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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Criminal justice act will affect daily operations for local departments

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

In February, sweeping new legislation overhauling the how law enforcement operates was signed into law by Gov. JB Pritzker.

The legislation, referred to as the "Safe-T Act," backed by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, includes several reforms from abolishing cash bail to changing police certification practices.

While the legislation received grassroots support from activists, the bill faced strong opposition from Republican lawmakers and law enforcement groups.

Opponents of the legislation have said it will result in a less safe Illinois and have criticized the process behind its development as lacking in transparency without proper input from Republican lawmakers and the public at large.

But supporters said the law will make Illinois safer by making the justice system more equitable for Black, Latino, low-income and minority communities that have been disproportionately harmed by disparate policies in sentencing, incarceration and policing.

The law will have some immediate impact on how local departments operate daily.

On March 2, Bryan Wellner of Mahoney, Silverman, & Cross, LLC, who serves as City Attorney for both Wilmington and Braidwood, gave an update to members of the Wilmington City Council on how the law will look as it is applied locally.

"There's a requirement to report monthly to the Illinois State Police about any incident where law enforcement were dispatched to deal with a person experiencing a mental health crisis or incident, any reporting on use of force, records of police

"THEY'RE GOING TO REQUIRE MORE TRAINING, BUT THEY'VE CUT OUR TRAINING BUDGET. THAT'S ALREADY HAPPENED... WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED A PAYMENT FROM THE STATE IN OVER SIX MONTHS."

PHIL ARNOLD
WILMINGTON POLICE CHIEF

misconduct including just complaints, but including investigations... have to be maintained permanently, can't be destroyed," Wellner explained.

Another change will be the addition of body cameras, now mandated for all law enforcement agencies.

While Braidwood already uses body cams, Wilmington will have to have those cameras in use as of Jan. 1, 2025.

The bill also includes mandates for additional training.

"They're going to produce some more training requirements including regular mental health screenings, and some in-service training requirements for up to 30 hours every three years," Wellner said. "They created a duty for police officers to render medical aid if they determine that a person is injured as a result of use of force. It also creates an affirmative duty for police to intervene to stop another police officer in their presence that is using unauthorized use of force. And it also give some rights to those who are apprehended. It gives them three phone calls within three hours of being taken into custody so they can contact an attorney for family members, and it also gives them a

right to their cell phone so they can have access to their contacts to get a hold of certain people. It also creates notice requirement in the police department about that right.

"There are plenty of more regulations that were involved in that regulation, but these are some of the bigger highlights that will affect us on a more daily basis," Wellner continued.

Wilmington Police Chief Phil Arnold said that with the exception of minor complaints, the WPD already follows mandates regarding records for officers, keeping records of misconduct indefinitely. Arnold noted that the WPD is also already nationally certified regarding use of force reporting.

The chief said his biggest concern with the new law are unfunded mandates that could come back to

SEE LAW, PAGE 2

Road crews work on patching potholes

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

As the temperatures begin to warm up, so do the roads. And after several weeks of harsh winter weather, that means it's time for potholes to make their return.

On March 2, city administrator Joie Ziller gave an update on road patching plans to members of the Wilmington City Council, gathered in person for their first regular meeting of the month.

Ziller said that while public works crews have been out patching, the quick thaw has created some additional areas of concern in the city, on both city controlled roads as well as state and county routes.

Ziller said that for now, crews are addressing the potholes as they can, and once the weather turns warmer more consistently, public works will cut out larger potholes then lay asphalt over to patch them.

While Route 53 is not the responsibility of the city, city public works crews took the initiative to address one large pothole as the weather began to warm up.

"We made several attempts with IDOT letting them know, but then [we said] just go do it," Ziller said of one of the repairs along Route 53 near the intersection with Main Street.

Residents can report streets in need of attention by calling City Hall, 815-476-2175.

In other business before the council on March 2:

- Police Chief Phil Arnold said issues with the roof at the Wilmington Police Station will need to be addressed sooner rather than later.

"We had an issue... with this last snow," Arnold said. "The snow was so high that it

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2



Photo by Marney Simon

A FISHERMAN ENTERS the water near the Kankakee River dam on Tuesday, despite the signs posted along the shoreline that entering the water is prohibited. Among the ideas promote safety at the dam, Mayor Roy Strong has now suggested possibly adding a lighthouse.

Safety issues still the focus around Wilmington dam

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The dam in the Kankakee River in Wilmington has re-emerged as a hot topic over the past year, with the city of Wilmington focusing on safety issues at the site.

Dangers at the dam have been addressed in different ways over the past years, including the creation of an exclusion zone prohibiting people from the water in 2018, and the addition of Jersey barriers near the dam in 2020.

Now, Mayor Roy Strong said he has a new idea for the dam — a lighthouse.

Strong said he traveled to Beecher to take a peek at a 30-foot tall steel lighthouse for sale.

"It's pretty heavy steel, and it's pretty neat. I think it would be great down near the dam because anybody who has been canoeing [knows] you can't see the dam [from up stream]," Strong told members of the Wilmington City Council on March 2.

The mayor said that there is room to put such a structure near the dam to let people

know to stay to the right and enter the canal/mill race before getting too close to the dam.

The idea was brought to the members of the city council not for action, but discussion. Strong said the lighthouse would cost around \$6,000.

"It's red, it's got the light on top. It needs some work, of course, it's not brand new," he said. "But it's heavy steel... I thought, wow, this would be perfect... It could flood right there but we don't normally get water that high. So, it's something to think about."

The exclusion zone along the riverfront runs on the west bank of the South Island Park, from above the dam to Baltimore Street.

The penalty for entering the water from the exclusion zone is a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$750. For a second offense, the minimum penalty increases to \$100 and for the third or subsequent occurrences within one year after the first, the individual will be fined at least \$250, up to the state-permitted maximum of \$750. A separate offense is considered committed on each day during or upon which a violation occurs or continues.

Lions spread the wealth after successful Lights Display

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Despite all the changes that came along with the pandemic over the past year, the Wilmington Lions Club worked overtime to make sure that the holiday season was as normal as possible.

To make that happen, the Lions once again celebrated Christmas on the North Island Park with the annual drive thru light display and fundraiser.

On March 2, Lions representative and Wilmington Alderman John Persic gave an update of the funds raised to members of the City Council, and explained how the Lions were working to share that cash locally.

"This year was very good. People are very generous," Persic said. "We normally collect between \$3,400 and \$3,700, but we collected \$6,700 this year. It went really well.

The weather, we only missed three or four days where we didn't have the lights on."

Persic said of that \$6,700, about \$700 was reserved to cover supplies such as cups, hot chocolate, and other giveaways the Lions shared with the community during the event.

The remaining \$6,000 was broken down into charitable donations, including:

- \$800 for Kuzma Care Cottage
- \$800 for Our Caring Closet
- \$400 for Boy Scout Troop 440
- \$400 for Wilmington ESDA
- \$500 for Trinity Services
- \$300 for the Wilmington Police Department K9 fund
- \$500 Wilmington Coalition

Along with some other

SEE LIONS, PAGE 2

Lost and now found

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

Tyler Cravens of Custer Park wore his class ring for only a short time. Each morning when he slid it on his finger he was proud to wear it as a senior from Reed-Custer High School.

So he was hugely disappointed, mostly with himself, when the ring came up missing within weeks of buying it. He thought his dog "Buddy" ate it.

Buddy was the family Rottweiler who notoriously chewed up everything. It was a warm Spring day when Tyler stepped outside and saw the box his ring came in, shredded to pieces.

"I guess at some point I must have put the box down in the front yard, either on a

car or ground, and Buddy found it. He tore it up to death because it was all over the yard," Cravens said.

Tyler figured Buddy must have eaten it so he followed him around the next couple of days.

"I didn't know where it exactly might be, because you know, my grandpa, or my dad would let the dog out all around the yard. I looked in his dog pen and around the yard but after quite a while I kinda gave up," Cravens said.

Like all good dogs, years later Buddy went to heaven. He departed with Cravens

SEE LOST, PAGE 2



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Lions

charitable giving, the Lions were also able to reach out to help one local resident in need.

"We paid off one water bill of a citizen here who had problems keeping up, for \$269.55. We paid it, we clean slated her," Persic said. "That gave us \$4,700 that we gave out."

Persic said the Lions will work on additional charitable donations this month after they make sure all the current donations are balanced out.

Persic also said that not only were the funds higher than usual, so was the amount of visitors.

And, he noted, despite any rumors to the contrary, the light display will return in 2021.

"Not that this is a big deal, but we actually count the cars... last year we had 2,800 about, this year we had 3,800," he said. "So, there was a lot more traffic that came through. It was really busy. So, I just want to thank everybody who came out, the citizens and all that. And, it's going to happen next year. I'll put that out there right now so there's no confusion on that."

Persic said the Lions are also in the process of organizing other events for the community. The annual Easter Egg hunt is currently scheduled for March 27, which coincides with a downtown merchant event that same day.

SPREADING THE JOY...Accepting a monetary donation on behalf of Trinity Services is Bryce Kirwan. The check was given by the Wilmington Lions Club.



SANDY HOBBS-GALYON (left) and Heather Hobbs, co-directors at Kuzma Cottage Cottage, accept a Lions Club check as part of \$6,000 in area donations.



Attorney Lynch files Aguilar 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 JUAN J. AGUILAR, Deceased; No. 21 P 90

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Juan J. Aguilar. Letters of Office were issued to Karen J. Aguilar whose address is 1456 Regency Ridge Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60436 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of 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, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of August, 2021 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.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Juan J. Aguilar, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Feb. 24, Mar. 3 and 10, 2021.

Attorney Lynch files Goosby 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 ELIZABETH GOOSBY, Deceased; No. 21P118

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Elizabeth Goosby. Letters of Office were issued to Alaina Parker whose address is 655 Sterling Court, DeKalb Illinois 60115 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of 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, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 3rd day of September, 2021 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.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Elizabeth Goosby, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, March 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

Attorney Berardi files Kozal estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of PATRICIA G. KOZAL, Deceased. Case No.: 2021 P 149

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Patricia G. Kozal of Willow Springs, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 28, 2021 to John F. Kozal as Independent Administrator.

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

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: March 10, 2021.
John F. Kozal, Independent Administrator
Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 6305463, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708) 942-8030
Email: mark@berardilawoffice.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on March 10, 17, and 24, 2021.

Lemke files petition for adoption

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF WILL,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Case No. 21 AD 6

IN THE ADOPTION OF STACEY LEMKE and CHRISTOPHER LEMKE, Petitioner vs. CHRISTINA LYNN ZALESKI, natural mother; MATT ZILCH, natural father, & UNNAMED FATHERS, ASHLYNN NICOLE ZALESKI, a/k/a MINOR CHILD, and "ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN," Respondents.

ADOPTION NOTICE
To: MATT ZILCH and All Whom It May Concern

Take notice that a Petition under the Juvenile Court Act was filed on the 19TH day of January, 2021 in the Twelfth Judicial Circuit of Will County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named ASHLYNN NICOLE ZALESKI.

Now therefore unless you Matt Zilch, unnamed, Unknown Father and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of Will County, Room 2, of the River Valley Justice Center, at 3208 West McDonough Street, in the City of Joliet, Illinois, on or before March 27, 2021, a default may be entered against you after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

John C. Renzi
JUNE, PRODEHL & RENZI, L.L.C.
Attorney for Plaintiffs
1861 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435
(815) 725-8000
Attorney No. 03124627

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Feb. 24, March 3 and 10, 2021.

Attorney Lynch files Baumgartner 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 PAMELA J. BAUMGARTNER, Deceased; No. 21P117

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Pamela J. Baumgartner. Letters of Office were issued to Jill Smith whose address is 1908 Root Street, Crest Hill, Illinois 60403 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of 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, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 3rd day of September, 2021 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.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Pamela J. Baumgartner Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, March 3, 10 and 17, 2021.

Council

was actually going into the vents from the locker room and the bathroom. They took the tubes off inside and they were just full of snow. While they were up there they noticed that the snow was so high on the roof, that it was getting close to covering the stacks for the furnaces, which is very bad."

Arnold said a public works crew went up on the roof and shoveled snow away from the stacks. But,

he said, the city will need to address the possibility of raising the stacks this spring or summer to prevent that from happening again next winter.

Administrator Ziller said the city had inquired about getting some new signs posted to let drivers headed through town know that they are on Historic Route 66.

Ziller said she spoke with officials at the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, who will work directly with IDOT to get more signs in place acknowledging Route 66. No timeframe was given for

when those signs might go up.

The council approved a new zoning map for the city with just a handful of changes over the 2020 map.

"The things that were updated was 1212 N. Joliet Street. That was a zoning change from R2 to R3, and then the multiple annexations out at [Elion Logistics Industrial Park]," Ziller explained to the board.

The map was approved unanimously.

The council approved the finance reports and bills in the amount of \$331,639.47.

Lost

remembering him as the dog who ate his class ring.

The entire incident happened 11 years ago. So imagine his surprise when he recently got a personal message on social media from a former teacher who said she had his class ring.

"I was getting ready for work when I saw the text. I'm sure my eyes were double-wide open after I read it. At first I thought that was impossible because Buddy ate it. Then I guessed they picked the wrong Tyler. But when I called the school they told me 'Yes, we found your ring, it's engraved with Tyler Cravens' and I'm like, oh my god," he said.

Seems Buddy never ate the ring after all.

Now Tyler guesses he placed the ring inside a suit coat pocket but set the box where Buddy got to it. Unbeknownst to him, the ring stayed in that pocket for years.

Two years ago Nick

Cravens, his grandfather, was cleaning out closets and packed up a bunch of old clothes. In one of the bags was the class ring hidden in the suit. Nick dropped the items off at Our Caring Closet on North First St. hoping someone else would benefit from the donation.

The fine folks at Our Caring Closet must have found the ring while going through the pockets.

"We find quarters and nickels sometime in pockets," commented Debbie at Our Caring Closet, "but I never heard of anyone here finding the ring." She said it wouldn't surprise her if a volunteer at the closet did find it and made the extra effort to get it back to its owner.

That's how it ended up back at Reed-Custer High School.

"I guess the closet took it to the school and they tried to contact me a couple years ago," Tyler said. "After no luck with that, the ring was put in a drawer hoping someday they'd hear from me. The secretary was cleaning out the drawer and found it and resumed the search for me."

Debbie Bugg, a teacher at



TYLER CRAVENS holds the Reed-Custer class ring he lost 11 years ago.

RCHS, happened to be friends with Tyler through social media and reached out with the message. Eleven years later the ring is back on his finger even if it only fit his pinkie.

"I'm grateful to live in a small town where someone usually knows someone. If it has been a bigger school I don't think I would have gotten my ring back. I'd still be blaming Buddy."

Attorney Lynch files Aguilar 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 JUAN J. AGUILAR, Deceased; No. 21 P 90

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Juan J. Aguilar. Letters of Office were issued to Karen J. Aguilar whose address is 1456 Regency Ridge Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60436 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of 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, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of August, 2021 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.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Juan J. Aguilar, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Feb. 24, Mar. 3 and 10, 2021.

Attorney Fisher files Legner estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of Barbara J. Legner, Deceased. Case No.: 2021 P 109.

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Barbara J. Legner of Crest Hill, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 3, 2021 to Brenda Lynn Mendez as Independent Executor.

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

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: March 10, 2021.
Brenda Lynn Mendez, Independent Executor
Jeffrey L. Fisher, Law Offices of Jeffrey L. Fisher Attorney at Law, Attorney No.: 06184265, 207 South Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481. (815) 476-7635. Email: jeff@jefffisherlaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate Newspaper on March 10, 17 and 24, 2021.

Wilson Accounting Services files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Certificate 33867 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on February 19, 2021 wherein the business firm of Wilson Accounting Services, located at 1301 Galena Ct., Naperville, IL 60564 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Craig A. Wilson
Owner Address: 1301 Galena Ct., Naperville, IL 60564

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 18th day of January, 2021.

Melissa A. Nelson
Notary Public
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 24, March 3 and 10, 2021.

Loop CRM files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice
Certificate 33860 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on February 11, 2021 wherein the business firm of Loop CRM, located at 14007 S. Bell Rd., Ste. 179, Homer Glen, IL 60491 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address, is as follows:

Owner Name: Jenny Ellul
Owner Address: 18701 S Townline Rd., Mokena, IL 60448

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois this 11th day of February, 2021.

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Feb. 24, March 3 and 10, 2021.

Law

bite small departments with budgets already trimmed to the bone.

"They're going to require more training, but they've cut our training budget. That's already happened," Arnold said.

The chief said Wilmington receives training funds through the state training board, but those funds have not come through recently.

"We haven't received a

payment from the state in over six months," Arnold said. "We're still waiting from last year's payments, and now they're cutting this year's. So, we're going to be forced to do more training now and even less money. So, when I talk to [the finance director] about our budget, we'll have to be adding for training. And with the reduction of bail and cash bond, that's even less money back into the fund."

Attorney Wellner said the state legislature is expected to address other issues stemming from the new law this summer.

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News and Advertising: Monday, noon

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Women of Wilmington: A look at 'her-story'

It has been said that the study of history is real the study of "his story." And for the most part that is true.

In George Woodruff's book, The History of Will County, he has 56 images of important people, only two are women. There are many reasons why this is true. The primary one being women were not allowed to make history until very recently. Case in point, our new Vice-President. Today our focus is on "her story."

In the 19th century little girls grew up knowing that the primary aim in their lives was to find a good, hopefully rich, hopefully handsome man. Get him to ask you to marry him and then go for it, providing



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

your parents approved of course. Just how you were to go about finding a man was left up to you.

One way was to look in the "lonely hearts" column of the newspaper. The earliest of this type of ad that I have found was in the *Juliet Courier* July 3, 1841, "Notice - A gentleman, 38 years old, a farmer, possessed of a competency, of good personal appearance, and correct habits, being desirous of procuring a wife, and having but little time, or opportunity to pursue the ordinary course to obtain one, takes this method to inform those females who may wish to change their situation, that he is in the market and ready to accept of a fair offer."

"Being somewhat particular he will state the qualifications he expects in the successful applicant. She must not be over 30 years of age, neither too tall nor too short; her eyes must be blue and her hair auburn. She must know how to milk, feed the pigs, and do all kinds of household work."

"Particular, and satisfactory reference will be given if required by any one answering this advertisement. Direct your answers to "B" and leave them at the *Courier* office, where I will receive them." We will never know whether "B" found his young, blue-eyed, auburn-haired, pig-feeding wife.

Another incident from Wilmington in 1864 tells of the real plight of many poor women as to the choice of husband. "How we progress! During the past week or so, we have had, right here in Wilmington a genuine wife sale - one of the kind we occa-

sionally read of as having occurred, but at so great a distance from us that it fails to attract our attention.

A painter of this town, named Cook, traded his wife off to a man named Peck for - what do you think reader? - A heavy pile of "filthy lucre?" Something very tempting? Oh, how the romance of the affair vanishes when we tell! She was traded off for a receipt for making salve! One of our prominent citizens was called upon to witness the bargain and stipulations between the two men, and Peck soon after started with his purchase for Wisconsin. Great God, what a country, and how we progress!"

And how were women viewed in Wilmington? Editor Conley wrote the following as to his ideas of women. "A woman is a mighty handy thing to have about the house. She doesn't cost any more to

keep than you'll give her, and she'll take a great interest in you.

If you go out at night, she'll be awake when you get home, and then she'll tell you all about yourself, and more too. Of course she will know where you've been and what kept you out so late, and will tell you; yet, right after she gets through telling you that, she will ask you where you have been and what kept you out so late. And after you tell her, and she won't believe you, you mustn't mind that; and if after going to bed, she says she hasn't closed her eyes the whole night and then keeps up the matinee two hours longer and won't go to sleep when she has the chance, you mustn't mind that either; it's her nature"

And when the women of Wilmington tried to close down saloons he wrote, "Several of our city saloon keepers were badly frightened

on Saturday last, on receipt of anonymous warnings of the threatened "woman's crusade" against the liquor traffic in Wilmington. The amazons' crusade, however, was probably "postponed on account of weather," at least the praying female phalanx has, as yet, made no appearance."

Yet one Wilmington woman became the first woman in Will County to hold elective office. Mrs. Sarah McIntosh was a test case to a new court ruling that said, although women could not vote, they could hold any elective office not found in the Illinois Constitution. She ran for Will County Superintendent of Schools and won. She only served one term, the powers that be, decided enough was enough, and the party failed to nominate her at the next election.

WHS seniors of the week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features two or three seniors from the Class of 2021. It's up to senior to submit their profiles to the student reporter to be included. This week's seniors are Jeff Sexton, Blain Czys and Raegan Van Duyne.

Jeff Sexton

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I'm going to be a radiologist, hopefully.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Work

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I run the parts department for a snowplow company.

What is one skill you wish you had but don't? I wish I could take good photos.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Lucky Charms

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Mr. Allred

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Juice WRLD because he was humble and went for his dreams.

If you could create a class, what would it be? I would love a class that could teach producing and engineering music.

Funniest memory from high school? TI wrestling a student

What advice would you



JEFF SEXTON



BLAIN CZYS



RAEGAN VAN DUYNÉ

give to underclassmen? Be selfish

Blain Czys

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I want to make music full time and reach out to people through that medium.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Producing music

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I love to sing.

What is one skill you wish you had but don't? I wish I was better with knowledge/replacing car parts because my friends know a lot about it.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Pasta/ spaghetti

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Svend and Mr. Wilson for

always being such great people with smiles on their faces.

Famous person (dead or

alive) you would like to meet and why? David Draiman because Disturbed's music has always meant a lot to me.

If you could create a class, what would it be? I would create a class on the knowledge of the hardware of computers.

Funniest memory from high school? Slapping c-press while filming a project for Spanish.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Do assigned work as soon as possible, do not wait until the last second to do it.

Raegan Van Duyne

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Attending college to major in biology; I plan to become a dermatologist.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Dance

What is one thing most

people don't know about you? I enjoy painting.

What is one skill you wish you had but don't? I wish I was good at singing.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Trail mix

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Mr. Miller

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Victoria Pedretti, everyone says I look like her and she's really good at acting.

If you could create a class, what would it be? A real life skills class about all the things you need to know as an adult.

Funniest memory from high school? LOL IDK

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Do whatever you want, no one else is really paying attention to you.

Woodall ranked high at Iowa State University

Melissa Woodall, of Wilmington, a senior at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is ranked among the top 2 percent of students in her college at Iowa State University.

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In remembrance of
Sam Shabani,
owner of
Chick - a - Dee
Restaurant,
friend to all.
Ron Russell

Smith graduates from WGU

Amber Smith, of Wilmington, has graduated from Western Governors University (WGU) with a bachelor of arts in education. Smith participated in the nonprofit, fully online university's commencement ceremony in Mid-February, where she and thousands of other graduates were recognized and celebrated for their achievements.

Smith enrolled at WGU in 2019 and began her classes in August of that year. She found success with WGU's competency-based model - which allows students to go through coursework at their own pace and on their own schedule, moving quickly through material they already know so they can focus on what they still need to learn.

Smith comes from a family of educators, even marrying a fellow teacher, and credits them for her passion for elementary education. While completing her degree, Smith's husband, brother and parents cheered her on and helped her through some challenging educational milestones. She also credits her WGU-appointed mentor for keeping her on track. Smith completed her student teaching in Morris before officially graduating in December.

"I have a deep desire to teach children not just knowledge, but also how to love themselves and others," said Smith. "I've found my way and my calling, and thanks to my family and WGU, I have the skills and the degree to pursue it."



AMBER SMITH

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\$3 and rising

COAL CITY—Have you checked the price at the gas stations lately? Closing the Keystone pipeline from being built plus fracking much to the delight of Russia and OPEC. President Biden prefers we import our oil rather than produce our own.

So absurd

ELWOOD—Read last week where ComEd is going to split into two companies and change it's name. Same with parent company Exelon. Seems to me like a big waste of money with all the expense behind changing all their signage, checks, trucks and equipment with the new name. Will the rate payers foot the bill for this absurdity? They'll still be the company guilty of paying a \$200 million fine for ghost payroll for Democrats and friends of ex-leader Michael Madigan. The guilt will never go away so man up and stop playing games. Us rate payers will never forget.

Supporting blue

WILMINGTON—Read an editorial in Kankakee Daily Journal "The good, bad, and ugly of House bill 3653". In the survey taken by the Illinois Fraternal Order of police 66 percent of the 1,500 active police officers who participated claim they'll retire early if the bill was passed and it did. That's downright scary! 600 pages of changing criminal justice legislation in Illinois, some good - some bad and some ugly. Who would want their loved ones to become police officers in today's society? Thanks governor!

Know the candidates

WILMINGTON—Attention voters, don't let those yard signs influence you. Just because a politician throws a lot of money at buying signs doesn't mean they deserve your vote. Pay attention to what has or hasn't happened and ask yourself if our town can go on like this anymore. I see it as this election is the most important local one in years so pay attention, learn what each of the candidate is about and make a wise choice. This town deserves better.

Shopping where safe

WILMINGTON—Bars have bouncers to enforce the rules. Why can't grocery stores and small businesses? Wilmington has more defiant non-mask wearers than both Joliet and Kankakee, per capita. So I have adopted the following attitude towards the non-maskers. If I see a store employee or a customer without a mask or a mask below the nose, I will leave that business immediately. Why plaster entrances with "masks required" if you don't enforce it? I will spend my money elsewhere. If every consumer did this, businesses might actually start enforcing the guideline since they'd be losing money. Texas Roadhouse in Bradley has a sign that reads "No mask, No service." I want to support our local businesses but if they don't care about my health, why should I give them my money?

Tax refund?

WILMINGTON—Just wondering about the 209U school district refunding tax money? Since school buildings were not used while students and teachers stayed home I would think that the school district saved a lot of money. Extra heat and light bills should have saved a lot of money? And also are your coaches still receiving full stipends for having a shortened season? A lot of questions need to be answered.

The loan

BRAIDWOOD—Attention members of the Braidwood Recreation Club. Do you realize that your board of directors has stolen over a \$150,000 from your general fund throughout the years and has given it to the Silver Oaks golf course? According to the BRC's 2020 annual financial report which can be found on the club's website, the balance of the "loan" to Silver Oaks golf course stands at \$150,520.06. It's a classic "rob Peter to pay Paul" scenario. A BRC member who does not hold a golf membership is not allowed to play on the course but they will sure take a part of your general membership dues to pay for it. The members of the BRC have voted in the past to stop this practice but the board of directors decided not to listen and continue to do it anyway. If the golf course can't support itself then it needs to go. Run it like a business and live within your means without having to borrow from the general fund.

Caught on camera

COAL CITY—Last Friday morning flooring debris and nails were discovered on Spring Road between Jugtown Road and Gorman Road. Fortunately the debris was removed before anyone was injured or killed. A hunter's trail camera nearby captured those involved, the vehicle and license plate number of the

thoughtless event. Please contact the Maine Township road commissioner to arrange restitution. Otherwise the images will be forwarded to the Grundy County state's attorney for prosecution.

Don't get it

WILMINGTON—I always shop local because I'm old and don't like driving on roads full of semis. While driving into town I always pass a sign on Baltimore Street that says Just say no to Joe and his hoe. Now to me a hoe is a garden tool implemented to dig in the ground. So what's the big deal about the sign? I don't get it. Grandma Mary

Not being childish

WILMINGTON—This is for Eddie who lives in beautiful Shadow Lakes. There, Eddie. Feel better? So I was just wondering if you think it's childish to call President Biden "Communist Biden" or "China Joe" or all Democrats are not safe. So that's OK with you Eddie? That's not being childish?

Always, Jo

This isn't justice

SHADOW LAKES—A 14-year-old girl was arrested for the third time in Chicago for car-jacking. The first time she was set free with a court date, the second time she got an ankle bracelet, the third time she was grounded until her court date. This is called criminal justice in Illinois. If she goes out and kills someone who is responsible? Life in a Democratic run state. Eddie

Pay attention

BRAIDWOOD—Wake up people of Braidwood! The city passes it deficit budget and then the good old boys are trying to amend it to boost up payroll for some. Start paying attention and go to the next council meeting and see what's going on.

American pride

BRAIDWOOD—It's good to know that we are standing up to bullies such as dictator Putin again without shaking in our boots and that we are defending democracies such as Ukraine once more without using bribery and extortion. Gone is the coward, Trump, who trembled as he kissed Putin's ring, who never to this day confronted Putin regarding the bounty Putin placed on our soldiers' heads. Gone is the weirdo, Trump, who had a creepy relationship with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, the most ruthless dictator in the world, while Trump at the same time snubbed our valuable ally South Korea. We need not be embarrassed any longer by Trump's dangerous foreign policies and affiliations with dictators. It's a proud thing once again to be American. Doug K.

Still the boss

Former House Speaker, Democrat Michael J. Madigan, 78, announced he will retire from the Illinois House of Representatives after 50 years in office. If you believe he will not remain "The Boss" we have a bridge to sell you. It's called power!

Puffed up politicians

WILMINGTON—Three years in prison for corruption and influence peddling. That's the sentence for former French President Sarkozy because apparently the people of France aren't fooled by art artists like Trump and they don't tolerate cheating by puffed up politicians. In other words, the spirit of the French Revolution lives on in France where requirements of the common people are held high above the rich and privileged. Hopefully our Constitution and the arm of justice will likewise prevail during legal procedures against Trump considering that corruption and influence peddling were in our news constantly exposing one White House scandal after another for four long years. Trump, his family and his staff trampled over democratic norms and the rule of law while they howled with derisive mockery and laughter as the wealthy were favored and the needs of everyday people were ignored and belittled. Irene D.

Nothing to hide, much to gain

COAL CITY—Kudos to the community member who wrote into Sound-off regarding a Coal City school board member's remarks at the Feb. 3 board meeting regarding the teacher's union forming a PAC and requesting that all those members up for re-election as well as new candidates fill out a survey indicating their stance on a number of important issues. The writer pointed out that the teacher's union has a right to ask questions and a right to endorse candidates. Mr. Hamilton suggested that the right to endorse candidates somehow violates the limits on receiving "gifts" as written in board policy 2.105 Ethics and Gift Ban. Also, per Mr. Hamilton's statement, he blasted the teacher's union for trying to "politicize" things happening in the Coal City schools. Endorsement of a candidate does not violate policy 2.105, particularly when the policy states as exception to the gift ban "any contribution that is lawfully made under the Election Code." To suggest that somehow these actions are illegal or questionable is laughable. The Coal City Teacher's Union local is part of the IEA-NEA, and I am confident they know what they can and cannot legally do. Furthermore, one definition of "politicizing" is "to make politically aware or active." I firmly support the teacher's union effort to do this for the betterment of the entire CCCUSD #1 community. The taxpaying public and district parents have a right to be made politically aware of who is making the final decisions for us. A school board member who does not support the rights of the teachers does not inspire confidence in me. However, as



this year the incumbent seats are contested, the taxpaying public should have a right to know just what each person running stands for, particularly when we are faced with potential large scale shifts in revenue sources with the possible closing of the nuclear plants. If Mr. Hamilton and (potentially) the other school board members aren't willing to answer simple questions about their stance on things that affect our schools, then I would like to suggest that the public be offered a debate-style forum so that we can actually hear what those running stand for when it comes to our schools. It is unfortunate that this is not common practice, and since this is a contested election, I think it is due time. Our parent and taxpayer community deserve better from a school board that touts their "transparency." There should be a clear forum to hear what both Mr. Rogers and Mr. Brncich will bring to the table, as well as what the incumbent candidates believe. Also, I would like to point out that it is not uncommon for school board members and candidates to answer questions posed by the teacher's union. This happens in many districts. As a Coal City parent, I very strongly want to know how our teachers feel about the candidates. With a public forum, I may or may not agree with their endorsement in the long run, but as they are the front lines and have the greatest impact on the success of our schools, their opinions and their needs are paramount. To the Coal City teacher's union, I know I am not the only parent/taxpayer who supports you and your request for answers to questions regarding the school board candidates. I'd be curious to know if you had any candidates fill out the survey that Mr. Hamilton refused to answer. Basing my vote on quality answers and perspectives that will affect the children and the community at large is a much more educated way to vote. It is true, one certainly doesn't have to respond, but my question is why wouldn't you? Why would you not want to continually give "transparency" to those who would elect you? Instead of feeling that the teacher's union is bringing in inappropriate levels of political action to this election, I am left wondering what's to hide?

Crazy society

COAL CITY—We are truly living in a crazy society when Lady Gaga's dog walker is shot in the lung and her two dogs are stolen. She offers \$500,000, that's a one-half million dollar reward, no questions asked, just return her dogs. The next day her dogs are returned. Crime does pay.

Sworn to oath

WILMINGTON—The Democrats in Washington D.C. are suppose to be intelligent individuals that swore an oath to the sovereignty laws of the USA. But it seems on state took their oath to become part of Congress they have decided to reject the USA and their oath. The people in the Democrat party are doing some of the most childish, immature activities that any American citizen has ever seen throughout history which wastes tax payers funds. Are all the Democrat politicians going through there second childhood? Or is it that they have all been auditioning for a loony tunes movie.

Back in full force

Wow, I see in this week's paper all the left-ists are back in full force. Why is their mantra, still about President Trump? When are you going to give up on him and start telling the people who read this paper, the wonderful things China Joe is doing. When is he going to have his State of the Union Address or a press conference? The answer, probably never. What has he got to say? Nothing. I see one great thing he has done so far...have you seen the gas prices? Look how wonderfully he plans so far. First, we stop an order from Saudi Arabia for fighter planes (killed a lot of jobs there.) Then he puts the bad finger on a prince for killing that newspaperman. Now that he has slowed our oil supply, we can buy oil from the Saudis again. I am sure that will work well. How long do you think it will be before we have troops again in the Middle East? Keep an eye on Iran. Maybe he can solve that problem by dropping a few more plane loads of money there. Are you enjoying the cancel culture? I see the latest victim is Dr. Seuss because he is racist. Remember this: Long ago, Rev. Jesse Jackson, read this on SNL, "green eggs and ham," your from president Obama, read the same story, plus books praised by his charming wife, Now they are racist. Boy, oh boy these people better get their stories straight. Did you know that Dolly Parton is apolitical? This lady just donated \$1 million to Moderna to pay for more vaccines. Do you see any lefties from Hollywood donating to anything? She must be a wonderful woman. When I heard this I went out and purchased two of her CDs. Here is something for all you climate change followers. ...that Goofus John "Catsup" Kerry flying around the world we have 9 more years to live before we are all

dead. Telling everyone it will come quicker by throwing a plastic straw in the ocean. Go on YouTube to this address, and look at "History of Russian Nuclear Submarine Graveyard." If that does not bother you look up the "Salton Sea," in California and see what is located at its bottom. Do we worry about this? Not at all...always, Margot Lane

Whites only

WILMINGTON—If the recent hateful rhetoric at the Republican CPAC conference wasn't disturbing enough, a far-right conference just down the street in Orlando made CPAC seem like an ice cream social with cookies and cake for the kiddies. The America First Political Action Conference (AFPAC) is strictly a white nationalist group that believes our nation should consist of whites only. Quite a concept considering that Africans were forced to come here unwillingly by the lash of a whip, then doomed for 400 years to fatten everyone's wallet except their own and still struggle today for equal recognition under the law. Who was AFPAC's keynote speaker? It was Republican Congressman Paul Gosar of Arizona which is further evidence that AFPAC is a GOP cancer that's not only growing but metastasizing until it consumes and destroys democracy. The question is, what will be destroyed first? The Republican Party or the republic of the United States of America? Kate L

Bad information

COAL CITY—To "Price Gouging" in last week's paper: I would really like to know how you concluded that the Texas energy problem was anyway a Democrat Party problem? Texas is the only state not on any of the national grids. Republican politicians in Texas chose that system so they didn't have to follow federal regulations. Ten years ago Texas was told that that energy grid needed upgrading for weather, but they chose to do nothing. The deaths and property damage are all on Republican politicians and the energy company. No Democrats caused this problem. No presidential orders. Just free market Republicans. Disinformation is a problem in the United States, don't you agree? So again, Where did you get your bad and unfounded information? MD

Pizza cook-off

COAL CITY—Hey Coal City, we got a lot of pizza places. Isn't it time for a pizza cook off? Geo's claims they are the best pizza. I think it's time to see who is the best pizza in Coal City. We got a lot of pizza places, a lot of good ones. Let's have a little cook off, pizza contest, what do you think?

Conservative news

SHADOW LAKES—Hello my name is Doug, D-O-U-G, calling from Shadow Lakes, the abominable subdivision, who are decedents of bad people. When Obama became president he did state, and this is fact, that he wanted to get rid of conservative, conservative news. And now under the Biden administration, which is actually Obama's third term, they want to get rid of Newsmax. Why is it these leftist, not liberals, want to get rid of conservative news? Maybe it's because they do tell the truth.

Sad but true

SHADOW LAKES—A family was on TV last night waiting to find out if they would have to pull the plug on their 12-year-old daughter shot in a drive-by. A minister said something I think we have all thought and no one from the president down would say. If a cop had shot this girl BLM would be here and you would be rioting but we are doing this to ourselves and no one cares. Sad but true.

Eddie

Good, bad and ugly

WILMINGTON—It's good that the American people and small businesses will receive assistance during the pandemic. It's bad that not a single Republican in Congress voted to help everyday people and yet they voted to put us deep in debt four years ago to give the rich a huge tax cut. It's downright ugly that Republicans have the unmitigated gall to claim undocumented immigrants will be getting stimulus checks which is an outright lie.

Ralph D.

Truth equals cancer

WILMINGTON—I realize Fox News is like tobacco. It's not good for you, but it is a legal product and there is a market for it. So Rupert Murdoch sells it and to bring this metaphor to a finish the truth equals cancer for these people.

Let's talk

SHADOW LAKES—This is regarding the article in the sound-off column called "Fair play," signed by Penny Lane. Well Penny, you've got my name wrong. First of all it's not Dun Hill, it's Dan Hill. I'm not Margo, I'm not Ed. You claimed that Ed didn't use his or her last name. Well, you don't use your real name. You did

CONTINUED ON PAGE

BIKES WELCOME

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It's late but it's still Homecoming Week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Although it's six months past its normal time, Homecoming is still on for the 2020-2021 school year. Homecoming week starts on Monday, March 15, leading up to the season-opening football game on Friday, March 19. This year's theme is "Cinematic Masterpiece." The traditional Homecoming dance will not be held, due to the pandemic, but there are still many activi-

ties to bring on some Wildcat spirit. Campaigning for homecoming court began on Monday of this week. Students will vote for the winners through a Google form on March 10 and 11. A male and female will be chosen from the freshman, sophomore, and junior class to be on the court. Seniors can run as couples, and four pairs will be selected as senior court, but only one will be crowned king and queen. The homecoming court winners will be announced on Monday, and the King and Queen will be announced on Tuesday. Students will also be able to participate in the Mr. WHS

contest. Students wishing to compete will record and submit a short video showcasing their talent. The videos will be uploaded to YouTube and played during wildcat time for students to watch. Students will then vote for their favorite. The winner of Mr. WHS will be crowned on March 15 with the homecoming court. Homecoming isn't only contests. There will also be dress up days for all students to participate in the week of March 15-18. The week of dress up days kicks off with Favorite Movie character day on Monday. Tuesday is stunt double day. Students will find someone to "twin" with to trade places with at a moment's notice. Wednesday

is formal/red carpet day. Since there is no dance, students can wear their homecoming attire to school. Students can also choose to dress as their favorite celebrity walking the red carpet. Thursday is class movie day. Freshman can dress up as *Toy Story*, Sophomores as *Finding Nemo*, Juniors as *Star Wars*, and Seniors as *Marvel*. There will be no student attendance on Friday March 19, so there is no dress up day. All of these events lead up to the homecoming football game that night vs. Lisle. Although it is very different than past years, Homecoming week is still an exciting tradition at WHS.

Named to Millikin dean's list

Millikin University in Decatur, IL has named two local residents on its dean's list. Danielle Gibson of Wilmington, and Chloe White, of Carbon Hill earned the academic honor for the fall 2020 semester.

Students who complete 12 graded classes and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher earn dean's list honors. Millikin is a private, comprehensive university with a population of approximately 2,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

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Garden Club to welcome guest speaker

The Wilmington Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. on Wednesday March 17, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St. Special guest will be Sandy Ascot from Muddy Paws Nursery on Highway 113, in Custer Park. Ascot will be describing the cultivators of Hydrangeas, she will be adding to her line up. She will also be discussing exciting perennials for butterfly gardens. Like to garden? Then come sit in a Garden Club meeting and bring a friend. For more information call Carol at 815-476-2469.

Weather spotter training offered

The National Weather Service has one additional severe weather spotter training program scheduled this season. Presented virtually, the webinar will cover severe weather hazards including thunderstorms and tornadoes. This includes safety concerns, planning for and anticipating severe thunderstorms, general storm structure and movement and identification of important storm features. The final session is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10 at 6:30 p.m. There is no cost to participate, however registration is required and can be completed by selecting a webinar date from the on-line schedule at weather.gov/lot/spotter_talk. The session will last about two hours and is appropriate for all ages with those age 10 and older likely to get the most out of the training.

Electronics dropoff event Thursday in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, March 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St. Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle. Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax

machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives. Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous. The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

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Bills address tollway rates, future railway infrastructure

BY GRACE BARBIC
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – A House transportation committee on March 8 advanced two bills, one lowering toll rates for small trailers and another creating a forum on future railway infrastructure.

House Bill 394 and House Bill 399 were both sponsored by Representative Martin Moylan, D-Des Plaines. Both received a unanimous 13-0 vote to move to the House floor.

HB 394 states that the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority shall not charge a toll for a vehicle pulling a single axle trailer at a rate higher than twice the regular car rate. For example, if a toll is \$1.40, then the small trailer should only be charged an additional \$1.40 for the extra axle, Moylan said this would be more reasonable.

"If you're driving your car on the tollway and you're pulling a small motorcycle, a small trailer with a four wheel-er or a jet ski, or even if you're going to cut your grandmother's lawn, and you're hauling a lawn mower, you are paying between \$6.80 and \$9.25 per toll, sometimes as high as \$18," Moylan said.

When the Tollway changed to open road tolling in the early 2000s, I-PASS systems only accounted for passenger cars, and a second category for small trailers, medium sized vehicles and medium trailers, which are all charged a higher rate than cars. Drivers pulling a single-axle trailer are being charged the same as a double-axle trailer, which is equivalent to pulling a large boat or small semi-truck.

Moylan said he presented an identical bill in 2018, but ended up holding it from going to a full vote because of concerns from the Toll Highway Authority, which agreed to work on a resolution.

Two and a half years later, the Tollway is still opposed to the legislation due to concerns of the General Assembly setting toll rates and the inability to differentiate between trailer sizes with existing technology.

Kevin Donahue, the government and legislative affairs manager for the Toll Highway Authority, said in his testimony the Tollway lacks the funds to upgrade its technology to identify the difference in trailer sizes.

"If the Tollway was to have to implement a \$100 million

weighing technology program it would take away our ability to do such projects as I-294, I-57 Interchange Project," Donahue said.

The Tollway considered in-person cash collectors as a solution because they could identify the different sizes of trailers when vehicles would pull up to the toll booths to pay.

But in an effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, cash collectors were pulled from toll plazas and the Tollway decided recently that cash collectors will not be returning, he said.

"So, the one viable solution that we thought would be consistent is no longer even an option because we won't have cash collectors returning," Donahue said.

Several representatives questioned whether there was a simpler solution, one that would not require a complete overhaul of the tollways' existing technology. Representative Jawaharial Williams, D-Chicago, suggested tying transponders, or I-PASS devices, into trailer license plates where drivers could purchase a second transponder to tag their different sized trailers.

Donahue said per that agreement, the Tollway, not the General Assembly, has the exclusive right to set toll rates, as the revenues the rates create are used a guarantee that the Tollway can pay its bonds.

He said in a worst case scenario, changes in revenue could open the Tollway to litigation from bondholders.

"If we're not meeting the revenue and all of a sudden we're not able to make our bond payments on time, or we're able to but we're having to put bond money towards other purposes and not what they were promised for, is where they [the bondholders] could potentially come after us," Donahue said.

Committee members urged the Tollway to consider their solutions as the bill moved to the House floor.

Railway Commission
HB 399, which would create the High Speed Railway Commission to explore new infrastructure for electrified trains and buses, also advanced Monday.

The commission would create a statewide plan for a high-speed rail line and feeder network connecting St. Louis and Chicago that includes current existing Amtrak and Metra services. It would also

connect the cities of Rockford, Moline, Peoria and Decatur and use inner city bus service to coordinate with the rail line.

Rick Harnish, executive director of the High Speed Rail Alliance, said in his testimony that the commission would create a forum for people to talk about what the statewide transportation network looks like and how it can be implemented.

"As we reinvent ourselves as a state post COVID, trains and buses can play a major

role in creating new connections," Harnish said. "In some cases, it might mean upgrading the existing Amtrak service, it may mean reinventing the way Metra operates. Certainly feeder buses play a major role and we believe that new infrastructure for electrified high speed trains need to play a major role."

HB 399 advanced to the House floor with a unanimous 13-0 vote on Monday.

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H. Craig Fox, DPM
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Sound-off, continued from page 4

state that you deal with real facts not supposition. Well, why don't you give us your phone or email address in the sound-off column. It would save a lot of us a lot of time and trouble watching and reading news because we could just call you to get the actual facts.

Dan Hill

Record gun sales

COAL CITY—I read there's no slowdown in sight for the recent surge in gun sales. The FBI conducted more than 4.3 million firearm background checks in January exceeding December's count of 3.9 million checks which was the all time monthly record. Illinois led the nation in gun sales with more than one million, more than double Kentucky's 422,000, the second highest count. Last year FBI saw 40 million background checks, the most on record. The pandemic, civil unrest and fears about President Biden's tighter gun restrictions are the likely causes of higher sales. Also, some Democrats wanting police forces defunded has caused high anxiety over one's safety.

Going to get worse

COAL CITY—Our southern border has become a crisis thanks to President Biden with all his executive orders and promises. I saw on television a car filled with 25 people at the Mexico/California border ran a stop sign, pulled in front of a semi truck and 15 died and others seriously hurt. It was smuggler involved. Smugglers don't care if they live or die. They all pay smugglers to get to the border from all over. It's only going to get much worse and we have a Covid pandemic going on.

It's nearly over

It took an entire year, but the lockdowns and mask mandates are officially incredibly unpopular with half of the country to the point that governors, 16 states and counting, are rapidly making sweeping changes to their year-long Covid policies. But still, the pro-maskers exclaim the "science" as some kind of declarative statement when what they really mean is "you must obey my preferred policy position." The "science" has become so abused as a phrase it is beyond recognition. In reality there's data and there's decision making. They are not the same thing. In 30 years people will look back and see Covid as the name for a widespread mental illness that killed people's ability to think rationally.

Dictate as they wish

COAL CITY—We live in a fear-mongering state of Illinois. The numbers dying from Covid have dropped considerably. It's called control and power held by our governor and the Chicago mayor. As long as they can terrorize the public they have power to dictate as they wish. It's time to open up our state and our churches. Wear a mask for the rest of your life if you wish. Your choice.

Why not a tattoo?

History informs us that when powerful figures tell a society to treat other human beings as mere vectors for disease, a common occurrence is physical attacks of one citizen against another as in mace.

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- MARCH EVENTS -

EVERY TUESDAY 5:00-9:00 p.m. TACO NIGHT	Every Wed. Queen of Hearts	EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:00-7:00 p.m. BURGER NIGHT
Tues. March 9 7 p.m. Board Meeting		
Sat., March 13 5-7 p.m. Corn Beef & Cabbage		
GRANDPA WILLY 7-11 p.m. Breakfast		
Sat., March 20 8-11 a.m. Breakfast		
Tues. March 23 7 p.m. Board Meeting		
Sat., March 27 3-7 p.m. Wing Day		
DA DJ's 7-11 p.m.		
EVERY THURSDAY BINGO 6:30 p.m. Kitchen Open		EVERY FRIDAY FISH FRY 5-7 p.m. Karaoke Contest

Members & qualified guests — WI-FI Available —

Chancel Choir Director Needed

Music has long been one of the strengths of the First United Methodist Church of Wilmington. Following the retirement of our long-time Chancel Choir Director, Marcia Mellott, our Church is in search of a replacement who will maintain the quality of our vocal music program.

The director's duties include providing vocal music for Sunday worship, working with the pastor and the worship committee to select music and prepare presentations for Advent, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, and other special events during the church year.

Qualifications for the position include a strong music education, experience in directing choral music, and the ability to play the piano. Because the job requires interacting with a number of people in the church, the person serving in this position must be flexible and willing to work with others to promote the church's music program.

Submit letter of interest and resume by mail to:
First United Methodist Church of Wilmington
401 East Kahler Road
Wilmington, Illinois 60481
or
By email submit letter of interest and resume to
fumcsecretary401@att.net
Deadline for application is March 15, 2021

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Which is the better Margarita, fresh or frozen?

National Margarita Day came and went this year, it was February 22 and it was largely uneventful. Bar service remains nonexistent in some areas, and it seems that over half of the country was covered in snow for the 2021 installment of National Margarita Day.

My annual tradition is to provide a Margarita refresher course on or around National Margarita Day. Whether you are washing down Baja tacos with a Margarita on the rocks or enjoying happy hour with a Frozen Margarita, there are a few basic principles that separate the good Margaritas from the bad.

By the way, everyone should have a Margarita recipe filed away somewhere. At some point we will get back to entertaining, cooking out, hanging out by the pool, etc. If you entertain, you will need a solid Margarita recipe.

We are not going to get into the frozen vs. rocks debate, the "correct" Margarita recipe is the one that works for you.

You make the call: frozen, or on the rocks?

Whichever way that you decide to take your margarita, know that it is only going to be as good as the tequila that goes into the drink. Your Margarita is DOA if you use bad tequila, and there is plenty of tequila out there.

How can you tell the good tequila from the bad tequila? It's quite simple. The good stuff will have "100% agave" printed on the label. Beware that some tequila producers will try to use vague language to trick you, such as "made from pure agave". Only 100% means 100%, and if the bottle does not say 100% agave on it, put it back on the shelf.

Why does this matter?



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rynn

Tequila that is not 100% agave contains artificial caramel coloring, artificial sweeteners, and it's anybody's guess as to what else is in that bottle. Those artificially colored gold tequilas look great in the bottle, but the coloring and the artificial flavoring in the bottle virtually guarantee that you will have the worst hangover that you have had since college.

The tequila aisle is not the place to "save a few bucks". You are going to pay a bit more for the 100% agave tequila, but you will absolutely get what you pay for. Some of my favorite 100% agave tequilas are Don Julio, El Amo, Tesoro, Olmea Altos, and Fortaleza.

When it comes to lime juice, fresh is always best. Avoid the temptation to buy bottled lime juice. I realize that juicing limes for a few pitchers of Margaritas is labor intensive, but it's absolutely worth it. If you have a juicer, use it! The manual lime squeezer works as well, but the juicer is faster.

Pro tip: think as many limes as you think that you will need for a few rounds of drinks, and then store the fresh lime juice in a storm pourer on ice. If you are standing in the citrus aisle at your local market and need to do some quick mixology math,



plan to get approximately 1 oz. of juice out of an average lime.

Take your time when selecting limes from the bin at your local market. Always choose the limes that feel "heavy" compared to the others. More weight = more juice.

Salt, or no salt? If you are going to use salt on your Margarita, use kosher salt. Kosher salt granules are larger than table salt granules and will adhere to the glass better.

There is a proper way to rim your Margarita glass, and it's not mashing the top of the glass into one of those sombrero-shaped Margarita salt dispensers. To properly rim your glass with salt, start by pouring some kosher salt onto a small plate. Then, run a lime wedge along the edge of the glass. Once the lime juice has been applied to the rim of the glass, gently roll the side of the glass with the lime juice on it in the kosher salt.

I leave half of the rim of the glass unsalted, just a personal preference.

Speaking of salt, why limit salt to the rim of the glass if you know that you are a fan of salt? Don't be afraid to drop a pinch of kosher salt into your Margarita. A pinch of quality

kosher salt gives the drink a little "something extra", experiment until you find the ideal "pinch" of salt.

One note on triple sec: It the unsung hero of the Margarita. The bittersweet orange liqueur tames the burn of the tequila and adds sweetness to an overtly sour drink. If a high-end triple sec is in your budget, go with Cointreau. For quality on a budget go with Bol's triple sec.

Once you have mastered the Margarita basics you may want to experiment. Add a splash of orange juice, a shot of mezcal, blue curacao, or some prickly pear syrup. Make it your own, you may stumble on to something great.

You have almost one full year to prepare for National Margarita Day, 2022. Will you be ready?

The classic Margarita (rocks) is built in a shaker and served in a chilled rocks glass.

Combine in shaker:
2 oz. blanco tequila
1/2 oz. triple sec
1 oz. fresh lime juice
1/2 oz. sweetener (simple syrup or agave nectar)

Shake with ice, strain into chilled rocks glass over fresh ice

Garnish with lime wheel
The Frozen Margarita is built in a blender, served in a goblet or coupe glass. The recipe below serves 4.

Combine in blender:
1 cup 100% agave tequila
1 cup fresh lime juice
1/2 cup triple sec
2 tablespoons sweetener (simple syrup or agave nectar)
6 cups crushed ice
Blend until smooth

Pour into prepared glasses, garnish with lime wedge
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Soy burns better

If you want to enjoy a romantic candle-lit meal, be sure to use soy candles. These have many advantages over common paraffin candles.

Soy wax is biodegradable, cleans up with plain soap and water, burn slower or longer

than paraffin candles and soy wax burns with little to no soot

Locally produced candles are available at Mark's Country Store inside the Farm Bureau, located at 100 Manhattan Road, in Joliet.

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Golf outing to support childhood cancer research

Team Megan Bugg is set to host its 2nd annual golf outing to raise funds for childhood cancer research.

The outing will take place Saturday, June 12 at Nettle Creek Golf Course in Morris with a shotgun start at 10 a.m.

All proceeds from the event will go towards Megan Bugg's fundraising efforts to support research through the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute.

The cost to play is \$400 per foursome and includes best ball, longest drive, hole in one, closest to the pin and longest putt for both men and women. Lunch and dinner is also included.

Sponsorships are also being sought and donations are being accepted.

Non-golfers can also take part by joining the group for dinner and raffles at a cost of \$25 per person.

Those interested in participating as a player, dinner guest, sponsor or donor can contact Tim at 815-679-8149.

Foursomes are filling up fast.

Hines Hospital offers COVID-19 vaccine to veterans of all ages

Hines VA Hospital in Hines, IL is now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to Veterans of all ages. Approximately 35 percent of its enrollees have been vaccinated to date.

If veterans are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccine at the main campus or one of its Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), they should call to schedule an appointment at 708-202-2707 or 708-202-7000.

Veterans need to be enrolled in health care at Hines or one of its six CBOCs to be eligible for the vaccine. However, to receive care in VA, enrollees must meet certain eligibility requirements under

current law, which may include income limits.

For enrollment information, visit www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/.

"VA has done an exceptional job at offering a streamlined COVID-19 vaccination process for Veterans, and Hines is proud to help Veterans get closer to normal life," said Lorry Luscri, Hines VA Hospital COVID-19 vaccine coordinator.

Veterans may learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and receive updates at www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/.

Assumption Church to host drive-thru pizza burger dinner

The Assumption Church in Coal City will be hosting a drive-thru pizza burger dinner on Saturday, March 20, from 5-7 p.m. at the Berst Hall, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City. This is strictly a drive-thru meal. Present your ticket and your meal will be delivered to your car in the Berst Hall parking lot. All proceeds go to the Assumption Church.

The pizza burger meal includes chips, pasta salad, glazed carrots and cookies for \$10 also available will be a hot dog meal which includes a hot dog, chips and cookies for \$4.

Tickets can be preordered by contacting Judith Kaluzny, 815-325-8969 or Katy Kaluzny, 815-474-4977. A limited num-

ber of meals will be made for people without a ticket.

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Due to a limited live audience presence, we invite you to join us virtually! Gather safely with friends and family to view the WHS production of Cinderella. Streaming links are \$25, and one purchase of the link is required per viewing party.

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OBITUARIES

David A. Cooper

David A. Cooper, 77, passed away on March 3, 2021, at Joliet Area Community Hospice in Joliet. He was born on March 4th, 1943, the eldest child of Alexander and Mildred (Jacovec) Cooper. A 1961 Reed-Custer High School graduate, David worked a variety of jobs during his lifetime. Most recently he tended to cemeteries and plowed snow through Cooper Maintenance Service.

Dave married Shirley Dare on June 26, 1964 at the Coal City Methodist Church. He lost the love of his life on July 11, 2017. Dave was a former member of the Braidwood Volunteer Fire Department and served on the Braidwood Grade School Board of Education in the 1970's. Dave was also a 32nd Degree Mason. During his free time, Dave enjoyed gatherings at the Braidwood Recreation Club and the Coal City Area Club with family and friends. He and Shirley enjoyed attending Cushman Motor Scooter conventions, John Deere tractor shows, and visiting his sister in Wisconsin. Above all he enjoyed attending his granddaughter Zoriana's events basketball, track, softball games, and speech contests.

Dave is survived by his daughter, Dawn Cooper and his granddaughter, Zoriana; his "Munchkin" and the apple of his eye. He is further survived by his sister, Kathleen (the late Donald) Gerz, of Oshkosh, WI; and his in-laws,



Georgiean Benson, of South Wilmington; George E. (Kathy) Dare Jr., of Morris; Beverly McKee, of Cape Coral, FL; Betty (William) Booras, of Plainfield and Donna (Joey) Ferrari, of South Wilmington. Numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends survive.

Preceding Dave were his wife, Shirley; his parents, Alexander and Mildred Cooper; his brother, Daniel; his brother in-law, Don Gerz, and his parents in-law, George and Marie (Benson) Dare Sr.

Dave's family would like to extend a thank you to Provena St. Joseph ICU nurses, doctors, and staff. Additionally, they thank the staff of Joliet Area Community Hospice, especially nurse, Mary. We appreciate all the support from our family and friends during this difficult time.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Tuesday, March 9. Rev. Dale Tolly officiated. Cremation rites were accorded.

For more information and to sign her online guestbook log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

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

Lucille E. Lenzie

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Lucille Elsie (nee Mahler) Lenzie, 93, of South Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at Heritage Manor in Peru, IL. Born Feb. 29, 1928, she was the daughter of Wilhel and Ida (nee Balzerick) Mahler.

Lucille was a devoted member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington where she served as lector, and member of the Women's Club and Quilter's Club. She previously worked for Ideal Manufacturing and the Senior Center in Gardner. Lucille loved gardening.

Surviving are one daughter, Lou Anne Lenzie, of LaSalle, IL; two sisters, Helen (Don) Lamons, of Palo Alto, CA and Edna (George) Cressey, of St. Catherine's Ontario, Canada; three sisters-in-law, Marge Mahler, Mary Mahler, and Marguerite Mahler and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Lester James Lenzie (2008); three brothers: Harold Mahler, Leonard Mahler and William



Mahler and six sisters: Dorothy Lind, Mildred Dinelli, Ruth Payne, Gertrude Krueger, Erna Kline, and Freita Halfakre.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorial visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with memorial service at 12 p.m. Rev. Stanley Drewniak will officiate. Inurnment will be in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

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

For more information and to sign her online guestbook log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

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

Virginia Diederich

MORRIS—Virginia "Gin" Diederich, 79, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

Born Oct. 27, 1941 in Aurora, Virginia Mary was a daughter of John P. and Mae Anna (Pillatsch) Becker. She was a graduate of Aurora East High School with the class of 1959, and on Nov. 10, 1962, Virginia married Gerald J. Diederich in St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Aurora.

Gin was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. One who loved children, and whose focus was always on kids, Gin served as a Girl Scout leader in years past, and took pleasure in being active with her girls when they were growing up and beyond. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, and enjoyed volunteering at Immaculate Conception School, The Morris Public Library and with Meals on Wheels.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Jerry; four children: Debra (Robert) Gregorash, of Glen Ellyn, IL; Lisa (Jeffrey) Cooper, of Danville, IL; Cheryl (Robert) Spanske, of Normal, IL and Karen (Jason) Casey, of Plainfield, IL; 12 grandchildren: Ty Gregorash, Andrew Gregorash, Teresa Cooper, Alora Cooper, Lee Cooper, Sara Cooper, Jeremiah Cooper, Christopher Spanske, Jordan Spanske, Ryan Casey, Grant Casey and Norah Casey; one great-grandson, Brecken Morgan; one sister, Frances Ann (the late Arthur) Sittler, of Newark, IL and one brother, Robert John (the late Bonnie) Becker, of Huntingdon, TN; brother-in-



law and sister-in-law, Robert and Diane Diederich, of Minoqua, WI and nieces and nephews: Jill (Mark) Dunne, Amy (Jake) Schoeder, Tracy (Steve) Santelman, Jeff Sittler, Scott (Nina) Sittler, Brad (Danielle) Becker and Dawn Becker, as well as numerous cousins and many friends.

Gin was preceded in death by her parents, John and Mae Becker and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Al and Marcella Diederich.

Funeral services were held Saturday, March 6, 2021 in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

Burial was in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in Morris, and Gin's grandchildren acted as both pallbearers and honorary pallbearers.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Gin's memory to: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, IL 60450; Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital <http://www.stjude.org>.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Gin's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Virginia-Diederich

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

John Kauzlaric

COAL CITY—John Kauzlaric, 58, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, March 6, 2021 due to complications from COVID-19.

Born Dec. 28, 1962 in Morris, John Joseph was the son of Joan (Eschenbaum) Kauzlaric and Kenneth Kauzlaric. He attended Immaculate Conception School and graduated from Morris Community High School with the class of 1981. On Dec. 19, 1992, John married Kelly Green in Joliet, and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City.

John was a member of IBEW Local 176 and has been employed with Exxon Mobil for the past 12 years. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club and attended Living Word Bible Church in Morris.

John was a great cook; took pleasure in barbecuing and smoking and enjoyed craft beer. He had an ear for music and was accomplished on the guitar. His family was his greatest hobby, and John will most be remembered as his kids' biggest fan. Family was of utmost importance, and his biggest source of pride was his children, and their accomplishments, and their education.

Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Kelly; three children: Clay Kauzlaric, of Portland, ME; Riley Kauzlaric, of Coal City and Bridget Kauzlaric, of Stevens Point, WI; his mother, Joan Kauzlaric and one sister, Diane Biasella, both of Morris; his mother-in-law, Ingeborg Green, of



Shorewood and her dear friend, John Reick; one sister-in-law, Wendy Green, of Albuquerque, NM; one nephew, Alex Biasella, of Chicago and one niece, Iris Horner, of Albuquerque.

John was preceded in death by his father, Kenny Kauzlaric and his father-in-law, William Green.

Per John's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a COVID observant walk through memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Rt. 113 in Coal City on Thursday, March 11, 2021 between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m.

A celebration of life open house is also being planned for John later in the year.

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5-8)

Preferred memorials may be made to the family for the continuation of John's legacy in providing Bridget's final year of college education.

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

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

Evelyn M. Ewers

BRAIDWOOD—Evelyn Mary (nee Walz) Ewers, 76, of Braidwood, and formerly of Glenwood, IL passed away Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at her home. Born Feb. 21, 1945 in Evergreen Park, IL, she was the daughter of Walter and Joyce (nee Dory) Walz. She married John Ewers Jr. on Aug. 23, 1963 in Harvey, IL. She was a former member of the St. John Roman Catholic Church in Glenwood, where she was active with the Women's Club. Evelyn was also a member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, and most of all baking, especially for her family. Evelyn also loved her beloved dogs, Alex, Rowdy and Taz.

Surviving are her sons, John (Cynthia) Ewers, of Braidwood and James (Donna) Ewers, of Mokenca, IL; daughter, Joyce (Carl) Frederick, of Scottsdale, AZ; four grandchildren: Cari and Jamie Frederick and Jacob and Joshua Ewers; one brother, John (Carol Ann) Haulotte, of Bonita Springs; two sisters-in-law,



Patricia Walz, of Houston, TX and Margaret Walz, of Matteson, IL; numerous nieces, nephews, and their families; and her four legged companion, Rowdy.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband, John Ewers Jr. (3-6-2011) and two brothers, Kenneth and Robert Walz.

Funeral services were held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, March 5, 2021.

Interment followed at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to Joliet Area Community Hospice or the Alzheimer's Association.

For more information and to sign her online guestbook log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

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

Betty Trotter

COAL CITY—Betty Jean Trotter, 91, of Coal City, passed away Friday, March 5, 2021, at Carriage Crossing in Champaign, IL.

Born Dec. 15, 1929 in Braceville Township, Betty was the daughter of William J. Sr. and Frances Elizabeth (Hutton) Bonucci. She was raised in Carbon Hill and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1947. On Sept. 11, 1948, Betty married Freeman J. Trotter in New Hope Presbyterian Church, and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City.

Betty worked as a bookkeeper with the Coal City Unit #1 School District for 25 years. She was an active member of New Hope Presbyterian Church, where she served as a Deacon and Elder, taught Sunday School, and was a member of New Hope Women's Association. In addition, Betty was active for numerous years with the Coal City Women's Club.

Betty loved bringing family together whether it was for a first birthday "shoe cake" celebration, a 4th of July themed yard-party, Christmas morning around the tree, or an afternoon of chatting and playing a game of cards. She enjoyed searching for antiques and knitting lace. There was always an occasion to gather together, set the table with special treasures, share stories and laughter, and make memories with those she held dear.

Betty is lovingly remembered and survived by her daughter, Deborah Ann (Stephen) Kasak, of Champaign and two sons, Mark Lane Trotter and Noel Robert (Debi) Trotter, both of Coal City and her nine grandchildren: Christopher Kasak, of Maui, HI; Emily Kasak (Adam Austin), of Champaign; Katherine (Larry) Kargol, of Lockport; Matthew (Autumn) Trotter, of Brandon, FL; Terri (Randy) Earley, of Le Claire, IA; John Trotter, of Coal City; Dana (Chad)



Grunwald, of Coal City; Benjamin (Abby) Trotter, of Chillicothe, OH and Nicholas (Shelby Ader) Trotter, of Coal City. Her great-grandchildren are: Isabelle and Cecelia Earley, Aubrey, Ellison and Caroline Grunwald; Parker and Isaac Trotter; Logan, Jackson and Anthony Kargol; Finley Ader; Dannzi Kasak and Gigi and Briggs Trotter. Also surviving are two sister-in-laws, Amy Louise (Trotter) Anderson, of Kalamazoo, MI and Gladys Bonucci, of Lake City, MN as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Freeman; son and daughter-in-law, Neil Lee and Honor Trotter and siblings: Peter Bonucci II, Wilma (Mike) Karol and William J. Jr. (Jean) Bonucci.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St. in Coal City on Friday, March 12 from 9-11 a.m. with the funeral service following officiated by Reverend Mark Hughey. Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Betty will be laid to rest with her late husband, Freeman. Pallbearers and honorary pallbearers will be her grandchildren.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Betty's memory to New Hope Presbyterian Church.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Betty's memorial page online through social media by logging onto www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Betty-Trotter.

The family would like to thank the staff at Carriage Crossing in Champaign, IL for their attention and care over the last five years.

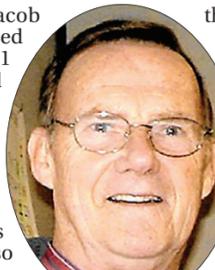
Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Herman J. VanDuyne

WILMINGTON—Herman Jacob VanDuyne, 85, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully, Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 surrounded by his loving family and close friends at his residence in Panama Republic, Panama.

He was born Dec. 26, 1935 in Wilmington, to Peter and Gertrude (nee Glass) VanDuyne. Herman graduated from the University of Illinois receiving his bachelor's degree in civil engineering and also graduated from the University of Iowa receiving his master's degree in civil engineering. He retired Aug. 8, 1990 from HQ AMC Plan Operations Rock Island Arsenal, IL. He was a member of the St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Herman was a running enthusiast, he was a member of the Cornbelt Running Club and thoroughly enjoyed running the Bix 7 in Davenport, IA. He loved to play the guitar and entertain residents in nursing homes and play for the Irish Folk Festival in Bettendorf, IA. Herman's family was the world to him, the dedication and unconditional love he has shown them throughout the years will never be forgotten.

Surviving are his beloved wife of 36 years, Martina Murgas VanDuyne, who he married March 17, 1984; two sons, Matthew VanDuyne, of the Philippines and Peter (Shonda) VanDuyne, of Gainesville, FL; one daughter, Victoria VanDuyne, of Peoria, IL; children from



the heart, Michael (Lori) Wright, of Littleton, CO and Cindy (the late Jim) Schick, of Davenport, IA; eight grandchildren: Megan, Marilia and Johanna VanDuyne, of the Philippines; Megan VanDuyne, of Florida; Amanda and Trae Schick, of Iowa and Emily and Michael John Wright, of Colorado; one brother, Dennis (Shirley) VanDuyne, of Coal Valley, IL; brother-in-law, Virgilio (Adela) Murgas, of Panama Republic; sisters-in-law, Joan VanDuyne and Margaret VanDuyne, both of Wilmington; Fernanda Morales, of Panama Republic; Esperanza Hathway, of Missouri and Juana Ruben, of Florida; and many dear nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two sons, Mark VanDuyne and Johnny Wright; seven brothers: John, Jerry, Tommy, Richard, Leo, Peter and Vincent VanDuyne and five sisters: Bernice, Marcela, Evelyn, Marie and Rita.

A private Mass of Christian Burial was held March 8, 2021 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Interment was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Wilmington.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, was entrusted to arrangements.

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OBITUARIES

Velma M. Rhodes

WILMINGTON—Velma Mae Rhodes, 87, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021.

Born June 15, 1933 in Ramsey, IL Velma was a daughter of Ora and Elsie (nee Carlock) McCaslin. She retired from the Wilmington Post Office, and was an active member of the Women of the Moose in Wilmington. Velma enjoyed life to the fullest and loved spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Survivors include her five children: Darlene (Lester) Geiss, Jim (Karen) Rhodes, Rita (Dave) Lovell, Billy Joe Rhodes and Barbara Rhodes; seven grandchildren: Sandi (Tim) Stallard, Shauna Crawford, Markus Nielsen, Kristin Rhodes, Travis (Candiece) Robinson, Kara (Rick) Felske, and Lindsay (Mike) Powers; seven great-grandchildren: Rylan, Kylie, Tommy, Logan, Tyler, Brooklyn, and Zach; and one sister, Angie (Charles) Carr.

Velma was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Jim Rhodes on Aug. 4, 2007; one daughter, Elsie Jane, in infancy and one brother and several sisters.

A private family interment was held Monday, March 8, 2021 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Velma was laid to rest with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Velma's memory to: Alzheimer's Association, 255 North Michigan Avenue, Floor 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or Uplifted Care, 482 Main Street NW, Bourbonnais, IL 60914.

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

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington

Helen M. Veronda

COAL CITY—Helen M. Veronda, 93, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at her home on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

Born Nov. 2, 1927 in Braidwood, Helen Marie was a daughter of Joseph and Anna K. (Voboril) Kaiser. She was raised in Braidwood and graduated from Reed Custer High School with the class of 1945. On Dec. 2, 1950, Helen married Anton Veronda in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Braidwood.

One who always remained focused on family, Helen's primary role was that of a dedicated wife, mother, and in later years much to her love, a grandmother and great-grandmother. She worked for the family business, Veronda Plumbing in Coal City until the passing of Anton in 1988, and also held employment with L&J Fashions in Coal City.

Helen was an active member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Coal City, where she belonged to The Martha's and enjoyed working on the annual MardiGras fundraiser throughout the years. She was a member of the Coal City Area Club, and the family was a founding member of the Miners Area #1 Club.

Helen was an absolute avid Chicago Cubs fan, and also enjoyed dancing on Sunday evenings at the Croatian Club in Crest Hill up until recent years.

Gone from our sight, Helen will be remembered as a true woman of class and grace, who cherished her home and her family. She leaves behind a priceless collection of memories to all those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her two sons and daughters-in-law: Joseph E. and Deb Veronda, of Coal City and Jeffrey A. and Elizabeth Veronda, of Carbon Hill; four grandchildren: Jeff (Maggi) Veronda, of Morris; Kyle (Christina) Veronda, of Mazon; April (Colton) Wiegand, of Diamond and Tony (Alyssa) Veronda, of Marseilles; great-grandchildren: Colby DeGrush, Brentley

Veronda, Eliana Wiegand, Aiden Wiegand, Mackenzie Veronda, Easton Wiegand and Hunter Veronda; one sister, Marilyn Bueschel, of Coal City and numerous nieces and nephews.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Anton in 1988 and three brothers: Ed (Rosella) Koca, Frank (Adeline) Koca and George (Lenore) Koca.

The family will receive friends for a COVID observant walk through visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Rt. 113 in Coal City on Saturday, March 13, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 1 p.m. Deacon William Dunn from Assumption Parish in Coal City will preside.

Those wishing to participate in the funeral services virtually, are welcome to join the live-streamed services beginning at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 1 p.m. A link for the event is available on Helen's memorial page.

Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Helen will be laid to rest with her late husband, Anton.

Pallbearers will be: Joe Veronda, Jeff Veronda, Jeff Veronda Jr., Kyle Veronda, April Wiegand, Tony Veronda, Ed Koca and Brad Bueschel; Honorary pallbearers will be: Colby DeGrush, Brentley Veronda, Eliana Wiegand, Aiden Wiegand, Mackenzie Veronda, Easton Wiegand and Hunter Veronda.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Helen's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, Joliet Area Community Hospice or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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



Daniel Yeates

WILMINGTON— Daniel E. Yeates, 63, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully with his family by his side, Monday, March 1, 2021.

He was born June 7, 1957 in Oswego, NY. Soon after graduating high school he enrolled into the United States Coast Guard, serving for four years. He was an avid reader and greatly enjoyed science fiction and westerns.

Surviving are his mother, Marjorie (nee Gentile) Yeates, of Wilmington; two sisters, Maureen Yeates, of Wilmington and Jean (Mark) Jackson, of Essex; two nephews, Seth Fox and Keith Jackson; three nieces: Roni Fox, Kimberly Yeates and Gini Fuhrmann; many great-nieces and nephews; and sister-in-law, Liz Yeates, of Texas.



Preceding him in death were his father, Thomas E. Yeates; brother, Thomas Russell Yeates and sister, Kimberly Yeates.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A celebration of his life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, Daniel would have wanted any memorial donations to be directed to his mother to help with any expenses that she would incur.

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

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

Helen E. Logan

MORRIS—Helen E. Logan (nee Jaworski), 99, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Manteno Veterans' Home in Manteno.

Born Nov. 18, 1921 in Milwaukee, WI, Helen Elizabeth was a daughter of Adam and Filomine (Spejwski) Jaworski. She was raised and educated in Milwaukee, and attended Teacher's College in Conway, AR. In 1943, Helen enlisted in the United States Women's Army Corps and served as a general clerk until her honorable discharge in 1945. While serving her country, she met Felix J. Logan in El Biar, Algeria and they were married on June 25, 1949 in Milwaukee. Helen and Felix then moved to Morris where they would live together their entire married life and raise their family. She was an active member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris and volunteered at Immaculate Conception School for



25 years. Helen's faith was an important part of her life, and she was proud to be an associate with the Sisters of the Holy Cross religious order.

Survivors include her two sons, Tom Logan, of Chicago and John (Laurie) Logan, of Morris; four grandchildren: Amanda Davis, Ashlee Sinnott, Emilie Logan and Elizabeth Logan; one sister, Lucy Murphy, of Milwaukee; as well as numerous nieces and nephews across the country and in England.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband on March 7, 1993, one brother, Walter Boris and two sisters, Jen Wisniewski and Hattie Froehlich.

Per Helen's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded, and a Memorial Mass will be held at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris at a later date. Helen will be laid to rest in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, Morris, with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Helen's memory to Immaculate Conception School in Morris.

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

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

Dorothy Erickson-Smith

GIBSON CITY—Dorothy Erickson-Smith, 93, of Gibson City, and formerly of Morris and Coal City, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana.

Born Jan. 4, 1928 in Coal City, Dorothy was a daughter of James and Rose (Sistek) Lamie. She married Eugene Erickson who preceded her in death. She later married Robert Smith who also preceded her.

Survivors include her four daughters: Rita (Rick) Meyer, of Gibson City, IL; Jackie (Frank) Dohman, of Canton, MO; Wendy (Larry) Boundy, of Melvin, IL and Beth Lemons (Michael deceased), of Mount Vernon, IL; stepchildren, 17 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren (one on the way).



Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, son, Greg Erickson; two granddaughters, Chondra Dohman and Shelly Rae Meyer; grandson, David Zeller; sister, Sylvia Reeves and her special little friend, Meeka.

Per Dorothy's wishes, private graveside services will be held at Lisbon Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the family or to charities of their choice.

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

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

Mobile food pantry coming to South Wilmington

On Monday, March 15 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (or until food runs out) Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington, in the church parking lot, rain or shine.

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food (meat, produce and nonperishable items) to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

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Corn Beef Dinners and Corn Beef Sandwiches
Fri., March 19 5-7:30 p.m. Fish Fry
Sun., March 21 9-11:30 a.m. Breakfast
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Pritzker needs to figure out why losses keep happening

When legal questions were raised about U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly's campaign for state Democratic Party chair last week and Kelly only got stronger, that should tell you a couple of things.

One, Kelly is a genuinely well-liked, well-known and trusted person within the Democratic Party and her alliance with U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin was crucial. They were quickly able to believably reassure her supporters and those leaning her direction that she'd find a way around the admission by her own attorney that the state party couldn't raise or spend "soft," non-federal campaign money as long as she had even "indirect" control of the party apparatus.

Two, and perhaps more importantly, the hit solidified the contest as a referendum on Gov. JB Pritzker, and not in a good way.

When the potential loss of millions of dollars in campaign contributions, plus the possible loss of as much as \$300,000 in postage discounts per cycle for the Illinois House Democrats alone, and the pub-

licly expressed fears about Kelly's election from the party's most dependable ally, organized labor, and the very real possibility of alienating a sitting liberal billionaire governor weren't enough to stop Kelly, you're dealing with a heck of a candidate, a clever sponsor and no fear of reprisal from the other side.

Granted, the state central committee is a strangely unique voting universe populated with some odd sorts. But everybody knew that going in. Also, people lied. But that's not new. In the end, however, the governor got rolled. Again.

Pritzker's foray into the 2020 Illinois Senate President election caused a backlash that ended in defeat and lingering resentment on both sides. His "Fair Tax" was so thoroughly beaten last year that Democratic legislators all over the state who voted to put it on the ballot were running away from it throughout the fall. January's lame duck session was a gubernatorial disaster. And now this.

Last week's narrow but convincing thumping of

Pritzker's candidate Michelle Harris won't matter at all to actual 2022 voters, who are far more concerned right now with staying alive, healthy and employed. But these losses have a cumulative effect under the Statehouse dome.

Losing is like a disease in politics. People usually don't want to have anything to do with you when you lose. So, the governor needs to start putting some points on the board or this could morph into something that voters might eventually care about. Someday, this pandemic's gonna end.

Pritzker is starting to take some positive steps. The governor just finished two weeks of events with Legislative Black Caucus members enthusiastically supporting the new criminal justice reform law and aggressively rebutting its many critics. The Black Caucus passed three of its four "pil-

lars" in January (education and economic reform were the other two), so expect another four weeks of similar whistle-stops.

Gov. Pritzker has also done a few recent events announcing projects from 2019's massive capital construction program.

With the way things stand now, though, the legislature will roll over him like he's not even there on the new district maps, the budget or whatever.

For instance, Pritzker's failed efforts for more than a year to pass a cleanup bill for the cannabis legalization law are encountering even more resistance. Rep. Sonya Harper, the chair of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, insisted to the Cook County Cannabis Commission last week that the Pritzker administration's implementation of the 2019 law is the main problem, not the law itself.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

And then, of course, there are the ongoing problems at the Illinois Department of Employment Security a full year since the economic crisis began. Legislators receive more gut-wrenching calls about this topic than pretty much everything else combined.

The best path forward for the governor boils down to good governance, good politics and much better "member management."

One thing that encompasses all three of those is the state's capital program, which needs to be rolled out more. Nothing generates more legislative goodwill than projects. Make lots of people happy and create some jobs, already.

Above all, though,

Pritzker's gotta figure out why these losses keep happening. Stop talking and start listening.

He wouldn't confirm it, but I'm told one of the last people to declare his state party chair allegiance was millennial committeeperson Tom Maillard moments before the voting began. Maillard had just enough weighed votes to put Kelly over the top. A phone call to that young man to hear him out is probably the last thing anyone on Team Pritzker wants to do right now. But it wouldn't be a horrible first step.

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

OPEC's decision keeps Illinois gas prices rising

Illinois gas prices have risen 4.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.88/g, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Gas prices in Illinois are 28.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 48.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.55/g while the most expensive is \$3.29/g, a difference of 74.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state is \$2.55/g while the highest is \$3.29/g, a difference of 74.0 cents per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 3.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.77/g. The national average is up 29.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 41.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The Mohsen and Shell off Lorenzo Rd. exit has the lowest price for gas within a 15 mile radius at \$2.79/g. As for in town gas, for Wilmington, the Phillips 66, on 1105 S. Water St., has the lowest price at \$2.84/g. In Braidwood, all gas stations are at \$2.99/g. In Coal City, the Casey's and Shell on 10 W. Divison, both show the price of \$2.87/g.

"OPEC surprised oil markets last week by extending oil production cuts for another

month, ignoring the resurgence in global demand as economies recover from COVID-19. Markets responded by pushing oil prices up some 12%. As a result, motorists should prepare for further gas price increases in the weeks and potentially months ahead, with a \$3 per gallon national average potentially less than a month away," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"At the start of this year, it was somewhat outlandish to predict a \$3 per gallon national average for the summer driving season, but thanks to the speed of recovery from the pandemic pushing demand higher and OPEC's reluctance to raise oil production, we're on the cusp of making that a reality.

"It's extremely frustrating as a consumer to feel helpless as prices soar and as millions remain unemployed, so the only advice I can offer consumers is prepare for further increases, and to mitigate rising prices, shop around for the low prices every time you need to refuel. I'm hopeful OPEC will see the error in their ways at next month's meeting, but with demand exceeding supply, the longer the imbalance continues, the longer it will take for any rise in oil production to offset it."

Rules in place for remote criminal hearings

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state's highest court issued new rules last week to help courts transition to remote hearings for criminal cases as the pandemic continues to disrupt court operations statewide.

Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Anne Burke said the order "provides guidance for our courts to address the backlog of criminal cases created by the COVID-19 pandemic," in a news release last week.

Courthouses shut their doors last March, allowing only essential matters to be held in-person and temporarily halting jury trials in criminal and civil cases and affecting criminal defendants' right to a

speedy trial. In May, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an order that directed circuit courts to return to normal operations on June 1 and gave local judges discretion to allow for remote or in-person hearings.

In-person civil and criminal jury trials have slowly resumed with social distancing and other public health guidelines in place in nearly all counties, except Cook County where in-person jury trials are still on hold.

The Feb. 11 order states that certain criminal hearings, such as initial appearances or non-substantive status hearings, can be held remotely, even if the person charged with a crime objects to a remote hearing.

				9	7		8	6
1			8					4
						5		
		4		3				
1						6		
3				4				
			9				3	
2	6				5			
5	7	3				1		

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13						14					15	
16		17				18					19	
20	21			22			23			24		
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29			30				31		32		33	
	34	35					36		37			
38	39								40			
41				42			43					
44			45		46		47			48	49	50
51		52		53		54			55			
56			57		58				59			
60		61		62			63				64	
65	66						67				68	
	69										70	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Large dung beetle
7. Representation of a plan
13. In a fervid way
14. The Book of Psalms
16. Morning
17. Exactly the same
19. About
20. Brown and basmati are two
22. Swiss river
23. Philippine island
25. Expressions of surprise
26. An ant
28. Common Japanese surname
29. Deoxyribonucleic acid
30. Car mechanics group
31. A person's brother or sister
33. Ancient pharaoh
34. Quantitative fact
36. Vividly colored bird
38. Your home has one
40. Organic compound
41. Section at the end of a book
43. Flat tableland with steep edges
44. Criticize
45. Split pulses
47. Brief trend
48. Cool!
51. Purposes
53. Brews
55. Skin condition
56. Pops
58. American air travel company
59. Minute bug
60. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
61. One who rides in your car
64. One of the Gospels
65. City in southern Spain
67. Inquisitive
69. Jean Paul __, author
70. Pop singer Harry

CLUES DOWN

1. An ape or monkey
2. Chemical element
3. Zodiac sign
4. Removes
5. Brew
6. Nickname
7. Architectural structures
8. Trigonometric function
9. Postmodern architectural building in Vienna
10. Henderson and Fitzgerald are two
11. Mountain (abbr.)
12. Landscaping practice
13. Capacitance unit
15. Redirect
18. Hat for women
21. In a way, dressed down
24. Granny
26. Feed
27. Endpoint
30. Indian instrument
32. Bleated
35. Cablegram (abbr.)
37. Root mean square (abbr.)
38. Jellyfishes
39. Individual TV installments
42. Talk
43. More (Spanish)
46. Leaseholder
47. Monetary units
49. Hostility
50. Work stations
52. Linguistics giant
54. Female sheep
55. Calendar month
57. Seasoning
59. Lofty nest of a bird of prey
62. Single Lens Reflex
63. A way to remove
66. Virginia
68. Old English

☪ ☩ ☨ ☧ ☦ ☥ ☤ ☣ ☢ ☡ ☠ ☟ ☘ ☗ ☖ ☕ ☔ ☓ ☒ ☑ ☐ ☏ ☎ ☍ ☌ ☋ ☊ ☉ ☈ ☇ ☆ ★ ☄ ☃ ☂ ☁ ☀ ☁ ☂ ☃ ☄ ★ ☆ ☇ ☈ ☉ ☊ ☋ ☌ ☍ ☎ ☏ ☐ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗ ☘ ☙ ☚ ☛ ☜ ☝ ☞ ☟ ☠ ☡ ☢ ☣ ☤ ☥ ☦ ☧ ☨ ☩ ☪ ☫ ☬ ☭ ☮ ☯ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷ ☸ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

CRYPTO FUN

☪ ☩ ☨ ☧ ☦ ☥ ☤ ☣ ☢ ☡ ☠ ☟ ☘ ☗ ☖ ☕ ☔ ☓ ☒ ☑ ☐ ☏ ☎ ☍ ☌ ☋ ☊ ☉ ☈ ☇ ☆ ★ ☄ ☃ ☂ ☁ ☀ ☁ ☂ ☃ ☄ ★ ☆ ☇ ☈ ☉ ☊ ☋ ☌ ☍ ☎ ☏ ☐ ☑ ☒ ☓ ☔ ☕ ☖ ☗ ☘ ☙ ☚ ☛ ☜ ☝ ☞ ☟ ☠ ☡ ☢ ☣ ☤ ☥ ☦ ☧ ☨ ☩ ☪ ☫ ☬ ☭ ☮ ☯ ☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷ ☸ ☹ ☺ ☻ ☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♂ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to nutrition.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

A. 14 6 18 16 5 15 14 18 21
Clue: Vitamins and minerals

B. 12 8 8 10
Clue: Nourishment

C. 26 17 3 8 16 5 15 21
Clue: Food energy

D. 10 5 15 18
Clue: The food a person eats

Answers: A. nutrients B. food C. calories D. diet

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to nutrition.

GKCONIO

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Cooking

Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Oklahoma on March 10, 1983. When I was a child I sang with a church choir and also participated in talent shows. I gained fame while participating in a popular American singing competition, which I ultimately won.

Answer: Carrie Underwood

NUTRITION DATA WORD SEARCH

WORDS

ASCORBIC ACID
CALCIUM
CARBOHYDRATE
CHOLESTEROL
DAILY VALUE
ENZYME
FIBER
FLAVONOIDS
FOLATE
FOLIC ACID
IRON
LIPIDS
MACRONUTRIENT
MAGNESIUM
MICROGRAM
NIACIN
NUTRITIONAL
PHOSPHATE
PROTEIN
RETINOL
SELENIUM
SODIUM
SUGAR
THIAMIN

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

A L A C L S H R D I S D I O N O V A L F
M V S R Z O S C E R V N M M O E Z P T M
S I C L P T R O V U I Z R F R V H H U C
O F O F I Y V E A E O L R Y M F E O E R
P V R Y V P G F T P D G I A D Y Z S U T
V N B N S N I O E S F O C H S G V P G R
M I I Z O P R D G V E R G O H N M H A O
L C C A E P G S S T O L D B I P A A C N
D A A G E Z M G N N I I O M C D G T L U
A I C M A U I A U H U V A H I L N E L T
U N I F S T L T R M A I S C C H E B O R
A L D L N E R A O G H T A F I R S D N I
H Y C U I E L Z V T O C G G R E I R I T
P S T S E E E E N Y I R I F U O U N T I
E F M N U M R O N L L A C S O U M L E O
H S T P Y G R Z O I P I Z I B L O R R N
L P Y Z U I A F I T U Z A Y M F A M R A
A L N G G C Z R V B V M V D N A Y T Y L
Z E R F I B E R C A L C I U M A G D E T
Y F P L G C T E T A R D Y H O B R A C Z

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Display
The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.

Classified Word Ads
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

Reach over 19,300 homes with a classified ad in The Free Press Newspapers

- The Prairie Shopper
- The Braidwood Journal
- The Coal City Courant
- The Free Press Advocate

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk. - \$21; 2 wks. - \$25;
3 wks. - \$28; 4 wks. - \$30
\$.120 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

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.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington, ground floor unit, 2 bedrooms, central air, in unit washer/dryer hookup, garage, no pets, 18 month lease, security background check, Rent \$900.00 per month. Security deposit \$900.00 Call 815-791-1002 ca8a-11b

FOR RENT

For rent - 1 car garage, storage only. \$100 month. 815-476-2805. ca9a-11b

GARAGE SALE

Heated barn sale, 8615 E. Spring Rd in Diamond. Saturday, March 13th and Sunday, March 14th. 9am-4pm. Furniture, glassware, antiques, worth the trip. Something for everyone. cc10a-10b

HELP WANTED

Cinder Ridge Golf Course is now hiring for Deli, Pro Shop, Car Attendants & Rangers. Please come in for an application at 24801 W. Lakepoint Dr., Wilmington. Call 815-476-4000 for more info. ch10b-14a

Dawn of a New Day Care Center in Mazon, is now hiring qualified teachers. Call now, 815-448-2530. cc10a-13b

Hiring Worker; part-time, must be 21 or older, at Riverfront Lanes, 402 S. Water St., Wilmington. Obtain application at front counter. ch10a-11b

Hiring at Polk-A-Dot Drive In, 222 N. Front St., Braidwood. Hiring for all positions. Apply in-person daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

HELP WANTED

Morris Trailer Sales, Inc. is now hiring an Office Assistant to assist our Office Manager with filing and general office duties along with assisting with parts. Must be able to work 2-3 days a week, help with filing paper work and moving files to various locations, help with pricing and storing parts in various locations, and able to work straight through without leaving for lunch. Stay at home Moms, Veterans or those only wanting to work limited hours may apply. 25 years or older. Call Suzanne at 815-954-9777 or send your resume to smapply@yahoo.com. cc10a-11b

The Coal City Area Club is now accepting applications for summer maintenance. Must have a driver's license. The club is also accepting applications for life-guard & a lifeguard supervisor. Apply at the club office at 285 S. Broadway, Coal City or go to www.coalcityareaclub.net. ch 10b-12a

LOST & FOUND

Have you found a lost pet or lost a pet in Will County? Please call Will County Animal Control. We may have your pet. We want to reunite your family, 815-462-5633. fr/tfn

MISCELLANEOUS

Dry, seasoned oak firewood \$139, cherry BBQ firewood \$169. Wood racks \$49, The best firewood & quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc5a-16b

GET HELP APPLYING FOR A FOID CARD

We take color photographs for gun owners' cards (FOID) for \$10 and help you complete the application online. Illinois State Police won't answer the FOID hotline but you can complete your application with our computer. Call for an appointment most days (but Tuesdays) 9a.m. to 4p.m. Do not wear white or very pale colors. Call 815-476-7966. The Free Press office, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington. Please wear a mask.

HOMEMADE POTICA

Nut, poppy seed, apricot, raspberry; order now for Easter. Banana, Pumpkin and Zucchini mini breads also available. Pick up at the Wine Cafe in Wilmington and receive \$3 off a bottle of wine. Call Charlotte 815-545-8767. cc9a-12b

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

Braidwood: 2 BR, 2 BA, no pets. Security deposit. 815-693-9141. ck9b-13a

Brand new 1, 2 or 3 BR mobile homes available for rent or sale. Rent from \$709-\$909. Includes water, sewer & trash removal. Please call & talk to Eric about financing options. Call 815-237-2290 for more information. ch10a-13b

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

REAL ESTATE

Private party wants to buy waterfront home on acreage in the Wilmington, Braidwood or Coal City area. Call 708-308-1293. cc9b-13a

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

Bradley Pest Control Termite/Pest Specialist. Real estate inspection Rodent Control and Exclusion Call Phil at 815-405-5020 cc42a-42a

Gas Fireplace Repair. 38 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. cc49b-22a

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including drywall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc6a-13b

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Julie's Remodeling
Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, welding repairs, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., call 815-791-5731. cc28b

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and modified rubber and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, blown-in insulation in attics.

INSULATION. Get a free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. cc41b-12a

GOT GRASS Lawn Care
Jim Baudino
815-342-6394
cc10a-21b

Local cleaning lady with 15 years of experience has openings. Call or text Eva for a free estimate 773-671-5643. cc10a-13b

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit - Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days
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ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

HEALTH

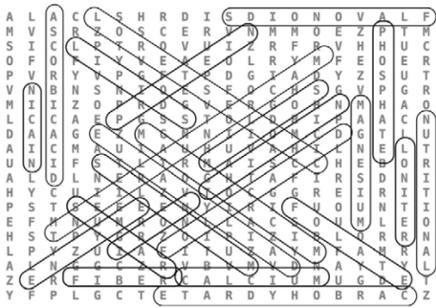
HERNIA REPAIR? DID YOU RECEIVE A HERNIA MESH PATCH between 2009-present? Did you suffer complications from removal surgery, bowel perforation, infection, abdominal wall tears, puncture of abdominal organs or intestinal fistulae after placement of this device? You may be entitled to compensation. Attorney Charles Johnson 1-800-535-5727

MISCELLANEOUS

New Discovery Eliminates Prostate Problems! Natural Prostate Relief Solution! More Control, Less Bathroom Trips, Better Sleep, Improved Performance 60 Day Guarantee & FREE Shipping 15% Discount Coupon: control01 Visit: FloZyte.com

WANTED

FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com



S	C	A	R	A	B	S	C	H	E	M	A		
F	I	E	R	I	L	Y	P	S	A	L	T	E	R
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3	8	7	4	6	2	5	9	1
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7	1	8	5	2	9	6	4	3
6	3	5	7	8	4	9	1	2
8	4	1	9	7	6	2	3	5
2	6	9	3	1	5	4	7	8
5	7	3	2	4	8	1	6	9

WE ARE OPEN AND SERVING OUR CLIENTS!

- WE ARE STILL SHOWING HOMES TO BUYERS.
- WE ARE STILL LISTING HOMES FOR SELLERS.
- WE ARE SELLING HOMES EVERY DAY!

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Coleman-Hornsby

Our office is still open seven days a week and we continue to work full time serving our clients!

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Stand up and be counted 2021 BUSINESS HONOR ROLL

Published March 29

What year does your business fall under?
Call us now to be included on this full page

The Free Press Newspapers would like to celebrate the businesses and people who continue to make southern Grundy and Will counties the success it is today through years of hard work and perseverance.

Your business name, address, logo and website will be listed, oldest to newest, for \$24. We will promote your business to over 19,300 homes

For info on how to be listed contact
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The Free Press Newspapers

111 S. Water St
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966

271 S. Broadway
Coal City, IL 60416
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2021 HONOR ROLL OF BUSINESSES

The beginnings and growth of some of the area's

LEADING BUSINESSES

Congratulations to these many businesses!

156 YEARS GRUNDY BANK Morris • Wilmington	150 YEARS THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE 815-476-7966 111 S. Water St., Wilmington freepressnewspapers.com	125 YEARS WHITMORE ACE Hardware Braidwood • Coal City • Wilmington	120 YEARS THE COAL CITY COURANT 815-434-0215 271 S. Broadway St., Coal City freepressnewspapers.com
100 YEARS YOUR BUSINESS HERE	90 YEARS YOUR BUSINESS HERE	80 YEARS	70 YEARS
65 YEARS	64 YEARS	63 YEARS	62 YEARS
61 YEARS	60 YEARS Poland's Furniture & Appliances 140 S. Broadway, Coal City • 815-634-2312	56 YEARS	55 YEARS Paraphernalia Antiques 815-476-0041 112 N. Water St., Wilmington
54 YEARS	53 YEARS Community GMC WE ARE PROFESSIONAL GRADE 315 S. Water St., Wilmington	52 YEARS	51 YEARS Nelson's Home furnishings & Linen Center 289 Bridge, Wilmington • (815) 476-7200 www.nelsonsfurniture.com
50 YEARS Wee-Sip Liquors 815-476-2704 1096 S. Water St., Wilmington	49 YEARS YOUR BUSINESS HERE	48 YEARS	47 YEARS

SIUE dean's list

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville named Koren Frideres, Allison Norris and Mackenzie Smith, all of Coal City and Carley Wilkerson, of Wilmington to the fall 2020 dean's list for having a grade-point average of 3.5 or better.



✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
✓ Rentals available
✓ Certified technicians
✓ All insurance accepted
✓ Completed in a timely fashion



Deanna McDowell
860 E.Z. St.,
Braidwood
815-458-3300

The importance of bees to our environment and ways to stop the decline of their population

Dear EarthTalk: How are bee population numbers doing these days?
- B. Turner, via e-mail

Whether you've noticed it or not, there are far fewer bees around nowadays. One-quarter of the world's 20,000 bee species are in precipitous decline or have already gone extinct since 1990. A range of causes are to blame, including indiscriminate overuse of pesticides, loss of plants, and habitat destruction from human encroachment. But the latest and greatest threat is

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

now climate change, which is warping the bees' environments (blooming seasons, plant diversity, etc.) at a faster rate than they are able to adapt.

Today in the U.S. only eight bee species are afforded protection under the Endangered Species Act. Seven are found only in Hawaii while the other, the Rusty patched bumble bee, occupies the tall-grass prairie of the Upper Midwest, most of which has been lost to farmland, strip malls and housing developments. Rusty patched bee populations have fallen off by 87 percent as a result.

In February 2021, conservation groups petitioned the Biden administration to grant the American bumblebee endangered species protection as well. Once the most common type of bee from coast-to-coast, this iconic bee has declined by some 89 percent in just the last two decades alone. Conservationists are worried about the implications for bee-pollinated plants and the animals (like us) that depend on them.

While the bees' decline worldwide is unquestionably due to human activity, the silver lining is that human activity can also help bring them back. A new map of global bee distribution and density created by researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the University of Georgia aims to help conservationists track the health of various bee



Courtesy photo by James Johnston

AMERICAN BUMBLEBEE NUMBERS have fallen by 89% over the last two decades across the U.S., and conservationists want the Biden administration to add this little flying stinger to the Endangered Species List.

populations across the U.S. and around the globe.

As for what readers can do to help bees, plant some native plants that attract them to your backyard. Regardless, if you happen to see bees nearby, snap some photos of them with your phone and upload them to iNaturalist so researchers can use your sighting to help track population dynamics. For more ideas on how you can help bees rebound locally, check out the website of the Bee Conservancy, a U.S.-based non-profit that is coordinating efforts to save bee populations around the world.

The good news is that bee populations in the U.S. and globally have seen a slight increase during the course of

the COVID pandemic, due to reduced human activity. But the problem is hardly solved—especially as we all get back to business as usual.

They may be small, but if we do not care for bees, we lose natural pollinators for the vast majority of cultivated crops and wild plants. If we can't save bees now, fresh fruits and vegetables could be scarce worldwide, which could in turn lead to massive social upheaval, even wars. It seems well worth our time, money and effort at this point to protect bees now, if not for their own sake, then for ours.

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

Thank You

The family of Megan Riley would like to thank everyone who gave cards, flowers, food, gifts, or other expressions of condolences, during and after her passing. All of these acts of kindness by so many people are greatly appreciated, as we go through this difficult time that has changed our lives forever. We will miss our little angel, as we cherish the time we had with her and are comforted in knowing she will be looking down on us from Heaven. We would like to also express our sincerest gratitude to Greg and Kris from Ferrari Funeral Services who went above and beyond expectations to make sure everything was perfect.

Jack and Kay Riley and Family
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WILDCAT SPORTS

Wildcats gearing up for 'fall mode' football

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Even though the Wildcats will be limited to five games with no hopes for the playoffs, Wilmington football coach Jeff Reents said he's treating this season just like any other.

"Once we get back out to practice, we'll be right back in our fall mode," said Reents. "We've been blessed with some nice weather to get rid of some of that snow. The big concern is how are the field conditions when we get to game time. We only have two home games so hopefully we can get those in. Right now, the kids are practicing hard. It's been a tough first couple of days for us but they're just excited to be playing."

Reents is hopeful the field will dry up before the March 19 home opener.

"If we can't play here, we can play at other places but nothing is for sure. But if we get good weather, we'll be just fine playing at home and going from there."

Besides there's no better feeling than to come running out of the woods.

The Wilmington Wildcat football made it to the playoffs for the 25th consecutive year last season. Reents said the streak won't be affected this season.

The 'Cats went 10-2 in 2019. The IHSA playoffs ended for Wilmington in the quarterfinal round against a Byron team, who left them slipping and sliding in a 32-0 loss.

"We were really happy with the kids last year," he added. "Any time you can go to the playoffs in 12 games and win 10, we're going to be happy about that. We ran into a tough team in Byron but I thought the season was very successful. I was happy with our seniors and our juniors were a big part of that and are now seniors. So it was a very good year for Wildcat football. No doubt about it."

Prior to that loss, Wilmington had won their last three contests.

This season, it's getting the players back to the basics to try to be as competitive as possible.

"The biggest difference between starting in the regular season is we're concentrating—obviously everyone is a little bit behind because usually we've got camp in June and July. And then you roll right into August and you'll be able to see your kids more and game plan a little bit more in the summer. So now we're staying a little bit more basic to double check that everyone knows what they're doing. We're making sure we get the fundamentals down right now. We're trying to make sure fundamentally we're going to be a solid team."

Reents says the roster will consist of a lot of upperclassmen including 20 seniors.

"We've got a really good group of seniors. We're happy they're getting a chance but they've got to step in and now it's their turn for these five games for them to lead us. We have expectations every year and these expecta-

IDPH ruling means more fans will be allowed a football games

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Don't expect a full house when the Wilmington football team takes the field March 19 for the season opener.

Covid restrictions under the Illinois Department of Public Health will allow for only 20% of capacity. While that may disappoint a lot of Wildcat fans, it could have been worse.

Prior to Monday's 20% capacity ruling by the IDPH for all sports, the number of fans was going to be limited to 50. That would have been a nightmare for Wilmington where over 1,000 fans typically show up for the action under Friday Night Lights.

Wilmington Athletic Director Brian Goff was hoping the number would change.

"So far we're doing the same thing," said Goff. "I'm assuming they're (the Illinois Department of Public Health) going to change their minds. That's been their MO."

Low and behold the number did change. On Monday at 11 a.m., the Illinois High School Association tweeted an update from the IDPH that would allow outdoor sports, including soccer to increase their fans from 50 fans to 20% venue capacity.

"That's way different than what it normally is. We usually have hundreds and sometimes thousands of fans in the playoffs," commented Goff.

Schools are hoping for better clarity. Does that

mean in the stands only? Or does that include the fence-leaners who line up from goal post to goal post?

Even without the cutback there will be fans who prefer to stay home for their own protection. They'll be able to watch the games online just like they did with basketball games. Goff said Wilmington invested in a Hudl Focus football camera for that purpose. It will sit above the press box and live stream the game to the Wilmington 209-U YouTube.com account so anyone can watch from home.

Varsity-only contests will be held at 6 p.m. as the frosh-soph games will be played on a different night of the week. The goal is to keep crowds at a minimum during the five-game season with no playoffs.

"We can't have all those people," added Goff. "We don't have a lot of locker room space available so we've got to spread people out so one game a night. We're only playing one game so we'll play at 6 rather than 7 to get done earlier. We're glad to be playing though and it's going to be a little different. Hopefully, we'll be able to get on the field for the kids. They're the ones that need it the most."

There will be one Thursday night game, on April 1, to avoid Good Friday on Easter weekend.

When the Wildcats come running out of the woods for that first game expect them to be wearing face coverings while playing. The 'Cats will have masks attached by Velcro onto the cage of their helmet. Fans will have to mask up too.

tions are to try to win every game and have our seniors have the second semester to go out on a positive note and then with our juniors, let's see where they're at. Can they step up to the varsity level and be a big contributor and see how the team meshes right now."

Reents said Wilmington is going with a two-quarterback approach as Jack Narine and Kaden Humphries will split time.

Most of Narine's quarterback snaps came on the fresh/soph team but he did rush for 54 yards on 13 carries with two touchdowns at the varsity level. Humphries was a sophomore last year and didn't get a lot of playing time but Reents said they both bring some aspects that will benefit the team.

"I think we can use them to run different things. First and foremost, they need to run the Double Wing offense which is what we do and run that correctly. But I think each kid has some things they do well and hopefully we can add that to the game plan."

Wilmington has always had a good rushing attack and last year was no different having the combination of Jake Rodawold and Trey Shaw tote for over 2,400 yards and 32 touchdowns. Since Shaw, a senior, suffered a season-ending injury, the 'Cats will

be looking for guys like senior running back Cody Franzen to be the feature back. Wilmington will also use A.J. Meyers, Matt Sanchez and Jake Friddle.

"First and foremost, I feel for Trey. I mean what a great kid and what a great year he's had and for him to go through an injury is really tough so I feel for him. But you've got to look to your next guys to come up. You've got a Cody Franzen, you've got a Matt Sanchez, you've got an A.J. Meyers and we really like Jake Friddle. He's vying for one of those spots but I think we have a number of those kids that can step in and help us out. It's a big loss with Trey but I think we have some guys who can step in and pick up the slack."

Franzen was the fourth leading rusher on the 'Cats, carrying the ball 40 times for 318 and two touchdowns while Sanchez had 38 yards scoring a touchdown. Sanchez was also a starting corner back on defense. A.J. Meyers split time at running back and Friddle had all of his snaps at the JV level.

"Franzen and Sanchez are more of your slasher backs while Meyers and Friddle are going to be more of your power backs but most importantly, the first thing they've got to do is block so they're trying to work on that right now and get that blocking

scheme down but we're very happy with the options we have."

It's apparent the line won't look the same with Monmouth football commit Dave Schnittiger (6-4, 300) gone.

Reents assures everyone they'll be good to go with Nick Gornik, Lucas Spangler, Blake Shirey, Dom Dingillo and Nick Sanford all filling spots on the offensive line.

"Nick has been a really good player at the center spot for us, a three-year starter. Lucas has done a really nice job for us. Blake Shirey and Dom Dingillo are coming up. Nick Sanford has done a nice job at tackle for us so we're looking for those guys to really step up and do some big things. We'll have some good size."

Reents notes they'll probably be subbing in and out a little more in the beginning of the season because the players are not well conditioned enough to be okay wearing the masks while they play.

For coach Reents, in his 27th year, is just looking forward to turning on those Friday night lights.

"I love playing Friday night football. The kids are looking forward to it. It'll be a little different right now with the IHSA restrictions but maybe that will change as time goes on," added Reents.

The 'Cats will hit the ground run-

ning March 19 as they'll host Lisle for the first of just two home games.

"We played them during the season and then we played them in the playoffs. We were able to get two wins against them. I think Lisle is going to be a very good team. They've got a lot of kids back. They've got linebackers and running backs that have been there for three years. They're both really good sized kids. Lisle is always good up front and well coached so we have a great challenge for us right off the bat."

They'll head to Herscher on Friday, March 26. Wilmington ousted the Tigers on Homecoming 49-7.

"Herscher is always good. Coach Wetzel always does a good job. I don't know how many teams have lost guys because they decided not to play because of how close the sports seasons were but until we see everybody on film, I really don't have a good grasp on how they're going to be. Herscher did play some sophomores last year so I would look for them to definitely be improved."

The 'Cats will finish the road trip at Reed-Custer on Thursday, April 1st in a battle for the ACE trophy that will be unlike any other. The 'Cats grounded the Comets in a 47-0 shutout win to capture the title last season.

"I've heard a lot of great things about the R-C sophomore kids and I watched them play on the basketball team and they're all really good so I know they're excited about them and they'll have a lot of excitement for the game because it's your rival game so it will be your typical Wilmington vs. Reed-Custer game."

They will return home the following Friday, March 9 to play Coal City.

The Coalers lost several key players to graduation so they will definitely look different than they did last season. A year ago, the Coalers cruised past the 'Cats in a 29-14 win. This year, there's no doubt Wilmington will be out for vengeance.

"I think Coal City is going to be really good. No doubt they graduated some really good kids but they have some linebackers that were good last year. They'll replace those backs with some other kids. They've got a great program so they'll be—I think they're going to be a really good team."

They'll close the shortened season with a battle at Peotone. The 'Cats shutout the Blue Devils 24-0 in the final game of the regular season.

"They are always a great challenge."

The one good thing about the season this year is we get to play off teams who are close to us. They've got a tremendous junior class so by the time we play in that last game of the year, I'm sure they'll have other pieces to place so they'll be a solid team.

Reents will be assisted by his same coaches, and he's so thankful to have everyone back with him every year. It makes his job much easier.

"I think that's one of the big reasons we've been able to have success. Those guys do a great job."

Experienced 'Cats prepared make some noise in ICE soccer

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington soccer team will be entering the 2021 season with a new outlook after finishing with just two wins last year. They have some experienced players who intend to end their high school careers on a high note.

When the season begins on Tuesday at home against Manteno, the 'Cats will have to deal with Covid restrictions including wearing masks on the field and a shortened season.

From there, they will have a three-game road trip against Lisle (3/18), Illinois Lutheran (3/20) and Bishop McNamara (3/20) before returning home for conference matches against Herscher and Reed-Custer.

After finishing 2-18 and 0-8 in the Illinois Central Eight, you would think the 'Cats would be pushovers this year. That won't be the case.

"We kept the score very close," said coach Travis Ivanhoff. "We were keeping it a tie score or were within one goal in most of the games. And it was that extra little bit that we didn't have. I'm excited. I think we're definitely going to be competitive at every game. I don't think there are going to be any blowout losses."

The ICE's top teams include: Manteno (6-1), Herscher (5-2), Peotone (5-2), Streator (5-2) and Coal City (2-5). But the one game Ivanhoff is looking forward to the most will be the two matches against Reed-Custer on Thursday, March 25 and Monday, April 12.

"Everybody, with the pandemic going on and with this not being a normal season, it's going to be up in the air. I can't really pinpoint a team that will be at the top. I can't really pinpoint a team that will be at the

bottom. It's going to be a little more laid back because there is no off-season. There's no trying to get ahead of this team or that team for seeding but we're all going to try to get a win out there. We're going to try to get the kids as much playing time as possible. We're all going to try to make sure it's competitive."

Ivanhoff is looking for his 'Cats to be high up in the conference even though there is no end prize.

"We've been working hard to build this varsity team for the past several years," added Ivanhoff. "Every year we've been graduating about 1-2 seniors per year and this group, now I've got about four or five seniors and seven juniors, a sophomore and two freshman so this is our year."

Some juniors and seniors have been playing varsity soccer for the last two or three years.

"Unfortunately, there is no post-season so we're just going to go out there and give it our best shot and play like we know how to play. I've told them every year when they were freshmen and sophomores that they were a really good JV team that's playing a varsity schedule and it's rough as far as the outcomes are building. Now that they're juniors and seniors, they know how varsity games go. They know how fast it's supposed to be and they know where they need to be at. They played well together and they're ready for a season."

The 'Cats will have seniors Wes Jewell and Jake Plese to patrol the defense.

"Wes was one of our centerback defenders. He's been playing center back since his freshman year. Every single game, he's strong, he's fast. He's a leader back there. Jake is another one that's—both of them are kind of quiet in their

own right but they're loud when they play. They know where to go. They know where to put the ball down. They can send the ball like no other so I'm going to see those guys in the backfield."

Senior Justin Esposito will be back anchoring the midfield spot. He has the endurance for the full game.

"He's got the legs to go 90 minutes out there and he's got a strong boot to go with it so I'll be excited to see what he can do out there."

Senior Karl Kengis will be back wherever Ivanhoff needs him. He knows he can trust Kengis' abilities wherever they play him.

"He's a versatile player so if I need him on defense or if I need him at midfield or if I need him at forward, he's the

guy that can play all over the field. And that's kind of where I was thinking about putting him and he makes quick transitions to different spots to where I need him. If the opponent is strong on the right hand side, I can put him there and depend on him. Left hand side, same thing."

Juniors Erik Ostheim, Josh Girot and Connor Cieszkiewicz will be others he will be looking to step up. Ostheim was the leading scorer last year while Girot and Cieszkiewicz could play anywhere.

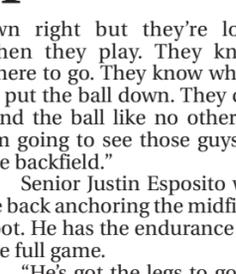
"Josh is going to continue to be strong. He's got a good boot. He's got a good read for the field. He was a captain last year. Everybody looks toward him and looks up to him but he's definitely got a lot of skill. Erik was our leading scorer last

year. He was center mid forward last year.

"He was All-Sectional team last year and he's kind of like the nat of soccer players like he'll be all over the place causing mischief so we don't really have a designated spot for him to stay and he's good wherever we need him up to. We'll be looking for him to do what he does best. Score those goals, collect those assists and there's going to be times where he draws the attention from those other teams and that'll be the time for the other guys to step up and take care of business to put the ball away."

Ivanhoff is really excited about freshman Talin Yakima.

"He's probably going to be starting for us," commented Ivanhoff. "He's another offensive threat. He's a fast player.



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Van Duyné's outside shooting leads 'Cats to victory

Fourth quarter run secures upset win

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington girls basketball team edged Reed-Custer 30-28 on Thursday. After Reed-Custer gained a 12-7 lead in the first, the Lady

'Cats stormed back to take a one-point lead going into the break.

The Comets grabbed back the momentum in the third, holding the Lady 'Cats to just four points but Wilmington knocked off Reed-Custer with an 8-3 run in the final minutes.

"I couldn't ask for a better end to the season," said Wilmington coach Eric Dillon.

"It was a tight ballgame all the way throughout and the girls just played their butts off and just were able to dig deep and walk off the floor leaving everything on the floor. They're not going to forget this game. They're going to look back at this particular season and overall feel very good about it because we ended the way we did. I think they're going to be very grateful because we had won."

That final run included one of Natalie VanDuyné's big three-pointers that made a difference in deciding the game.

"It feels amazing," said Van Duyné. "My shots felt really good coming off my finger tips. My teammates did a great job of hitting me when I was open. That was the first time we really pulled it together."

The 'Cats were down 28-26 with 1:48 left in the game. They found Van Duyné and she did the rest, making her second three of the day to go along with 13 points.

"We've been building to this all season," added Dillon. "And it's good to see we ended the season on a note where what we were trying to work for, we were able to do some of those things. And it was nice to show that progression in that improvement that we've made from the beginning of the season until now and I can't be more happy with the girls with the way they ended the season with a win and a win like that."

Behind her it was Anna Liaromatis, who put up eight points, hitting four shots from the line.

McKenzie Marcum added four points, hitting two lay ups.

Breanna Horton added three points, making a shot from the line while Jaylee Mills added another lay up.

The 'Cats finish the short-

ened season 2-8. Dillon said the season went by at a snap of a finger.

"It was a blur," commented Dillon. "I'm just grateful that we were able to have a season and to have the girls have some sense of normalcy again. I'm grateful for that and I'm very proud with the way that they were overcome all the circumstances with the low numbers and the masks. Some of those girls like Lexi Liaromatis, Breanna Horton, Kaitlyn O'Donnell and Alexa Clark, those four girls they're playing two games a night three nights a week. So that's six games a week. But what a great end to the season."

The Lady 'Cats will try to improve next season but they will have to do it without Natalie Van Duyné, McKenzie Marcum and Halle Haga, who will all graduate in May. They will be missed but the 'Cats have a really strong JV team, some of which played varsity so they will be in good shape when the winter season comes around.

Final ICE girls bball standings

Here are the Illinois Central Conference standings for girls basketball as of Feb. 22.

	Overall	Conf.
Lisle	7-0	7-0
Peotone	9-1	7-1
Streator	5-3	5-2
Reed-Custer	6-4	6-4
Coal City	4-5	4-4
Manteno	2-7	2-7
Wilmington	2-8	2-8
Herscher	2-9	1-7



Photos by Shawn Long

CLUTCH THREE SHOOTER—Wildcat senior Natalie Van Duyné came up big from behind-the-arc in Thursday's game as she drained both of the team's three-pointers, one of which came with 1:48 to seal the eventual 30-28 win over Reed-Custer.

Wildcats finish shortened season, winning eight out of 11

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington High School boys basketball team had their season come to an end on Friday, cruising to a 71-63 win over Reed-Custer, thanks to the high-octane shooting from the Meents brothers.

Tysen and Ryder Meents were on target as Tysen put up a team-high 32 points while Ryder added another 20 points to help the 'Cats in their winning effort.

The 'Cats came out firing to take a five-point lead at the end of one, and a nine point lead at the half, 42-33.

The Comets narrowed the

gap, outscoring the 'Cats 15-10 in the third, to cut it to a four-point Wilmington lead, 52-48

But the 'Cats caught enough fire as they outscored Reed-Custer 19-15 to finish them off.

Wilmington finishes one of their best seasons ever as they were 8-3. They'll lose Ben Kreitz, Elisha Koos, Blain Czys, Danny Sanders and Tadan Yakima to graduation but they will still be a very good team with a lot of young talent.

Tysen and Ryder Meents and Ryan Banas are among key returners for the 'Cats in the winter of 2021.

Wilmington 71
Peotone 51

The 'Cats burned the Blue Devils on Tuesday and it was most due in part to a monumental performance from Kreitz.

Wilmington is really going to miss Kreitz next year and the rest of the conference will be glad he is gone.

In his second to last game, the senior went off completely, putting up a season-high 32 points.

His supporting cast was great as Taden Yakima scored 12 points with 10 boards.

Tysen Meents also hit 15 points with a team-high seven assists.



Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

WILMINGTON JUNIOR Ryan Banas attempts a lay up during Wilmington's win over Herscher.



Photos by Shawn Long

BANK SHOT—Wildcat senior Halle Haga kisses it off the glass for two points during Thursday's home win over Reed-Custer.

WHS sports schedules

FOOTBALL		
Varsity		
March 19	host Lisle	6 p.m.
March 26	@Herscher	6 p.m.
April 1	@Reed-Custer	6 p.m.
April 9	host Coal City	6 p.m.
April 16	@Peotone	6 p.m.
Sophomore		
March 22	host Lisle	5:30 p.m.
March 29	@Herscher	5:30 p.m.
April 6	@Reed-Custer	5:30 p.m.
April 12	host Coal City	5:30 p.m.
April 17	@Peotone	10 a.m.
Freshmen		
March 25	host Coal City	5:30 p.m.
April 10	@Coal City	10 a.m.
VOLLEYBALL		
Varsity		
March 18	@Streator	6 p.m.
March 23	host Manteno	7 p.m.
March 25	@Lisle	6 p.m.
March 30	host Herscher	7 p.m.
March 31	host Reed-Custer	7 p.m.
April 6	@Coal City	7 p.m.
April 7	@Reed-Custer	7 p.m.
April 8	host Peotone	7 p.m.
April 13	host Streator	7 p.m.
April 15	@Manteno	7 p.m.
Sophomore		
March 18	@Streator	5 p.m.
March 23	host Manteno	6 p.m.
March 25	@Lisle	5 p.m.
March 30	host Herscher	6 p.m.
March 31	host Reed-Custer	6 p.m.
April 6	@Coal City	6 p.m.
April 7	@Reed-Custer	6 p.m.
April 8	host Peotone	6 p.m.
April 13	host Streator	6 p.m.
April 15	@Peotone	6 p.m.
Freshmen		
March 18	@Streator	5 p.m.
March 23	host Manteno	5 p.m.
March 30	host Herscher	5 p.m.
March 31	host Reed-Custer	5 p.m.
April 6	@Coal City	5 p.m.
April 7	@Reed-Custer	5 p.m.
April 8	host Peotone	5 p.m.
April 13	host Streator	5 p.m.
April 15	@Manteno	5 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER		
Varsity		
March 16	host Manteno	4:30 p.m.
March 18	@Lisle	4:30 p.m.
March 20	@IL Lutheran	12 p.m.
March 22	@Bishop Mac	4:30 p.m.
March 23	host Herscher	4:30 p.m.
March 25	host Reed-Custer	4:30 p.m.
March 31	@Coal City	4:30 p.m.
April 1	host Peotone	1 p.m.
April 6	host Streator	4:30 p.m.
April 8	@Manteno	4:30 p.m.
April 12	@Reed-Custer	4:30 p.m.
April 13	host Lisle	TBA
April 15	@Herscher	4:30 p.m.

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