

Showtime in  
Wilmington, 1921



Lady Cats want to  
improve in 2021



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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2021 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

## Return of school sports will benefit more than just the athletes

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

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 running 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 soccer 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 June 12.

Wilmington High School principal Scott Maupin said the school district is eager to get started with athletics, and coaches and students alike are ready to move forward.

"It's been difficult for our stu-

dent-athletes due to the unknowns — 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.

"Simply keeping the spirits up has been a big challenge, but our kids have done a great job. Fortunately, we've been able to compete and perform virtually in other activities such as Speech Team, Scholastic Bowl, Fall Play, Music Concerts."

Maupin said the announcement that sports can soon resume has uplifted the student body at Wilmington High School.

"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-athletes," he 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 body.

"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-month."

SEE IHSA, PAGE 2



Courtesy photos

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 equestrian.

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

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 campus.

"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

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  
EDITOR

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

The district's former director, Renee Chavez, 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 position.

Policy items discussed 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 constituent 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 55.

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 change 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 buildings and associated site improvements, public improvements and support activities to induce and com-

SEE TIF, PAGE 2



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# February 1921, it's showtime in Wilmington

It is hard to estimate the impact of moving pictures made upon the world. It changed how we viewed the world. Yes, I am saying movies changed life as we know it. In small towns like Wilmington, it brought the entire world into view. And in the cold of winter, curling up with a box of popcorn and a movie is a great way to spend a few hours.



TIME WAS...  
Sandy Vasko

First let's talk about the first "moving" pictures seen in Wilmington, they were called Panorammas. 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",

who described the scenes as they passed."

In June 17, 1871 we read in the People's Advocate, "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 Panorama exhibits this (Saturday) 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

later as a movie star magazine. Soon everyone knew the names. Lionel Barrymore, Lillian Gish, Harry Carey were on the lips of fans everywhere.

In February of 1921, we see movie-going as a fund raiser. "Lionel 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 today)"

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. J. 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

improper nerve action. Commercial National Bank Building, 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?



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**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 Reed-Custer.

During each meet the JV and varsity Wildcats play two games.

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 meet.

The junior varsity team, coached by Kip Barnes, includes Ren Jewell, Bryce Jewell, Ella Cooper, Trey Arnold, and Jonathan Mossell.

The varsity team is coached by Meredith Barnes. This team includes Ally Campbell, Andrew Schroeder, Wes Jewell, Devon Mann,

Emily Dooley, Mikey Nutt, Chandler Wuchter, Noah Wilkins, Logan Casey, and Emily Watson.

This year's Scholastic Bowl season will have the same number of meets. The varsity team will play each team in the conference, but there are not as many JV teams this year due to low numbers of students.

The IHSA is trying to have a regional and sectional this 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 they continue their virtual season.

## WHS first semester honor roll

**Superior Honors-GPA of 4.3 or higher**

**Grade 9:** Jenna Dabulskis, Paige Eighner, Alyssa Johnston, William Juster, 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 Hansen, Maxwell Higgins, 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, Bridget Knowles, Anna Liaromatis, Katelyn McCann, Tysen Meents, Erik Ostheim, Apryl Proffitt, Abigail 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 Ohlroge, Eren Overmyer, Keegan Parsons, Jacob Plese, Kinsey Roth, Natalie Van Duyne, Alexandra Vargocko, Emily Watson, Tadan Yakima.

**High Honors-GPA of 3.9 to 4.299**

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

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

Bryant, Aaron Burkey, Keegan 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 Hertz, Kaylan Hughes-Hawkins, Bryce Jewell, Kaitlyn Lewsader, Mya McCubbin, Abby Pitts, Carter Rezabek, Aubin Shields, Morgan Stenberg, Andi Van Duyne, Drew Walsh, Jacob Wandless, Zachary Willis.

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

**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, Alaina Stukel, Rachel Wandless, Tyler Willis, Aiden Wooters.

**Honors-GPA of 3.5 to 3.899**

**Grade 9:** Logan Adermann, Blake Adolfo, 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, Michael Catlin, Markie Chandler, Tristen Doyle, Savannah Gorski, Haley Harvell, Hunter Hayes, Kade

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

**Grade 11:** Gabriel Aguilon, Ryan Banas, Jacob Batson, Jeanette Demere, Alexander Fender, Amelia Freis, Jacob Friddle, Joshua Girot, Chase Juster, Corban Larson, Andrew Lawrence, Kaleb Patterson, Allan Richards, Nicholas Sanford, Andrew Schroeder, Alicea Warriner.

**Grade 12:** Kaileigh Calhoun, Alexandria Campbell, Kaitlyn Cortese, Justin Esposito, Jayden Feil, Brandon Freis, Madison Gabriel, Nicholas Gornik, Destiny Hall, Peiton Hook, Benjamin Kreitz, Stephanie Lambert, Emily Mazon, Taylor McDowell, Sarah Neve, Alyssa Ohlund, Connor Presler, Courtney Van Duyne, Raegan Van Duyne, Noah Wilkins.

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They say that time will heal.  
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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.  
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## Frauding Illinois

WILMINGTON—Unemployment insurance 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

## Ignoring 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 citizens 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 during 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.

## 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 the same."

## 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 Lane.

## 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.

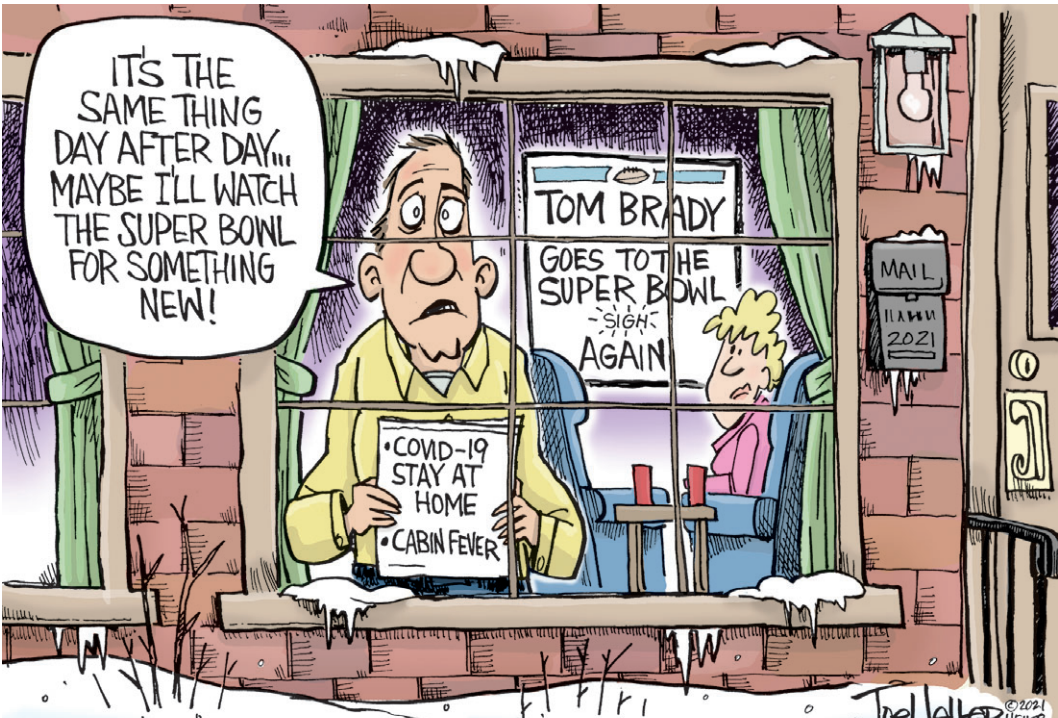
## Wrong again

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](mailto: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.

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 a brain.



## Vote of dissent

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

COAL CITY—In this country the 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.

Kurt K.

## 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.

# 1099-G Forms available for those who got unemployment benefits

The 1099-G tax forms are 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 programs, including Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC),

Pandemic 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 option available when 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 the IDES website (login required). Previous years' 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.

Dan Hill

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# Palmer vs. Daly on the golf course and cocktails

First came Arnold Palmer, 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 either 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 well-played 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 drink".

On to the John Daly. If you're not familiar with John

Daly, know that he is an accomplished 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 club" stereotype that surrounds the sport. He hits the ball the hard (his drives earned 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



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

Singh) and the WGC-American Express Championship (Tiger Woods).

It was in 2005 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 during the tournament, and 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 pre-made 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

"Arnold Palmer Spiked", same principle. Many refer to the Arnold Palmer Spiked as the 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 make.

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 the 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 years since.

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

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

- Fill glass with ice, then add:
  - 3 parts unsweetened iced tea
  - 1 part lemonade
- Stir and serve

The John Daly is built and served in a tall, ice-filled glass.

- 2 oz. iced tea
- 2 oz. lemonade
- 1.5 oz. vodka

• Optional garnish with lemon wheel  
Stir and serve  
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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## 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 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 lhpipes@209u.net and the Architect using jwoodley@healybender.com. Each bidder is fully responsible for the electronic delivery of the e-mailed 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 time and date will not be accepted.

The time and date when the e-mailed bid is received by the Owner using lhpipes@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 of e-mailed bids.

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 00 - Instructions to Bidders, Contractor Qualification Statement AIA A305 should be e-mailed 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) listed 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  
233 N. Springfield Avenue, Joliet, Illinois

These documents may also be viewed online at Dodge Data & Analytics internet site at www.construction.com.

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 invited 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 unsuccessful 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.).

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



**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 were a pair of eyes looking back 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 or Wilmington Free Press Newspapers office.

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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.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Braidwood-Dunes-and-Savanna-Nature-Preserve> Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Preserves/Kankakee-Sands> Kankakee Sands Preserve and <https://www.reconnectwithnature.org/Preserves-Trails/Unimproved-Preserves/Sand-Ridge-Savanna> Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve along Highway 113 east of 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 coordinator.

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 endangered.

The District's three pre-



Courtesy photo by Lonny Cain

**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.**

serves, combined with the nearby state-owned Hitts Siding Prairie and Wilmington Shrub Prairie south of Strip Mine Road, are referred to as

the Braidwood Sands region by Catchpole. The almost 3,000-acre region is unique because it was once lake bed for Lake Waupoosee, 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 other.

"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 terrain.

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.

# 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.

At approximately 2:27 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 milepost 149, a short time later.

The Kia, driven by Chambers, exited the interstate 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 Lenox, Chambers struck one of the ISP squad cars with her vehicle, causing minor damage, but no injuries were reported.

The charges against 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 hearing. There is no further information available at this time.

# 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 contact.

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 at Woodwreath Cemetery, New Berlin. In lieu of flowers, memorials in his name to Families of Faith or FOFA (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 talking 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.

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# Uninvited guests for breakfast



Photo by Kathleen Kennedy

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 inpatient unit.

Today, she uses her nursing knowledge and computer expertise to enhance the quality of patient care as an IT Clinical 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 Month for December.

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 opening.

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.

John Biesen, IT 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. 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."

# 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 list 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, Michael Gunier, Dejah Hendrickson, Isabella Muscato and Joshua Runchey, all of Morris.

# NIU graduates

Over 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 in communication-media studies.

# Illinois gas prices keep rising

Illinois gas prices have risen 5.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.54/g Monday, according to 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 gallon.

The lowest price in the state is \$2.14/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of

75.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.42/g.

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 continue 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

GasBuddy data, Friday gasoline demand was the highest since November, while 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 this path."

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# New House Speaker so far doing what Madigan didn't

Just a couple of weeks into 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. But also I think you can't not

recognize the fact that those people are high in seniority."

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

The new House Speaker also wanted to point out some new special committees he's created, including Ethics & Elections, which will be chaired by Rep. Kelly Burke. Immigration & Human Rights



**CAPITOL FACTS**  
Rich Miller

will be helmed by Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz. The new Police & Fire special committee will be chaired by Rep. Fran Hurley.

Welch didn't mention this, but considering the law enforcement uproar over the recently approved criminal justice reform bill, putting a Mount Greenwood resident - who has a ton of cops in her district and who voted against the Black Caucus bill - in charge of that special committee should help rebuild some bridges.

"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. JB 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 governor's issues are on that, and I respect his position. I'm going to take the vaccine when it's my turn. Other members have their personal thoughts on that, and I'll defer to them."

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 Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services to disclose data on the use of Black-owned businesses for 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 that 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.com.

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## Bill Kurtis, celebrity chef will be part of Midewin celebration

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Silver Anniversary celebrations on February 10 will feature journalist Bill Kurtis and James Beard 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 sponsored by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) and presented virtually at 6 p.m. central time.

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 understand where their food comes from," Stegner said. "Wherever



**ACCLAIMED JOURNALIST** and prairie restoration advocate Bill 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 culinary-focused 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/j/8159350010>

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 is below.

## Wild Rice- Beans-Squash Patties with Local Honey & 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  
Sea salt  
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 microgreens.



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.



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# Biden plans to clean up Trump's messes for the environment

Dear EarthTalk: What are some of the last minute changes the Trump administration has wrought that are hurting the environment and efforts to battle global warming? And will the Biden administration be able to undo them?  
- Tim Jeffries, Sarasota, FL

## EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

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 final days.

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

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 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-

that keep their data confidential.

But, according to The Washington Post, many researchers and academic organizations say that the criteria "will actually restrict the EPA from using some of the most consequential research on human subjects because it often includes confidential medical records and other



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

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 preservation.

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 cancel 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 millions of new jobs in sustainable energy, and paving the path to 100 percent clean energy by 2050.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).

# Century 21 finishes year-long fundraiser for Easter Seals

Agents of Century 21 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 fundraiser.

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 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 which 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

our clients. The generosity of 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 potential. Century 21 Franchisees and agents have supported Easter Seals since 1979, and are one of their largest corporate sponsors, raising over \$126 million to date.

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



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

BY SHAWN LONG  
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 coming back.

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."

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 with instinct.

"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 a coach."

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

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 court.

"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 conference.

"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 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 win."

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

### 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.
Feb. 26	host Reed-Custer	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	host Coal City	11 a.m.
March 2	host Peotone	7 p.m.
March 5	@Reed-Custer	7 p.m.

### VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL

Feb. 8	host Lisle	7 p.m.
Feb. 11	host Manteno	7 p.m.
Feb. 13	@Peotone	10 a.m.
Feb. 16	host Streator	7 p.m.
Feb. 18	@Herscher	7 p.m.
Feb. 20	host Manteno	11 a.m.
Feb. 22	host Coal City	7 p.m.
Feb. 25	@Reed-Custer	7 p.m.
Feb. 27	@Coal City	11 a.m.
March 1	@Peotone	7 p.m.
March 4	host Reed-Custer	7 p.m.



Photos by Shawn Long

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.



Photos by Shawn Long

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  
SPORTS WRITER

There will be a girls basketball season after all.

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 agrees.

"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 important."

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 within the ICE.

"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 the Lady 'Cats.

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 classmate. 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 overall 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 Duyne, a senior is returning to the team after taking the season off last year. Dillon is excited to get her back out onto the court.

"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 Coal City.

"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 them.

"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.



Photos by Shawn Long

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