about the cocktails.

Legions of fans have enjoyed an Arnold Palmer ether on the course or at the 19th hole, and what's not to enjoy? Arnold's preferred mix of iced tea and lemonade is the perfect reward after a wellplayed round, or the perfect consolation prize following less than your best performance on the course.

Before we move to the John Daly, I would like to clarify a few widely held misconceptions about the Arnold Palmer. First, the drink is not a 50/50 mix of lemonade and iced tea. Mr. Palmer preferred a ratio of 3 parts unsweetened iced tea to 1 part lemonade. Second, he did not invent the drink. He commonly drank them on the course, and during a round in Palm Springs in the 1960s a patron entered the clubhouse bar and said "I'll have that Arnold Palmer

you're not familiar with John

District 209-U seeking bids for

flooring work at Stevens Intermediate School

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF BIDS

Sealed bids for the 2021 Flooring Work, L.J. Stevens Intermediate School, Wilmington, Illinois for Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U will be received by the Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, Wilmington, Will County, Illinois, via email until 2:00 P.M. prevailing time on the 9th day of March, 2021.

E-mailed bids should include fully executed copy of Section 00 30 00 – Bid Form, pages 00 30 00-1 through 00 30 00-8 and a copy of the required Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Road Certified Check or Bank Draft for ten percent (10%) for the amount of the

of a Bid Bond, Certified Check or Bank Draft for ten percent (10%) for the amount of the bid, payable to the order of Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Will County, Illinois.

Bids should be e-mailed to the Owner using hipes@209u.net and the Architect using jwoodley@healybender.com. Each bidder is fully responsible for the electronic deliv-

ery of the emailed bid. The Owner and Architect are not responsible for technology failures related to sending or receiving e-mailed bids. E-mailed bids received after the scheduled

The time and date when the e-mailed bid is received by the Owner using thipes@209u.net shall represent the official time and date when the e-mailed bid was received. E-mailed bids will not be opened and recorded until after the deadline for receipt Following the opening and recording of e-mailed bids, a tabulation of the e-mailed bids will be prepared and will be e-mailed to each bidder (using the e-mail address where the bid originated) and to others requesting a copy of the bid tabulation.

Materials that are required to be submitted with the bid as stated in Section 01 10 Instructions to Bidders, Contractor Qualification Statement AIA A305 should be emailed in separate e-mail(s) from the e-mailed bid.

The work is to be performed in accordance with the proposed Contract Documents as prepared by Healy Bender Patton & Been Architects, 4040 Helene Avenue, Naperville, Illinois. The proposed Contract Documents may be obtained by request to the Architect.

Upon receipt of a completed Registered Plan Holder Record form and a Bidding Documents License Agreement, prospective bidders will become registered plan holders. During the bidding period, the office of the Architect will send project addenda, clarifications, and other project information to registered plan holders via the email address(es) list-ed on the Registered Plan Holder Record on file at the Architect's office.

These proposed Contract Documents may be studied at the office of the Architect

or at the following locations:
Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties Plan Room

These documents may also be viewed online at Dodge Data & Analytics internet site

Bids will be received for two (2) Base Bids. Base Bid A for asbestos abatement Work

and Base Bid B for the flooring work, including all trades.

All bidders are invited to attend a pre-bid meeting which will be held at 3:30 P.M.

prevailing time, on February 18, 2021, at L.J. Stevens Intermediate School, 221 Ryan Street, Wilmington, Illinois. Contractors will be required to take a temperature checks before entering the building and to wear masks during the site visit. Contractors are invit-

ed to tour the areas of work after the meeting.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Guarantee in the form of a Bid Bond.

Certified Check or Bank Draft in an amount equal to not less than ten percent (10%), of

the bid and made payable to Wilmington Community Unit School District 209-U, 209 Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) days

after the bids opening date without the consent of the Owner. Checks or drafts of unsuc-cessful bidders will be returned as soon as practical after opening and checking the bids. Successful bidder must provide a Performance Bond and a Labor and Material

Payment Bond in the full amount of the Contract, acceptable to the Owner. This Contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et.seq.).

in bidding. The proposed project is subject to adequate school funding as determined solely in the discretion of the Board of Education, Wilmington Community Unit School District

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities

233 N. Springfield Avenue, Joliet, Illinois

On to the John Daly. If

time and date will not be accepted.

at www.construction.com.

accomplished an golfer with 5 tour wins to his credit including the PGA Championship in 1991 and The Open in 1995. However, he is also known for his off the course behavior. He's one of golf's most colorful characters, far from the "country stereotype that surrounds the sport. He hits the

ball the hard (his drives earned during the tournament, and him the nickname "Long John") and he lives hard. Smokes, drinks, gambles, and has the occasional meltdown on the course.

You never know which John Daly is going to show up, but when he's on his drives are absolutely legendary. He has an exceptionally long backswing which he uses for leverage, a swing which he taught himself. After winning The Open in 1995, he struggled a bit for the next five seasons. He was then voted comeback player of the year in 2004, and narrowly missed winning the Houston Open in 2005 (Vijay

WGC-American Championship (Tiger Woods). It was in 2005

Brian Rung

that Daly played at Whiskey Creek in Fort Myers in the Dirty Gator Open and it was there that he met his namesake cocktail. Club bartender Daton Lewis added vodka to the Arnold Palmer

renamed the drink the "John Daly". Adding vodka or gin to the Arnold Palmer has been known in the golf world as the Spiked Arnold Palmer", but Lewis decided to seize the moment and name it after a golfer that is perhaps the all time most deserving of a signature cocktail.

Daly enjoyed the drink, but did not approve of the name as he felt that naming the drink after him was trademark infringement. Daly is no stranger to business ventures outside of the game, so he formed the GIASI Beverage Company in 2010. By the way, 'GIASI" is an acronym for "Grip It And Sip It", a play on his "Grip It And Rip It" mantra.

GIASI Produced a few flavors of hard lemonades and Spiked Arnold Palmers for nearly a decade, but the premade cocktails were only available in select markets. The website promoting Daly's signature cocktails is up, but the product is difficult to find.

In 2018, Miller/Coors marketed a malt-based version of the drink under the name

principle. Many refer to the Arnold Palmer Spiked as the John Daly whatever to the John Daly is built and served in a tall, ice-filled glass.

• 2 oz. iced tea Singh) and the "Arnold Palmer Spiked", same John Daly, whatever you call it, you can make your very own by following the recipe below.

There are not many hacks as far as improving the quality of the Palmer or the Daly. The best advice that I can give is to use good ingredients. Use a quality, home brewed iced tea, and the kind of lemonade that your grandmother used to

Don't be afraid to push the envelope on your lemonade sweetness, especially if you are going to make the John Daly. Many golf club bars will add a splash of simple syrup to Spiked Arnold Palmer/John Daly to ensure that the drink remains smooth. For those following the

PGA, we are in the middle of a super season which runs until Labor Day weekend, 2021. The scheduling of the 2021 majors will return to normalcy for the most part, one key change is the re-scheduled Ryder Cup which will be played in an odd numbered year for the first time since 1999. The 2001 Ryder Cup was moved to 2002 following cancellation as a result of the September 11 attacks, and The Cup has been played in even numbered vears since.

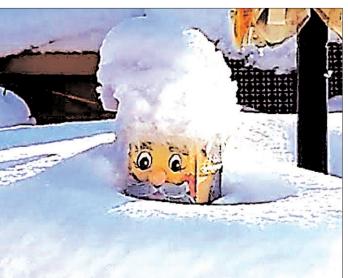
Have an Arnold Palmer, or a John Daly ready for your

The **Arnold Palmer** is built and served in a tall, ice-filled

Fill glass with ice, then add:

• 3 parts unsweetened iced tea • 1 part lemonade

Stir and serve



A GOOD CHUCKLE - Judy Wunderlich of Wilmington submitted this share-A-shot she took Monday morning after looking out deck window. What she found among nearly 8 inches of fresh snowfall

at her from a deck table. "It was a Santa Claus brick I put out back towards the end of November, It looked so comical because just its face was left uncovered from the snow." Wunderlich said. We had a good laugh." If you have an interesting photo to share, email us a jpeg at efisher@fpnusa.com or drop a print off at the Coal City Wilmington Free Press Newspapers office.

• 2 oz. lemonade • 1.5 oz. vodka

• Optional garnish with lemon wheel Stir and serve

Until next week, enjoy



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were a pair of eves looking back

209-U, and that if adequate funding in the Board of Education's sole determination is not available, that project may be postponed or cancelled by the Board of Education. Contact Jim Habing, Director of Facilities at 815-514-7859 to make arrangements to visit the site. BOARD OF EDUCATION WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 209-U WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 3 and 10, 2021. NEW YEAR

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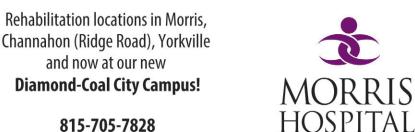


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Local Forest Preserves receive grant for restorations

A unique cluster of Braidwood-Wilmington area forest preserves will benefit from a \$92,000 grant awarded recently by the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program.

The funding announced Jan. 25 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be spent to restore habitat at the Forest Preserve District of Will County's https://www.recon- nectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Braidwood-Dunes-and-Savanna-Nature-Preserve> Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, https://www.reconnectwith- nature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Kankakee-Sands> Kankakee Preserve Sand Ridge Savanna Preserve east Highway Braidwood.

"This grant helps the Forest Preserve District continue one of the greatest ecological restorations we have ever attempted," said Floyd Catchpole, the District's land management program coordi-

The grant will be used to improve habitat for 20 species considered endangered or threatened in Illinois and 43 species in greatest conservation need, a state designation for species that are in serious trouble but not yet endan-

Wrong

way driver

busted

on I-80

Illinois State Police (ISP)

District 5 arrested and charged

Jazmine Chambers, 20-year-

old female, of Chicago, with

Aggravated Fleeing and

Eluding (Class 4 Felony) and

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

a.m., on Jan. 29, 2021, Illinois

State Police District 5 Troopers

responded to the area of

Interstate 80 eastbound near

milepost 140 for a report of a

wrong-way driver. Troopers

located a Yellow Kia, traveling

westbound in the eastbound

lanes of interstate 80 at mile

Chambers, exited the inter-

state fleeing from Troopers on

US-30 eastbound and struck a

curb causing damage to one of

the tires. Chambers refused to

come to a complete stop but

slowed. During the execution

of the traffic stop at Haven

Avenue and Gear Drive in New

Lennox, Chambers struck one

of the ISP squad cars with her

vehicle, causing minor dam-

age, but no injuries were

Chambers were approved by

the Will County State's

Attorney's Office. Chambers

was transported to Will County Adult Detention Facility to await a bond hear-

ing. There is no further infor-

mation available at this time.

charges against

reported.

The

The Kia, driven by

post 149, a short time later.

At approximately 2:27

The District's three pre-



SHORE ST. JOHN'S wort, a state-endangered plant found in a southern Will County forest preserve, is one of the many species that will benefit from a \$92,000 habitat restoration grant recently awarded to the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

Shrub Prairie south of Strip

serves, combined with the the Braidwood Sands region by nearby state-owned Hitts Catchpole. The almost 3,000-Siding Prairie and Wilmington acre region is unique because it was once lake bed for Lake Mine Road, are referred to as Wauponsee, which was creat-

ed by glaciers 19,000 years ago. When the moraine that held the water back broke, it created the largest known flood event in Illinois, the Kankakee Torrent. Eventually the water receded leaving behind sandy soils along with remnant prairies, wetlands and savannas, which make this

area of Will County unlike any "As a result, the Braidwood Sands area has far more rare species than any other area in Will County," Catchpole said of the unique mixture of soil and

Since the early 2000s, the Forest Preserve has been working to connect and restore these preserves.

"To date, we have converted over 400 acres of agricultural fields into prairie, greatly reduced invasive species and restored natural prairies and savannas," Catchpole said. "Braidwood Sands area is a work in progress, but with the help of Illinois Habitat Fund grants, we continue to make good progress restoring the rare prairie and savanna habitat that support so many rare and endangered species.'

The state funding will be matched with \$110,000 of District funds to provide \$202,000 for the work. The Forest Preserve was one of seven entities that received a portion of \$958,096 in 2021 habitat grants. Funding for the Illinois Habitat Fund Special Wildlife Funds Grant Program comes from the sale of Habitat Stamps that are required to hunt upland game.

OBITUARY

Rev. Clark E. Llewellyn



CHANNAHON-Rev. Clark E. Llewellyn, (Pastor Clark or 'PC'), 74, of Channahon and formerly of Jacksonville, IL, entered eternity
Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

He was born in Chicago on Feb.

2, 1946 to the late Adeline Josephine Blackabee (nee Clark) and John Earl Llewellyn. The family relocated to the Pittsburgh, PA area where Clark attended Bethel Park High School and forged a reputation as having a sharp mind and a talent as a wordsmith. These gifts led to numerous honors including national recognition for his accomplishments, both as an individual, and as a member of the high

school debate team. He attended LeHigh University for one year and then placed his education on hold to join the U.S. Navy where he served as a Sonarman 1st class. It was during his time stationed in Key West, FL that he began corresponding with his future wife of 48 years, Martha Lynn (nee Gedye) who passed on April 26, 2016. They married and he finished his education. Upon graduating from The Ohio State University with a BS in mechanical engineering he took a job with the Ford Motor Company and rose quickly as an administrator. Within two years he felt the call of God on his life and the Llewellyns moved to Louisville, KY where he would study at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to

become a pastor. Choosing to leave just a class short of completing his Master of Divinity, he was compelled to enter the mission field. The next two decades he served as a home missionary and church planter for the Illinois Baptist State Association and as founding pastor at both Woodson Baptist Church and Beth-El Baptist Church in Jacksonville. He assisted local communities in planting new churches became a mentor to scores of men entering the ministry. In 1999 he relocated to become pastor at Curtis Avenue Baptist Church in Joliet. In 2001 he joined the pastoral staff at Families of Faith Church in Channahon where he would continue his career. It was there, that four years after losing Martha, he met and fell for Patricia (formerly Warcholek) who became his partner in ministry and life. They married on March 15, 2020. A faithful servant and steward of His gifts, he continued to exhort and uplift giving his final sermon one day before he passed. Pastor Clark leaves behind a legacy through men he mentored and his beloved family.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia Llewellyn and her family who embraced him and who he came to love much in a short period of time. In addition to his wife, he leaves behind three sons from his 48 years with Martha, Pastor Randy Blan (Karen) and

Moriah (who he loved like a daughter), of Channahon; Aaron Llewellyn (Hattie), of New Berlin and Benjamin Llewellyn (Maria), of Jacksonville; two siblings and numerous nieces and nephews survive him. His sister, Sue Curtis (and Matt), of Troy, OH, he loved very much. His brother, John Earl Llewellyn (and Carol), of Beverly, OH, he admired and held as one of his closest friends. His grandchildren: Isabella Grace "Scooter," Anna, J.R., Eden, Elliott and Emelia were a source of joy for him. But his connection with Isabella Grace, whose daily conversations sustained him through rough waters, created a deep love between them that will always remain. A faithful witness to Christ's love and redemption, Pastor Clark left an indelible mark as an example of sacrifice and servanthood on those with whom he came into

Visitation will be held on Friday, Feb. 5 from 10 a.m.-1p.m. followed immediately by a memorial service at Families of Faith Church, 24466 W. Eames St., Channahon, IL 60410. Visitation will also be held at Island Grove United Methodist Church in New Berlin, IL on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 10 a.m.-noon.

Graveside services will immediately follow Voodwreath Cemetery, New Berlin.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name to Families of Faith or FOFCA (fofmin.org) would be appreciated.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Pastor Clark's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.Reeves-Baskerville.com/obituary/RevClark-Llewellyn Funeral services and arrangements have

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

Garden Club to welcome guest speaker

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday Feb. 17, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St. Special guest will be Sandy Ascot from

Muddy Paws Nursery on Highway 113, in Custer Park. Ascot will be describing the cultivators of

Hydrangeas, she will be adding to her line up She will also be discussing exciting perennials for butterfly gardens.

Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend. For more information call Carol at 815-476- 2469, or Judy at 815-476-1875.



Front Row: Grace Smith, Dayna Vargocko, Samantha Olson. Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

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Uninvited guests for breakfast



WESLEY TOWNSHIP resident Kathleen Kennedy visited the South Island dam Jan. 26 with camera strapped on hoping to get a photo of a pair of bald eagles frequenting the area below the river dam. She spotted an eagle hunting on the far side of the river when it swooped down grab a large fish. Twice the bird, with the fish in its talons, struggled to take flight off the water. Finally it gained enough height to reach the trees in the park. Over land, the fish wiggled free of its grasp and hit the ground. That caught the attention of passing crows who investigated closely as the eagle swooped down, grabbed the fish and carried to a nearby tree branch. While the each made a breakfast out of the fish and crows pestered it from both sides, waiting for a morsel. "It was such a delight to watch," said Kennedy, an avid photographer. "It was Mother Nature at its best and shows how important the dam is for keeping the water open for wildlife during the winter."

Morris Hospital Fire Starter contributes to patient care in several ways

Lori Stevens is proof that when you love what you do and you're committed to the organization you work for, it's easy to shine. For 30 years, the Morris resident made a difference as a registered nurse on Morris Hospital's 2 East inpa-

Today, she uses her nursing knowledge and computer expertise to enhance the quality of patient care as an IT Applications Specialist. Described as an extremely positive person who always has a smile on her face, Stevens was honored as Morris Hospital's Fire Starter of the

Stevens began her career at Morris Hospital in 1987 as a CNA on midnights. After graduating from nursing school in 1990, she accepted an RN position at Morris Hospital just as the new 2 East wing was

Month for December.

As the hospital started preparing for a brand new computer application called Meditech in the late 1990s, Stevens was asked to serve on the core team to help develop computerized nursing documentation for the very first time in the hospital's history.



LORI STEVENS

Her special niche in the Information Technology world

never went away. "I started training new nurses as they were hired, and as computerized documentation continued to evolve, my involvement just kind of kept going," says Stevens, who also served as a charge nurse when

she was working on 2 East. "I had a dual role of IT and nursing - really the best of

both worlds. Two years ago when we started preparing for the transition to our next electronic health record system, I decided it was time to turn my full time focus to the IT world."

While having the perspective of both an RN and IT Specialist has proven to be invaluable for the internal customers she serves, there's more to Stevens than her clinical and computer expertise.

Iohn Biesen, Applications Manager at Morris Hospital, says Stevens is simply a joy to work with.

Lori has an amazing work ethic and is always willing to step in and help out where ever needed," says Biesen. "She is very compassionate, and we are extremely lucky she is part of our team."

When asked what's most rewarding about her work, Stevens says: "I just love my job, and I'm happy to have my job. I have literally grown up here (Morris Hospital), so this is my second home -- my second family. We are a small community hospital with employees who have big caring hearts and who do great things. I have a huge loyalty to Morris Hospital."

NIU graduates

1,300 students received their degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates are local students Skyler Hibbard, of Coal City, bachelor of science in nursing and Hali Ivlow, of Wilmington, bachelor of arts communication-media

Aurora University dean's list

Aurora University has named the following local students to the dean's list for the fall 2020 semester. The dean's recognizes full-time undergraduate students who have earned a 3.6 GPA or higher. Students recognized with high honors have earned a perfect 4.0.

Area students on the honors list are Kristyn Daigger, of Coal City and Claire Springer, of Wilmington.

Students on the high honors list include Lillian Goode, Dejah Michael Gunier, Isabella Hendrickson, Muscato and Joshua Runchey, all of Morris.



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Illinois gas prices keep rising

risen 5.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.54/g according GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Gas prices in Illinois are 19.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 8.3 cents per gallon higher 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 \$2.89/g, a difference of 75.0 cents per The lowest price in the

state is \$2.14/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of

Illinois gas prices have 75.0 cents per gallon. The GasBuddy data, Friday gasonational average price of gasoline has risen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging

The national average is up 17.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 5.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. "Gas price increases con-

tinue to slow down as oil prices fail to continue moving upward, even as gasoline demand continues to show new signs of improving recovery," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"According to Pay with this path."

line demand was the highest since November, Saturday gasoline demand was the strongest of any Saturday since the pandemic began. The rise in gasoline demand has certainly been behind oil's rally in the last few months, as COVID restrictions continue to ease and the economy slowly continues recovery. While the next few weeks may see gas prices rising slightly, the real pinch could come in March and lasting through summer, should demand continue on





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LAW OFFICES OF

You can now reach Attorneys Mark Berardi and Andrew Costa of Berardi & Associates LLC at their Homer Glen office **708-942-8030** The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, The Coal City Courant, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021, page 8

OBITUARIES

Virginia Banham

COAL CITY—Virginia Banham, 97, of Coal City, passed away Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 at Regency Care of

Born May 7, 1923 in Delavan, IL, Virginia Noreen was a daughter of Neil and Helen (Baker) Neblock. She was raised and educated in McLean County, and most recently resided in Coal City before transitioning to Regency Care in Morris.

Ginny was a member of Ritchey United Methodist Church; was involved with T.O.P.S. for many years, and enjoyed belonging to the Red Hat Society. She golfed and bowled on leagues throughout years past, and took pleasure in walking, as well as dancing.

Surviving are two daughters, Alyce (James) Scheel, of Gardner and Suzan (Robert) Hendry, of Morris; favorite daughter-in-law, Vicky Terrell, of Morris; 16 grandchildren, 19 greatgrandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as her special friend, Stacy Morales.

Ginny was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Charles Banham (1995); son, Donnie Terrell; grandson, Ronnie and five brothers and one sis-Per Ginny's wishes, cremation

rites have been accorded and there will be no services. Preferred memorials may be

made as gifts in Ginny's memory to the Coal City Food Pantry. The family wishes to extend their

heartfelt appreciation to the staff and caregivers at Regency Care of Morris for their extraordinary care over the past two years.

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

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

.Todd M. Sandeno__

MORRIS-Todd Michael Sandeno, 49, Morris, passed away suddenly, Monday, Jan. 25, 2021 in Nashville, TN. He was born Nov. 18, 1971 in Joliet, he was the son of Kenneth Paul and Diane M. (nee Lardi) Sandeno. Todd graduated from Gardner-

South Wilmington High School with the class of 1990. He was a member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington. Todd was a co-owner of "D" Construction in Coal City along with his two siblings, Ken and Tami. They are all proud to carry on the legacy their father created. He served on the board of directors for the Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties and was a member of the Local #150 Operators Union for over thirty years. Work was Todd's passion and he considered himself blessed to not only have the immediate family he had, but his work family was just as impor-Todd was a wonderful father, who made

sure to set aside time to spend with each one of his children. He loved hunting, shooting, and four-wheeling, with the boys, but he also loved to take his little girl shopping, watching live performances like Dancing with Stars and Blue Man Group, and of course four-wheeling. The kids and their friends will never forget Todd's no phone Sunday rules that applied to everyone...except for him. He also had a love for traveling and enjoyed visiting the Cayman Islands with his family. His personality lit up any room and he was always known as a loyal man and the love he had for family will never be forgotten, but only to be passed down to generations to come.

He married his grade school sweetheart, Richelle Romanetto and eventually married Feb. 24, 1996 at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. They have three beautiful children, Tyler, Trent, and Raegan Sandeno. Also surviv-

ing are his brother, Ken (Kristi) Sandeno of Morris; sister, Tami (Brian) Hansen Gardner; numerous nephews, cousins, and friends; mother-in-law, Ellen Romanetto of Gardner; father-in-law, Romanetto of Cardiff, IL; sister-inlaw, Missy (Chris) Lenzie of Gardner; brothers-in-law, Romanetto of Cardiff and Scott (Bev) Romanetto of Coal City; and his fourlegged companions, Reese and Willow.
Preceding him in death were his father,

Kenneth P. Sandeno on June 17, 2011 and his mother, Diane M. (nee Lardi) Sandeno on Dec.

Visitation for Todd will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 from 3-8 p.m. All attendees are required to wear face coverings, follow social distancing guidelines, due to the capacity requirements please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects. Mass of Christian burial will be private at the St. Lawrence Catholic Church. A link will be posted shortly to be able to log on and watch the funeral mass. For those who would like to witness his funeral procession please line up at the "D" Construction headquarters around 11:15 on Saturday, Jan. 30. The family will then continue to the private service at Braceville-Gardner committal Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the St. Lawrence

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

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

Michael J. Jett _

SOUTH WILMINGTON-Michael J. Jett, 75, of South Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at Morris Hospital. Born May 27, 1945 in Baltimore. MD, he was the son of Dick M. and

Cecelia Rita (nee Ryan) Jett. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force serving from 1964-1968. Mike was member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Wilmington South Department, and he also served on the board of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. He retired from Electra Motors in LaGrange on July 1, 1993 after 30 years of employment. Mike enjoyed fishing, gambling trips, and he espe-

cially enjoyed spending time with his family.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Rosemary (nee Kroll) Jett, of South Wilmington, who he married May 21, 1966 in South Wilmington; three children: Michele (Troy) Scholes, Melissa Jensen and Christopher (Jenny) Jett; six grandchildren: Justin Jett, Lucas (Paige) Jett, Samantha Schneider, Brett Jensen, Megan Jett and Cheyenne Jett; two great-grandchildren, Zoey Jett and Kaysen Schneider; two brothers, Dick (Penny) Jett and Edward (Cathy) Jett; one sister, Donna Payne and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two sisters, Charolette (Duane) Brown and Karen Story and one brother, Robert Jett.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 from 4-8 p.m. Funeral services will be from the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home Crematory, Braidwood, Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. to the St. Lawrence Catholic Church for a Mass of

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

Private interment will follow at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name to a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory. 401 E. Main St., Braidwood has been entrusted with arrangements.

Joseph M. Corneglio

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Joseph M. Corneglio, 72, of South Wilmington, passed away peacefully at his residence on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

He was born on Oct. 5, 1948 in Joliet to Joseph J. and Milly (Andrewscavage) Corneglio. He was a long time resident of South Wilmington. Joseph enjoyed his spare time hunting and trap shooting. He belonged to many clubs including the Illinois Rifle Association of which he was a

longtime member. Joseph had been known by his nickname "Tokyo." He was a laborer for 50 years with Local #75. He was very special and once meeting him you would remember him.

Joseph was loved by many, including his daughter, Kimberly (Mark) Pavlis and his entrusted with arrangements.

son, Joey and John (Jenna) and Chuck (Heather) Harvey. Also included are longtime friends that helped with his daily needs including Marion Ferrari, Nichole Koerner and Jon Meder. Visitation will be Wednesday,

cousins: John (Nicole) Corneglio and their

Feb. 3, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of his funeral service at 11 a.m. at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City with Deacon William Dunn officiating. Burial will follow at Round Grove Cemetery in Reddick.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are

Illinois Silver Search brings people home

125 Silver Search advisories which resulted in 123 recoveries. By comparison, during 2019 there were only 74 advi-

Silver Search is a coordinated effort to bring awareness and resources to help find and safely return people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia that go missing.

The Silver Search program brings to light the increasing incidences of people with wander at some point during

During 2020 there were Alzheimer's or dementia who their diagnosis. get lost and ways in which the public can help law enforcement return them home safely. Silver Search has become

> a vital tool for law enforcement agencies to use when a loved one with dementia goes miss-According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 230,000 Illinois residents are currently living with Alzheimer's. Sixty percent of those with Alzheimer's will

Once an alert is issued, Illinois State Police activate the **Endangered Missing Person** Advisory. This advisory will alert the public through notifications to media, Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT] digital highway signs, Illinois Lottery terminals, in addition to the Silver Search website and social media

Joanne Ulivi _

COAL CITY-Joanne Ulivi, 81, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021 at Morris Born April 2, 1939 in Morris,

Joanne Louise was a daughter of Frank and Irene (Emanuelson) Kratochvil. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1957. On Nov. 1, 1958, Joanne married Gary Ulivi in the United Methodist Church in Coal City, and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City. Joanne worked for her brother-in-law, Dr. Joseph Laughlin in his Napropathic office and most recently as a Chiropractic Assistant with Dr. Joe at Diamond Therapy Center until

Throughout the years, Joanne took great pleasure working in the yard, tending to her flowers and plants, cooking and baking. She also enjoyed watching the birds, and cherished spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her two daughters, Lisa (Allen) Martis and Sherrie (Frank) Wyss, and one son, Kyle (Trisha) Ulivi, all of Coal City; her daughter-in-law, Caroline Ulivi, of Tucson, AZ; grandchildren: Jaime (Mike) Frazier, of Diamond; Devon (Ryan) Albin, of Braidwood; Dustin Wyss and Delaney Wyss, both of Coal City; Amanda (Christopher) Smiley, of Tucson, AZ; Marissa Ulivi, of Coal City: Kirsty Ulivi, Brandy (Nick) Beedy and Paige Ulivi (Fabian Villarreal), all of Tucson, AZ and Kain Ulivi, Drake Eaton and Danika Eaton, all of Coal City; great-grandchildren: Fitz Frazier, Kinley, Reese and Rowan Albin, Lincoln-Pierce Smilev. Caden Shipman, Aiden Beedy, Spencer Beedy, Weilynd Beedy, Gracelyn Villarreal and Evianna Villarreal; one brother, Lynn Kratochvil, of Coal City; sister, Kathy Kuchenbacker, of Wilmington; her sister-in-law, Yolanda Laughlin, of Diamond and brother-in-law, Bill (Janet) Ulivi of Columbia, IL, as well as several nieces and nephews. Joanne was preceded in death by her

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parents, husband, Gary; one son, Craig Ulivi; her grandson, Gavin Ulivi and one sister-in-law, Cathy Kratochvil. Å private family visitation and funeral serv-

ice will be held at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City. Pastor Brad Shumaker will officiate, and Joanne will be laid to rest in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery with her late husband, Gary. Those wishing to participate in Joanne's services virtually are welcome to join the live

stream service beginning at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021. A link for the event is available on Joanne's website. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Joanne's memory to a charity of the donor's

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

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

.Charles Stratz____

MORRIS— Charles "Chuck" Stratz, 67, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2021, at Regency Care of Morris.

Born April 5, 1953 in Joliet, Charles William was a son of Henry and Anna Marie (Moran) Stratz. He was raised and educated in Minooka and graduated from Minooka High School with the Class of 1971. On June 19, 1976, Chuck married Gail Ann Mize at Immaculate Conception Church in Morris.

He worked for the Diamond International Paper Mill for 30 years and volunteered with the Emergency Services and Disaster Agency in Grundy County. Chuck was a past member of First Baptist Church in Coal City where he was an active member and was in charge of running the sound equipment for many years. He studied agriculture at Joliet Junior College, and was passionate about farming and tending his garden. Chuck enjoyed going to downtown Morris for the Lions Club car shows, as well as attending the dulcimer festivals and watching the fireworks every year at Corn Fest. He also liked spending time at home watching movies and television, but most important was spending time with his family, especially his granddaughters who were special to him.

Survivors include his wife of 44 years, Gail Stratz of Morris, his son, Timothy (Julie) Stratz of Mazon, two granddaughters: Amethyst and Lillian Stratz: two brothers and four sisters: Mary Ann Graf of Tempe, AZ, Karen (Frank) Castiello of Tustin, CA, Susan Sankins of Ashmore, IL, James Stratz of Tustin, CA, Joseph Stratz of Cottonwood, AZ, and Theresa (Steve) Cortese of Mount Prospect, IL; brother-in-law

and sister-in-law: Katherine Chesser of The Woodlands, TX, and Wayne (Dawn) Mize of Dwight; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Chuck was preceded in death by

his parents, one brother-in-law, Tom Chesser, and his nephew, Matthew The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021

at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 East Washington Street (one block East of Illinois Route 47), in Morris between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Facemasks will be required for those attending and social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family in maintaining current guidelines.

Funeral services will be held Thursday, Feb. 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the funeral home with Pastor David Gilleland officiating.

services virtually are welcome to join the live stream beginning on Thursday at 10:00. A link for the event will be made available on Chuck's memorial page Burial will follow at Sample Cemetery.

Those that wish to participate in funeral

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts Chuck's memory to the Morris Fire

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

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

Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

_Donna Gordon _____

COAL CITY-Donna Gordon, 71, of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021 at Řush University Medical Center in Chicago.
Born Oct. 2, 1949 in Kankakee,

Donna Kay was a daughter of Donald Joseph and Delores Irene (Bertino) Vacca. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967. Donna worked at First National Bank of Joliet for many years as a secretary. She then worked as a clerk at the Exelon Production Training Center, in addition to working at Don's Beer Store in Coal City.

Donna was a member of Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City, and loved to travel all over the county and internationally. She enjoyed playing card games and dominoes, and loved her cats and cat memorabilia. Most of all, Donna loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

Survivors include her son, Dave (Melissa) Hahn, of Minooka; two granddaughters, Miranda Hahn and Gianna Hahn; one grandson, Dominic Hahn, and her aunt, Jessie (the late Joseph H.) Kasher, of Coal City, as well as numerous cousins and friends, including William Gordon, of Coal City.

Donna was preceded in death by her parents, as well as her brother and sister, John Vacca and Carla Vacca.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and the family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021, from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m., at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City, Rev. Brad Shumaker from the Coal City United Methodist Church will officiate.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 12 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021. A link will be made available on Donna's memorial page.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Donna's memory to: Just Animals Shelter, 505 Depot St., Mazon, IL 60444.

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

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

Brian A. Barcella _____

WILMINGTON-Brian A. Barcella, 57, of nephews. Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 at Franciscan Health in Dyer, IN.

Born Oct. 14, 1963 in Roseland, IL, he was the son of Bruno and Mildred (nee Vermeulen) Barcella. He was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and former police officer for the Glenwood Police Department, Brian was a proud veteran and always offered a helping hand to any veteran in need. He enjoyed volunteering for the Secret Food Pantry that was held at the Top Fuel Saloon in Braidwood. Brian had a knack for being able to turn anything into art, his most recent known craft was making homemade pens.

Surviving are four daughters: Chloe Barcella, of Manhattan; Shauna (Michael) Schmalz and Brooke Barcella, all of Homewood and Olivia (Mason) McGowan, of Twentynine Palms, CA; one sister, Barbara (Clarence) Sturwold, of New Lenox and her children, Andrea (John) Sturwold Turrisi, Nicholas (Kelly) Sturhold and Alyssa Sturwold; best friend and cousin, Bruce "Ty" (Colleen) Keller, of Braidwood and many other nieces and

Preceding him in death were his parents. Visitation for Brian will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 from 5-8 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation. Memorial services will also be at the funeral

home on Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 at 11 a.m. All attendees are required to wear face coverings. follow social distancing guidelines, due to the capacity requirements please be brief with your condolences to allow other guests to pay their final respects. Private inurnment will be at the Abraham

Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to

Wounded Warrior Project: https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/

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

401 E. Main St., Braidwood have been entrust-

would be appreciated.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory,

ed with arrangements.

New House Speaker so far doing what Madigan didn't

Just a couple of weeks into recognize the fact a job that most people couldn't imagine being held by anyone other than the guy who had it for decades, Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch is putting together a House that looks both familiar and different at the same time.

Welch's first week included a rollout of his new leadership team, with a Black woman as Speaker Pro Tempore and fresh faces throughout. By the third week, we'll see committee membership rosters and vice chairs. The following week will be the new rules.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin told reporters he was "pleased" that Welch was allowing his party some input on the rules. Durkin told the Chicago Sun-Times' Rachel Hinton that Welch suggested the two get together regularly for coffee or breakfast. I seriously doubt Durkin ever received such an invite from former House Speaker Michael Madigan.

All of Welch's new appropriations committee chairs are people of color. I asked Welch if there was any particular reason for this.

"First of all, let me say that I think my list is full of people that are super talented," Welch said. "I'm really proud of the diversity of our caucus. I think that's the strength of our caucus, the strength of our state.

that those people are high in senior-

Welch said that when you look at the new chair list, "you're gonna find that there's a lot of consistency, meaning several retained Reps. their committee posts. Rep. Mike Zalewski,

instance, is still chairing ting a Mount Greenwood resi-Revenue. "I think people were doing a good job. And they should be allowed to continue doing a good job. Again I tried to recognize peoples' requests mittee should help rebuild and many of them wanted to continue doing the same thing that they were doing. And I think I was able to accommodate that.'

Up until his ascension, Welch had chaired the Executive Committee, which handles much of the bigtime heater legislation. Rep. Bob Rita will take over that important helm. "He's someone that I know and trust with the tough issues that are going to come through that commit-

The new House Speaker also wanted to point out some governor's issues are on that, new special committees he's created, including Ethics & Elections, which will be chaired by Rep. Kelly Burke. have their personal thoughts But also I think you can't not Immigration & Human Rights on that, and I'll defer to them."



Rich Miller

criminal justice reform bill, putdent - who has a ton of cops in her district and who voted against the Black Caucus bill in charge of that special comsome bridges.

considering the

law enforcement

uproar over the

recently approved

Those new committees should be a signal of where we're headed," Welch said. "Ethics reform is very important to me," he said. "We need to rebuild trust in the legislature, we need to rebuild trust in our process.'

Some of Welch's members want Gov. IB Pritzker to move legislators into the 1B vaccination phase so they can immediately receive their COVID-19 shots. Pritzker has said they need to wait their turn.

"I understand what the and I respect his position. I'm going to take the vaccine when it's my turn. Other members

Welch said he expects the new House rules will be "similar" to the Senate's, which allow for remote committee hearings. The issue of remote floor votes is being researched by lawyers, Welch said. But, he said, he'd like to "put that in the rules so that we have that flexibility."

Last year, Welch publicly pressured the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to disclose data on the use of Blackbusinesses Medicaid-related professional services, primarily through managed care organizations. After finally prying the information loose, Welch then called on HFS to penalize MCOs for not meeting contract goals, and demanded that Attorney General Kwame Raoul step in. I asked Welch whether he intended to keep up the pressure.

"Anyone who knows me knows tȟat I know my voice," Welch said. "I'm looking forward to using my new voice to continue to highlight the issues that are important to me and to the communities that I serve and the core constituencies that our caucus represents, so I want to continue to find a way," to continue pushing those issues, he said.

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

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Bill Kurtis, celebrity chef will be part of Midewin celebration

Tallgrass Prairie Silver Anniversary celebrations on February 10 will feature journalist Bill Kurtis and James Award-winning Executive Chef Sarah Stegner.

In a keynote speech, Kurtis will address the importance of prairie restoration. Chef Stegner, with special guest Kenya Vera-Sample, DuSable City Botanical Farms, will highlight the importance of identifying local providers that can help you bring healthful prairie ingredients into your life every day. The program will be spon-

sored by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and presented virtually at 6 p.m. cen-

Chef Stegner will share her recipe for wild rice cakes with local black beans, roasted garlic, and mushrooms with drizzled honey and elderberry tincture, which she applies to the wild rice cake like a sauce. Stegner wants people to understand the importance of sourcing healthy ingredients by identifying local providers.

"I want people to under-stand where their food comes from," Stegner said. "Wherever



Kurtis stands in tall grass on the prairie. On February 10, the National Forest Foundation will sponsor Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie silver anniversary celebrations featuring Kurtis and Stegner.

you live, it is so important to build relationships with local producers of healthful ingredients. The more we can support local farms, the greater our access will be to locally grown food for future generations."

Special guest Kenya Vera-Sample will talk about the elderberries that she grows in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. She will share her ideas for how you can bring elderberries into your diet for greater health and wellness.

NFF President and Chief **Executive Officer Mary Mitsos** will emcee in the culinaryfocused program. The NFF has worked in partnership with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to restore tallgrass prairie since 2012.

REGISTER: To register for the program on February 10, click here: https://us02web. zoom.us/meeting/register/tZE td-isrjsvHN3j8djKo2SIqX _UVrRĤhbi9.

Prepare a prairie-inspired plate of wellness to enjoy during the program. Stegner's recipe for the Wild Rice, Beans, and Squash Patties with Local Honey and Elderberry Tincture is below.

- FEBRUARY EVENTS -

WEDNESDAY TACOS 5:00-7:30 p.m. FEBRUARY 3, 10, 17, AND 24

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Wild Rice- Beans-Squash Patties with Local Honey & Elderberry Tincture



PREPARE A PRAIRIE-INSPIRED plate of wellness to enjoy during the program. Chef Stegner's recipe for the Wild Rice, Beans, and Squash Patties with Local Honey and Elderberry Tincture.

From Prairie Grass Cafe by Chef Sarah Stegner Serves 4 - 6 people

Ingredients: 2 cups cooked wild rice and 2 cups cooked beans, drained well

(pinto) 1/2 cup roasted squash

1 head roasted garlic

1 tablespoon Olive oil and 1 tablespoon of honey 2.5 - 3 droppers of elderberry tincture

Microgreens

Method:

In a food processor, mix the rice until it becomes sticky and begins to form a ball. Remove from the food processor and add the beans. Roughly purée them. Combine all ingredients and form into a patty.

Sauté in a nonstick medium-sized pan with olive oil over medium heat or roast in the oven in a pan drizzled with olive oil at 375 degrees for 10 minutes. Cook until a crisp crust forms on both sides of the outside of the patty.

Mix the honey and tincture together and drizzle over the patty. Garnish with micro-



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Biden plans to clean up Trump's messes for the enviroment

some of the last minute changes the Trump administration has wrought that are hurting the environment and efforts to battle global warm-ing? And will the Biden administration be able to undo them?

- Tim Jeffries, Sarasota, FL

President Joe Biden has ambitious plans to make up for lost time with

climate remediation and encouragement of the clean energy sector-including rejoining the Paris Climate Accord that Trump withdrew the U.S from in 2017. Biden will also be looking to clean up some shorter-term environmental messes left by the Trump White House in its One of the more egregious of Trump's last

minute anti-environment moves is the 'Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Strengthening Transparency in Pivotal Science Underlying Significant Regulatory Actions and Influential Scientific Information Rule," a mouthful, for sure and innocent-sounding, perhaps: It stipulates that publicly released scientific data should take preference over studies



most consequential research on human subjects because it often includes confidential medical records and other proprietary data that cannot be released because of privacy concerns." Says Chris Zarba, former director of the EPA's Science Advisory Board, in the same Post article: "It sounds good

on the surface. But this is a bold attempt to get

that keep their data confiden-

researchers and academic

organizations say that the cri-

teria "will actually restrict the

EPA from using some of the

Washington Post,

But, according to The

science out of the way so special interests can do what they want.' Another change pushed through by Trump at the last minute is a significant reduction in environmental and safety requirements for Arctic oil exploration. Native tribes there are especially incensed by this move, and have taken to social media in droves to win support against it. Given the sheer volume of public opposition, it will likely take many weeks before

any auctions for these drilling rights leases

could be finalized, thus giving the Biden admin-



SOME OF THE 11th hour environmental rule changes are easier to undo than others, but Joe Biden will take them one at a time.

istration a chance to take action before a disaster takes place.

Similarly, Trump has also just proposed to strip protections from millions of acres of California's desert to open up mining projects, which would destroy native ecosystems and conservation lands. California Democratic Senator Dianne Feinstein has already pledged to "work with the new administration to immediately block this rule change" which jeopardizes a bi-partisan desert conservation plan years in the making that carefully balances recreational use, energy production and preserva-

On the bright side, President Biden has already issued executive orders for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris Climate Accord, to direct federal agencies to consider revising vehicle fuel economy and emissions standards, and to can cel permits for the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. After cleaning up Trump's mess, which could take anywhere from weeks to years, Biden also aims to implement his own omnibus climate package similar to the proposed Green New Deal. Biden's plan calls for increasing electric vehicle usage, expanding wind and solar energy markets, creating mil lions of new jobs in sustainable energy, and paving the path to 100 percent clean energy by

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Century 21 finishes year-long fundraiser for Easter Seals

Coleman-Hornsby recently presented a check for \$7,518 to Easter Seals as a result of a year-long fundraiser. The agents donated \$21 from each of their closings in 2020 and then the company matched the agents' donations. Some of the agents who participated were in attendance for the presentation, although nearly 100% participated in the

According to Shawn Hornsby, Broker-Owner, "I am so proud of our agents who are always involved in and support organizations that serve our communities. This year, while the Covid pandemic was going on, we were able to make our largest Easter Seals donation to date. That is because our agents continued

to work hard serving buyers our clients. The generosity of and sellers while using necessary precautions." Hornsby continued, "Covid did not slow our agents down at all. They are very motivated people who love to serve their clients!'

Deb Strahanoski, Easter Seals Regional Development Manager, attended the check presentation and stated, "We are so very grateful to the Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby team of agents that have continued to support us for many years." She continued, "This year was especially important, because of Covid placed restrictions on many of our activities. We have had to find creative solutions to those restrictions. For example, Telehealth has been vital to us in maintaining contact with people like those at Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby has been so important to us in continuing these programs. Thank you so much.

Easter Seals provides services and support to help people with physical and mental challenges reach their full Century potential. Franchisees and agents have supported Easter Seals since 1979, and are one of their largest corporate sponsors, raising over \$126 million to

Century 21 Coleman-Hornsby is located at 1802 N. Division St., Morris. They specialize in residential, commercial, industrial, land and farm



AGENTS FROM CENTURY 21 Coleman-Hornsby recently presented a check for \$7,518 to Easter Seals. Presenting the check are some of the agents who took part in the fundraiser (from left): JoEllyn Johnson, Tom Wawczak, Cody Krug, Shawn Hornsby, Betty Piotrowski, ES Regional Dev. Manager Deb Strahanoski, Rod Baudino, Theresa Lamb, Lorrie Toler and Sheri Simms.

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WILDCAT SPORTS

Wildcats striving to be best in conference

SPORTS WRITER

After a three-month delay of not knowing if there would be a boys basketball season, things have shifted into high gear as the Wildcats rush to get in practices for the season opener on Tuesday at Lisle.

The 'Cats will hope to build on last year's success with a handful of talented players com-

The Wildcats are coming back after a 14-18 win-loss record under first-year coach Bill Karavites. They placed sixth in the conference with a 3-9 mark. That is still miles better than the one win they had in 2018.

"What was awesome last year was the student-athletes just kept buying in to everything we were doing," said Karavites. "They had a 'never say die attitude' and that's why as the season went on, we just kept improving and that was important. We have great leadership. All that tied in together to make it a really successful season.'

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

 Feb. 9
 @Lisle
 7 p.m.

 Feb. 12
 @Manteno
 7 p.m.

 Feb. 13
 @Peotone
 11:30 a.m.

 Feb. 16
 @Streator
 7 p.m.

 Feb. 19
 host Herscher
 7 p.m.

 Feb. 20
 host Manteno
 12:30 p.m.

 Feb. 23
 @Coal City
 7 p.m.

VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

March 5 ...@Reed-Custer.....

The 'Cats have two very talented seniors back in Ben Kreitz and Danny Sanders. They'll

also rely on junior Tysen Meents who was a big part of their offense a year ago.

They're going to step up their leadership because they really want to play and they really want to do well in this upcoming season."

Meents is an intelligent player. He plays

'Tysen is a very bright kid and he really knows what you want done as a coach. That is really cool to have as far as in your hip pocket as

Kreitz is a student of the game, who strives to get better in each practice.

"He absolutely loves the game. He is--I see him extending his basketball life for a long time because he loves being around the game, he loves working out and his loyalty to the game is awesome. He just constantly wants to get better. It's awesome to coach a player like that who wants to play that bad.

Sanders was a very good outside shooter last year.
"Danny really helped us with his three-

point shooting last year," commented Karavites. There were games where he really helped us out with the three-point shooting and as the

Feb. 16host Streator......7 p.m.

Feb. 20host Manteno......11 a.m.

Feb. 22host Coal City......7 p.m

Feb. 25@Reed-Custer7 p.m.

Feb. 27@Coal City11 a.m.

March 4 ...host Reed-Custer7 p.m.

season went on, he got better too. He just kept working on his game and as the season went on, he really got used to our defensive principles and everything too, and he really became a stalwart defensively as the season went on."

The 'Cats would also have Trey Shaw but

Shaw tore his ACL in practice so he will be sidelined but one thing is for certain, he will be cheering them on during this short season.

"He's a great guy. He really is. He's a great team player and he'll be on the sidelines rooting us on.'

Karavites is still trying players out in practice and is not really sure who will step up to fill the other two starting spots. He did say to expect to see a lot of different names on the

"There are a lot of kids who could get some playing time," added Karavites. "They've got an opportunity to play and we'll see just how all of that falls into place."

During a shortened season, Karavites still wants his team to compete and be the most competitive with the Illinois Central Eight con-

'We're going to try to be the best possible basketball team that we can. We're going to stick to practicing our main defense and our main offense. We're going to try to stick to the fundamentals of the game. This season we will see where the cards fall. We're just going to try to practice the best we can and we're just going go out there and play and do the best that we can. I think one thing that is important is how are we going to survive the first four games which are all road games? I'm wondering how that will all play out. We're going to go out on the court to play to win. We're going to prepare to be the best basketball team we can and we're going to try to

Karavites says don't sleep on Lisle, Reed-Custer or Streator. They're all tough teams.

'Lisle has an outstanding program and an

outstanding coach in Mark Lascala," explained Karavites. "I think something that is important for those three programs is they were strong at the sophomore level. Lisle had a lot of pieces at the sophomore level, Reed-Custer had a 27-1 JV team and Streator had that big man, that sophomore. That big man and that tough guard, they're going to be tough players on a tough team. Those three programs are always well prepared, they've got their scouting down and they're always ready to play."

Karavites, who will be going into his second year coaching the 'Cats, will be assisted by Thad Kreitz (varsity assistant), Kyle Meents and Drew Tyler, who will run the JV team. Karavites enjoys having them back to help him for another year.

They're fantastic," exclaimed Karavites. They're so loyal, they're so hard working and they do a lot of work behind the scenes. They're just a joy to be around. They're community people and they buy in. Drew teaches in the building which is helpful. Kyle and Thad live in the community of Wilmington and Ben and their families are well respected which makes a big difference so it works."

Karavites is ready to get his team back on the court to begin even a shortened campaign.

"I'm just excited. It was great to see the basketballs bouncing on the court again. I'm just so honored to be the basketball coach at Wilmington High School and try to help these kids become better basketball players. I love doing it, I love helping kids become better basketball players, working with them every day and having those relationships is just so much fun to me. I'm glad we're back, baby!" Karavites exclaimed.

After the opener at Lisle the 'Cats will travel to Streator on Tuesday, Feb. 16. They drive to Coal City on Feb. 23 and then host Reed-Custer on Friday, Feb. 26.



WHS basketball schedules

Photos by Shawn Lond

IN-BOUND PASS-Wilmington freshman Ava Cupples passes the ball up the court during Lady 'Cat girls basketball practice in the Wilmington High School gym on Thursday.



WILMINGTON GIRLS BASKETBALL coach Eric Dillon explains a lay up drill to the team during practice in the Wilmington High School gym on Thursday

Lady 'Cats ready for a shortened season

BY SHAWN LONG

There will be a girls basketball season after

After the coronavirus delayed the season since mid-November, the IHSA announced last week that the season could begin. Since Wednesday the Lady 'Cats have been hustling to get the required practice days logged.

The Lady 'Cats will start their 11-game season on Monday at home against Lisle.

The Lady 'Cats have been in an upward trajectory with their program for the past four years under Eric Dillon and it obviously has something to do with the coaching. Dillon

"I've been in Wilmington for seven years," said Dillon. "And I've been involved in the girls program since I got here in some capacity and kind of just bumped my way up over the course of a couple of years and also I've been involved in the middle school girls program so I'm not saying I'm some-I'm not saying I'll win any coaches trophies or anything like that. I'm not some miracle worker and I don't believe success is something that comes over night.

"I believe success comes from a long time of work within the program. I do my best to help out both the high school and the middle school programs especially because the middle school program is our future players. I kind of feel like it's nice to get them when they come into the program and I can kind of see them out too so I think that consistency in the coaching is very important because if you have a different coach every year, the players are having to adjust to

different coaching styles. "I love coaching at Wilmington. They get to see me in the classroom and in the hallway as well as in the gym so I think that is very impor-

The 'Cats finished the 2019-20 campaign as the fourth ranked team in the Illinois Central Eight just behind Peotone, Reed-Custer and Lisle with a 15-13 record, and a 7-7 record with-

"Last year was truly the first year that we had senior leadership," added Dillon. "Not to take anything away from the previous seniors because I've had a couple seniors-there were only two though but I had Kiley Sowa and Carly Wilkerson and I really appreciated what they did and what they brought to the team. Last

year, we had six seniors so that definitely gave us a little bit more confidence and with that, it helped me to learn how to handle confidence and what to do with the kids to make sure they're grounded and humble."

Anna Liaromatis and seniors Mackenzie Marcum, and Halle Haga will be set to the lead

Liaromatis will be the starting point guard. "Anna has worked so incredibly hard from her first year as a freshman. She does nothing but want to get better. That's just huge drive to be the best she can be and just get better all of the time. And she is an extremely coachable player and she just takes in information all the time so when I'm trying to teach her like a new shooting drill or a new ball handling or just going over her shooting mechanics. Even though she's a junior, she's an upper classmates. She still takes in that information and uses it. She has just gotten much better and another thing she's gotten better at is her over-all basketball IQ. She sees the floor better and that just comes with time. She's definitely going to be one I will lean on as far as that goes. She's going to run the show on the floor and I have all the confidence in the world for her to do that."

Marcum and Haga are the only two seniors who have stayed with the program for four years. Dillon said they'll fit into the game plan and be a big part of it. They've earned it.

Halle and Mack have been here the whole time and they both have gotten so much better since the day they started as well. Mackenzie has a leadership quality that shows not only in the gym with the players but it also shows around the school and in the classroom. She's president of this and leader of that. From what I can tell, the girls seem to respect what she has to say and listen to her.

And the same goes for Halle. Halle is a little bit more quiet but she's one that will let her work speak for itself. That's a great quality to have as a senior as well. She's one that once I can get her confidence built up a bit she's working on her shot incredibly and hopefully it shows up in games. She's one that works really hard to do some of the things she does well. She's got a natural instinct for that. Those two will definitely be a presence.

Natalie Van Dûyne, a senior is returning to the team after taking the season off last year. Dillon is excited to get her back out onto the

"She didn't play last year but she played her sophomore year. I know she can contribute. She's a great athlete and I know she's going to

do great. Dillon notes there are some standouts

coming into the program. "As far as some of them playing up, I can't really say right now," said Dillon. "We have to get through a few practices to get a better idea and if any of them are going to play up so we're going to have to figure that out.

Dillon is focusing on one thing...improvement in a short season.

"I really want them to improve this season. It's basically like a glorified scrimmage because there won't be many fans if any," commented Dillon. "We don't have a full season. We don't even play our conference teams twice so it's just like one of those things where we have to understand the situation and understand this is our opportunity to get better.

This is our time for the young girls to get better and prepare for the next season. It's also a time for us to give thanks to the seniors and especially the two who have been here the entire time and appreciate the fact they've stuck with it the entire time. They deserve to have that appreciation.'

Dillon notes the ICE is a tough conference to play in but he is first and foremost focused on the two rivalry games against Reed-Custer, and

"Obviously, Reed-Custer and Coal City are always our biggest rivals. I mean they are our neighbors. It's been like that forever. They're always going to be our toughest opponents When we played them in the previous years, it didn't matter either team's record, we always played each other really tough. Lisle won the conference last year so they're going to be really tough. But I'm not worried about all that. I'm worried about my team. I want them to appreciate the fact we are being given a little bit of a second chance to play here. Hopefully, they have a newfound appreciation for the game in the gym and don't take their time for granted."

Dillon, who is in his fifth year, will be assisted by eighth grade coach Renee Chavez and her daughter Yasmine Chavez. Both have basketball experience and Dillon is excited to work with

'They know their basketball. It's really nice to have assistant coaches that know the game of basketball. It really helps me out.

After hosting Lisle Monday, Coal City

comes to town Monday, Feb. 22. They'll travel to

Reed-Custer on Thursday, Feb. 25.

LADY 'CAT SOPHOMORE Jaylee Mills lays it in during the Wilmington girls basketball team's first official practice for the 2021 season.