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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH in Wilmington will “amalgamate” or merge with the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood as part of a restructuring plan of catholic churches under the direction of the Diocese of Joliet. St. Rose of Lima Parish formed in Wilmington in 1855 and ground was broken for the “new church” on Aug. 13, 1880. The church was dedicated seven years later on June 5, 1887.

Diocese of Joliet announces closings, mergers for area Catholic churches

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Bishop Ronald Hicks, head of the Diocese of Joliet, announced Thursday the closing of four churches—including two in our area. The closures are part of the third phase of the diocese's restructuring. St. Lawrence O'Toole Chapel in Essex and St. Patrick in Manhattan, will close effective July 1. St. Patrick will be merged into St. Joseph of Manhattan.

In December 2024, Hicks expressed his thoughts and concerns about the restructuring. “I wish the reality and data were different,” Hicks said. “I wish we didn't have to make a lot of these hard decisions.”

Hicks outlined the decisions during a statement that detailed the future of 22 sites across DuPage, Grundy, and southern Will Counties, as part of Phase 3 of the diocese's plan.

The initiative was spurred by declining Mass attendance, financial challenges and the need to address the availability of clergy.

“Change is hard,” Bishop Hicks acknowledged. “These decisions may affect where you worship, how far you need to drive to attend Mass, and what you consider to be your intimate faith community.”

For residents of Wilmington, Braidwood, Coal City, South

Wilmington, Essex, and Wilton Center, these changes represent a significant shift in how local Catholic communities will operate.

In addition to the closing of the parishes in Essex and Manhattan, the restructuring, the following parishes will participate in the third and final phase of targeted restructuring:

- St. Rose of Lima, Wilmington
- Assumption, Coal City
- St. Lawrence, South Wilmington
- St. Joseph, Manhattan

The following changes will be effective as of July 1:

Immaculate Conception Parish in Braidwood will remain as a worship site, but be extinguished as a separate parish and be united with St. Rose of Lima Parish in Wilmington.

Sacred Heart in Kinsman will amalgamate into Assumption Parish in Coal City, with Sacred Heart retaining worship site status as part of Assumption.

St. Mary in Reddick will merge with St. Lawrence Parish in South Wilmington, but retain status as a worship site.

“I don't want to be the bishop who buried his head in the sand and kicked the can down the road,” Bishop Hicks said. “We have to make some of these hard and unpopular decision for the good of the wider church.”

Bishop Hicks emphasized that the restructuring process was deliberate and inclusive, involving clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners.

The restructuring decisions were made based on demographic trends, financial data, Mass attendance, and input from Catholic Leadership Institute consultants and the Diocese's Targeted Restructuring Committee (TRC).

“That means you will no longer have pastors who are asked to lead two or more parishes,” Bishop Hicks said. “My hope is to support a local church that is thriving and growing.”

The restructuring process will also involve reassignments of priests within the diocese, with those decisions to be announced by June 1, 2025.

Bishop Hicks urged parishioners to embrace the changes with an open heart and to welcome members from other parishes into their communities.

“My obligation as your bishop is to remain attentive to our pastoral needs and the shifting needs of our faithful and surrounding demographics,” he said.

Additional details may be found on the Diocese of Joliet's website under the “Targeted Restructuring for Parishes and Schools” under the News, Events, & Multimedia tab.

Here's the scoop

Culver's to build new restaurant

BY MICHAEL LOOMIS
CORRESPONDENT

New dining options are on the way for Diamond residents, with two regional chain restaurants tentatively set to begin construction this spring.

Culver's Restaurant, popular for its frozen custard, butterburgers and chees curds, and Heroes West both plan to open new locations near each other on Route 113.

“The permit for Heroes West is ready to be issued,” said Village of Diamond Planning and Zoning Coordinator Cindy Atwood Tuesday, adding that plans submitted by Culver's are still in the review stage.

The two new eateries will be separated only by an undeveloped lot. Culver's will be at the southeast corner of Route 113 and Will Road, while Heroes West will be just east of that in the same shopping center as the Jewel Osco.

Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc said the addition of more restaurants is an encouraging sign for the

area's local economy.

“It's going to help with pulling more people off the highway in ways we never did before. We want them to stay in town longer and give them more options that will keep them interested in Diamond,” the mayor said.

Founded in 1984 in Sauk City, Wis., Culvers has 139 restaurants in Illinois. According to the company's website, each location employs between 30 and 75 people and has seating for 98 to 118 guests.

Heroes West has locations in Lemont and Joliet. Owner Robert Taft said that if weather conditions are favorable, groundbreaking for the restaurant in Diamond will be in mid-March.

“If all goes as planned, it will be a mid-summer opening. The Heroes West in Diamond will be 9,000 square feet, have multiple bars, a private party room with its own bar in it, an outdoor dining area and once we fully staff up, open for breakfast with a drive-through pick up window,” Taft said.

Bird flu infecting poultry, pets, and even humans

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Bird flu has been in the news a lot over the past several months. Scientifically, bird flu is known as Influenza A virus subtype H5N1. Bird flu has been blamed for the skyrocketing cost of eggs and thousands of avian deaths, but just how common is it, and is there a significant risk of human infection?

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports 11,000 detections of the virus in wild birds since 2022. According to the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources there have been 144 incidents of bird flu in the state since Dec. 3, 2024.

Closer to home, bird flu appears to be relatively uncommon, it's appears to be rare among wild birds in Illinois and even less prevalent in southern Will County.

Mazonia-Braidwood Wildlife Area

Todd Lamping, Site Technician at Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area confided that he hasn't found dead birds

at Mazonia-Braidwood State Fish and Wildlife Area. Nor have hunters reported problems with waterfowl harvested.

“Our waterfowl season was just over on Jan. 31, when it was the end of goose season,” Lamping said. “Many hunters came through this site from start to finish. They never had any signs of bird flu that they encountered.”

As a site manager, Lamping said he and his colleagues are vigilant in keeping an eye on bird populations.

According to the CDC, waterfowl, especially ducks, geese, and swans, are particularly susceptible to infection, and those involved in the maintenance of sites habituated by waterfowl tend to be hyper-aware of conditions.

“We pay attention to this, and all I can say is we've never found any dead

SEE BIRD FLU PAGE 2



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Bird flu, continued from page 1

geese or dead ducks anywhere ,” Lamping said.

Goose Lake Prairie

Jerry McConnell serves as the ranger of the Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area. Like Todd Lamping, he hasn't come across confirmed or even suspected cases of bird flu.

“We haven't gotten reports about cases from the biologists or law enforcement, and I'm the ranger, and I'd get those reports,” McConnell said. “Our waterfowl season ended on January 31, and there was nothing reported or suspicious that I saw.”

Risk to poultry

While Illinois wild ducks and geese may appear healthy, the same may prove true for poultry. On Jan. 22, a family-owned farm in Matteson, IL, Kakadoodle Farm, lost nearly 3,000 laying hens.

Farm owners Marty and Marikate Thomas discovered 30 dead hens. By the end of the day, those 30 turned into hundreds of birds, all dead.

The USDA was called in to investigate. Inspectors arrived in hazmat suits to assess the situation. The chickens were found to be infected with bird flu. The agency surmised that wild birds had shed the virus in the farm's supply of poultry feed.

Risks to pets and humans

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is warning visitors to refrain from touching or getting near dead or sick animals. Pets should also be prevented from getting near carcasses, feces or feathers.

“Although health agencies say animal to human transmission is rare, we want all visitors to the forest preserves to use the utmost caution when seeing dead or sick wildlife,” said Cindy Wojdyla Cain, the Forest Preserve's public information officer. "Avoid the animals themselves, and also any feces or feathers associated with them."

The CDC has confirmed 67 cases of bird flu in humans, with none so far in Illinois. There has been one death associated with bird flu in the United States.

To date, the following cases have been reported by the CDC as of Feb. 5:

- 11,627 wild birds
- Nearly 154 million poultry
- 956 dairy herds
- 16 states with outbreaks in dairy cows

Preventing human cases

The University of Chicago recommends the following steps to prevent bird flu in humans:

- Stay away from sick or dead birds.
- Do not touch birds, and especially not bird droppings.
- Wash hands frequently and thor-

oughly.

- Only buy eggs that have been refrigerated, and store them in your refrigerator for up to three weeks. Pasteurized eggs are safest.

- Refrigerate and cook eggs, meat, and poultry. Poultry and eggs should be cooked until an internal temperature of 165 is reached. Beef products should reach a safe internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Avoid raw milk and milk products. Pasteurization kills the bird flu virus.
- Pasteurized egg products like liquid egg whites are considered safe, since pasteurization kills the virus.

Preventing bird flu in pets

According to the FDA, cats are particularly susceptible to bird flu, and care should be taken not to expose cats to the virus. Dogs may also develop bird flu, but the infection tends to be milder in dogs.

Investigations indicate transmission of bird flu to pets through food may be deadly. This includes undercooked or raw meats and unpasteurized milk. Contaminated feed and water, especially on farms, is also a source of transmission.

Cats and dogs should be kept indoors and avoid contact with dead animals and feces.

Bird feeders

The Forest Preserve District shares that songbirds are less likely to be affected, but wildlife agencies recommend regular cleaning of bird feeders to prevent the spread of all pathogens, including salmonella. There is no recommendation at this time to take down bird feeders.

How bird flu spreads

Bird flu mainly affects wild waterfowl such as ducks and geese. Most wild birds don't get sick, but can still circulate and carry the viruses during migration, infecting other birds.

In wild birds and poultry bird flu is most often spread through oral-to-fecal routes, birds feeding where others have defecated. The virus is also spread through saliva, nasal and eye secretions, and may transmit from animal-to-animal. Consuming the corpse of an infected dead bird.

If you need to remove a dead bird from private property, the Illinois Department of Public Health recommends wearing rubber gloves and a mask. Double-bag it in sealed plastic bags. The bags can be buried away from scavengers or placed in the garbage

Anyone who sees five or more sick or dead wild birds should report the information to USDA Wildlife Services at 866-487-3297. Reports also can be called in to the Forest Preserve District at 815-727-8700.



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE PARK GEESE are healthy enough to take up daily visits with the Gemini Giant as of late. Last week they crossed from the North Island to the south park, halting traffic across Highway 53 for a few minutes, where they discovered the Route 66 icon. While reports of the avian flu killing flocks of waterfowl in other parts of the state, the park geese have so far been spared.

Street repairs coming when the weather improves

Construction crews are hoping for a break in the weather later this week to begin the final phase of the Wilmington downtown infrastructure improvement project.

This phase includes work on North Main Street and North Kankakee Street from Route 53 to Canal Street.

Improvements will include water main replacement, water service replacements, storm sewer improvements and curb repair.

Full re-paving of north Main Street and north Kankakee Street will be done once the infrastructure work is completed.

The parking lot for public use in the 100 block of N. Main Street will also be resurfaced.

James Gretencord, director of Public Works for the City of Wilmington, is urging motorists to avoid these North Main and Kankakee streets if possible. Long-term improve-

ments may cause short-term inconveniences.

All work is anticipated to be completed by May

30, 2025.

If you have any questions, contact Public Works at 815-476-3104.

Submit questions for Meet the Candidates night

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a Meet the Candidates night so the public can ask questions of candidates running for the mayor and city aldermen.

Three candidates running for mayor are incumbent Ben Dietz, former Mayor Roy Strong and former building inspector Jayson Walinski. They have been invited to attend the gathering on Monday, March 3, beginning at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post 5422, 557 W. Baltimore St.,

Wilmington.

The Chamber is inviting questions from the public to be asked of the three candidates for mayor. The chamber will ask the most pertinent questions first to help voters decide who they want to lead City Hall for the next four years.

Submit your question by Feb. 28 to the Wilmington Chamber, 616 Davy Lane, Wilmington, IL 60481 or online through the Chamber's Facebook page by personal message.

Be sure to indicate if a question is directed at a particular candidate.

Opposing races for alderman include: First ward—incumbent Ryan Jeffries against former alderman and past mayor Marty Orr; Second ward—incumbent Ryan Knight vs. Bob E. Thomas; and Fourth ward—incumbent Thomas Smith vs. Jacob Ragan.

Third ward alderman Jonathan Mietzner is running unopposed.

Questions can be presented at the start of the event, written on a 4x6 index card.

The VFW kitchen will be open from 4 - 7:30 to accept food orders.

Attorney Vazquez files DeLapp estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

NO. 2025 PR 24

Estate of Lee Steven DeLapp, Deceased.

DEATH AND PROBATE NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Lee Steven DeLapp. Letters of Office were issued on February 3, 2025, to Nichole DeGroot, 663 Madere Street, Rio Vista, CA 94571, as representative.

The estate will be administered without Court Supervision, unless under section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the court clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of Andrea Lynn Chasteen, Circuit Court Clerk, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before the 19th day of August, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of this notice form the personal representative is required under by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, the date state in that notice.

Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and the attorney for the Estate within 10 days after it has been filed with the court 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.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.

Nichole DeGroot, Representative

Attorney Staci L. Vazquez (6339790)
Geiger Vazquez LLC
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Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-5072
staci@gdv-law.com
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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 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 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 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.illinoislegalsaid.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 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, admitting the will to probate.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 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 service provider. Visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

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

Strong named to dean's list

Emma Grace Strong of Wilmington, a sophomore attending Illinois College in Jacksonville, IL, has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List.

Candidates for the Dean's List must post a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. All grades must be "C" or better, no more than one "C" grade is allowed and the student must have no "Incomplete" grades.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Appearing in person for your entertainment pleasure

With all the means we have for electronic entertainment such as YouTube, Pandora, Netflix, etc. you would think that going to a live show would have gone out of style. However, concerts and live plays still sell out, i.e. Hamilton. Yes, there is nothing like the real thing. And so it was in the 19th century.

Every small town had an "opera house" or like Wilmington, an Empire Hall that had a stage and everything required to put on not only plays, but all kinds of entertainments from classical music to black-faced minstrel shows to plays.

In addition, each town had a local band or orchestra that traveled to private and public parties alike. We read in April of 1878 in the Joliet Sun, "Dorre's orchestra goes to Wilmington this evening to play for another party. Wilmington has more parties than any other city of its size in Illinois, and nicer too."

Dances sponsored by local groups kept Empire Hall lively as well; we read on December 5, 1879, in the Wilmington Advocate, "The Young Men's Social Club had a nice dance at Empire Hall on Friday evening. Some 30 couples were on hand - on foot, rather -



Sandy Vasko

including several guests from Joliet. The happy affair terminated at about one o'clock." And, "The America Hose Company will give its first annual ball at Empire Hall on New Year's night. Competent committees have the matter in charge and will doubtlessly make a success of it. The proceeds will be used in providing a suitable uniform for the boys that run the "masheen."

However, it was the professional traveling shows that people flocked to see at Empire Hall. In 1877 a magician traveling the circuit came to Wilmington directly from his shows at the Opera House in Joliet. His reviews were over the top.

We read in the February 27, 1877 Joliet Signal; "The exhibitions of Cazenueve, the magician, at the opera house last week, set the whole city agog. He left Joliet with a very mixed reputation, some believing him a man of astounding skill and of consummate science, others declaring him a confirmed spiritualist and a medium of the first water."

"Others again wagged their heads solemnly and declared that he was a plenipotentiary of the Prince of Darkness; some asserted, with considerable force, that he is a material-

ized electrical phenomenon; readers of Darwin and other gifted people settled it, to their satisfaction, at least, that beyond a doubt he is an evolved projection into the future capabilities of a higher order of existence, although the "boys" facetiously claim that he is a bully three-card monte man, an escaped member of the Louisiana Returning Board, etc., etc."

"Cazenueve deserves all that can be said of him, and more. A man who, right under the observers' eyes, can make material objects suddenly vanish without apparent aid; who can make those same objects grow small and beautifully less until they become utterly invisible, like the Irishman's pig; who can shoot cards through glass without injuring the latter; who can turn dry coffee beans into steaming, fragrant coffee, by simply placing them in a cup and looking at them; who can play on three of four musical instruments simultaneously with his hands tied behind him and to a post, tied by the neck to the same post, and his feet and knees bound; who has a wife who in one minute and a half after her appearance on the stage can be found tied up in a sack, within a trunk, which, before her appearance, had been thoroughly examined by our most reliable citizens, locked and double locked, bound with ropes and sealed and then placed in an outer trunk which was secure in like

manner, and disturb not a lock or rope or seal - the man who does these and many other wonderful deeds can afford to be misrepresented."

That was a hard act to follow, but follow they did. Every week, entertainment companies got off the train headed for Empire Hall. We read about one of these in December of 1879, "Fanny May's Parisian Folly company (what's in a name, anyway?) played at Empire Hall last night to quite a goodly sized audience. It is said that all the bald headed men in town were there, and assigned front seats. The performance was of the female minstrel order accompanied with clog dancing and tableaux."

In March of 1880, a troupe of real Black entertainers played the Hall, and was giving high billing. "Sprague's Original Georgia Minstrels are billed to appear in this city on Tuesday night next. The company comprises 18 "Famous Colored Artists," the bill says. According to the Clipper and other recognized authorities this company is well up in reputation and worthy of general patronage."

But unfortunately they must have not have been that good because we read the following in the next week's paper, "The "moles" who were palmed off upon our people as Sprague's Original Georgia Minstrels made our amusement loving people twice glad this week - when they came and

when they left. When the Advocate recommends an entertainment as really meritorious and it fails to fill the bill properly, we feel cheap over the deception. Amid a flourish of trumpets and liberal advertising the above company was brought here under the name of a first class company, which remained in Chicago. While the performance here is said to have been like a mess of pork quotations - fair to middling - good judges think it would have been hissed off any stage in Chicago in very short order"

And it seems that they were not the only bad act, the following was from April of 1880

"It often serves our amusement going people right to be fleeced and humbugged. There was Wyman, the Wizard, on Wednesday night - one of the snidest things ever in Empire Hall. It would almost be advisable for the "gallery gods" of this town to organize and whenever they strike Sprague's hams," Celeste" or Wyman affairs to give 'em the run with all hisses they can produce. It would have a purifying effect on the stage in this place. We are glad that the courts



A PHOTO OF THE Great Cazenueve the magician who performed at Empire Hall in Wilmington to mixed reviews.

have decided that a person has just as much right to hiss an actor as to applaud."

With this bit of encouragement, a group of "critics" was formed, called the Gallery Gods, that made it their business to applaud or hiss, as they felt proper, every entertainment to come to Wilmington for the next five years. Empire Hall had become a tough house to play.

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.

WHS Student Council to host March 19 blood drive

The Wilmington High School Student Council will be hosting its annual blood drive on Wednesday, March 19 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the small gym, 209 Wildcat Court, Wilmington.

Blood donors can sign-up in advance through Versiti Blood Center of Illinois at https://donate-blood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11604489

Blood donors must be age 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in

good health and free from cold or flu symptoms on the day of donation. In Illinois, 16-year-olds may donate with written approval from a parent or guardian.

Donors 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.

Those who donate will be given a hat while supplies last.



REESE VAN DUYN plays a round of spikeball with her Best Buddy.



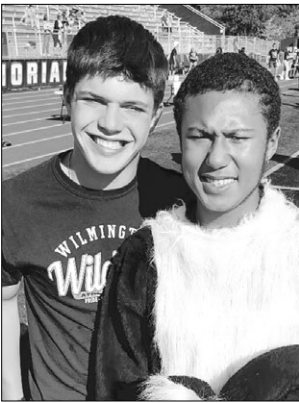
WHS SENIOR Alaina Clark (left) said she has learned a lot about life thanks to her Best Buddy.

Best Buddies making an impact on WHS students

BY BROOKLYN FLORES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Best Buddies is a friendship club at Wilmington High School dedicated to enhancing the lives of those with disabilities by providing opportunities for those with disabilities to develop one-on-one friendships as well as also teaching communication skills.

Best Buddies is the largest organization dedicated to ending the social stigma around those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



LOGAN VAN DUYN (left) and his best buddy have a little fun with the Willy Wildcat mascot costume.

Best Buddies joins together students from the Education Life Skills wing with Wilmington students. Members of interact club are partnered up with a SOWIC buddy to participate in numerous different activities. The club consists of around 40 students.

When asked why this club was brought to WHS, Nicole Csida, the head of WHS Best Buddies, said, "We wanted to start Best Buddies at WHS because our students are in separate hallways and don't really get to branch out and make other friends. Some of our kids go to regular PE class but that's it. We wanted to start Best Buddies so they could make connections and have a same-age peer friendship outside of the Education Life Skills class."

Twice a month the group meets and does a craft or activity in the cafeteria then later moves to the gym to have free time.

They usually start with a warm up activity such as a word search the head into the gym to choose from an array of different activities, like shooting hoops, kicking soccer balls, passing volleyballs or just walking and talking.

The club also participates in the annual Boilermaker Games. The Boilermaker games is like a Special Olympics game and activity day that takes place every year during one school day at Bradley High School. Buddies from all over the area come and participate in an array of competitions and activities. Best buddies is a beneficial program for both the SOWIC and interact students. You can see the impact this program has made in the school. When best buddies meetings are taking place you can tell by the laughter and joy coming from the gymnasium.

When asked to write a list of everything he was thankful for the only thing he wrote about was his buddies, playing basketball with his buddies and going to best buddies.

Another student said he only had one friend in his life and named his buddy.

The impact of the program is also apart during lunch periods. As some of the SOWIC students take up their lunch tray they always make sure to stop by their buddy and greet them with a "hi," a fist bump or a

high five.

Alaina Clark, a member of interact club shared her thoughts, saying, "Best buddies is such a rewarding club, I feel like I'm really making an impact on them, and I know they're making an impact on me."

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Handicapped parking

BRAIDWOOD—Just a friendly reminder handicap parking at the schools means handicap parking at all times. Multiple times a week I go to pick up my child after school and cars are parked in the handicap spots. I've also seen staff pull into them. Park in a regular spot even if it means you have to walk five extra feet.

Public right of way

BRAIDWOOD—There are currently two large campaign signs located at the Rt. 113 entrance to town near the Welcome to Braidwood sign. They are on a public right-of-way and not on private property. Would the candidate involved kindly remove them as it is very unprofessional to have campaign signs placed in public right-of-ways or easements.

Good riddance

CUSTER PARK—Thank you for the article about the solar farm cancellation and finding out that the solar company seems to have left town. It's a good thing that Accionna left town because there would be no end of problems if they followed through with the solar farm. It's about profit and not green energy. Also liked the article about bird flu and that it's probably not the reason that egg prices are so high. C.P.

Said no from day one

CUSTER TOWNSHIP—I was one of the property owners approached by Accionna about putting up solar panels on my land. I was skeptical four years ago when they first approached me. Now they are gone. To all you people who signed up, be thankful they pulled out now, not 10 years from now when all those panels would be left standing and a big mess to clean up in 20 years when they break down. I hope they never come back.

Confused caller

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling about the Feb. 5th article in sound-off titled "ignoring Constitution." Obviously the person that wrote that and the one I called in about Democracy is different than a Republic which this country is. This person does not have a clue to anything. I talked about him repeating Democracy three times in his past article. We are not a Democracy, we are a Republic. And they come back about reading the constitution and how Trump has already violated many amendments. That is not an answer to what I stated. Dan Hill

Because Elon cares

COAL CITY—I just want to let you know that Elon Musk is not getting paid by our government. He doesn't have to do this at all, but he cares about us. May God bless us all.

The lone no vote

COAL CITY—I was glad to read in the Courant that we have at least one member on the school board not afraid to speak their mind and vote no. So often they all just vote alike. But dumping money into that old building doesn't make sense when the District is already planning to build a new school anyway. I say build new and in the end save us taxpayers the money.

A standby victim

WILMINGTON—If it was God that saved Trump from that assassin's bullet why did God let the fireman die?

Misguided focus

WILMINGTON—I am so glad Trump and the Republicans have figured out that all of our problems can be solved by attacking trans people.

They don't care

COAL CITY—Our governor is planning on raising taxes again. But why is he doing this unless he needs more money for the migrants without any concern for Illinoisans or prices in the state of Illinois. It will cause us taxpayers to go further into poverty. The people from foreign lands are not American citizens and are not entitled to receive any taxpayer funds. It appears our governor likes aiding criminal activity and so do the people in Illinois congress. What are they really doing with the money except to give themselves raises? If they really want to balance the budget then they should cut back on their benefits and all their perks they receive. But our elected

public servants only have greed in their brains no matter how the American citizens suffer while they waste tons of money every year. How many elected public servants in Illinois really care about U.S. citizens? The answer in none.

Your appointments

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood's two Mayoral candidates absolutely need to disclose publicly before the election who they plan to appoint as their City Administrator, City Clerk and Police Chief. This is very important information that the voters need in order to make their decisions. Mayoral candidates try to wait and keep it a secret because they know that these three decisions could very well make or break their campaign, but after they get elected they seem to think that it doesn't matter to the voters, but it absolutely does. Mr. Lyons and Mrs. Hart, we'll be waiting for your answers.

In my prayers

WILMINGTON—First of all, I am a "conservative" Democrat who only wants what is best for America and it's legal patriotic American citizens. I see that many of you are constantly bashing President Trump, which is called Trump Derangement Syndrome. In medical terms, it is called "Brain Rot Disease", which it seems that many of you have. Also included is no logic and very little, if any, common sense. This disease is very contagious and there is no cure. It seems a person by the name of "Irene" has severe B.R.D. I will pray for all you Trump bashers and hope that maybe by some miracle that you all will get well.

Who's running?

BRAIDWOOD—I'm confused. There are three seats for election on April 1st and so far I've only seen the Truthseekers point out three people running. Lyons, the guy they call Moose and Dixon. Why have they not pointed out anyone else running? I thought one of them was running or is that Dixon? Where can I find a copy of the ballot we are voting for so we all can see who's running? And yes I've seen Mayor Heart signs. Can the paper please run an article on candidates.

King and his tyrants

BRAIDWOOD—We will not allow a twice impeached president, indicted four times, convicted of 34 felonies to treat our country like a banana republic and overtake it by coup. Not too long ago we were the strong and proud nation that helped other countries fight the greedy tyrants who robbed them of democracy and now our democracy is being robbed by a tyrant of our own. Trump has been a shameless con man his entire life and now uses his craft to form a cult around himself called MAGA which recruits cutthroats for Congress and brainwashes the masses. Trump has corrupted the Supreme Court for the purpose of gaining immunity as a king and he has chosen for his cabinet sycophants who are too incompetent to oust him by invoking the 25th amendment. Trump has sought the support of traitors hailing back to the miscreants of Nixon's Watergate days in addition to the scoundrels of today. And what advice is that? It's the practice of enhancing the rich by stealing from everyone else as well as rewriting American history and twisting America's future into something ugly. Oligarchs and kleptocrats were ousted from America long ago but Trump invites them back to swagger anew like the robber barons of old while the rest of us scrounge for crumbs. Yes, Trump is dragging us back, kicking and screaming, into the past inequalities of income, gender and race and we must fight until this charlatan is out of the Oval Office and in jail.

Sick of the waste

SHADOW LAKES—Every politician that has run for president has said the same thing: "I will end corruption, stop fraud and taxpayer waste, and this as far as it goes, talk. Now we have a president keeping his word and the Democrats are saying if you keep finding the truth we will call you names, stomp our feet and hold our breath. This is why you lost. The taxpayers are sick of government waste.

Girls sports neglected

BRAIDWOOD—Can someone from the BBSA answer a simple question? Why are you still running ads for boys baseball



but stopped registration for girls softball, a week early? It's been two weeks since you closed sign-ups yet you're still seeking players for boys teams. I'm pretty sure I know why. I've come to the conclusion this town doesn't care about girls sports. Starting with the school just ask anyone with girls who play sports in Braidwood.

What happens next

BRAIDWOOD—I'm not sure if Braidwood is having a meet the candidate night to ask questions, but if they are can someone please ask Moose why he resigned 2 years ago? Why we should vote for him after he vacated the same seat he's running for 2 years ago? And if Todd doesn't get elected mayor what's stopping him from resigning again because his friends not there?

Send them to mars

WILMINGTON—The irony is unmistakable between the selfish, egomaniac Trump on this side of the pond and the Royals of the U.K. who work tirelessly to help the less fortunate. In fact, Princess Kate, kindly and considerately, dropped her royal title and her security entourage during her visit to a primary school in order to put the children at ease. In contrast Trump has manipulated the corrupt Supreme Court to falsely make himself king through the immunity ruling which is unconstitutional but handy indeed when he illegally tears down foreign aid agencies which save lives around the world. Surveys from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicate that Americans, wrongly and begrudgingly, think that foreign aid makes up 30% of our budget. On the contrary, the total spent by all foreign aid organizations combined, not just USAID, is less than 1% of our budget. Moreover foreign aid is well spent for our national security because if we turn our back, then our enemies China, Russia, North Korea and others are eager to jump in, take our place giving aid and thereby gain influence in struggling countries. For 60 years America has been the respected world leader due to the soft power of aid. Sadly we no longer have that respect since Trump's presidency and we will pay the price with increased military involvement and the loss of precious American lives. The solution is for Trump, Musk and MAGA to take a rocket off to Mars and never come back. Irene

Little boy DOGE

WILMINGTON—When Musk brings his boy into the Oval Office, we think about children of his age living far away who are no longer helped by USAID. While Musk carries his son around the halls of government, families throughout the world who are just as important and just as worthy as the Musk family suffer from malnutrition and drink contaminated water and are now more helpless than ever since Musk became Trump's henchman. Is Musk pretending to make himself look kind by using his son as a prop? Does Musk think we will judge him any less harshly because of his affectionate displays toward his son? If so, it's not working. We've already heard about Musk's racist policies and his hardline treatment

against his employees. Go home, Musk, and let our country be. Think of the innocent people around the world who have suffered and died since the disastrous onset of you and your DOGE.

88 Indictments

RITCHIE—Are we living in Russia now? Trump, who promised to become our dictator on day one, has made his draconian declarations causing sheer devastation and making it feel like we're certainly not in America anymore. Most people are stunned and those fired from their jobs are reeling because their lives are destroyed by a guy indicted on 88 charges. How did Trump become president with this rap sheet? Ask the Republicans who claim to despise elite's, but that's exactly what Trump is, a spoiled brat born with a silver spoon in his mouth who prefers to use his gold-plated toilet. Trump has filed one bankruptcy after another in his lifetime because he's never been a smart businessman. Con man yes, smart businessman no. His three casinos failed in an industry where the house always wins which is well documented in books available at the public library. Unless of course, the books have been banned from the library already.

Crisis in Europe

BRAIDWOOD—How is the Ukraine-Russia treaty in Munich going? Shamefully. Due to the absence of Ukraine from the negotiating table, Zelensky is righteously furious that Trump and Hegseth have been conceding negotiating points before the Munich meeting ever got underway. Europe in general is spooked enough to realize that they can't trust Trump at all to have their backs which has prompted an emergency crisis meeting in Paris to take place on Monday for European countries with the deliberate exclusion of both Trump and Putin. Remember the 1987 book about Trump, The Art of the Deal, written by author Tony Schwartz who came to know Trump very well? Due to the talent of Schwartz the book became a bestseller, but Schwartz never admired Trump and Schwartz has stated publicly that western civilization would be destroyed if Trump would become president. It looks like Schwartz' prediction might be realized.

Relax Coal City

COAL CITY—To all the whiners, complainers and just unhappy people who write to the Sound-off give it a rest. People voted, they have spoken. Donald Trump is in and your president for the next four years, whether you like it or not. However if you are really so miserable about this fact you can always pack up your bags and leave America. You think you can get a better deal in Russia, Mexico, Ukraine, Germany or anywhere else? Go for it. However these countries won't let you in their borders or hand out goodies like America does. America is in a bit of a mess right now but it is going to get better with those who really love and care about America. Rome wasn't built in a day so just relax and quit complaining. You have too much time on your hands. Do something kind for someone in need.

Donate to replace the monument to Civil War veteran, Ira Temple



- 1862: Enlisted in company H, 100th Illinois Infantry ("Will County regiment.")
- 1863: taken prisoner at the Battle of Chickamauga.
- 1864: Died at/buried at Andersonville Prison.

A monument to his memory was erected years ago to Wilton Township Cemetery, and it is crumbling.

Please donate to replace this monument honoring our Will Co. Civil War veteran, Private Ira Temple.

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Thank You



With heartfelt sincerity, we would like to thank Reeves & Baskerville and Staff and the Hospice Care in Bourbonnais for the compassion and understanding in helping us with all the arrangements. Thank you to all the family & friends who showed up for the memorial and showed love and compassion in memory of Mary Bigham.

The Family of Mary Bigham

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held at various locations.

Tape the ends of all Lithium and rechargeable batteries to store them and to place them in collection boxes.

Later this year, more collection sites are expected to open that will accept all types of batteries.

Madigan pays the price while Blago gets full pardon

Mike Madigan knew for a very long time that the US Attorney's office and the FBI badly wanted to put his head on a spike.

It was no secret. Everybody knew it. Madigan was investigated over and over again, but nothing ever came of it.

"This was a guy they wanted to go after, and they gathered as much as they could against him and something stuck," the Madigan/McClain jury foreman told the Chicago Tribune.

After the now-pardoned Rod Blagojevich was arrested by the feds in a pre-dawn raid on unseemly corruption charges and was impeached by Madigan's House, then-Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn appointed a blue-ribbon committee to recommend ethics changes, chaired by former Assistant US Attorney Patrick Collins, who'd helped put George Ryan in prison.

Madigan had been



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

convinced that Blagojevich was a crook for several years. The House Speaker, for instance, would never agree to a major capital plan because he believed the governor and his pals would try to put their grubby paws

on every dollar.

But instead of focusing mainly on the executive branch – which had seen the indictments of two governors in a row by that time – the former prosecutor Collins' commission focused quite significant attention on the General Assembly, and on Madigan in particular.

Most folks just figured that Mike Madigan had avoided the long arm of federal law by being extra careful. And he may have been. But the arrogance of immense power apparently overrode his sense of self-preservation.

He paid a big price last week – two days after Blagojevich received a full pardon from President Donald Trump. Try to put that in a movie and they'd

tell you it just wasn't believable.

The jury believed the prosecution's (persuasive) arguments that Madigan knew of the move to put the Speaker's cronies into do-nothing ComEd-related jobs (four counts). Madigan's insanely unwise decision to associate himself with the widely known scumbag Danny Solis got him guilty verdicts on six more counts.

Madigan was convicted on 10 of 23 charges. It's possible that Madigan, 82, could spend the rest of his life in prison, while Blagojevich may end up serving as the US Ambassador to Serbia.

A few more points:

- The federal government's much-ballyhooed RICO charge against Mike Madigan and Mike McClain was rejected by jurors 11-1, the jury foreman told some Chicago news media outlets. The foreman told the Tribune that it was part of a "government overreach" against Madigan. The feds almost never lose racketeering cases, but most jurors apparently bought the defense argument that the US Attorney was prosecuting the Mike Madigan "myth" instead of Mike Madigan the man.

- I really thought the G had Madigan cold on the Chinatown thing. They had Madigan on tape numerous times talking with Solis and his consigliere Mike McClain about a land-transfer bill to help a favored developer buy a Chinatown parking lot and build a hotel and how that would result in a new law firm client.

But 10 out of 12 jurors apparently bought the argument that Madigan's longtime property tax law partner Bud Getzendanner had the final say over who would become a client, and that he would never approve a new client with state land transfer issues

before the House.

- Two federal trials have now directly addressed the AT&T charges. Both trials have resulted in hung juries on this topic.

Back in October of 2022, AT&T paid \$23 million and entered into a deferred prosecution agreement "to resolve a federal criminal investigation into alleged misconduct involving the company's efforts to unlawfully influence (Madigan)," the Justice Department declared at the time.

The feds put former AT&T Illinois president Paul La Schiazza on trial but the jury was unable to convict.

Madigan and McClain were also charged with participating in a bribery scheme in which La Schiazza hired former Rep. Eddie Acevedo (D-Chicago) for a no-show job to help the company pass a bill to exempt the company from having to provide universal landline service. The jury hung 10-2 in favor of acquittal.

The AT&T provision was included in an omnibus bill that had been painstakingly devised over a period of years, had bipartisan support and backing from organized labor, and, most importantly, was part of a 2017 effort to test whether Republicans would help break the notorious Bruce Rauner budget impasse, because the bill also included a 911 call center service fee increases. The bill passed, Rauner's veto was overridden, and a budget was approved shortly thereafter.

On this point, the feds truly did go after the myth and not the facts.

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

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Gas prices inching higher

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 3.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.25/g on Sunday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 1.2 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 24.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.8 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.632 per gallon.

Indeed, the rise in gas prices is reflected locally. You'll find no gas under \$3/g. In Wilmington, Mohsen is charging \$3.03/g at the low end in Wilmington, and Circle K at the high end, with gas at \$3.19/g.

In Braidwood, expect to pay \$3.19/g across the board (Marathon prices not available.)

Coal City stations are charging \$3.09/g across the board.

You won't save money in Morris, where gas ranges from \$3.19/g at Pilot to a whopping \$3.39 at BP. Bourbonnais runs the gamut from \$3.03/g at Gulf to \$3.25/g at Road Ranger.

"The national average has inched higher, driven primarily by sharp gas price increases on the West Coast, where refinery maintenance and outages have created a ripple effect in neighboring states, pushing prices higher in many communities," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Although the surge remains isolated to the West for now, refinery maintenance will soon begin in other regions, and with the transition to summer gasoline blends underway, prices in most areas are likely to start rising in the weeks ahead. Meanwhile, oil prices remain subdued in the low \$70s as President Trump works on a potential peace deal between Russia and Ukraine—an event that, if realized, could have significant implications for oil markets in the months ahead."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.77/g while the most expensive was \$4.49/g.

Warm up with energy savings

Looking to reduce energy costs and increase indoor comfort at home?

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Gemini Giant tours Land Down Under

WHAT DID THE Gemini Giant really get up to during his time away from Wilmington? Matt and Lucas Youell from Australia send evidence he was touring the Land Down Under. "We live in Australia and thought to provide a 'gnoming' travel log of the Gemini Giant's great adventures pictured with giant statues Down Under," the brothers emailed. The Gemini Giant (toy) travelled to Australia and visited the giant landmark tourism sites from Sydney to Melbourne, pinpointing his travels on the attached map. The toy Gemini Giant was given to the brothers courtesy of Wilmington residents Mark and Grace Youell, during a visit to America in December. So the Free Press invites readers during the Spring and Summer travel seasons to send us photos of the Gemini Giant visiting other travel destinations. Submissions should be emailed a jepps to news@fpnusa.com.

Live wolf presentation a highlight of Mammal Madness

Amow, a North American gray wolf, will be the star of the show during the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Mammal Madness event on Saturday, March 1. The free event will feature mammal-themed, family-friendly activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Amow belongs to Big Run Wolf Ranch, which will conduct two 45-minute live animal presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The North American gray wolf is 9 months old and weighs over 80 pounds. He was born in captivity at another wolf facility that was closing. Big Run Wolf Ranch in Lockport is a federally licensed non-profit educational facility specializing

in North American wildlife. Previous Mammal Madness events have featured smaller animals, including skunks, porcupines and opossums. Last year, a Canada lynx was part of the lineup. But this year's wolf is an exciting first for Four Rivers, Gabriel said. "Mammal Madness is a chance for visitors to come learn about all of these mammals in a fun and interactive way, while also exploring Four Rivers Environmental Education Center and the surrounding McKinley Woods preserve," he said. "Whether it is seeing a wolf, touching a fur or balancing like a squirrel, everyone will have the chance to learn about some of our most recognizable animal ambassadors." In addition to the wolf

presentations, visitors will be able to learn more about mammals from a naturalist while touching mammal furs and bones in a show-and-tell room. A craft room will feature a local artist providing mammal-themed face painting for kids.

Outside the building, attendees can participate in Mammallympics to test their abilities against other mammals and find out if they can jump as high as a fox or smell as well as a deer, for instance.

A self-guided mammal hike will lead visitors through the woods around Four Rivers while giving them the chance to spot some of our region's mammals hiding in the trees.

The Forest Preserve District offers an annual Mammal Madness event to educate members of the public about the creatures we see around us every day, Gabriel said.

"From deer running through an open field, to a raccoon sneaking through a backyard at night, mammals are some of nature's most easily recognizable ambassadors," he said. "This event gives people the opportunity to learn about all of our regional mammals in a fun, hands-on way right in their own backyard."

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.



Photo by Sandra Rust

Two presentations featuring Amow, a North American gray wolf, are scheduled for the Forest Preserve District's Mammal Madness event on March 1 in Channahon.



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OBITUARIES

Earla Mae Bell

MORRIS— Earla Mae Bell (Douglas), 81 of Morris, passed away Saturday, Feb. 15, 2025 at the Gardens at Park Pointe with her children by her side.

Born May 17, 1943 in Gardner, Earla Mae was the eldest daughter of Alvin and Eleina (Storm) Douglas. She was raised and educated in Gardner and graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School with the Class of 1961. Earla Mae worked for the Social Security Administration in Kankakee for over 30 years until she retired. She was also well known as a Mary Kay Consultant for 15 years. Earla Mae married Raymond Bell on Sept. 24, 2003. Following their marriage and her retirement they moved to Rock River, WY where they spent the remainder of her years until she returned to Illinois in May of 2022. Earla Mae found great joy in working in her flower gardens, as well as sewing and baking. She loved music, especially Elvis, and would sing along and dance to her favorite tunes. Being with her family is what probably brought Earla Mae the most joy, with her grandchildren being the apple of her eye. She lived a blessed life, surrounded by so many people that loved her dearly and whom she loved as well.

Survivors include her children: Douglas (Melinda) Warriner of Diamond; Kandi (Jay) Cockream of Morris; and her step-son, Bernie (Laura) Warriner, Jr. of Richmond, TX; five grandchildren: Ashley (Scott) Pfeiffer of Lexington, KY; Danielle



(Bennett) Gulling of Yorkville, IL; Douglas Warriner, Jr. (Katie Wiens) of Custer Park; Derek Cockream (Kayla Houston) of Morris, and Samantha Warriner of Houston, TX; six great grandchildren: Ian and Tanner Cockream, Elliott and Myles Gulling, Hayden Cockream, and Magnolia Mae Gulling; two sisters: Marjorie Flynn and Mary Black, both of Wilmington; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Earla Mae was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Raymond Bell.

Per her wishes cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Fruland Funeral Home, 121 West Jefferson Street, in Morris on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 11:00 a.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Earla's memory to: the Gardens at Park Pointe, MEMO: Employee Appreciation Fund, 1550 Dupont Avenue, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Earla Mae's memorial page via social media by logging onto www.frulandfuneralhome.com

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves, Fruland and Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Andrew Goodman

MORRIS—Andrew Goodman, 32 of Morris, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday Feb. 12, 2025 in Bergland, Michigan after a brief illness.

Born Sept. 22, 1992 in Morris, Andrew is the son of Roger and Pam (Nelson) Goodman. He was raised and educated in Morris and graduated from Morris Community High School with the Class of 2011. Andrew furthered his education at Joliet Junior College and was employed as senior control room operator at Aux Sable in Morris, where he had been employed for the last ten years. He held memberships with the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 300 in Joliet as well as the Morris Country Club and Nettle Creek Golf Course in Morris. Golfing was one of Andrew's favorite past times and he was often found out on the course with his friends. He enjoyed many other outdoor activities such as fishing, bicycle riding, and target shooting.

Andrew's favorite place in the world was Michigan, taking great pleasure in family trips to Lake Michigan, snowmobiling in the U.P. and going to University of Michigan football games in Ann Arbor with his dad. He also enjoyed perfecting his culinary talents, whether it was grilling out, cooking in the kitchen or baking his signature key lime pie. Andrew loved all animals great and small, always looking for ways he could help any stray animal in need. He was a bright and humble young man whose unique sense of humor res-



onated with family and so many friends, and no one could forget that beautiful smile.

Survivors include his parents, Roger and Pam Goodman of Morris and his sister Kelcie Goodman Franks (Carl) of Oswego, IL; his paternal grandmother Patsy Goodman of Morris, as well as several aunts and uncles, numerous cousins, and countless dear friends.

Andrew was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Sherwood and Faye Nelson; one aunt, Dana Goodman, and one cousin, Tasha Nelson.

The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 East Washington Street, in Morris on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 from 12:00 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 3:00 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Andrew's memory to K.A.R.E for Wildlife Rescue, 35W261 Fox River Drive, St. Charles, Illinois 60174 or to Just Animals Shelter, 505 Depot St., Mazon, Illinois 60444.

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

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

Aliene Daugherty

STREATOR—Aliene Daugherty, 77 of Streator, IL, formerly of Wilmington, and Braidwood, passed away on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born on Aug. 8, 1948, in Silverton, OR, Ailene Louise was the beloved daughter of Amos and Martha (Leatherman) Porterfield. She was raised in Oregon and later moved to California. She went on to marry the love of her life Doyle Ray Daugherty, on Dec. 19, 1970, in Las Vegas, NV. Once married, they began planting their roots in Illinois.

She was a devoted wife and mother, spending much of her time caring for her family and their businesses, Continental Amusements, and the Mar Theatre. She then went on to work at the Embassy Casino for many years before retiring. Aliene was a woman of many passions, always keeping herself busy with the family business. She enjoyed baking, gardening and spending time with her family, especially the love of her life, Doyle. Traveling with Doyle was something she always looked forward to and the two were never apart. Aliene had a natural ease about her, with a smile that came easily and a laugh that was contagious. She always managed to see the good in people, making her a genuinely pleasant person to be around. Compassionate and well-liked, Aliene was someone who everyone loved.

She is survived by her two children:



Bridget Cavallucci, and Adam (Jessica) Daugherty; five grandchildren: Jacob (Brittany) Smith, Zakary (Alex) Smith, Scott (Laina) Scamen, Aiddan Daugherty, and Kennedy Daugherty; two great-grandchildren: Bentley and Delanie Smith; four brothers: Virgil Porterfield, Ronnie Bassler, Carlos Bassler, Jr., and Michael Bassler; two sisters: Loretta Schrodetz, and Joyce Watts; brother-in-law Arty Martens; multiple cousins and numerous nieces and nephews.

Aliene was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Doyle; three brothers-in-law: Delton (Betty) Daugherty, Joe (Lynnette) Huml; two sisters-in-law: Edna Reppert and Francine Martens; parents-in-law Chip (Marie) Ferguson, Rosemary Huml.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service at 11:30 a.m. Burial will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL, where she will be laid to rest with her husband.

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

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

Margaret M. Davis

KANKAKEE—Margaret M. (nee Onderisin) Davis, passed away at the age of 76, on Feb. 5, 2025, at Ascension St. Mary Hospital in Kankakee, IL.

She was born on June 22, 1948, to the late Chester E. and Genevieve M. (nee Fuhrmann) Onderisin and lived in the Joliet area until she moved to Wilmington in 2019 to be with her daughter's family.

Margaret enjoyed crafting and cooking big meals for holiday celebrations with her family.

Margaret is survived by her children, William B. (Jennifer) Davis III, Stephen Michael (Pamela) Davis, and Jenna L. Davis; four adored grandchildren, Caleb Davis, Marissa Davis, Michael E. Davis, and Andrew Boersma; one great-granddaughter, Aveya Graf; her sister, Therese A. (James R. Postel) Onderisin; and her nieces and nephew, Amy Postel, Sarah Postel, and Gregory Postel.



She is preceded in death by her former husband, William B. Davis, Jr.; her parents; her beloved grandmother, Theresa Fuhrmann; her sister, Elaine M. Onderisin; and her partner, Danny Lee Shaw.

A Memorial Gathering for Margaret M. Davis will be celebrated along with her sister, Elaine M. Onderisin (2021) at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 3200 Black Rd. (at Essington Rd.), Joliet, on Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, from 11 a.m. until the time of Memorial Service at 12:30 p.m. Inurnment will follow at St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Joliet.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her name to Wounded Warriors Project.

For more information please call 815-741-5500 or visit their Memorial Tribute pages at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave an online condolence.

Frank Metes

NORTH FORT MYERS, FL—Frank Metes 70, North Fort Myers, FL formerly of Wilmington passed away peacefully on Feb. 9, 2025, after a life well lived. Frank was born March 29, 1954 in Joliet, to William and Stephania Metes.

Frank grew up with a passion for craftsmanship, a love of the water and a deep devotion to family. A proud member of the Chicago District Council of Carpenters, he took immense pride in his work. He and his beloved wife Margaret (Foley), Thomas Edwin (Tom) relocated to North Fort Myers, where they embraced the beauty of life on the water. An avid boater Frank could often be found navigating the Kankakee and Caloosahatchee rivers, finding peace in the rhythm of waves.

Frank's kindness, craftsmanship, and love for adventure will deeply be missed by all who knew him. His memory will live on



in the stories told about the waters he traveled, and by admiring the true beauty of the iconic buildings, skyscrapers, stadiums, and the humblest of homes built and remodeled with his skilled hands.

He is survived by his loving wife of 43 years, Maggie; his sister, JoAnn Sullivan; and his loyal four-legged companion, Mischief.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Stephanie and William Metes; his twin sister, Sue; his brother, Bill; and his son, Tom.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Memorial Gardens, 1589 Colonial Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33907.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to ARC, Animal Rescue Center 18011 Old Bayshore Rd. North Fort Myers, FL 33917. animalrefugecenter.com

Eligible taxpayers in Illinois can file for free

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers in Illinois that they can file their taxes quickly, easily and for free directly with the agency using IRS Direct File.

The web-based service offers guided help for preparing and filing a federal tax return from a smartphone, tablet or computer.

Direct File does not replace existing filing options like tax professionals, IRS Free File, free return preparation sites, commercial software or authorized e-file providers.

IRS customer service representatives staffing the Direct File support function can provide technical support and provide basic clarification of tax law related to the scope of Direct File. Questions related to issues other than Direct File will be routed to other IRS customer support, as appropriate.

The deadline to file a 2024 tax return and pay any tax owed is April 15, 2025.

For the 2025 filing season, Direct File includes new features that make filing taxes quicker and easier.

- Import W-2 wages and other tax information directly from the IRS with step-by-step guidance
- Chat bot helps guide taxpayers through the eligibility checker
- Live chat feature is available in English and Spanish
- Opt-in option allows authenticated and verified taxpayers to access additional customer support or
- Request a callback from an IRS Direct File customer support representative.

IRS Direct File is available for taxpayers who lived and worked in Illinois for all of 2024, file simple federal tax returns and report the following types of income:

- W-2 wage income
- SSA-1099 Social Security income
- 1099-G unemployment compensation
- 1099-INT interest income

- 1099-R retirement income

Direct File is not available to taxpayers with other types of income, such as gig economy, rental or business income, or for taxpayers that itemize deductions.

IRS Direct File will automatically identify and apply Earned Income Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and Credit for Other Dependents; Child and Dependent Care Credit, Premium Tax Credit, Credit for the Elderly or the Disabled and Retirement Savings Contributions Credit.

In addition to covering taxpayers claiming the standard deduction and deductions for student loan interest and educator expenses, Direct File supports taxpayers claiming deductions for Health Savings Account contributions.

Direct File won't prepare Illinois state tax returns. Once taxpayers

have completed their federal tax return, Direct File automatically guides them to Illinois services to complete their state taxes. Visit the state websites [23] to find information about income tax filing in each state.

IRS Free File provides a free online alternative to file federal income tax returns online using guided tax preparation software to any individual or family who earned \$84,000 or less in 2024.

People who make over \$84,000 can use the IRS' Free File Fillable Forms. People who generally make \$67,000 or less, persons with disabilities, limited English-speaking taxpayers and those who are 60 years of age and older, can also find free one-on-one tax preparation help around the nation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs.

Donations needed for monument for Civil War soldier

A fund-raising effort is underway to replace a monument at the Wilton Township Cemetery honoring Civil War veteran Ira Temple.

A monument erected decades ago has not withstood the elements and is no longer readable as it has broken in half.

Caretakers and other veterans want to replace the monument so cemetery visitors will never forget Temple who enlisted in 1862 with the Will County regiment, Company H with the 100th Illinois Infantry.

Leonard Seltzer of Manhattan is coordinating the effort to replace the monument. The goal is to raise \$10,000 pay off the Dwight company who will sculpt the new 50-inch tall monument.

Seltzer said \$2,000 in donations have been made and his open is the balance

can be donated by May so the project can be completed.

"This would be an ideal project for an Eagle Scout candidate," Seltzer commented. "It's a worthy effort to honor a fallen Patriot who served our state before being taken prisoner."

Temple fought in the battle of Chickamauga in Georgia in September 1863 when he was captured and taken prisoner. He ended up dying and being buried at Andersonville Prison in Georgia on June 10, 1864 at the age of 45 years old.

Donations must be made by check only payable to Wilton Township Cemetery, First Bank of Manhattan, 550 W. North St., Manhattan, IL 60442.

For more details contact Seltzer at 815-263-4875.

Local churches offering meals or pickup free food at pantries

CLA Food Pantry. Christian Life Assembly, 2960 E Division St Diamond IL. 815-578-5441. Available Tuesday 9:00-2:30 am and Friday 3:30 to 6 p.m.

Braidwood Food Pantry at Community Care Center. Open Tuesdays 8 to 11:45 a.m. 112 S. Center Street, Braidwood. Information: 815-325-0779

Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W 1st St. Braidwood. Micro-pantry open 24 hours front of church Info: (815)-390-5040

Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry. Open Fridays from 3 to 4 p.m. 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood.

Secret Pantry, for hours and location see: The Original Secret Pantry Facebook page

Coal City Food Pantry

at Coal City United Methodist Church. (Use south entrance) Closed all federal holidays. Open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City. Information: 815-216-3288.

We Care of Grundy County Food Pantry. Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. and Fri.: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Pantry Hours: Monday-Friday 1:00-3:00 by appointment. Please call to schedule your time to come 815-942-6389. 530 Bedford Rd., Morris. Information: 815-942-6389

Kuzma Care Cottage, food pantry. 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington. Hours: M-F 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8-11 a.m. 815-476-2030

Local Meals:

St. Vincent Table hot meals are offered at various locations throughout the year. Here are the months and locations for 2025. Hours for pick-up for shut ins 4-4:30 p.m. Eat in start 4:30 until 5:30 p.m.

February 2025: CC First Baptist Church, 4470 E Rt 113 Mazon.

March-April 2025: Assumption of the BVM, 180 S Kankakee St., Coal City.

May-July 2025: New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St Coal City.

Aug.-Oct. 2025: Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S School St Braidwood.

Nov. 2025: Assumption of the BVM, 180 S Kankakee St Coal City.

December 2025: CC First Baptist Church, 4470 E Rt 113 Mazon.

Join in the fight against climate change

Dear EarthTalk: What can we expect regarding changes President Trump is promising regarding: climate, environment and energy policy?
-- Name withheld



Despite only being in office for a second term for a few weeks, Donald Trump has already begun rolling back climate initiatives and

environmental regulations. Trump, who has previously called global warming a "hoax," made bold decisions in his first term; notably, he slashed the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and also replaced Obama's Clean Power Plan which mandated states to reduce carbon emissions.

With his return, Trump has pledged more efforts as follow-ups to his previous acts. One of his promises is removing strict environmental regulations on the fossil fuel economy. On Jan. 20, Trump announced a "national energy emergency", the first in Presidential history, only

preceded by regional energy crises in the early 1970s. This assertion gives Trump the authority to limit environmental regulations on oil firms and boost the use of natural resources like coal. Yet, the U.S. isn't facing a fuel shortage like in the 70s: Bank of America analysts predict that oil prices will fall in 2025 as the American crude supply surpasses its demand. In his second inaugural address Trump stated, "we have the largest amount of oil and gas of any country on Earth, and we are going to use it," adding that America stands on "liquid gold." While more drilling could lower energy prices, this optimistic outcome

isn't guaranteed and could also spark a price resurgence from the oil industry's boom-bust cycle. His policies, however, do assure an increase in national emissions and pollutants that would exacerbate global warming. Trump is also targeting the electric vehicle (EV) industry. Over the last four years, Biden's administration promoted emission-reducing cars and put regulations on total emissions for gas vehicles. By removing these standards, Trump hopes to save "our auto industry" and keep his "sacred pledge to our great American autoworkers"-though he misinterprets Biden's regu-

lations and treats them as mandates to ban gas vehicles entirely. Trump will soon work to remove more integrated EV policies such as tax credits. Trump has also withdrawn from the Paris Agreement-an international treaty with over 190 countries aimed to combat climate change via emissions reductions-just like he did in his first term. He hopes to save America "trillions of dollars" by pulling out of these climate accords first ratified 10 years ago. With 2024 already exceeding the agreement's intended limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius as the hottest year ever recorded,

global warming will likely continue to rise during his presidency. That said, many leaders are optimistic about halting climate change. Said Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, "Chicago and our peer cities are, and will remain, at the forefront of climate action." To fight environmental deregulation, contact your local representatives, join advocacy groups, or donate relevant organizations. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Grundy Bank offers advice on how not to get scammed

Looking to protect yourself from fraud, identity theft and scams? Wondering about the best way to improve your credit, shop for a used car, or keep your kids safe online? Grundy Bank has information for you during

National Consumer Protection Week (NCPW) – March 2 - 8 – and any time of the year. NCPW is a time when government agencies, consumer protection groups, and organizations like Grundy Bank work together to share informa-

tion about consumer rights and help people learn to spot, report, and avoid scams. "Safeguarding our consumers against fraud, theft, and scams is not just a responsibility, but a commitment to building trust

and ensuring peace of mind." Said Kevin Olson, President & CEO of Grundy Bank. Grundy Bank, in Morris and Wilmington, will be offering information regarding how to protect yourself from scams, identity theft, fraud, and other important topics at branches located at 201 Liberty St., Morris and 120 S. Main St., Wilmington during National Consumer Protection Week.

"We will be empowering consumers with free reading resources on scams, identity theft, staying safe online, and fraud to help raise awareness and help gain knowledge about safeguarding their financial well-being," said Christine Mendez, Marketing & Sales Director of Grundy Bank. For more information visit www.consumer.ftc.gov.

NIU Fall 2024 graduates

More than 1,150 students received their bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Northern Illinois University in December. Included among the graduates were: Peyton Byerley, Bachelor of Science, History, of Custer Park, Erica Baker, Bachelor of Science, Nursing, of Elwood and Kayliegh Anderson, Master of Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, of Gardner.



Hayley Henke awarded Chamber trophy

CITY OF WILMINGTON employee Hayley Henke (right) is presented the Chamber of Commerce trophy for Employee of the Month by Chamber ambassador Wendy Hill. The nomination from a Wilmington resident stated, "Hayley is very nice and understanding and very easy to talk to if there are any issues with the water bill. She makes it a pleasant experience instead of a dreadful one to talk about any and all billing issues."

Midwin welcome center re-opens with improvements

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service announced that the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (NTP) supervisor's office, including the welcome center, reopened Tuesday after being closed 10 weeks, for extensive maintenance to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. Throughout the closure, staff and partners continued the work of restoring and administering the Forest Service's only Tallgrass Prairie by sharing working spaces in the other buildings at Midwin NTP and using alternate work locations. "We are excited the maintenance is complete

and we can re-open the supervisor's office and welcome center," said Christina Henderson, Midwin NTP's prairie supervisor. "We sincerely appreciate everyone's patience during this extremely important maintenance period. We will now be able to offer a better experience to all those visitors during the cold of winter and the hot days of summer." Midwin's Welcome Center is located at 30239 S. State Route 53, Wilmington. For more information contact the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie at (815) 763-1936 or email joseph.wax@usda.gov.

Elmhurst University dean's list

Karissa Esposito, of Wilmington and Lawanda Gagliardo of Coal City, was among more than 1,000 students named to Elmhurst University's Fall 2024 Dean's List. The Dean's List is composed of students who during the term concerned, attained a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher out of a possible 4.00.



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Wilmington Library to host seed swap

The Wilmington Public Library District, in collaboration with Proclamation Flowers, is excited to host its annual Seed Swap on Wednesday, March 5, from 5-7 p.m.. This family-friendly, drop-in event is perfect for gardeners of all ages and experience levels. Bring your favorite seeds to exchange with other local enthusiasts or simply come to collect new seeds to kick-start your spring garden-no contribution is necessary to participate. In addition to the seed swap, attendees can enjoy garden-themed crafts designed for both adults and children. Craft projects

can be completed during the event or taken home (limit one per person). For those unable to attend, the Seed Library will be open starting Monday, Feb. 17, offering free seeds for patrons to take home. There is no limit, but patrons are encouraged to take only what they need and have room to grow. The library is grateful to Sow Right Seeds, Hudson Valley Seed Company, and Peaceful Valley Farm for generously donating seeds to support this initiative. For more information, please contact the Wilmington Public Library District at 815-476-2834.

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box

EVERY STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO AFFORD PROM

Prom Dress Collection

At all Whitmore Ace Hardware locations now - February 27th

Please donate clean gently worn prom dresses purchased after 2020, purses, jewelry, shoes or any prom attire.

ALL STUDENTS WELCOME TO:

Saturday March 1st, 9am-1pm

Godley Park District
500 S. Kankakee St
Godley, IL 60407

All Dresses \$5 at Event
proceeds will fund Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box Scholarship



email: melissascloset@whitmoreace.com
www.facebook.com/melissacrystalprom
www.melissascloset.org

Melissa's Closet & Crystal's Jewelry Box has dressed over 5,180 students for prom

How good is your trivia? Test it March 2

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a Trivia Afternoon on Sunday, March 2, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They invite you to join them for multiple rounds of trivia. Food and beverages will be provided (no alcohol allowed) The registration fee is \$160 per table with up to 8 participants per table (\$20 per person for a table of 8). Registration forms are available by contacting the church office at 815-634-8670 Table participants are encouraged to

dress in costume and/or to have a theme. A prize will be awarded to the best theme of the event. The winning table of the trivia contest will also win a prize. Spectators are welcome for \$5 admission at the door as space allows Doors open at noon. Trivia begins at 1 p.m. Deadline to register is Feb. 25. Gather your trivia teams and plan to join Coal City United Methodist Church for a fun and entertaining afternoon.

Sheriff's sale of 916 Laurel Dr., Unit B

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

Freedom Mortgage Corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
Toni M. Henderson; et. al. Defendant.
No. 23 FC 0304

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 13th day of **September, 2023**, **MIKE KELLEY**, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 13th day of **March, 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:

THE SOUTHERN 42.50 FEET OF LOT 23 IN MEADOWBROOK, 2ND ADDITION, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 34 NORTH, RANGE 10 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 23, 1997 AS DOCUMENT NO. R97-43158, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 916 Laurel Dr Unit B, Elwood, IL 60421
Description of Improvements: Single Family Home
P.I.N.: 10-11-20-202-014-0000

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:
Codilis & Associates, P.C.
15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527
P: 630-794-5300
F: 630-794-9090
Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 26 and Mar. 5, 2025.

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)
) SS.
COUNTY OF WILL)
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.

AVISO LEGAL DE ELECCIONES

POR EL PRESENTE, SE DA AVISO que, durante las Elecciones Consolidadas que se realizar  n martes 1 de abril de 2025, se les presentar  la siguiente proposici  n a los votantes del Municipio de Wesley, Condado de Will, Illinois:

  La tasa de limitaci  n en virtud de la Ley de Limitaci  n de la Pr  rroga del Impuesto a la Propiedad para el Distrito de Caminos del municipio de Wesley, condado de Will, Illinois, debe aumentarse en un importe adicional igual al 0,25 % por encima de la tasa de limitaci  n con el fin de hacer mejoras en caminos y puentes para el a  o fiscal 2023 y ser igual al 0,5009 % del valor catastral ajustado de la propiedad tributable del mencionado Distrito para los a  os fiscales 2025?

(1) El importe aproximado de los impuestos prorrogables con la tasa de limitaci  n prorrogada m  s recientemente es de \$160.204,79 y el importe aproximado de los impuestos prorrogables si la propuesta se aprueba es de \$319.834,90.

(2) Para el a  o fiscal 2025, se estima que el importe aproximado del impuesto adicional prorrogable por una propiedad que contenga una residencia unifamiliar y que en el momento del refer  ndum tenga un valor de mercado justo de \$100.000 ser   de \$83,33.

(3) Si la propuesta es aprobada, la pr  rroga agregada para el a  o fiscal 2025 se determinar   por la tasa de limitaci  n estipulada en la propuesta, en lugar de la tasa de limitaci  n que corresponder   de otra manera calculada en virtud de las disposiciones de la Ley de Extensi  n del Impuesto a la Propiedad (com  nmente denominada Ley de Tope al Impuesto a la Propiedad).

La votaci  n en estas elecciones comenzar   a las 6:00 a. m. y continuar   hastalas 7:00 p.m. de ese d  a.

Fechado este d  a 5 de febrero de 2025.

ANNETTE PARKER
WILL COUNTY CLERK

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., February 19, 2025.

Augustana College names fall dean's list

Augustana College in Rock Island, IL announced more than 1,200 students were named to the Dean's List for the 2024-2025 fall semester for earning a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale.

Attorney Meents files Goad 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 LARRY RAY GOAD, Deceased;
No. 2025 PR 46

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of LARRY RAY GOAD. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on February 6, 2025, to Stacey Legg, whose address is 640 Berta Road, Diamond, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Frank J. Meents, 25158 West 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 27, 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.

Stacey Legg
Independent Administrator
of the Estate of Larry Ray Goad,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
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. 19, 26 and March 5, 2025.

Attorney Johnson files Kujawa 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
Carole Ann Kujawa, Deceased.
Case No.: **2025 PR 000020**.

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of Office were issued on **February 5, 2025** to **Bryan R. Kujawa**, of 4510 Normandy Drive, Lisle, IL 60532, as **Independent Executor**, whose attorney of record is **Richard Johnson of the Law Office of Rick Johnson**, 1260 Iroquois Ave. Suite 202, Naperville, IL 60563.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of Andrea Lynn Chasteen, Circuit Court Clerk, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is August 19, 2025, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed with 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.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>.
Atty. No.: 6306264
Law Office of Rick Johnson
1260 Iroquois Ave. Suite 202
Naperville, IL 60563
(708) 217-0074
rick@rickjlaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, 2025.

Attorney McGrath files Alo-Schaufele 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
ROSEMARY ALO-SCHAUFELE,
Deceased.
Case No.: 24 PR 789

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of ROSEMARY ALO-SCHAUFELE, of Huntley, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued January 23, 2025, to Olindo O. Alo, Jr., as Independent Executor whose address is 260 Beateaua, Lake Zurich, IL 60047, 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 August 12, 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.

Olindo O. Alo, Jr.,
Independent Executor of the
Estate of Rosemary Alo-Schaufele,
Deceased

Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
m McGrath@tmcgrathlaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2025.

Recognized students include: Alexandra Bohac, a graphic design, business administration-marketing major, and Caelan Cole, a Kinesiology, biology major, both of Braidwood; also Braiden Young, a #REF! major, of Coal City.

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/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.

Attorney Meents files Vercelli 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 SHARON LOUISE VERCELLI,
Deceased;
No. 2025 PR 45

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Sharon Louise Vercelli. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on February 6, 2025, to Emil Paul Vercelli, Jr., whose address is 940 East John Street, 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 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 27, 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.

Emil Paul Vercelli, Jr.
Independent Executor of the Estate
of Sharon Louise Vercelli, 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. 19, 26 and March 5, 2025.

CC Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, March 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

If you would like to donate blood, please contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule your preferred time or you may register online at versiti.org/il.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating. Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

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.

Millard named to deans list

The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced.

Madelien Millard of Diamond was among those students.

Attorney Wysocki files Clennon 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 MARY ANN CLENNON
Deceased; No. 2024PR785

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of MARY ANN CLENNON. Letters of Office were issued to Maureen E. Clennon whose address is 1610 Arden Place, 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 12th 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 delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Mary Ann Clennon
Deceased

BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 19 and 26, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the Consolidated Election to be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of Wesley Township, Will County, Illinois:

Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Wesley Township Road District, Will County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.25% above the limiting rate for the purpose of road and bridge improvements for levy year 2023 and be equal to 0.5009% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year(s) 2025?

(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$160,204.79, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$319,834.90.

(2) For the 2025 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single-family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$83.33.

(3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for levy year 2025 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).

The polls at the election will be open at 6:00 o'clock A.M. and will continue to be open until 7:00 o'clock P.M. of that day.

Dated this 5th day of February 2025.

ANNETTE PARKER
WILL COUNTY CLERK

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., February 19, 2025.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$17; 2 wks. - \$21;
3 wks. - \$25; 4 wks. - \$29*
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
*plus .0399% with credit card



The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate



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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF **916 Laurel Dr Unit B, Elwood, IL 60421** (Single Family Home). On the **13th day of March, 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: **Freedom Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff V. Toni M. Henderson; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. **23 FC 0304** 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 as-

sessments 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: **Codilis & Associates, P.C.** **15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527** **P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090** 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 19, 26 & March 5, 2025.

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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 **725 Elmo Court, Godley, IL 60407** (Single family residence, 1 Story, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths). On the **6th day of March, 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: **Grundy Bank Plaintiff V. Daniel Dietrich, Tanya L. Dietrich, Illinois Housing Development Authority, and Non-Record Claimants** Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 1371** 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: **GEIGER VAZQUEZ 415 LIBERTY STREET MORRIS, IL 60450 P: 815-942-5072 F: 815-942-5073** 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 Newspaper on Wed., February 12, 19 & 26, 2025.

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Crossword Puzzle and Soduko

CLUES ACROSS

1. Tropical Asian plant
5. Yankees' slugger Judge
10. Helps to preserve food
12. Plant disease
14. One who predicts

CLUES DOWN

16. Equally
18. Burundian franc
19. Pouch
20. Arizona city
22. Surround
23. Hard, heavy timber

CLUES ACROSS

25. Witnessed
26. They ___
27. French river
28. A way to drink
30. Small constellation
31. Peruse a written work

CLUES DOWN

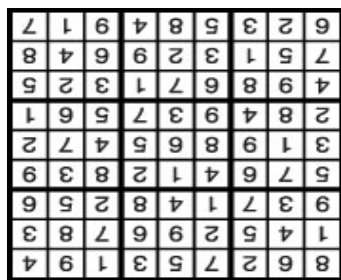
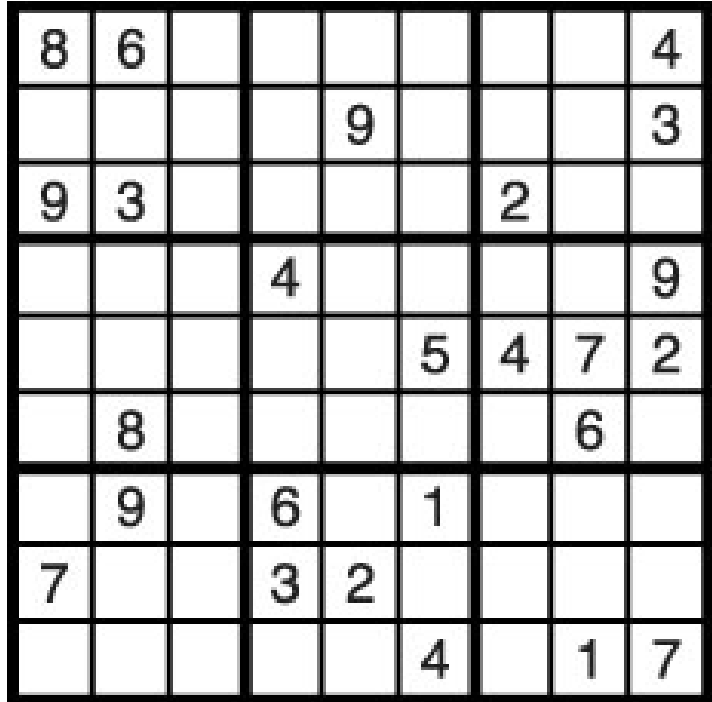
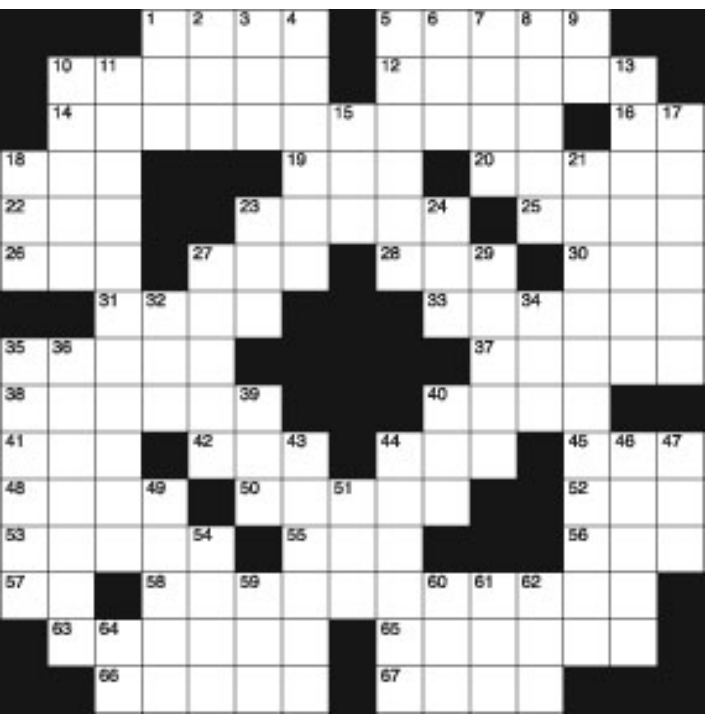
33. Type of hound
35. Plant of the goosefoot family
37. Evade or escape
38. A way to confine
40. Volcanic crater
41. Weekday
42. Women's service organization (abbr.)
44. Local area network
45. Sensory receptor
48. Posted
50. Tibetan pastry
52. Licensed for Wall Street
53. Very willing
55. Golf score
56. Consume
57. Touchdown
58. Tends to remind
63. In a way, smoothed
65. Poke holes in the ground
66. Herbaceous plants
67. Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

1. Body art
2. Boxing's GOAT
3. Film for posterity (abbr.)
4. Prayer
5. Calculating machine
6. Keyboard key
7. Outburst
8. Man-eating giants

CLUES ACROSS

9. New Hampshire
10. Type of sword
11. Counting
13. Pants style
15. Political action committee
17. U.S. government legislative branch
18. Civil Rights Act component
21. Contractors take one
23. Spanish soldier
24. A person's brother or sister
27. Expressed pleasure
29. Song of praise
32. Shock treatment
34. Patti Hearst's captors
35. Counteract
36. Goes over again
39. Popular Dodge truck
40. Male adult
43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
44. Rope used to lasso
46. Become less intense
47. Subway rodent
49. Lead alloy
51. Japanese honorific title
54. Advise someone
59. Famous NYC museum
60. Ocean
61. Cathode-ray tube
62. Cologne
64. It starts with these two



WILDCAT SPORTS

It's back to state for Van Duyne

The Wilmington wrestling team advanced one state qualifier and one alternate out of IHSA Class 1A Coal City Sectional on Saturday.

Logan VanDuyne (190 lbs.) was the lone Wildcat to secure a state qualification, placing fourth in his weight class.

VanDuyne opened the sectional with a bye in the first round and followed it up with a pin against Mivontae Russell in the quarterfinals. After a hard-fought semifinal loss, VanDuyne rebounded with a fall in the consolation semifinal to secure his spot at the state finals.

In the third-place match, he narrowly lost to Coal City's Cade Poyner in a 4-2 decision after getting a near pin against his conference nemesis as time ran out in the second period. VanDuyne, now 38-6, will represent Wilmington at the Individual State Finals starting Thursday at the State Farm Center in Champaign, IL.

Van Duyne, a junior, qualified for state a year

ago but did not place. He opens the tournament this year against Hunter Eastin (48-2) from Tolono Unity.

Other Wilmington wrestlers showing grit were sophomore Will Wilson (175) who earned three pins, including a win in just 1:14 in the consolation bracket, before falling in a heartbreaking 5-4 tie-breaker match in the consolation semifinal. Wilson finished the tournament with a 27-11 record and will hope to enter in the state finals as an alternate on Thursday.

Memphis Iwen (215) faced tough matchups, earning a bye in the consolation bracket but falling in the second round to finish his season at 9-11.

Coal City dominated their home sectional, including seven sectional champions, advancing 13 wrestlers total and one alternate.

Coaler champions included Owen Peterson (113), Cooper Morris (126), Brody Widlowski (138), Aiden Kenney (144), Mason Garner (157),



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE BATTLE FOR third place at 190 during the Coal City Sectional featured friendly rivals Logan Van Duyne from Wilmington and Cade Poyner from Coal City. Van Duyne had beaten Poyner twice as of late but couldn't score late to overcome Poyner's 4-2 lead. Van Duyne settled for fourth but still qualified for the state finals which begin Thursday.B

Landin Benson (175) and John Keigher (215).

Reed-Custer also had a strong showing, sending five wrestlers to Champaign, including sectional champion Colton Drinkwine (106), second place finishers Jeremy Eggleston (138) and Dominic Alaimo (215).

Best of luck to all local wrestlers as they compete for state titles.



Photo by Eric Fisher

HIS BEST SHOT—Wilmington's Will Wilson gave Ismael Martinez of Chicago Hope all he could handle on Saturday during the 175 consolation semifinal of the Coal City Sectional. The two were deadlocked at 4-4 before Martinez got the one point tie breaker to win. Wilson hopes that on Thursday he gets allowed into the state finals as an alternate.

Lady 'Cats hoping for a shot at title

If there's any consolation in the Lady Wildcats losing 43-35 last week to Dwight, it's the fact that Coal City lost to the Lady Trojans too, only by a much larger margin, 50-19.

Tuesday's final home game of the regular season for the Lady 'Cats may not have gone as planned but at least it featured a closer contest than when Coal City lost to the Lady Trojans.

They may bode well come Thursday when the Lady Cats and Coalers square off for the regional championship at 7 p.m. Thursday.

But first the Lady 'Cats, with their impressive 20-9 season and third in conference 9-5 record, have to beat Joliet Catholic (6-25) and Coal City (21-9) needs to stop Reed-Custer (13-15). Those games were played last night (Tuesday) and if the

stars are aligned properly, it will be a Wilmington vs. Coal City matchup for the championship.

The rivals each have a win against the other so it will boil down to who makes the fewest turnovers and most free throws as it will be physical.

Against the Trojans, Wilmington was led by sophomore Sami Liaromatis with 14 points and 10 rebounds. The sophomore needs to have a double-double against Coal City too.

Following with eight points and six rebounds was senior Skylar Rossow. Melia Hincherick finished with seven points while Nikki Quigley had four points to go along with eight rebounds. Alaina Clark went scoreless but grabbed seven rebounds before fouling out.

Mighty 'Cats bring home more medals

The Wilmington Wrestling Club traveled to two different tournaments on Sunday.

Winners that attended the Pontiac Kids Open from the Tots & Bantam division that took first place are Lane Vanderhyden, Wesley Davis, Lucas Tworek, JJ Dziuban, Kolby Duffy, Andrew Wagner, Maddux Morgan, Aiden Wilking, Clayton Crutchfield and Giovanni Laud.

Second place winners are Wyatt Gaspar, Liam Guttosch, Silas Nash, Joel Bryant, Wyatt Witvoet, Brant Wagner and Michael Sims.

Third place winners are Brock Barton, Tyler Murphy, Hank Alberico and Knox Nash.

In the Intermediate and Novice division, first place winners are Lodi Morgan, Leonard Morgan and Carson Alsbury.

Second place winners are Deacon Deninger, Declan Wilking and Nathan Talley. Sam Goodwin took third place.

Wrestlers that attended the JR Thunderbolt from the Tots & Bantam division winners are Duke McGreehin—second place and Ella Popovich—third place.

From the Intermediate & Novice Division, first place winners are Laura Allen, Brooklyn McGreehin and Jack McGreehin.

Norah Minuth took second place and Ivy Pedigo took third place.

WMS spikers downs Seneca

The Wilmington 8th grade volleyball team ended the week on a high note beating Seneca 25-17, 25-23. Nadine Liguid led defensively with 13 digs and 5 aces.

Taylor Tenn went back to the outside hitter position scoring 3 kills to go with her 7 digs and 6 aces. Kelsie Roeder also had a good night at the net with 3 kills and 3 blocks. Aubri Christensen is coming off of a hand injury but managed to get 3 kills. Chesnee Geiss also added 4 aces, 2 digs and 2 assists.

At the beginning of the week the team lost a close one to Limestone 25-22, 7-25, 20-25. Liguid, again, helped her team keep it close with 19 digs. Tenn added another 10 digs. Geiss had 6 aces, 2 digs and

an assist. Aby Winker was right there with her teammates by adding 7 digs, 2 aces and a kill.

The 7th grade team lost both matches this week, but continue to show improvement and teamwork. Against Limestone, they lost 10-25, 18-25 and Seneca 11-25 in both games. Bristol Billingsley had 8 digs and 3 aces while Aubrey Ptacek was right behind her with 7 digs and 1 ace.

Brooklyn Long had 3 aces as well as 3 digs. During the 2nd match of the week, Ptacek had 4 digs with Billingsley and Hannah Stiehler both adding another 3 digs.

The 6th grade teams lost both to Limestone with the A team falling 15-25, 20-25 and the B team 22-25,

20-25. Emily Van Duyne led with 8 digs and 2 aces and both Maeve Bryant and Brooke Dickover had 7 digs and an ace. Madison Smith led the B team with 7 digs and an ace while Aleah Sanchez added another 6 digs and KJ Skole had 5 digs and an ace.

Against Minooka the A team lost 7-25, 11-25. Dickover had 9 digs and 2 kills. Van Duyne had 8 digs while Brie Talley was right behind her with 7 digs. Maeve Beasley also had 5 digs. During the B game, Skole had 8 digs and 2 aces. Aria Jandeska also had 8 digs with 1 ace. Smith also added another 6 digs. Aleah Sanchez had 2 aces and 2 digs. Else Luchene also had 2 aces.



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund

WHS SENIOR Ryan Nelson takes a shot during Friday night's game despite being pressured by a Peotone defender. Nelson had a total of 16 points.

Wildcats have nothing to lose before regional

It makes no difference who wins or loses now until Feb. 26. That's when regional play begins for the Wilmington boys basketball team.

The ICE conference title went to

Streator (no surprise there) and the regional pairings are determined so the Wildcats may as well play their reserves this week with a game at Beecher Thursday and a make-up Friday challenge at Indian Creek.

But come Wednesday, Wilmington needs to get down to business as they enter the Joliet Catholic Regional.

Hopefully they'll play better than they did Friday when they let one slip away to Peotone, 54-53.

The Wildcats were up by 15 points in the second quarter when the hosting Blue Devils rallied. They closed the gap in the second half by isolating senior Lucas Rink who never got a shot off in the second half after scoring 11 in the first.

Wilmington (17-9) was led by senior Ryan Nelson who finished with 16 points.. Ryan Kettman followed with 12 points while Rink had his 11 and nine rebounds. Brysen Meents contributed six points and six rebounds while Kyle Farrell and Hunter Osipavicius had four points each.

Regionals

The Wildcats are the #4 seed in the six team Joliet Catholic regional. The hosting Hilltoppers are the #1 seed and may just be the team Wilmington will have to beat for the regional championship.

The bracket includes #11 Lisle vs. #9 Westmont on Monday. On the same night #12 Carver Military Academy will play #8 Chicago Christian.

Wilmington will face either Carver or Chicago Christian on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at JCA. The hosts will play the 6 p.m. game against either Lisle or Westmont.

The Wildcats need to win Wednesday to make it to Friday's championship contest at 7 p.m. The regional winner advances to the Peotone Sectional on March 4.



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund

CATCHING AIR is Wilmington's Kyle Farrell during Friday night's game against Peotone. The Cats overall record is 17-9.