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Free Press file photo
CREEPING ACROSS THE Kankakee River a mile upstream of the Grundy-Will County line is a Insley crawler excavator used in 1987 to bury three 30-inch pipes for the Dresden warm water discharge. The Army Corps of Engineers' project was behind schedule by three weeks due to equipment failures, piping delays and extremely cold days.

Siphoning warm water to combat flooding has been a 38-year project

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

When winter rears its bitter head, residents living near the Kankakee River tend to get a wee bit nervous, and for a good reason.

On Jan. 26, 2024, the river crested to 15.6 feet on Jan. 26, 2024, those living near the river may be a tad nervous this winter. This is especially true after Will County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) issued a warning about the possibility of ice jams on the Kankakee River.

Despite ice jams leading to all sorts of havoc on the wide, shallow Kankakee River, there have only been a handful of occasions that it crested beyond last year's 15.6 inches.

In 1883 and 1887, the Kankakee River crested to an estimated 16.7 feet. Otherwise, it's been relatively tame. Before the 2024 flooding, the most significant crests occurred on Jan. 30, 1968 to 13.9 feet and on Feb. 5, 2019 to 13.2 feet.

Siphons to stop flooding
According to The National Weather Service (NWS), an ice jam occurs when

floating ice accumulates, obstructing a river's flow, often near bends, tributaries, dams and bridges.

And though the Kankakee River doesn't flood as often as one might believe, it almost always accumulates a wealth of ice during winter months.

Perhaps due to significant flooding in 1982 and 1985, resulting in millions of dollars in damage, the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) studied ways to stop or reduce river flooding. The study became known as the River Ice Management Project. The goal of the project was to prevent flooding by melting ice to keep the river flowing. The plan was simple in theory. Warm water from the cooling lake of Dresden Power Station would be siphoned into the Kankakee River.

In fact, using warm water to thaw rivers has been used across the country for decades with varying degrees of success. Using warm water to thaw river ice is generally not a practical solution due to the vast amount of water required and possible effects on the ecosystem of the

SEE RIVER SIPHON PAGE 2



Free Press file photo
IT WAS 38 YEARS ago when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hired workers to install the warm water discharge pipes in the Kankakee River near Cottage Road. The \$400,000 project included the installation of three 30-inch pipes, 200 feet apart, across the length of the river.

ESDA dedicated more than 6,300 volunteer hours in 2024

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington Emergency and Disaster Agency (ESDA) dedicated a total of 6,319 volunteer hours in 2024. Of the total, 2,208.25 hours were by volunteers, 966.50 were by ESDA director Dennis Housman, and 445 hours were by assistant director Rich Princko.

The agency dedicated hours to two major storm-related events, including the ice jam and flooding of the Kankakee River from Jan. 15 to Feb. 3, 2024, and the citywide storm and resulting wind damage on

July 15, 2024.

Additionally, the agency participated in 17 traffic incidents, nine water, 15 ice recon, three light tower, 10 missing person incidents, four for trees and/or wires down, 10 events, four storm damage incidents and one drone incident for a total of 73 call-outs.

The ESDA provides volunteer emergency services to the city and surrounding communities.

Watch those pipes
On Jan. 18, the ESDA's Facebook page reminded residents that it's pipe freezing weather, and warned folks of the dangers

of recent below-zero weather.

The pipes most at risk are those in unheated interior spaces such as basements, garages, and attics.

If your pipes are at risk, keep kitchen and bathroom cabinets open to allow warm air to circulate around plumbing. You may also want to let water drip from a faucet served by exposed pipes, as water trickling through pipes will prevent them from freezing.

In addition, keep your thermostat set no lower than 55 degrees F. Pipe insulation is cost-effective and will prevent pipes from freezing.

Scrap metal now being accepted during electronics drop-offs

Don't throw that old frying pan in the trash bin. Now you can take it and other scrap metal items to a Will County electronics waste recycling drop-off held the second Thursday of the month in the parking lot of the city hall, 1165 S. Water St., Wilmington.

The Will County Electronics Collections is now accepting small scrap metal items including cookie sheets, pots and pans, car jacks, chains, keys, copper pipe and fittings, nuts, bolts, screws, hand tools like screw drivers and pry bars, metal door knobs, silverware, tool boxes, watches, wire

hangers, wire screens and more.

According to www.willcountygovernment.com, these small scrap metal items are not banned from landfills by state law, but are now being accepted at Will County Electronics collections simply to giving residents the joy of knowing they've been recycled.

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5-7 p.m.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without

assistance from each vehicle.

The Illinois Tollway has agreed to allow Will County to collect old transponders for recycling at all electronic collection sites.

All electronic items are accepted (broken or obsolete) and when possible remove batteries before dropping off items.

The following is a list of items banned from disposal by state law that are accepted at all Will County

SEE DROP-OFF PAGE 2



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River siphon, continued from page 1

river.

However, in the case of the Kankakee River, Dresden Power Station's cooling lake would provide virtually unlimited supplies of warm water, and adherence to strict regulations would (hopefully) prevent damage to the ecosystem.

Siphoning becomes a reality

In 1987, the Corps developed an intricate plan to pump warm water from Dresden's cooling lake into the Kankakee River through three 30-inch pipes. If all went according to plan, the project would take approximately two months.

Construction to run the pipes from the cooling lake to the Kankakee River began in January, 1987. A few weeks later, engine failure resulting in a vital piece of equipment becoming marooned in the middle of the river for three days.

Between equipment failure and other unforeseen issues, the project was soon three months behind schedule. Evelyn Schiele, a spokesperson for ACE at that time, expressed disappointment.

"Equipment failures, delays in getting the piping and cold days that prohibited work caused the project to fall behind schedule," she said. "We expect it to be completed in about three weeks."

By March, 1987, the project was still nowhere near completion, and disaster struck again. On March 7, a 42-foot section of pipe at the construction site was set on fire, the result of arson. This set the project back even further.

"It's fortunate that we didn't need it this year," Schiele commented.

The siphoning method was tested for the first time during the winter of 1988.

In the demonstration, water at a temperature of 68 degree Fahrenheit near the power plant was siphoned upstream into the Kankakee River for two weeks prior to the anticipated breakup of ice. (The temperature of cooling lakes typically ranges from 40 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit.)

The warm water input melted the ice sufficiently to allow the river to flow unhindered during its natural breakup period. Flooding was averted, and the project was deemed a success.

On Jan. 25, 2024, a rapid rise in water level of the Kankakee River—three feet in three hours—resulted in widespread flooding, multiple evacuations, property damage, and impassable roads.

Anticipating the flooding, one of three siphons was activated on Jan. 17, 2024. According to the Illinois EPA, the amount of water that can be siphoned into the Kankakee River at any given time is limited and based on the cooling lake's temperature. Siphoning cannot exceed 14 days total, and only two runs of the system are permitted each season.

On Jan. 18, 2024, the state granted a deviation request that allowed for use of all three siphons to be run at capacity.

"By opening all three lines of warm water into the river, we can begin melting the historic levels of ice that has created a public safety risk for nearby residents," county executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant said at the time. "This is a crucial step to safeguard lives and protect property in communities along the river. I'm urging

residents to remain alert for the potential of flash flood conditions as ice begins to thaw."

As a result, the warm water battled the ice in a river that was 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

According to the National Weather Service (NWS), as the warmer water began melting the ice cover, an open channel appeared near the siphon discharge. Large chunks of ice were noted flowing down the river. By the overnight hours into Jan. 27, almost no signs of the ice jam remained on the lower Kankakee River.

Though flooding in 2024 was near record, an ice jam flood in 1982 caused more than \$8 million in damages. Another ice jam in 1985 caused a million in damage and one in 1984 resulted in \$500,000 in damage. However, the area of flood damages is often limited.

W. Scott Lincoln, senior service hydrologist with NWS Chicago authored a report on the 2024 flooding. He warns that though the crest of 2024 may well be a record, due to the localized nature of flooding caused by ice jams, relative magnitudes cannot be assumed to apply to locations more than a short distance away.

"If not for the extensive coverage of the January 2024 ice jam, it is possible that Wilmington may have experienced no flooding at all, while the river gauge indicated stages above major flood stage," Lincoln said in his report. "Anecdotal information from a local resident along the Kankakee River approximately two miles downstream of Wilmington and approximately two miles upstream of the river gauge indicated that the ice jam in January 1968 caused flooding 1.5 feet higher than was observed in 2024."

In other words, what affects residents in Phelan Acres may well be a non-issue in downtown Wilmington.

Will we flood in 2025?

On Wednesday of last week, Will County EMA, in coordination with Dresden, opened one of three siphons to mitigate potential ice jams on the Kankakee River.

The action was a proactive measure resulting from predictions of warmer weather and rainfall that might lead to conditions that result in flooding.

Residents were warned to stay off of any existing river ice, and those living along the shores of the river should be vigilant.

According to the National Water Prediction Services, the Kankakee River at Wilmington was at 1.73 feet on Feb. 4, with the flood stage at 6.5 feet.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, Kankakee River flooding is likely a non-issue, at least for this year.

Mike Theodore, director of communications with Will County, agrees.

"We believe that the flooding risk has been reduced," he said. "Much of the ice has thinned out due to the warmer weather conditions over the past few days, reducing the risk that it will build up and jam."



Photo courtesy Warren Miller

WHS LONG DISTANCE runner Brooklyn Flores (seated center) recently signed a letter of intent to attend the University of Tennessee Martin. Witnessing her signing were (seated) Jana Flores and Ralph Flores. Standing are coaches Stephanie Stickel and Todd Lockwood.

Flores to run for UTM

STAFF REPORT

Wilmington senior track and cross country athlete Brooklyn Flores has signed to continue athletics and academics at the collegiate level. Flores signed to run at the University of Tennessee Martin, a school a part of the NCAA Division I, Ohio Valley Conference.

Flores plans to study nutrition, while running for UTM's track and cross country team.

Flores has been running track since her freshman year and chose to continue in college because of her love for racing.

She thanked her coaches for having such a big impact on her, as well as her parents for always being so supportive.

During her time running for Wilmington, Flores has earned eight All Conference titles, been a state qualifier three times and holds the fastest 800m school record.

Along with sports, Flores is also involved with FCA and National Honor Society at Wilmington High School.

"I chose UTM for a lot of reasons. I liked the campus, I liked the coach, I

liked the girls on the team and I wanted to get out of Illinois," Flores said.

She's excited to get to travel to different meets and create a bond with her new teammates.

Besides being excited to continue the sport she loves, she is also excited to be somewhere new and different.

Before college Flores still has her senior track season to look forward to.

Flores had her signing with the company of her family, dad, mom and nieces as well as her high school coaches.

Drop-off, continued from page 1

collections:

Televisions (limit 2), computer, monitors, notebooks, tablets, e-readers, printers, keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, digital music players (iPods, MP3s), CD/DVD/Blu-ray players, DVD players/recorders,

video game consoles, servers, scanners, electronic mice, converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, computer cable, computer speakers, portable digital assistants and zip drives.

Also air fryers, all telephones, calculators, camcorders, CB radio/scanners, digital/SLR cameras,

digital photo frames, digital projectors, electric lawn mowers, electric scooters, fans, GPS devices, hands-free phone headsets, Instapot, microwaves, power tools, radar detectors, radios, rice cooker, shredders, stereo receivers, string lights, toasters and toaster ovens, UPS/battery backup devices and vacuums (stick, robot, canister).

advise if the transactions are fraudulent and offer to issue you a new debit card," the post warned.

Scammers provide personal information such as your address and phone number—which are easily obtained by a Google search of your name—and provide a verification number via text message. Once you provide the verification number, the scammer will ask for the PIN number for your debit card.

Once this PIN is given, they immediately begin removing money from your account.

The police department advises all residents to

never provide your PIN numbers to anyone. Your bank will never request your PIN.

Should you receive any phone call from anyone identifying themselves to be from your bank, or other financial institutions fraud department, hang up and call the number on your card or account directly, police warn.

"There are a number of apps available which allow scammers to clone phone numbers and allow their calls to your phone to seem legitimate. Do not allow yourself to fall victim to this crime."

Drop-off, continued from page 1

collections:

Televisions (limit 2), computer, monitors, notebooks, tablets, e-readers, printers, keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, digital music players (iPods, MP3s), CD/DVD/Blu-ray players, DVD players/recorders,

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Attorney McGrath files Santangelo estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of
MARY JO SANTANGELO, Deceased.
Case No.: 24 PR 679

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of MARY JO SANTANGELO, of Manhattan, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued December 20, 2024, to JOSEPH SANTANGELO, Independent Administrator, whose address is 964 Vinings Blvd., Gallatin, TN 37066, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL, Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 22nd day of July, 2025, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Joseph Santangelo,
Independent Administrator
of the Estate of
Mary Jo Santangelo, Deceased
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL, 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 2025.

Attorney Meents files Boward estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
JANALYN SUE BOWARD,
Deceased; No. 2024 PR 620

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Janalyn Sue Boward, Letters of Office as Supervised Executor were issued on January 16, 2025, to Thea L. Coplea, whose address is 20849 West Walton Road, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 6, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Thea L. Coplea
Supervised Executor of the Estate of
Janalyn Sue Boward, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: Frank@MeentsLaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2025.

Guy petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME
OF Naquita Nichelle Guy TO Naquita
Nichelle Scott, Case No. 24 MR 510

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Naquita Nichelle Guy adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 19th day of February, 2025 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Naquita Nichelle Guy be changed to Naquita Nichelle Scott.

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 29 and Feb. 5, 2025.

Kowalkowski petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME
OF Wacław Kowalkowski TO Larry
Kowalkowski,
Case No. 2025MR000016

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, Wacław Kowalkowski, adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 W. Jefferson St., Room 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 11th day of March, 2025 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Wacław Kowalkowski be changed to Larry Kowalkowski.

/s/ Wacław Kowalkowski
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, January 22, 29, and February 5, 2025.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Twelve Mile Grove, and other mysteries of Wilton

Head east and then a bit north and you will come to the community of Twelve Mile Grove, now known as Wilton Center. It is perhaps, the most romantic spot in the County, historically speaking. The Native Americans that once lived there found it a perfect spot with endless wildlife, deep woods and open prairie. And, there are a few mysteries concerning the place, let's explore them.

The first mystery is why it was called Twelve Mile Grove. It's Indian name, Nabena-quinon, has never been translated. George Woodruff says that it meant "12 miles from anywhere" but as the Native Americans had no concept of miles, this seems improbable. Others say that it was 12 miles



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Pottawatomie, they were not officially given reservation land until 1832, the year of the Black Hawk War. In 1836, the Indian Removal Act was invoked and all Native peoples were told to move to reservations in Kansas and Nebraska.

One of the first white men to live at the Grove was Samuel Holcum. He was somehow affiliated with the Indians, but no one knows how. He lived as they did except for one thing, he built a log cabin while they lived in long houses and wigwams. The Indians of Twelve Mile Grove were the first to go to Council Bluff, a

from Joliet, the County seat. We may never know.

The next mystery concerns those Native Americans. Although several tribal groups lived there, mainly

staging point for the trip further west. Slocum left with them with no explanation to anyone and became lost to history.

Abram Huyck came immediately after the Indians left, and for two years his was the only family in the Grove. He lived with many reminders of the previous occupants. George Woodruff in his History of Will County relates this story about the Grove. "When the whites first began to settle here, many traces of the former occupants of the grove were yet visible. Among the most interesting of these, as illustrating their methods of sepulture, were the tombs of three Indians, supposed, from the profusion of their decorations, to be chiefs."

The sepulcher, or whatever it might be called, consisted of a little pen, built up of small sticks, laid one upon the other, to the height of about four feet, being from four to five feet

square. The whole was covered with sticks, weighed down with heavy stones."

"And therein, on a kind of stool, sat the three poor fellows looking lonesome and ghastly enough. The cracks between the sticks composing the pens were sufficiently wide to admit of inspection, while being at the same time too small to allow of their being disturbed by wild animals. In this position, these ghastly remains sat in all of their feathers, beads and jewelry, with the flesh decaying from their bones, for a number of years, till at length a foolish lad, who lived in the neighborhood, upset their charnel-houses, scattering their bones about the surrounding country."

Although Twelve Mile Grove had everything an early settler could want, fertile land, water, timber, game, stone quarry, etc. it did lack one thing. That was transportation. Early in Will County history

Peotone Township was combined with Wilton as there were only 2 voters in Peotone. After the railroad went through Peotone experienced exponential growth, while Twelve Mile Grove started withering away.

Despite that many families of the Grove stayed on, despite the lack of transportation and many have names that are still with us today like Donohue, Nugent, Kennedy and Quigley. A small village featured a church, general store, blacksmith, implement dealer etc.

We have a quaint view of the village from August of 1875 in the Joliet Weekly Sun, "A few days since Misses Eliza and Mary Lardner, utterly humiliated by repeatedly passing our cemetery on their way to church and the stores, and which was completely overgrown with a dense growth of weeds and underbrush, armed themselves with a

broad axe and corn knives, and commenced slowly and laboriously to hew their way to the last resting places of some of the dead."

"The next day they were reinforced by Miss Jennie Jenks; and during the day they succeeded in clearing a large portion of the grounds."

"We have a croquet set here in Wilton Center. It is owned by a charming young widow; and at almost all hours of the day and evening may be seen numbers of the children, young men and women, and some on whose shoulders the cares and responsibilities of the world are supposed to rest, wending their way back and forth to the grounds of the afore said lady, there to match their skill in the exhilarating game."

Ah yes, the thrills of croquet! Don't let this rural picture fool you. Twelve Mile Grove had its scandals too. But that is a story for another day.



EACH MONTH teachers and support staff at Wilton High School selected two students from each class who have stood out for their random acts of kindness or helping out in a big way. Selected this month from the senior class are Reegan Bolin and Sean Nowak.



WHS JUNIORS who were named as Students of the Month are Gabe Hischier and Izzy O'Halloran.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH from the sophomore class at WHS are Ryan Schraeger and Nina Egizio.



FRESHMEN at WHS selected as Students of the Month are Josh Talley and Isabelle Larsen.

Wilmington High School semester honor roll

Superior Honors-GPA of 4.3 or higher

Grade 9: Amy Chiappetta, Cecilia Corlett, Samantha Cutter, Haylee Fritz, Karissa Fritz, Cruz Hincherrick, Abigail Kinnett, Finnegan Kruck, Chase Rabideau, Caroline Smith, Colin Strong and Kelly Tatera.

Grade 10: Addison Billingsley, Ivy Bruner, Sally Clifford, Kaylyn Falcon, Ian Fruge, Noah Kerwin, Gabrielle Kluk, Brysen Meents, Declan Moran, James Neagle, Miley Swearngen and Keeley Walsh.

Grade 11: Makenna Adams, Alana Bown, Peyton Buza, Alyssa Chiappetta, Austin Dietz, Caius Drown, Mark Gable, Dierks Geiss, Ella Hansen, Iwen James, Grace Jones, Alexander Lawson, Hunter Lewis, Logan O'Donnell, Rachel Smith, Molly Southall, Ava Spicer, Taylor Stefancic, Alexis Strohm, Aubrey Strong, Sydney Swann, Rianna Swearngen, Norah Unley and Logan Van Duyne.

Grade 12: Nevaeh Cardoza, Camdyn Cieszkiewicz, Alaina Clark, Cole Drown, Kaylen Hansen, Shawn James, Rylee Lehnert, Maggie Lindsey, Anna Morgan, Spencer Parrish, Evan Surdey, Joseph Van Duyne and Reid Waldon.

High Honors-GPA of 3.9 to 4.299

Grade 9: Lailah Beck, Cole Boersma, Amara Bown, Cameron Corlett, Sarai Duran, Holly Eighner, Taryn Gilbert, Jaxin Hicks, Aubree Jandura, Abigail Kirchner, Annabelle Lawson, Hank Lindsey, Layla Reno, Maecyn Rodriguez, Madisyn Rossow, Jady Sorensen, Madilyn Strong, Lyla Rose Tollard, Ian Turcany, Madisen Van Duyne, Zander Van Duyne and McKenna Van Tilburg.

Grade 10: Alyson Allgood, Michael Baez, Bly Bianchetta, Sierra Dannelley, Ryan Donovan, Morgan Farrell, Owen O'Donnell, Nash Rink, Makenzie Rodriguez, Hailey Romano, Addison Schlieper, Ryan Schraeger, Larkyn Thompson and Gracie Wilkins.

Grade 11: Lyla Bruner, Abigail Harding, Melia Hincherrick, Kacey Kennedy, Koren Liguide, Kailyn Motykowski, Aiden Poulos, Delaney Redwitz.

Grade 12: Hannah Basinger, Jamie Cahill, Alivia Capozziello, Sara Falcon, Kyle Farrell, Jocelyn Herrera, Alexander Hertz, Kylee Knowles, Jonathan McGonagle, Hunter Osipavicius, Nicole Quigley, Lucas Rink, Jessica Schnittger, Isabella Villadolid and Lilliana Zavala.

Honors-GPA of 3.5 to 3.899

Grade 9: Sophia Albright, Olivia Countryman, Evan Cravens, Cole Cutter, Katelynn Dedo, Hunter Kaitschuck, Isabelle Larsen, Nolan Lindsey, Ryne Liva, Kayla Lopez, Mickenzie Marquette, Logan Moore, Noah Morris, Reagan Mossell, Haylee Osipavicius, Makayla Sanchez, Ryan Van Duyne, John Weitendorf.

Grade 10: Isabel Brajas, Fynton Bryant, Sean Couch, Ali Daniels, Dakota Kutina, Samantha Liaromatis, Edward Martens, Aiden McCallister, Grace Mroz, Samuel Nunez, Nathaniel Quesada, Hunter Racer, Gavin Riggs, Broden Strong, Calleigh Struthers, Addison Van Duyne and Travis Van Duyne.

Grade 11: Serenity Bennett, Colton Compton, Nathaniel Cupples, Jack Cutter, Ryker Feil, Meghan Fisher, Paiton Fritz, Grace Gougis, Delilah Hannan, Parker Hazzard, Reagan Jandura, Anthony Johnston, Ryan Kettman, Nathan Kirchner, Edward Kurze, Evan Kuypers, Evan Leonard, Joseph Lewsader, Brayden Michaels, Zachary Ohlund, Ethan Pape, Audrey Powlick, Decklan Proffitt, Timothy Shelton, Nicholas Simek, William Slayton, Remington Thomas and Chase Warthen.

Grade 12: Gabrielle Bak, Alexander Boyer, Hailey Marie Cooper, Parker Cox, Alexandra Delangel, Ava Durlinger, Brycen Feil, Brooklyn Flores, David Freeman, Tanner Haddon, Cheyenne Haga, Emily Hughes, Drew Jackson, Julie Key, Faith Mackenzie, Brooke Marcum, Jessica Matyasec, Erica Maynard, Lesley Mendoza, Amanda Miller, Ryan Nelson, Skylar Rossow, Reese Van Duyne, Delaney Watenpugh, and Cameron Willis.

Birthdays, Book Bash planned at the library

Join the Wilmington Public Library District for its Birthdays & Books Bash, a fun and creative way to honor iconic authors.

Each month, from February through April, we'll celebrate literary legends with a short presentation about their lives and works, followed by a hands-on book craft to take home. Enjoy cupcakes and refreshments while connecting with fellow book lovers!

Dates and Times:

• Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.: Honoring John Steinbeck, Laura Ingalls Wilder, and more

• March 26 at 1 p.m.: Celebrating Dr. Seuss, Robert Frost, and others

• April 30 at 1 p.m.: Featuring William Shakespeare, Charlotte Brontë, and more

Space is limited, so register early by contacting the Wilmington Public Library District at 815-476-2834.

Save the date

Save the date for "Our Couture Closet", a family-friendly fashion show/auction to support "Our Caring Closet", on Sunday April 13, at the Wilmington High School. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

VanDuyne named to dean's list

Raegan Van Duyne of Wilmington has been named to the Saint Mary's College Dean's List for the Fall 2024 semester.

Van Duyne had at least 3.6 gpa on a 4.0 scale, had a minimum of 12 graded credit hours, no incompletes, and no grades lower than a C.

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It's being planned

BRAIDWOOD—To last week's Meet Candidates submission, yes. There will be a Meet the Candidates. It is in the planning phase as we speak.

Change needed

BRAIDWOOD—It is refreshing to see Todd Lyons announce he is running for mayor in Braidwood. Someone who will bring back the community feeling and get things done the right way. Lyons did an amazing job as our chief of police. I hope to see him win this spring - we desperately need change.

We have fireplaces

BRAIDWOOD—It's winter time which means that many residents are using their wood burning fireplaces and stoves to help heat their homes. This has been done for decades and is a way of life in small towns all across America. To the person who keeps complaining that the air quality in town is dangerous, you should probably move because it will never get any better. Don't expect or demand that people install EPA approved filters to their chimneys because that is a completely unrealistic expectation. Down here we have bonfires, relax with friends around a fire pit, roast hotdogs and marshmallows over an open fire with our children and we burn our leaves in the spring & fall. We don't care what your atmospheric meter says so stop trying to shove that down our throats. Several homes near your meter have fireplaces. That's just how small town living is.

Know the past

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood residents: On Oct. 13, 2023 an article appeared in the Braidwood Journal newspaper which highlighted all of the issues at hand with the retirement of former Police Chief and now Mayoral candidate Mr. Lyons. Just do a simple Google search to find the article titled "View is different from all sides on Lyons' retirement from Braidwood PD". This article highlights all of the reasons why he was asked to retire. Those under his command, and those who he served under, had lost faith in him. Read the article and you will see. Need further solidification of these reasons? Just wait.

The price of butter

WILMINGTON—Since Trump took the oath of office there's no word about grocery prices except the excuse that it's too difficult to lower them. In other words Trump lied in order to get elected. And although high prices was the main concern of Americans, Trump only cared about the billionaire vote. Or perhaps Trump doesn't want to offend his corporate buddies by asking them to stop the price gouging. At any rate, Americans have been conned by the biggest con artist in the country who has 34 felony convictions. Shame on the voters because they were warned. And shame on the justice system because Trump should not be serving in the Oval Office.

Hardest working

BRAIDWOOD—The soundoff from last week's newspaper regarding the unnecessary need for college degrees in the workforce hit the nail on the head. Sometimes you can't replace years of experience and businesses common sense with an expensive piece of paper hanging on the wall. Just because a handful of millennials seem to believe that anyone over the age of 50 doesn't have a brain in their head and should not be allowed to have anything to do with a local government, does not mean that they are right. Sorry to tell you millennials this but us Boomers are the hardest working generation that is still alive today. We are not soft, sensitive or easily offended, and we don't throw a fit when we don't get our way. It's called life, so toughen up.

Wounded come first

SHADOW LAKES—I am a Vietnam veteran and my name is Dan Hill. What I have been watching on TV is all of these veterans organizations taking care of wounded warriors. If the government wants to call a war they should take care of all the wounded warriors. Thank you.

The Trump haters

SHADOW LAKES—If Trump found a cure for cancer, people on Sound-off would say big deal I still have toe fungus. Haters got to hate.

With his lackeys

WILMINGTON—Project 2025 Schedule F. Despite Trump's lie before the election that he had nothing to do with Project 2025, he is now implementing Schedule F whereby he is purging the federal workforce and replacing them with his lackeys. Trump has sent orders out to current workers in government to resign now and they will receive salaries until September. Not so fast, President Liar-in-Chief. The current workers must get an attorney because liar Trump will refuse to pay them and then he will drag them into court forever. Of course, the sad thing is that Schedule F is a further step into the 'dictatorship' Trump promised. And furthermore, the legacy media of established mainstream news is now capitulating toward Trump so if you want the unadulterated truth you must turn to sources without the deep pockets that Trump seeks to control. In other words, freedom of the press is disappearing and government is becoming permeated by Trump's flunkies already. Good citizens of America, we are sadly not in Kansas anymore. Irene

Ignoring Constitution

WILMINGTON—Thanks Dan, your suggestion to re-read the Constitution confirmed a few things I already knew. Trump has already violated Amendment 1 that gives the House sole control over government spending. Trump has no say in spending or withholding money. Also in Amendment 1 is the emoluments clause. Trump violates this every time his hotels and resorts charge government people to use the facilities. I say impeach him. He is violating the 14th Amendment by trying to end birthright citizenship. I say impeach him. Now Trump wants to end federal income taxes. The 16th Amendment created the income tax and Trump cannot abolish it on his own. Only a new amendment can do that. He seeking an amendment so he can run for president again, thus violating the current 22nd Amendment. I actually hope it passes so both Clinton or Obama beat him by record numbers. So, Dan, maybe you should tell the Trump to re-read it. Wait. He doesn't read by his own admission!

We're both

GARDNER—I'm so glad we heard from Dan again. As far as being a Democracy or Republic we're actually both. They both mean all citizens get to vote and aren't mutually exclusive. Just as a state can be a democracy but not a republic, or a republic and not a democracy, it's equally possible to be both and, in theory at least, that was the goal in setting up the new U.S. Democracy and Republic are not mentioned in the Declaration of Independence, that expresses clearly that governments should be established deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. This reads like a definition of both democracy and republic. Back in the days of the American Revolution, democracy wasn't seen as an intrinsically good thing. It seemed obvious that it would end in mob rule - that's why the early Americans installed an electoral college that ultimately led to the downfall of liberty. Even if they wouldn't have advocated for it by name, their goal was still a form of democracy. The words democracy and republic are frequently used to mean the same thing: a government in which the people vote for their leaders. This was the important distinction at the time of the founding of the United States, in direct contrast with the rule of a king, or monarchy, in Great Britain." In part because that context was clear to everyone involved in the American Revolution, democracy and republic were used interchangeably in the late 1700s. Both words meant that the power to govern was held by the people rather than a monarch.

Do it right

COAL CITY—I have a couple of bones to pick. First, the next time they fix the road at North First Street and the railroad tracks can they do it right? That way they don't have to come back in 6 months to fix it again. Now to the people who submitted soundoffs last week from Wilmington, Gardner and Shadow Lakes you need to stop drinking the cool-aid. Try educating yourselves to the real facts, instead of being spoon fed bull s*** from the Democrats and news media. Biden pardoned over 8,000 people in his last days, they included many killers, child abusers, cop killers,

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

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel.

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.



his family, Gen. Mike Milley and Dr. Fauci. Gen. Milley is a traitor to this country and should be in prison, pardoned. He stated he would let China know if Trump was going to attack China. Dr. Fauci is a liar and fraud, he certainly is not a hero. Doctors, nurses, cops and firemen are heroes. As for declassifying files, let's start with Hunter Biden's laptop and all the experts who said it was Russian disinformation. Or how about all the files Biden had that he wasn't suppose to have. All the leaks to reporters from Biden's White House should be revealed along with all the files that were so very important that had to be dragged out of Maro a Lago. Lastly, I'm sick and tired of hearing of migrants, refugee, or asylum seeker. They are illegal aliens, they came into this country illegally. They have no rights, they are criminals. Trump is deporting criminals. Spend some of your precious time looking up the facts. KL

We're waiting

COAL CITY—Did not Trump say he would end the Ukraine war on day one? What happened? He's too busy firing everyone and blaming Biden for everything. Tariffs, tariffs, that's his answer to everything. You think groceries are high now, wait till next month. Lies, lies, lies

Fantastic decision

WILMINGTON—Governor Pritzker says no J6 rioters will hold state jobs in Illinois. Fantastic decision, Governor. Illinois House Republican Chair Kathy Salvo said, "Over the last two weeks Governor Pritzker has shown us that he is a vengeful and egotistical man who is out of touch with working men and women." Wait, I'm confused. Is she referring to Pritzker or Donald Trump?

A complete mockery

BRAIDWOOD—The past several weeks have been a complete embarrassment to our community. Every single person on both sides of the issues, including those affiliated with the Braidwood Truth Seekers as well as a few of our local city officials, employees and their family members, should be ashamed of themselves. All of you are not telling the truth and your constant fighting, belittling, bullying and displays of hatred for each other, in person and on social media, is making a complete mockery of our wonderful community. The founding fathers of Braidwood would be ashamed of all of you. It all boils down to a personal and profound hatred between all of you. If you think you are doing our community a service by trying to bring out the so-called truths about the other side, think again. The only thing that all of you are doing is giving Braidwood a black eye and forcing us, the citizens, to watch your childish and embarrassing actions play out over our heads. None of you really care about making Braidwood a better place, no matter how much you say you do. The only thing you care about is getting even, getting revenge and making the other look bad. Braidwood needs a clean out from both sides of the issues because you all are the problems, every single one of you.

Just three weeks

SHADOW LAKES—In Trump's first three weeks we have seen the release of American hostages from Hamas, the release of American hostages from Venezuela, the deporting of 10,000 illegal criminals and the borders

crossing is down 95 percent, all things Biden said could not be done.

Price of food

SHADOW LAKES—And just like that liberals care about the price of food.

Prices to explode

RITCHIE—Trump has been president for a mere two weeks and already we find that Trump lied over and over again and that Trump was wrong, wrong, wrong during his campaign. Remember how Americans complained ad nauseum about inflation? That's why they were voting for Trump because, after all, 'Trump will fix it' signs followed Trump at all his rallies. Friends, neighbors and co-workers fell for it despite Trump's pathological lying. But Trump just imposed a 25% tariff on Canada and Mexico and 10% on China and the mud is about to fly. And just like the economic experts warned us, the cost of living will soar because consumers will pay for the tariffs. If you think the price of eggs is high now, just wait, because beer, vehicles, smart phones, household products and basically everything will be sky-high. It appears that slow and steady wins the race just as it took President Reagan at least five years to lower mortgage rates.

Same old tricks

BRAIDWOOD—It is very concerning that a local police officer can make comments about a resident on social media and that seems to be fine with everyone. Does this mean the police officer would have a skewed judgment if this resident needed help? Sure leads me to believe he would. Social media is not a playground for those who are here to serve and protect.

Sign war zone

BRAIDWOOD—With another local election right around the corner, hopefully the candidates for local office will refrain from placing their campaign signs in public right-of-ways and street corners. Every time there's an election, our town ends up getting trashed and looking like a campaign sign war zone with dozens of campaign signs at every street corner and intersection. Residents have every right to place campaign signs in their own yards which is private property. It's the public right-of-ways and street corners that need to be off limits. Just because a candidate has 30 campaign signs at 30 different intersections doesn't mean that they have 30 different people or households supporting them. Now having 30 campaign signs in 30 different yards, that's a whole other thing and shows you the actual amount of support.

Union solidarity

BRAIDWOOD—Why would a Braidwood City Council member address his support for a current council member running in the upcoming election during a council meeting? This council member is also a union member who's supporting the opponent of which his union is supporting. I believe this would be considered a prohibited campaign act by this council member.

Smiles work wonders

COAL CITY—I would think the best way to get tips when working in the service industry is to smile and not a fake smile either. Smile, you might make more tips.

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Better plan for what might happen next

To many Statehouse types, some of last week's news out of Washington, DC felt eerily familiar.

Last Monday night, the White House announced a sweeping new policy that would've at least temporarily defunded trillions of dollars of government spending on everything from the National School Lunch Program, to Head Start, to cancer and sleep disorders research, and on and on through 50 small-print pages.

So, some Illinoisans rightly pointed out that former Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner also tried crashing government spending by defunding vital social services and other programs.

But what the White House attempted last week differed from Rauner's misrule in a very big way: Rauner thought he could use massive funding cuts resulting from a budget impasse as "leverage" (his word) to force Democrats to break their ties with



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

labor unions. The Trump administration offered no such "grand bargain." Instead, they ordered the complete funding cut-off of some 2,000 government grants and programs until they could be assured that none of them conflicted with their ideological demands, including, "diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility," "gender ideology," etc., all with the end result of "ending 'wokeness' and the weaponization of government," according to a memo issued by the acting director of the Office of Management and Budget Matthew Vaeth.

The examination process had no stated end date, so some or even most of those programs could've been suspended indefinitely.

As we learned during the Rauner years, providers typically have very little cash on hand, and that's mostly by

design. The federal government, for instance, doesn't just hand out a year's worth of funding to some small social service group. The providers get their money in small bites, often around payroll dates. So, even a two-week funding halt could seriously harm many of these organizations.

The president didn't actually need to halt a dime of funding to examine these programs for ideological conformance, of course. He could've just, you know, had his people look at them, which gives you a big clue that this action was much more than just some limited "anti-woke" ideological policing (along with the mysterious and highly suspect cut-off of certain states' access to the Medicaid computer portal.)

Opponents of the order rightly pointed out that Congress long ago passed a law protecting its strong constitutional appropriations powers by mandating the executive to spend the money it appropriates, with very limited exceptions. And, by late afternoon a federal judge paused the cuts until a temporary restraining order hearing could be held on Monday.

Again, the Rauner specter re-emerges. The courts back then forced the state of Illinois to pay its employees and fund certain vital programs even without a budget. So, the state limped along for two years while non-Medicaid human service providers, contractors and others slowly died on the vine.

The horror (state funding for things like a program to help teenage rape survivors was eliminated) finally ended 793 days after it began, when Republicans joined Democrats to increase taxes and pass a budget over Rauner's vetoes.

The White House withdrew the order, but

then the White House press secretary insisted that the cuts would still happen even without the directive. Another lawsuit, filed by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and several colleagues from across the country, began to move forward.

That process came to a head on Friday when a federal judge issued a sweeping temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration from doing anything that could reduce spending already approved by Congress.

Judge John J. McConnell even quoted a ruling that Trump-appointed US Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh handed down when he was a circuit court judge, "even the President does not have unilateral authority to refuse to spend the funds."

The state could similarly be in for years of court fights over this current federal spending battle, and likely more in the future, while, as under Rauner, the institutions and people down below try to survive.

There's no way that this state government can adequately plan for what might happen next because nobody knows what will happen next. I mean, who could've predicted perhaps the most aggressive challenge ever to the US Congress' constitutional appropriations powers would be launched last week?

Really the only thing the state can do now is to be even more prudent with its budgeting. President Trump wants to cut programs that deviate from his ideology. If he can convince Congress to go along, a judge won't be able to step in. He could also try another way to get around the court's mandate (and the US Constitution).

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

Tickets on sale ICC Mystery Night

You have been invited to The Cat's Meow, a 1920s jazz club in New York City owned by Felix Fontano, for a private party for a select group of Mr. Fontano's friends.

It is the height of the Jazz Age, and social revolution is afoot. This is the age of Prohibition and of bootleggers and gangsters. It will be a night of revelry like many other nights of revelry enjoyed by this group of sophisticates, artists and hoodlums—until things go horribly wrong.

Join the Immaculate Conception Church on Saturday, March 1 at 6 p.m. for a night of fun! You will be assigned a role as a guest or staff of The Cat's Meow and will play the character for the evening. You are encouraged to come dressed as your character!

There will be great food...laughs...suspense...and mystery solving! Spaces are limited so sign up fast! Must be at least 21 years old to participate.

Advance sign up is required as each person is important in the mystery and to ensure we have enough food and beverages. Character assignments will be sent out by Feb. 17.

The mystery night will take place at Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School Street, Braidwood. Cost is \$30/person (includes dinner/drinks). Register no later than Friday, Feb. 14.

Make check payable to: Immaculate Conception Church (110 S. School St., Braidwood, IL 60408) Feb. 14. Contact: Sara Wollgast, (815) 341-5946, for details.

Tariffs may raise gas prices

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 2.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.21/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"The national average has seen little meaningful change over the past week, as oil markets continue to face selling pressure. However, with President Trump imposing tariffs on Canada and Mexico, some motorists may see gas prices inch up in certain regions," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Prices in Illinois are 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 5.2 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 2.4 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.62 per gallon.

Locally, gas prices are creeping up, with Mohsen charging \$3.10/g and

Phillips 66 charging \$3.29/g in Wilmington.

Expect to pay anywhere from \$3.21/g at Casey's, up to \$3.39/g at Marathon in Braidwood. In Coal City, gas is \$3.19/g across the board.

You'll save a few pennies in Morris with the Pilot station charging \$3.09/g and Circle K up to 3.29/g.

As usual, Bourbonnais is cheapest, with gas at \$3.01 at Gulf up to \$3.09 at Circle K.

"Trump's new trade war has already triggered retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, escalating tensions. While, on paper, tariffs on Canadian energy could have a significant impact on fuel prices, a prolonged trade war could weaken global economies."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.77/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.72/g.

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Annual FUMC Men's Club spaghetti dinner March 1

The Men's Club of the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington will be hosting its 39th annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 1, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the church located at 401 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington.

Come for the spaghetti, stay for the desserts! Carry-outs available. Invite your neighbors—better yet, pick them up! Free will offering, no set price.

Proceeds from this event are used to support local missions such as bikes for Wilmington Sharefest 2025, Kuzma Care Cottage, Our Caring Closet, Lamb's Fold and the Christian Help Association.

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Writing a check can be a target for scammers

Grundy Bank has joined the American Bankers Association and banks across the nation to promote an industry-wide campaign educating consumers about the rapid rise in check fraud and how they can protect themselves.

The #PracticeSafe Checks campaign empowers consumers with tips and tools to help combat the significant threat posed by check fraud and check washing scams.

"Make sure to stay vigilant and safeguard your

finances and always verify the authenticity of checks, be cautious of unsolicited offers, and never share personal information with unknown sources. Protecting yourself from check scams starts with awareness and proactive measures," said Kevin Olson President & CEO of Grundy Bank.

Grundy Bank is sharing consumer tips to raise awareness and provide valuable tips when writing a check.

"Criminal gangs across the country are turning to

check fraud and check washing to steal money from banks and their customers," said Paul Benda, Executive Vice President, risk, fraud and cybersecurity at ABA. "With the strong support of participating banks like Grundy Bank, we are confident that the #PracticeSafeChecks campaign will help consumers better protect themselves from this criminal activity."

The practicesafe checks.com website is the heart of the campaign and reminds consumers that every time they write a check, they are exposing their personal information, such as name, address and bank account number and encourages them to use digital banking options to send money whenever possible. The website offers the following safety tips:

- Use Permanent Gel Pens. Use permanent ink when you write a check to protect yourself.

- Avoid blank spaces. Make sure you fill out every blank space on a check so criminals can't fill them in instead.

- Review accounts. Monitor your account activity on your online banking platform. Ensure endorsement is correct and reflects the intended payee and amount to guard against fraud.

- Use Digital Payment Options. Switch to your bank's payment app or online bill pay for fast and secure payments.

- Follow Up. Make sure to follow up with payees to confirm they've received and deposited your check.

Fossil Rock Weekend

The Forest Preserve of Will County is offering a Fossil Rock Weekend at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, 25055 W. Walnut Lane in Channahon on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 16, noon to 3 p.m.

Spend the day learning about rocks, fossils and the geologic time scale. View a collection of local fossils and decorate your own replica to take home and more. Free, ages 5 and older.

Lyons awarded Chamber trophy



Courtesy photo
CHERYL LYONS, (right) a regular on the day shift at The Wine Café, receives the January 2025 Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Month trophy from Chamber Ambassador Wendy Hill from the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community. Cheryl was nominated by a coworker.

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RIVERSIDE

HEALTHCARE

Scrap-A-Thon planned

The Braidwood Presbyterian Women will be holding a Spring Scrap-A-Thon on Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church 106 S. Lincoln St. in Braidwood.

A fun filled day of scrapping, door prizes, raffles and food.

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OBITUARIES

Phyllis Haldorson

WILMINGTON—Phyllis Haldorson, 94, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 at Aperia Care of Wilmington with her daughter at her side.

Born on Oct. 4, 1930, in Bedford, IN, Phyllis was the beloved daughter of Jasper Otto and Agnes (Warren) Hannum. She was raised in Wilmington and attended the Braidwood schools before embarking on a life filled with love, hard work, and selfless devotion to others.

Phyllis married the love of her life, John Haldorson, and together they built a home filled with warmth and care while raising their family. In her early years, she and John shared a passion for roller skating, a simple joy that brought them closer and created cherished memories.

A dedicated and hardworking woman, Phyllis was employed by UniRoyal at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant before finding her true calling in caregiving. She spent 32 years as a dietary aide and cook at Royal Willow Nursing Home in Wilmington, remaining steadfast through its many transitions in ownership. Her commitment to her work reflected her natural ability to nurture and support those around her. She had a special place in her heart for the elderly and never hesitated to extend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Phyllis was a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington, where she found faith, friendship, and a deep sense of community. Her life was defined by her generosity and kindness, and she sustained an unwavering devotion to family. Phyllis set a beautiful example through the care she gave her mother, a lesson in love and sacrifice that her own daughter would later emulate. Beyond her dedication to others, she found joy in simple companionship—whether through sharing a conversation in good company or traveling near or far with her dear friend, Marge Tidmore.

Above all, Phyllis' greatest treasure



was her family. She lived her life with love and purpose, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and selflessness that will be forever cherished by those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her loving daughter and son-in-law: Mary Jo and Dave Morgan; sisters-in-law and brother-in-law: Fran Hannum, of Arizona; Ralph (Lela) Haldorson, of Wilmington and Margaret Haldorson, of Western Springs, IL, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents; husband, John in 1993; son, Mark Haldorson in 2014; brothers: Jackie, Donnie and Michael Hannum; brothers-in-law: Howard, Charles, Raymond (Betty), Robert (Genevieve), George and Clyde Haldorson and sisters-in-law: Elsie (Joe) Skubic, Helen (Harold) Jensen, Betty (Joe) Panish, Alice (Elmer) Wills, Lucille (Royce) Quayle and June (Leroy) Hedgecock.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. and again on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 at the First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 10 a.m. Reverend Harriette Cross will officiate, and burial will follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington, where Phyllis will be laid to rest with her late husband, John.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Phyllis' memory to a cancer research organization of the donor's choosing.

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

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

Mary Bigham

WILMINGTON—Mary Bigham, 102, of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 at her residence.

Born Jan. 9, 1923 in Pickneyville, IL, Mary Elizabeth was the daughter of Mesh and Ann (Stern) Hale. She was raised in Pickneyville and later married Elvis Roston Bigham in Cape Girardeau, MO during the summer of 1940. Mary and Elvis later relocated to Wilmington where they raised her family. She worked independently as a hairdresser and was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

Mary was a devoted wife and mother, and in her spare time she expressed herself through artistic works and crafting. She also was a gifted quilter, making many quilts over the years for family and friends, and even tried her hand at writing. Mary's 102 years were a blessing to those that loved and knew her and she will be a dearly missed mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend.

Survivors include her two children: Steven (Denise) Bigham, of St. Eustache, Montreal, Canada and Paula (Robert) Cooper, of Wilmington; four grandchildren: Ross (Christine) Cooper, of Athens,



IL; Andy Cooper, of Wilmington; Emilie Bigham-Desroches (Eric Philbert), of Canada; Benoit Bigham-Desroches, of Canada; one great-grandchild: Alexis Philbert, of Canada; two sisters-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Elvis and one grandson, Etienne.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 12 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 1 p.m. Burial will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington where Mary will be laid to rest with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Mary's memory to Uplifted Care Hospice in Bourbonnais, IL.

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

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

Michael Mancuso, Sr.

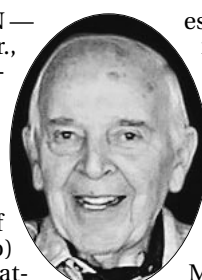


WILMINGTON—Michael A. Mancuso, Sr., 91 of Wilmington, formerly of Joliet, died Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Sept. 7, 1933 in Joliet, Michael Anthony was the son of Anthony and Rose (Chellino) Mancuso. He was raised and educated in Joliet and graduated from Joliet Township High School with the class of 1951. On June 25, 1955, Michael married Lillian Lorraine Ward at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Joliet. He then served in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1957, and upon his discharge from military service he returned to Joliet to begin his career.

Michael followed in his father's footsteps and worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance in Joliet for over 40 years, working diligently to provide financial security for his client families. He was a beloved agent not only to the clients he served but his company as well, often being recognized as one of the top salesman in the nation. Michael retired from the insurance business and, not one to sit idle, he began to work on remodeling and building homes in the Wilmington area. He used his talents and skills learned over the years to build over a dozen homes, even helping in building his sons' homes. Michael completed his real estate training to be able to sell the homes he remodeled or built, as well as purchasing the property that would become his family's farm. He was also a devoted member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington where he served as an usher for several years.

His home was his happy place, finding no greater joy than working on his garden, tending to his fruit trees, or sitting out on his hammock or swing enjoying the view of the river. Michael also took great pleasure in being out on his pontoon boat and participating in bowling leagues in Joliet and Wilmington for many years. He was a remarkable man who's determination and work ethic was inspirational to many, especially his children. To Michael, nothing was impossible and the word "can't" simply was not in his vocabulary. His hon-



est nature and decency was recognized by anyone that crossed his path, as well as his trademark smile, but his love of family was always the number one priority for him.

Survivors include his wife, Lillian Mancuso of Wilmington, three children: Michael (Kim) Mancuso, Jr., Anthony (Melissa) Mancuso, and Joseph (Krystal) Mancuso, all of Wilmington; one son-in-law, Joe Petrovic of Florida; nine grandchildren: Nick (April) Mancuso, Michael (Shera) Mancuso III, Tyler (Amanda) Mancuso, Gina (Jake) Murphy, Taylor Mancuso, Makenzie Mancuso, Marina Mancuso, Jacob Proffitt, and Hannah Proffitt; eight great grandchildren: Max, A.J., Ivy, Michael IV, Avery, T.J., Kyler, and Kane; brothers and sisters-in-law: Shirley (the late John) Brookman, Carol (Harold) Clark, Pat Orosco, John (the late Marie) Ward, Bob (Kathy) Ward, and Don Podlesney; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter, Michelle Petrovic; three sisters: Angela (George) Turk, Marion (Richard) Wilhelmi, and Katherine (Glen) Trost; and three sisters-in-law: Phyllis Podlesney, Norma Jean (Ray) Webster, and Margaret (Thomas) Smith.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral services will follow on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 604 South Kankakee Street, in Wilmington at 11:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding and Deacon Jay Plese assisting.

Burial will follow at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

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

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

Betty Novy

WILMINGTON—Betty Jean Novy, 91 1/2 of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 28, 2025 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born July 29, 1933 in Custer Township, Betty Jean was a daughter of Chester and Mary (Cooper) Mullins. She was raised and educated in Wilmington, graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1951, and attended Illinois State University. Following school, Betty worked for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant and on Aug. 30, 1953 Betty married Harvey Kenneth Novy in Wilmington. She was a very active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington where she was a Deacon and offered communion to area shut ins.

Betty took great pleasure in sewing and gardening, and was an avid sports fan. She was talented, south paw, softball pitcher as a young woman, leading her team to State and even threw a no hitter. Betty was devoted to her family, especially her grandchildren. She loved to play basketball with them, as well as other kids in the neighborhood, and was affectionately known as Grandma Boopie. Betty looked forward to her monthly luncheons with her "Pretend Cousins", as well as playing Euchre and Yahtzee and baking Christmas and Halloween treats. Remembered for her honesty and sense of humor, she made family her life, leaving behind a beautiful legacy of love. Betty will forever be cherished by those who loved and knew her.

Survivors include three children: Julie (Bruce) Hoff of Sun City Center, FL; Marjorie (William) Theobald of



Shorewood; and Bryan (Teresa) Novy of Braidwood; nine grandchildren: Dawn (Noah) Miller, Jeff (Kate) Fuller, Kaitlin Hoff (Drew) Nielsen, Jason (Jessica) Hoff, Scott Theobald, Christina Theobald, Michael (Lex) Novy, Nicole (Judy) Tran-Novy, and Marilyn Novy; nine great grandchildren: Alex and Nathan Bohlin, Annabelle and Jordan Miller, Arianna Fuller, Sadie Banks, Evelyn and Aubrey Nielsen, and Dylan Hoff; as well as many cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, and two sisters: Alice Mullins and Lila (Keith) Lockwood.

The family received friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025 and again on Saturday Feb. 1, 2025 until time of funeral service. Reverend KJ Norris officiated.

Burial was at Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood where Betty was laid to rest with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Betty's memory to First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Kuzma Care Cottage, or Our Caring Closet.

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

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

Carol Lembke

BRAIDWOOD—Carol Jean Lembke (nee Girot), 81, of Braidwood, formerly of Essex, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 at Ascension Living Heritage Village in Kankakee. Born April 15, 1943 in Joliet, to the late Charles P. and Mildred Marie (nee Malinek) Girot.

Graduate of Reed-Custer High School, Class of 1961. Carol married Wayne Ervin Lembke on June 16, 1962 in Braidwood. She worked in the bakery at Super Value in Wilmington for over 20 years and was also an Avon Representative for 35 years. Carol was an avid NASCAR and Dale Earnhardt, Jr. fan, and loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She loved hummingbirds, flowers, and working puzzles.

Surviving are one son, Ronald (Michelle) Lembke of Braceville; three daughters, Patricia (Ray) Spence of Chebanse, IL; Michelle (Chad) Nesselrodt of Martinton, IL; and Kristie (Jason) Beard of Braidwood; six grandchildren, Tiara



(Dakota) Becker, Brittany (Jacob Wilson) Guynn, Beau (Ellen) Guynn, Cayley (Zach Stephenson) Orr, Jason Beard, Jr, and Mya Beard; five great grandchildren, Aaron Issler, Tayelynn Wilson, Natalie Becker, Camden Issler, and Shelby Becker; brother-in-law, Terry Lembke; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents; husband, Wayne Lembke; and sister, Mary Ann (Richard) Koehler.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025, from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. with funeral service at 3:00 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington at a later date.

For more information and to visit her 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 entrusted with arrangements.

Mary Ellen Hildy

COAL CITY—Mary Ellen Hildy, 75, of Coal City, passed away Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, at her home.

Born Aug. 3, 1949, in Morris, Mary Ellen was a daughter to the late John and Jane (nee Peterson) Cheshareck. She graduated from Morris Community High School with the class of 1967. On April 12, 1969, she married Clyde Hildy Jr. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, where she was a member. They were married for 44 years and raised two children, John and Jamie. She worked as a phone operator for Illinois Bell for 28 years.

Mary Ellen adored spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Other past times included gardening, crafting, reading, sewing, and crocheting. Perhaps her favorite past-time was baking. She was best-known for her Kringla which she learned how to make at the age of 10. Her Kringla quickly became a favorite dessert at every family gathering. Kringla were always in high demand and family members would fight for the first and last Kringla; sometimes it got ugly. Mary Ellen, who said she was often mistaken for Meryl Streep, was known for her Olympic medals, which she said she could never find, and her great sense of humor.

Survivors include her two children: John (Stacy) Hildy, of Elmhurst, IL and

Jamie (Paul) Sikora, of Coal City; six grandchildren: Camden Hildy, Simon Hildy, Mason Hildy, Lola Lavezzi, Ethan Sikora and Jocelyn Sikora; two sisters: Barbara Chesharek and Christine Seng, both of Morris and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Clyde; parents: John and Jane Chesharek; two grandsons: Joseph and Virgil Lavezzi and three brothers: David, Paul and Bob Chesharek.

Per her wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of IL Route 47, in Morris on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 from 9 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 12 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Mary Ellen's Memory to: Angels of Hope, Inc., 265 S. Richards St., Coal City, IL 60416, or to the American Red Cross or the Parkinson's Foundation.

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

Funeral services and arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.

Scott W. Walker



COUNTRYSIDE, IL—Scott W. Walker, 68, of Countryside, IL, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, at Adventist University of Chicago LaGrange Hospital.

Born on March 27, 1956, in Woodstock, IL, Scott William Walker was a son of Perry and Doris (Freund) Walker. He was raised in McHenry, IL, where he graduated from McHenry Community High School.

Scott proudly served his country in the United States Army, a commitment he held with deep honor and pride. Beyond his military service, Scott was a true outdoorsman who found joy in fishing and exploring the beauty of the Smoky Mountains. He was also an avid sports enthusiast and a loyal fan of the Chicago Bears.

Survivors include his loving wife, Diane (nee Hodgen), who he married on June 7, 1986 in Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City; four brothers: Perry (Rae Jean) Walker, of Naples, FL; Jim Walker, of Albuquerque, NM; Joseph



Walker, of McHenry and Bill (Brandy) Walker, of Urbana, IL; sister-in-law, Georgene Walker, of Northville, MI and brother-in-law, Ron (Gail) Hodgen, of Morris; his uncle and godfather, Melvin Freund, of Phoenix, AZ and numerous nieces and nephews.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents: father, Perry Walker and mother, Doris (Dave) Henken; one brother, Edward Walker; nephew, Brandon Walker and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Russell and Eleanor Hodgen.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and Scott will be laid to rest with full military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on June 11, 2025.

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

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

OBITUARIES

Timothy R. Quigley

WILMINGTON—Timothy R. Quigley, 61, of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Jan. 31, 2025 at his home.

Born May 25, 1963 in Joliet, Timothy Raymond was a son of Robert John and Geraldine Marie (Ruddy) Quigley. He was raised on the family farm in Wilton Center, attended St. Joseph School in Manhattan and graduated from Peotone High School with the class of 1981. Tim married Kathy Deihs in St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington on July 12, 1986 and they made their home in Wilmington. Tim was a member of the Suburban Teamsters and held employment over the years with Valley Concrete and most recently Diamond Construction.

He was a member of Meneoka New Lenox Sports and Recreation Club in Braidwood where he enjoyed camping and spending time. Tim was a passionate sports fan, and remained loyal to the Green Bay Packers, Chicago White Sox, and NASCAR. Known as a master of all trades, he had a knack for fixing anything and was always ready to lend a helping hand. Tim took pleasure in a good game of euchre; loved his family, and simply enjoyed being in the good company of family and friends.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy; sib-

lings: Mike (Judi) Quigley, of Wilton Center; Dan Quigley, of Manhattan; Kathy (Dale) Lattz, of White Heath, IL; Mary (Michael) Breen, of Homer Glen, IL and Colleen (William) Harvey, of Shorewood; brother-in-law, Russell "Rusty" (Rochelle) Deihs and sister-in-law, Vicky (Tom) Spangler, both of Wilmington and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins, as well as his dedicated caregiver, Debra Losacco.

Tim was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers: Andy and Robert and his father-in-law and mother-in-law: Russell and Gudrun "Judy" Deihs.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington on Friday, Feb. 7, 2025 from 2 p.m. until time of service at 6 p.m. Deacon Jay Plese from St. Rose Catholic Church will preside. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Tim's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Chester Jerantowski Jr.

BRACEVILLE—Chester John Jerantowski Jr., of Braceville, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025.

Chet was born June 21, 1942 to Chester Sr. and Zella Jerantowski. He grew up in Braceville and attended Gardner-South Wilmington High School before transferring to Kankakee High School and graduating in 1960. Chet married Sonja Decker on Jan. 11, 1964, recently celebrating 61 years of marriage. Chet was employed by Amoco Chemical Company in Joliet as a maintenance mechanic for 34 years. During his retirement, Chet enjoyed betting on the horses at Off Track Betting and stopping by the Wilmington VFW and Moose Lodge to meet up with his friends to watch sports games. He also liked attending car shows and his grandchildren's sporting events.

Survivors include his wife, Sonja Jerantowski; son, Greg (Karen) Jerantowski; daughter, La'Rae (Mark) Flynn; four grandchildren: Makenna Jerantowski, Shana Flynn, Skylar Flynn and Landon Flynn; sister, Delores (Jim) Ferrari; brothers, Darrell (Kathy)

Jerantowski and Dwain (Linda) Jerantowski; sister-in-law, Donna Jerantowski and numerous nieces and nephews.

Chet was preceded in death by his parents, Chester Sr. and Zella Jerantowski; brother, Donnie Jerantowski and sister, Dorothy Jerantowski.

Visitation will be held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home in Braidwood on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025 beginning at 9 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m. with burial service to follow at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville. Luncheon to follow at 2 p.m. at the Moose Lodge 241 in Wilmington.

Memorial donations in Chester's name can be made to the Braceville Methodist Church, VFW Post 5422, or the Moose Lodge 241.

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 entrusted with arrangements.

Ruben Villarreal

MORRIS—Ruben Villarreal, 63, of Morris, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 at his home.

Born Aug. 12, 1961 in San Antonio, TX, Ruben was a son of Inez and Emma (Thatcher) Villarreal. As a child, his family relocated to Mazon and he would later settle in Morris and make it his home. Ruben worked as a maintenance contractor for many years and was well known for being a fun loving guy. He was happiest when he was with his family and friends, especially when he was with his grandchildren. Ruben's joy for life will be his lasting legacy, leaving many fond memories for those who loved him to cherish.

Survivors include his children: Ruben Villarreal (Misty Moore) and Richard (Constance) Villarreal, both of Danville, IL; Nicholas Villarreal (Mary Centko), of Marseilles, IL; Jazmine Villarreal, of Independence, MO and Frisco Villarreal, of Mandan, ND; 15 grandchildren: Devin, RuNyia, William, Rontez, Jamari, Richard,

Jamorris, Sonny, Isabella, Melody, Leiani, Hayden, Xannon, Avin and Jada, as well as six great-grandchildren; seven brothers and sisters: Fernando (Carla) Villarreal, of Morris; Daniel (Barb) Villarreal and Armando Villarreal, both of Omaha, NE; Rosalinda Villarreal, of Morris; Elda (Samantha Collins) Villarreal, of Braidwood and Orlando (Patricia) Villarreal and Monica Gonzalez, both of Omaha, NE and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ruben was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Minerva Villarreal.

Per his wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and services are being arranged for a later date.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.

Morris Hospital hosting blood drive Feb. 6

Morris Hospital is hosting a blood drive in cooperation with Versiti Blood Center on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2 & 3 on the lower level of the hospital, 150 W. High Street in Morris.

Those who donate will be helping replenish the local blood supply as Versiti supplies blood products for Morris Hospital. All blood types are needed.

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

The entire process for donating blood takes about 1 hour, including registration, a brief medical screening, blood collection and refreshments. Donors

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

To schedule an

appointment, call Morris Hospital at 815-705-7386 or go to morrishospital.org/events and select Donate Blood. Walk-ins are welcome.



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Attorney Wysocki files
Lee estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF LEONARD D. LEE, Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 753
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of
the death of Leonard D. Lee. Letters of
Office were issued to Jason E.
Nedelsky whose address is 1807
Brockway Pond Ct., Joliet, Illinois as
Independent Executor, whose attorney
of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, June,
Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861
Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be
filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office,
Will County Courthouse, 100 W.
Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432,
or with the representative, or both, on
or before the 29th day of July, 2025, or
if mailing or delivery of a notice from
the representative is required by
Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of
1975, the date stated in that notice.
Any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the clerk must be mailed or deliv-
ered by claimant to the representative
and to the attorney within ten (10) days
after it has been filed.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Leonard D. Lee,
Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, January 29,
February 5 and 12, 2025.

Attorney Wysocki files
Verchimak estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ANDREW W. VERCHIMAK
Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 744
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of
the death of Andrew W. Verchimak.
Letters of Office were issued to
Andrew D. Verchimak whose address
is 115 Oakview Avenue, Joliet, Illinois
as Independent Executor, whose
attorney of record is Marilyn L.
Wysocki, June, Prodehl, Renzi &
Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road,
Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be
filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office,
Will County Courthouse, 100 W.
Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432,
or with the representative, or both, on
or before the 29th day of July, 2025, or
if mailing or delivery of a notice from
the representative is required by
Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of
1975, the date stated in that notice.
Any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the clerk must be mailed or deliv-
ered by claimant to the representative
and to the attorney within ten (10) days
after it has been filed.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of
Andrew W. Verchimak, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, January 29,
February 5 and 12, 2025.

Attorney Wysocki files
McCowan estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ROSE M. MCCOWAN Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 786
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of
the death of ROSE M. MCCOWAN.
Letters of Office were issued to Scott
M. McCowan whose address is 1305
Corrie Lane, New Lenox, Illinois as
Independent Executor, whose attorney
of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, June,
Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861
Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be
filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office,
Will County Courthouse, 100 W.
Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432,
or with the representative, or both, on
or before the 5th day of August, 2025
if mailing or delivery of a notice from
the representative is required by
Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of
1975, the date stated in that notice.
Any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the clerk must be mailed or deliv-
ered by claimant to the representative
and to the attorney within ten (10) days
after it has been filed.
Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of
Rose M. McCowan, Deceased
BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 12 and
19, 2025.

Attorney McGrath files
notice to legatees and
heirs of Nelson estate

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of
THOMAS H. NELSON, Deceased.
Case No.: 25 PR 6
NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES
Notice is given to Francisco Lopez-
Arau, who is an heir or legatee in the
above proceeding to probate a will and
whose name and address is not stated
in the Petition to Admit the Will to
Probate, that an order was entered by
the court on January 27, 2025, admit-
ting the will to probate.
Within 42 days after the effec-
tive date of the original order of admis-
sion you may file a petition with the
court to require proof of the will by tes-
timony of the witnesses to the will in
open court or other evidence, as pro-
vided in section 6-21 of the Probate
Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21).
You also have the right under
Section 8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975
(755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity
of the Will by filing a petition with the
court within 6 months after admission
of the Will to Probate.
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 ser-
vice provider. Visit [http://www.illinois-](http://www.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm)
[courts.gov/service-providers.htm](http://www.illinois-courts.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-](http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp)
[courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp), or talk
with your local circuit clerk's office.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2025.

Attorney McInerney
files Coldwater
estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF LARRY L. COLDWATER
Deceased; No. 2024PR709
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of
the death of Larry L. Coldwater.
Letters of Office were issued to Julia
M. Baum-Coldwater whose address is
26737 S. Coldwater Road, Elwood, IL
60421 as Independent Representative
whose attorney of record is McInerney
Law Office, P.C., 604 Bedford Road,
Suite B, Morris, Illinois 60450.
The estate will be administered
without court supervision, unless
under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act
of 1975 any interested person termi-
nates 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 Circuit Clerk's Office,
Will County Courthouse, 3208
McDonough St, Joliet, IL 60431 or with
the representative, or both, on or
before the 22nd day of July, 2025, or if
mailing or delivery of a notice from the
representative is required by Sec. 18-
3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date
stated in that notice. Any claim not
filed on or before that date is barred.
Copies of a claim filed with the clerk
must be mailed or delivered by the
claimant to the representative and to
the attorney within ten (10) days after
it has been filed.
McInerney Law Office, P.C.
604 Bedford Road, Suite B
Morris, IL 60450
Phone: 815-616-7823
Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 29
and Feb. 5, 2025.

Attorney McGrath files
Nelson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PROBATE DIVISION
In the Matter of the Estate of
THOMAS H. NELSON, Deceased.
Case No.: 25 PR 6
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of
the death of THOMAS H. NELSON, of
Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were
issued January 27, 2025, to
LAWRENCE HAYWOOD, as
Independent Executor whose address
is 2426 Daniel Lewis Dr., New Lenox,
IL 60451, whose attorney of record is
TIMOTHY J. MCGRATH, of 440 S.
State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442.
The estate will be administered with-
out court supervision unless under
Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL
Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par.
5/28-4) any interested person termi-
nates independent administration by
mailing or delivering a petition to ter-
minate to the clerk.
Claims against the estate may be
filed with the Clerk of the Court at the
Will County Courthouse, 100 W.
Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432,
or with the representative, or both, on
or before the August 5, 2025, or 3
months from the date of mailing or
delivery, whichever is later, and that
any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed or deliv-
ered by the claimant to the represen-
tative and to the attorney within ten
(10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory with
limited exemptions. To e-file, you must
first create an account with an e-filing
service provider. Visit [http://www.illinois-](http://www.illinois-courts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp)
[courts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinois-courts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp) or talk
with your local circuit clerk's office.
If you cannot e-file, you may be able to
get an exemption that allows you to file
in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit
clerk for more information or visit
www.illinoislegalaid.org.
Lawrence Haywood,
Independent Executor of the Estate of
Thomas H. Nelson, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Feb. 5, 12 and 19, 2025..

Attorney Wharrie files
Tyler estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF GRUNDY
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN RE: THE ESTATE OF
DALE EDWARD TYLER,
Deceased
Case No.: 2025PR7
**NOTICE FOR PROBATION
WILLS AND CLAIMS**
Notice is given of the death of
DALE EDWARD TYLER. Letters of
office were issued on January 24,
2025, to PATRICK A. WINCHELL, 450
Lake St., South Wilmington, IL 60474
and KEVIN MICHAEL WINCHELL,
301 N. Merrill St., Braceville IL 60407,
whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie,
Wharrie Kielan, P.C., 105 S.
Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.
Notice is given to all known and
unknown heirs that the estate will be
administered without court supervi-
sion, unless under 755 ILCS 5 28-4,
any interested person terminates inde-
pendent administration at any time by
E-filing or delivering a Petition to
Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.
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 [http://efile.illinois-](http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm)
[courts.gov/service-providers.htm](http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm)
to learn more and to select a service
provider. If you need additional help or
have trouble E-filing, visit
<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp> or talk to your local
circuit clerk's office.
Claims against the estate may be
filed in the office of the Clerk of the
Probate Division, at Grundy County
Courthouse, 111 East Washington St.,
Morris, IL 60450 or with the repre-
sentative, or both, within 6 months
from the date of issuance of letters of
office. Any claim not filed within that
period is barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed or deliv-
ered to the representative and to the
attorney within 10 days after it had
been filed.
Dated: January 27, 2025
PATRICK A. WINCHELL and
KEVIN MICHAEL WINCHELL,
CO-Independent Executors
Larry G. Wharrie
Attorney for: Estate of
DALE EDWARD TYLER
105 S. Broadway,
Coal City, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8990
E-mail: attyLGW@gmail.com
ARDC #2996146
Published in the Coal City
Courant on Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and 12,
2025.



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Sheriff's sale of 1222 Park Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
STATE OF ILLINOIS }
COUNTY OF WILL } SS.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
Jacqueline Hambrick; O'Dekirk, Allred and Associates, LLC; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendant.
No. 22 FC 0293
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 20th day of April, 2023, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 27th day of February, 2025, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:
LOT 52 IN LAVITA SHORES, UNIT NO. 1, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE EAST 1/2 OF THE WEST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JULY 25, 1958, IN PLAT BOOK 31, PAGE 13, AS DOCUMENT NO. 853526, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 1222 Park Dr, Wilmington, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: N/A
P.I.N.: 03-17-36-303-025-0000
Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.
In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.
Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.
FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170
DULUTH, GA 30097
P: 708-668-4410 X 52109
Plaintiff's Attorney
Mike Kelley
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 5, 22 and 19, 2025.

The possibilities of storing CO2 inside concrete, plastics

Dear EarthTalk: Is it really possible to store large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO2) in building materials like concrete and plastic? If so, why don't we do more of it already?
- P.L., via email



The construction industry, a major contributor to carbon emissions, has an untapped potential to become a powerful ally in fighting climate change.

By incorporating carbon-storing materials like concrete, bio-based plastics and asphalt, it's possible to transform buildings into carbon "sinks" and work toward meeting the 1.5°C global warming target established in the Paris Agreement in

2015. Concrete, the world's most-used building material, offers significant potential for carbon sequestration. Researchers are exploring "carbonated aggregates" which are materials infused with CO2 during production, that can enhance carbon storage.

Professor Sabbie Miller of UC Davis says, "The potential is pretty large. If feasible, a little bit of storage in concrete could go a long way." Studies suggest including carbon-storing aggregates in just 10 percent of concrete could sequester up to a gigaton of CO2 annually.

Other materials, like bio-based plastics and wood, also show promise. Bio-based plastics, derived from biomass, can store CO2 during production, offering a green alternative to petroleum-based plastics.

And sustainably sourced wood retains



BY STORING CO2 in concrete, bio-plastic & asphalt, we can transform buildings into carbon "sinks" to help meet emissions reduction goals.

carbon absorbed during the tree's growth, providing a natural reservoir when used in construction. Asphalt innovations further contribute by including CO2 in road materials.

These advancements have both ecological and economic benefits. Carbon-storing solutions promote an economy that reuses resources and

reduces waste by reducing emissions associated with traditional materials. They also promote green industries and jobs.

Professor Miller notes, "These new processes would enhance material value, creating economic growth while promoting circular economy practices."

However, challenges remain. Scaling

these solutions requires significant investment, and industry inertia and higher initial costs slow adoption. Ensuring the long-term stability of stored carbon also has technical hurdles. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that utilizing carbon-storing materials is crucial for meeting the

1.5°C climate goal by actively removing CO2 from the atmosphere.

By integrating carbon-storing materials into construction, we can drastically reduce emissions, foster sustainable industries and create a greener future. To support this transition, advocate for policies promoting low-carbon materials and educate others about their benefits.

Opt for sustainable materials in personal projects and encourage their use in local developments. And push for increased investment in technologies that make carbon sequestration feasible on a global scale. Together, these actions can transform the construction industry from a carbon emitter into a solution for climate change.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

Lewis University dean's list

Just over 1,700 students were honored on the Lewis University Dean's List for the 2024 Fall Semester. To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester with a grade point average of at least 3.5 and with no "D" or "F" grades.

Local students included in the recognition are: Eden Przybylski, Arthur Roberts, Victoria Loomis, Wesley Shats all of Braidwood, Donald Livingston, Alyssa Cirrencione, David Robbins all of Coal City, Haley McMurtrey of Diamond, Arista Brozovich and Samantha Poyner of Mazon, Morgan Stenberg, Maja Pazdziora, Ilias Yeck all of Wilmington.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
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The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 1222 Park Dr, Wilmington, IL 60481 (N/A). On the 27th day of February, 2025 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC Plaintiff V. Jacqueline Hambrick; O'Dekirk, Allred and Associates, LLC; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants** Defendant.

Case No. 22 FC 0293 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal

fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 10700 ABBOTT'S BRIDGE RD SUITE 170 DULUTH, GA 30097 P: 708-668-4410 X 52109 F:**

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., February 5, 12 & 19, 2025.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 425 W Anndon Rd., Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family). On the 20th day of February, 2025 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Financial Plus Credit Union Plaintiff V. Lisa M Emery** Defendant.

Case No. 24 FC 0460 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments

and legal fees required by sub-divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condo-minium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Heavner Beyers and Mihlar LLC 111 E. Main Street, Decatur, Illinois 62523 P: 217-422-1719 F: 217-422-1754**

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., Jan. 29 & Feb. 5 and 12, 2025.

EVENTS

GUN SHOW: February 7-8, 2025, Badger Military Collectible & Military Firearms Show Waukesha Expo, 1000 Northview RD, Waukesha, WI. Fri 3-8pm, Sat 9am-4pm, \$10 (Under 14 FREE) Buy/Sell, 608-752-6677 www.bobandroc.com

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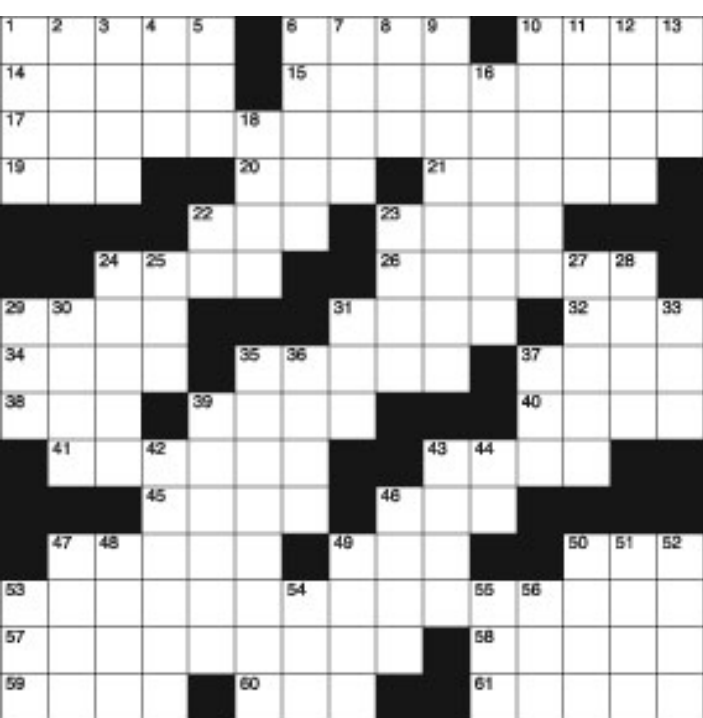
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6. Cook
10. Manning and Wallach are two
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15. A way to fill up
17. What MLers hope to play in
19. Unhappy
20. Indefinite period of time
21. Excites

22. Males
23. Mongol leader Genghis
24. Turfs
26. Soda comes in them
29. Not nice
31. Professional organization
32. Part of a play
34. Sea eagle
35. Emily Blunt's character in "Sicario"
37. Beige
38. Mental sharpness

39. Valley
40. Alcione's husband
41. A place to gamble
43. Flightless Australian birds
45. Call out somebody's name over a P.A. system
46. US spy group
47. Pancakes from buck-wheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Disfigure
53. Have surgery



57. Formal withdrawal
58. Early English council
59. Square measures
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Siskel and ____, critics

CLUES DOWN
1. Mouths
2. Buffalo
3. You plug it in
4. Each
5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
6. King of Thebes
7. English name meaning "mythical hunter"
8. Indicates near
9. More herbaceous
10. Gas-powered cars need one
11. Dishonest individual
12. Systems, doctrines, theories
13. The woman
16. The whole of one's holdings
18. Witnesses
22. Doctor
23. Paul ____, Swiss painter
24. Kids look for him on December 24
25. Single
27. Competitions
28. Predict the future
29. Cage for trained hawks
30. Musician Clapton
31. Frozen water
33. Semi-formal men's evening attire
35. Most worn
36. Common soap ingredient
37. Former EU monetary unit
39. Provisions
42. Book parts
43. Republic of Ireland
44. Partner to "Pa"
46. Sammy ____, songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Clare Booth ____, American writer
49. Solar disk in Egyptian mythology
50. Minute arachnid
51. From a distance
52. Monthly apartment cost
53. Young women's association
54. Tourist destination
55. "Woman" in Ojibwe language
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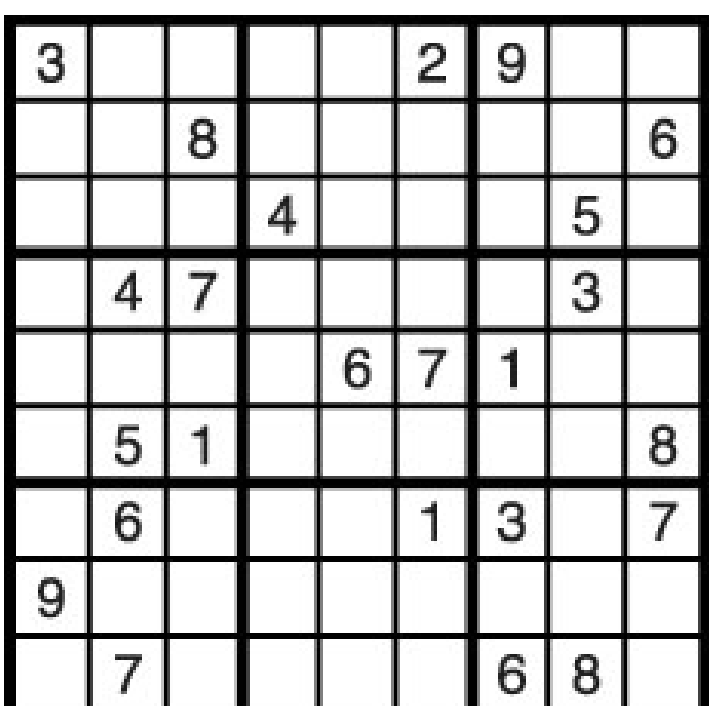
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WILDCAT SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

GRABBING A REBOUND for the Lady Wildcats on Thursday is senior Skylar Rossow.

Lady 'Cats suffer a pair of losses

The Lady Wildcats' hopes of knocking off conference-leading Coal City started right on Thursday. But in the end it was the visitors who won, 40-24, as Wilmington got caught too often while applying a full

court press.

The Lady 'Cats owned a 6-3 lead after the opening quarter before Coal City pulled in front 16-13 at the half. The Lady Coalers went on a 24-11 run in the second half to put the game out of reach.

Sophomore Sami Liaromatis paced the Lady 'Cats with 14 points. Nikki Quigley was next with four points while Melia Hincherrick, Nina Egizio and Taylor Stefancic finished with two points each.

Skylar Rossow led Wilmington in rebounds with seven.

On Monday Wilmington suffered a 26-23 loss at Lisle after scoring only two points in the third period.

Both teams struggled to score in the second half as the hosts had five points during each of the third and fourth quarters while Wilmington had two and six.

Wilmington upended Herscher 44-37 the Monday before thanks to balanced scoring from seven different Lady 'Cats.

Liaromatis led her team with 14 points including 8-for-11 at the free throw line. Rossow chipped in with 11 points and six rebounds while Stefancic sank a pair of three-pointers to finish with eight.

Egizio contributed six points while Anna Morgan and Quigley put up two points each.

Wilmington's record is 18-7 overall and 7-5 in the conference as they travel to Peotone Thursday, host Morris at 11:30 a.m. Saturday and host Streator Monday.



Photo by Eric Fisher

SHOOTING FOR TWO points in the middle of the lane is Wilmington senior Anna Morgan.



Photo by Eric Fisher

WILMINGTON SENIOR Alaina Clark drives the ball down the lane while being pressured by Coal City's Sydney Larson on Thursday.



Photo by Elaine Fisher

CHARGING TO the basket for the Wildcats is senior Hunter Osipavicius.

Hot-handed trio lead 'Cats to victory

The Wildcats had three players in double figures on Friday when they upended Clifton Central on the road, 58-50.

Junior Ryan Kettman paced Wilmington with 16 points and nine rebounds as the Wildcats improve to 15-8 overall, 5-5 in the conference.

Senior Lucas Rink drained four three-pointers to finish with 14 points. Ryan Nelson worked hard for 10 points while grabbing seven boards.

Scoring eight points was sophomore Brysen Meents while Kyle Farrell tallied six points and Declan Moran four.

It was the second straight win for the 'Cats as they won Tuesday's home game against Herscher, 51-37.

Wilmington came out shooting, jumping to a 14-5 lead before Herscher closed the gap to 27-21 at the break. The Wildcats went on a 24-16 run in the second half to ice the win.

Rink had the hot hand making seven treys to lead his team with 21 points. Meents had an impressive game with 12 points including 4-for-5 at the line and eight rebounds. Nelson scored 10 points and grabbed six rebounds, Farrell had five points and Kettman two.

On Friday the 'Cats host Lisle, a team they beat earlier this season 55-48. On Feb. 12 they travel to Indian Creek.



Photo by Elaine Ohlund

FROM THE CORNER is Wilmington senior Lucas Rink attempting a three-pointer. Rink made four treys against Clifton Central.

WMS spikers earn some wins

The Lady Cats of the Wilmington Middle School volleyball teams faced some great competition this week with Gardner South Wilmington on Monday and Channahon on Tuesday.

In 8th grade action, the team lost to GSW 14-25, 9-25. Nadine Liguide led defensively with 15 digs, 1 ace and 1 assist. Kelsie Roeder led at the net with 2 blocks and a kill, while Lillian Govero and Kaydee Sogale both added a block each.

Izzy Edgeworth had 3 aces, 3 digs and an assist. Against Channahon: 25-18, 12-25, 12-25, Liguide rallied 25-18, 3 assists, 1 ace and a kill. Aby Winker had 7 digs to go with her 4 kills and 2 aces. Right behind her was Chesnee Geiss with 6 digs, 3 assists and 2 aces.

Seventh grade went 1-1 for the week beating GSW (25-18, 25-15) but losing to

Channahon (17-25, 17-25). Kenzie Lupinski led with 5 aces and 2 digs. Bristol Billingsley was close behind her with 3 aces and Holly Holm added another 2 aces and 2 digs. Against Channahon, Lupinski led again with 4 aces. Aubrey Ptacek had 4 digs in the back row. Skylar Boersma had another solo block and a dig.

Sixth grade won against GSW at both the A and B level. The A team won 25-19, 25-15. Grace Keane led the way defensively with 13 digs but both Maeve Bryant and Brooke Dickover were right behind her with 12 each.

Emily Van Duyne also had 11 digs and 3 aces while Aryanna Princko led with 4 aces.

The B team won 25-19, 25-19 with Aria Jandeska leading the way with 7 digs and 4 aces. Madison Smith had 6 digs and an

ace. Keely Henke and KJ Skole both had 3 aces and 3 digs each.

Against Channahon, the A team lost 12-25, 20-25 but Van Duyne kept it close by having 15 digs.

Dickover also added another 11 digs and 5 kills. Bryant had 3 aces. The B team also lost 15-25, 15-25, but Jandeska had 7 digs while Sutton Proctor added another 5 and Smith 4 digs.

They finished off the week by both teams defeating Elwood. A team won 25-10, 25-20. Dickover was on fire with 10 aces and 3 digs.

Van Duyne also added another 6 aces and 3 digs. Maeve Beasley had 3 aces. The B team won 25-14, 25-22. Both Smith and Jandeska had 3 aces and 4 digs each. Proctor had 4 aces and digs. Sophia Romano ended the night with 3 aces