

GETTING READY TO LAUNCH



GRADING STARTED MONDAY for a new kayak launch and parking lot on the North Island Park. A crew from Austin Tyler Company began moving dirt for the enhanced parking lot that will be near the north tip of the park. The project has been two years in the making after the city originally rejected a possible grant in the summer of 2021 fearing liability if someone drowned. But in 2024 the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Forest Preserve District of Will County awarded grant funding for the \$300,000 project, costing the city about \$80,000, one-third the cost. The project will feature a fully accessible floating dock, new parking lot enhancements, and an accessible path to connect the project. The city will be responsible for maintenance and winter storage for a period of at least 10 years. An engineer on site from Chamlin and Associates said the project should be completed in about 30 days. He noted the parking lot and path will be completed first. The question then will be when the portable launch ramp will be delivered.

City Administrator resigns after six years at the helm

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

The City of Wilmington is searching for a new city administrator following the announcement that Jeannine Smith has accepted a position with another community. Mayor Ben Dietz shared the news this week, expressing both appreciation for Smith's service and confidence in her future success. "While I am not happy to report — though I am incredibly happy for her and her family — our City Administrator, Jeannine Smith, has accepted an offer with another community," Dietz said. "With her

decades of experience in public administration, as well as the tireless effort she has invested into Wilmington these past years, I have no doubt she was the clear choice for that community." **Invaluable asset** Dietz credited Smith with playing a significant role in advancing the city's priorities during her tenure and described her as a key member of the municipal team. "She has been an invaluable asset for Wilmington, and I am profoundly grateful for everything she has done for our community and will be missed," Dietz said. City officials indicated

that the transition process will begin immediately. In the coming days, the city plans to post a job vacancy for the City Administrator position and will work to fill the role in the weeks ahead. **Proud to have served** Smith also shared a message reflecting on her time with Wilmington and the progress made during her tenure. "Thank you for your incredibly kind and generous words. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have served the City of Wilmington and to have worked alongside such a dedicated and talented

SEE RESIGNS PAGE 2

Wilmington approves new garbage collection company

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

After months of discussion, the Wilmington City Council has officially approved a five-year garbage collection contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS). The newly approved agreement locks in residential garbage, recycling, and yard waste service through April 30, 2031 — bringing an end to a decision-making process that stretched across several meetings, presentations and plenty of resident curiosity about when a final call would actually be made.

The contract begins May 1. According to the LRS Service calendar, the first Wednesday services will begin April 30, with the first Friday pickup on May 1. **Special delivery** LRS carts will be delivered to Wilmington households on Thursday, April 23. Each household will receive two carts, which may arrive on different days. Residents should read the information that will be left on their cart hanger provided with the new trash cans for information on whether trash will be picked up Wednesday or Friday.

LRS suggests customers sign up for the LRS Customer Portal to manage your service, including updates, missed pickups and questions. **The cost** Monthly per household rates will start at \$24.67 the first year and climb gradually to \$28.87 by year five — because nothing says long-term planning like a predictable annual increase. Along with regular pickup service, the agreement includes one free bulk item per week, annual spring cleanup, and Christmas tree collection. Yard waste pickup will run

SEE LAKESHORE PAGE 2

Will County leaders are told to accept solar projects

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Certain Will County leaders and a boatload of residents are concerned about solar energy plants being given priority over the decision making by local municipalities. At the center of the controversy are multiple solar farm proposals—some spanning thousands of acres—that have drawn both support and opposi-

tion. The largest, known as the "Pride of the Prairie" project, would cover more than 6,000 acres in Will County across several townships, making it one of the largest solar developments in Illinois. The debate has intensified following a court ruling that effectively limits the county's ability to reject certain solar projects. A Will County judge ordered the county board to reverse

earlier denials, including a 85-acre solar plant planned for Rivals Road near Wilmington — and approve five other applications, citing state law designed to accelerate renewable energy development. **Threats of fines and jail time** County leaders say the ruling puts them in a difficult position. Nevertheless, Will County board members have been warned. Will County Board Speaker

Joe VanDuyne said board members voting against solar plants on Thursday, April 16, may well face fines or even jail time. The board members will re-vote on six solar facilities that were denied over the past two years, including the Rivals Road project, that was contested by residents, some whose homes will be less than 50 feet from the development. Residents are upset with the judge's ruling and

have pushed back strongly. Opponents argue that the rapid expansion of solar facilities threatens farmland, property values, and the rural character of their communities. They dislike the fact that the state has taken away all decision making at the local level. Sixteen residents in the area of the proposed "Pride of the Prairie" facility have filed a lawsuit to stop a county board vote. Public hearings have

drawn large crowds, with some filing lawsuits alleging they were denied a fair opportunity to challenge the projects. **Economic benefits and big money** Supporters of the developments—including renewable energy advocates—SEE COUNTY BOARD PAGE 2





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WHEN BUYING 2

I-55 shut down after motorcyclist fatally struck by semi-truck

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

A motorcyclist was killed Saturday morning in a crash involving a semi-trailer on Interstate 55 near Reed Road in Braidwood.

According to authorities, Fernando Rodriguez, 25, of Normal, was pronounced dead at 12:11 p.m.

Saturday at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

In an autopsy performed April 12, the Will County Coroner's Office said Rodriguez died as the result of injuries sustained in the crash.

Illinois State Police reported the crash occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. Saturday on

northbound Interstate 55 near mile marker 233, just south of the Reed Road exit.

Emergency crews responded to the scene. Northbound lanes of Interstate 55 were closed for approximately four hours following the crash. The roadway remained shut down until shortly after 3:30 p.m. while authorities investigated

and cleared the scene.

Preliminary information indicates the crash involved a motorcycle and a semitrailer. The circumstances leading up to the collision have not yet been released to the public.

The incident remains under investigation by Illinois State Police and the Will County Coroner's Office.

City awards contract to start well #4 project

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

City officials have fretted over Well No. 4 located on the South Island Park. The well was knocked out of commission during flooding of the Kankakee River in January 2024.

Now it's looking at a new site next to the city's water treatment plant to dig a new well for an alternative source to river water.

The Wilmington City Council awarded a contract for Phase 1 of the city's new Well No. 4 project to Cahoy Pump Service, marking the beginning of a key infrastructure investment intended to support long-term water reliability.

Cahoy submitted the winning bid of \$340,511 with an alternate bid of \$331,240.

Engineering firm Chamlin and Associates recommended that an alternate bid be awarded with the understanding that the city will decide the actual footage of drilling to be paid at the unit price.

City officials approved the contractor bid as part of the April 7 council meeting.

Phase 1 of the project represents the first step in the development of the new well, which will eventually expand the city's water production capabilities and provide improved backup capacity in the event of equipment maintenance or unexpected outages.

The well on the island is still in use but may someday be capped in the future once it breaks down.

County board,

continued from page 1

cates, union workers and some landowners—point to economic benefits such as construction jobs, tax revenue, and the transition to cleaner energy sources.

Project developers like RPIL, LLC of California, proposing the Rivals Road facility and Earthrise Energy, proposing the Pride of the Prairie plant, typically see returns of 10 to 25 percent on their investment, often seeing payback within six to 12 years.

Hands are tied

The dispute also reflects a broader conflict between state and local control. Illinois law now restricts how much authority counties have over siting solar facilities, prompting Will County officials to call for legislative changes that would restore more local input.

With key votes and court hearings underway, the outcome of the Will County solar debate could set an important precedent for how renewable energy projects are approved—and contested—across Illinois.

Lakeshore,

continued from page 1

from April 1 through December 15.

A difficult choice

City officials selected LRS following a competitive bidding process that weighed cost, reliability, and service features. Staff recommendations noted the company provided competitive pricing and service consistency — key factors after months of evaluating options and comparing numbers.

Missed pickups are required to be resolved within 24 hours, and the contractor must comply

with environmental and safety regulations which, residents will hope, translates to fewer complaints and fewer “Why is my trash still here?” moments.

After weeks of back-and-forth and careful review, the council's approval brings blessed closure to one of the more drawn-out municipal decisions in recent memory — and ensures Wilmington residents will, at long last, know who's picking up their garbage.

Attorney Meents files Jessen 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 HENRY JOSEPH JESSEN III,
Deceased; No. 2025 PR 684
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Henry Joseph Jessen III, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on March 30, 2026, to Kristi A. Hornyak, whose address is 12775 County Road 5, Delta, Ohio 43515; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 16, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Kristi A. Hornyak
Independent Executor of the Estate
of Henry Joseph Jessen III,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
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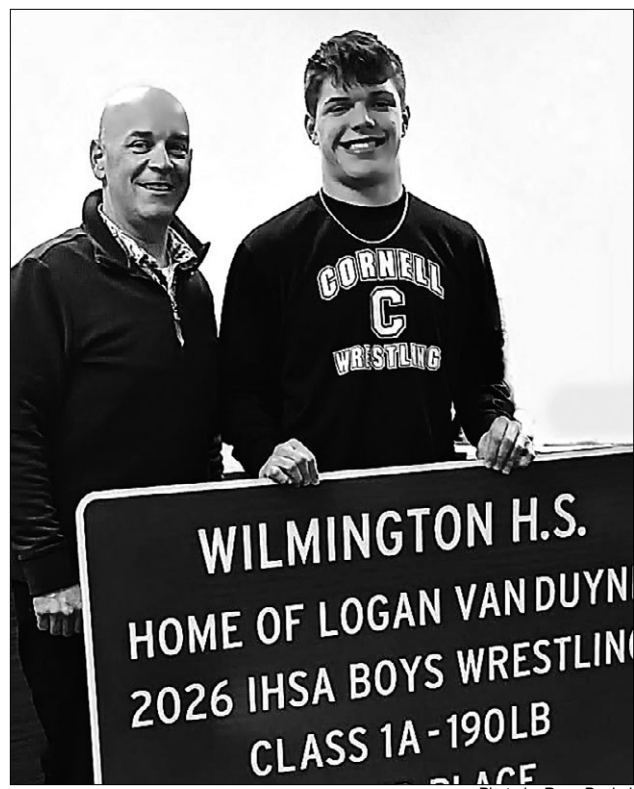


Photo by Rose Panieri

WILMINGTON MAYOR BEN Dietz (left) honors Logan VanDuyne a student at Wilmington High School VanDuyne earned second place in Boys Wrestling Class 1A.

City honors a state runner-up

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington City Council recognized student athlete Logan VanDuyne during its April 7 meeting, honoring his second-place finish at the state wrestling tournament and celebrating his achievement as a reflection of the community's strong athletic tradition.

Mayor Ben Dietz presented a proclamation recognizing VanDuyne for placing second in the 190-pound Class 1A division at the Illinois High School Association State Wrestling Tournament, held Feb. 28 at the State Farm Center at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

City officials described VanDuyne's performance as the result of determination, dedication, and a passion for competition — qualities they said represent the values promoted within Wilmington schools and the broader community.

The proclamation highlighted Wilmington

School District's long-standing tradition of academic and athletic excellence, noting that student achievements like VanDuyne's reflect years of commitment and hard work by athletes, coaches and school staff.

City leaders also recognized the support system surrounding VanDuyne, including Wilmington School District Superintendent Kevin Feeney, Principal Scott Maupin, Assistant Principal Jeff Reents, and Athletic Director Brian Goff, whose leadership was cited as helping foster student success both in athletics and in life.

Officials said VanDuyne's accomplishment serves as an example for younger athletes and demonstrates what can be achieved through persistence and discipline.

The council concluded the proclamation by congratulating VanDuyne on his successful season and wishing him continued success in his future athletic and academic pursuits.

Resigns,

continued from page 1

team,” Smith said.

In her statement, Smith emphasized that the city's accomplishments were the result of collaboration among elected officials, staff, and residents.

“Reflecting on the progress made over the past several years, it is clear that Wilmington's success is the result of strong leadership, a committed City Council, engaged staff, and a supportive community,” Smith said. “I am proud to have been part of the collective effort that helped move so many important initiatives forward and position the City for continued growth.”

Smith said she leaves the role with pride in what has been accomplished and optimism about Wilmington's future.

“While I am excited for the next chapter, Wilmington will always hold a special place in my heart,” she said. “I leave with great pride in what has been accomplished and full confidence in the City's continued success.”

City officials have not yet announced Smith's final day with Wilmington or identified the community she will be joining.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

District 209U to hold hearing on amended budget

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
RESOLUTION NO. 2-26

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of School District No. 209-U in the County of Will, State of Illinois, that a tentative Amended Budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, located in the Wilmington High School, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois in this school district from and after 8:00 o'clock A.M. on the 1st day of May, 2026.

Notice is further hereby given that public hearings on said budget will be held at 6:15 P.M. on the 11th day of May and at 6:15 P.M. on the 8th day of June 2026 at Wilmington High School in this School District No. 209-U.

Dated this 13th day of April, 2026.

Board of Education of School District No. 209-U in the County of Will, State of Illinois.

By: Peggy Kunz, Secretary
Published in the Free Press Advocate on April 15 and 22, 2026.

Attorney Gorcowski files Coleman 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 DELORES J. COLEMAN, Deceased; No. 2026 PR 115
CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given the creditors of the death of DELORES J. COLEMAN, deceased January 17, 2025 of 716 Parkwood Dr., Joliet, IL, the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois, entered an order issuing letters of office to Audrey E. Helm-Weaver, dated March 11, 2026, whose address is 716 Parkwood Dr., Joliet, IL and appointing her Independent Executor with Will annexed of the Estate of DELORES J. COLEMAN.

Notice is given that a Petition may be filed within 42 days after the date of said Order admitting said Will to probate to the Probate Act, as amended, and within six months after March 11, 2026, the date of the appointment of the said Audrey E. Helm-Weaver as Independent Executor with Will annexed, a petition may be filed in the above-entitled proceeding to contest the validity of said Will under Section 8-1 of said Probate Act, as amended.

Notice of said Petition and Order is hereby given to the heirs-at-law of said Delores J. Coleman, Deceased, namely: ERIC COLEMAN; AUDREY E. HELM-WEAVER; AJAY-LA COLEMAN; JEREMY COLEMAN, II and POSSIBLE UNKNOWN HEIRS. Claims against the Estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims must be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Audrey E. Helm-Weaver,
Independent Executor with the Will annexed of the Estate of Delores J. Coleman, Deceased.
Michael N. Gorcowski
Attorney Number: 031291116
8 W. Cass Street, Joliet, IL 60432
815/740-5900 - 815/740-5903 (fax)
mng@gorcowskilaw.net
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 15, 22 and 29, 2026.

Trish's Antiques & Collectibles files as new business

PUBLIC NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice

Certificate 35548 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Will County on March 24, 2026, wherein the business firm of Trish's Antiques & Collectibles, located at 205 N. Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows:
Patricia L. Tucker
1471 W. State Route 102
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Joliet, Illinois, this 24th day of March, 2026.

Annette Parker
Will County Clerk
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 1, 8, and 15, 2026.

Meents Law P.C. files Rogers 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 ELLEN MARIE ROGERS, Deceased; No. 2026 PR 120
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Ellen Marie Rogers, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 9, 2026, to William J. Rogers, whose address is 4307 Renaissance Drive #219, San Jose, CA 95134; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the WILL County Courthouse, River Valley Justice Center, 3208 West McDonough Street, Joliet, IL 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 20, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

William J. Rogers
Independent Executor of the Estate of Ellen Marie Rogers, Deceased
Dylan J. Hakey
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W Eames St, Unit A
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Facsimile: (815)534-9516
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E-mail: Dylan@MeentsLaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 15, 22 and 29, 2026.

Audit report made available by Elwood Fire Protection District

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Elwood Fire Protection District, Will County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2025 was prepared by our auditor, Mack & Associates, P.C., 116 E. Washington Street, Suite 1, Morris, IL 60450. The fiscal year 2025 audit has been filed with the County Clerk of Will County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Fire District Fire Station located at 309 W. Mississippi, Elwood, IL from 7:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

Meents Law P.C. files Baskin 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 JUDITH A BASKIN, Deceased; No. 2026 PR 67
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of **Judith A Baskin**, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on March 24, 2026, to James M. Baskin, whose address is 1504 Woodbridge Road, Apt. 3A, Joliet, IL 60436; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the WILL County Courthouse, River Valley Justice Center, 3208 West McDonough Street, Joliet, IL 60435, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 6, 2026, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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James M. Baskin
Independent Executor of the Estate of Judith A Baskin, Deceased
Marilyn L Wysocki
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E-mail: MLWysocki@MeentsLaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, April 1, 8 and 15, 2026.

Judge David Willard, a self made man

Our personality of the week is David Willard. He was, what people would call, a "self made man." It is my opinion that in our time, this feat is getting nearly impossible to accomplish. So often people are judged by how much education they have rather than how intelligent they actually are. There is a great difference, as the biography of Willard will show.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

taining your opinions, whether called to public station or in the more private walks; following no man and no cause because of popularity, shunning no man and no cause you believe to be right because of unpopularity or reproach; but avoiding the parasite and self seeker, and standing bravely by your own convictions."

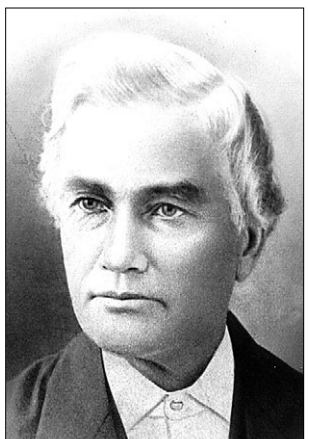
Another of his ancestors, John Willard did live by his convictions, and died by them. During the infamous Salem witch trials, he was sent out to apprehend two girls who were being accused of witchcraft. He did not believe the charges and refused the task, standing up for what he thought was right. This put suspicion on him; he fled but was arrested and tried. John Willard was hung on 19 August 1692 at Gallows Hill, Salem Village (modern Danvers), Massachusetts Bay Colony, as a convicted witch.

I don't know whether

David had his ancestors letter in mind when he arrived in Wesley Township in 1844 but it is certainly how he lived his life. He settled on an 80-acre farm in Section 4 where he would live for over fifty years.

David had only what we would term a high school education, but he loved learning and studied the law privately whenever he could. He never shunned public office, becoming the first School Treasurer of Wesley Township, a Justice of the Peace, elected to be Supervisor of Wesley Township and then Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

In an obituary in the July 31, 1903 Wilmington Advocate an unknown person writes, "I first met him in the fall of 1852, and he was out that morning in quest of votes, as he was a candidate for the State Legislature. He was a Whig, and he very candidly told us he could not and did not expect to be elected, as the Democrats were in a large majority in the district, but he wanted his neighbors to vote for him." Willard's predictions came true, and he lost that election by a large majority.

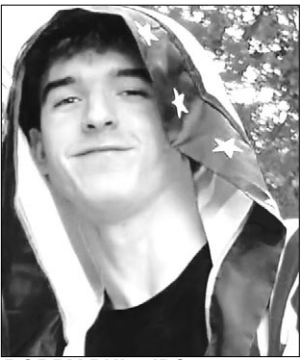


Courtesy photo
A PHOTO OF Judge David Willard.

However, even his Whig politics was not held against him by those who knew him. In 1865 he was chosen as a Will County Judge, in those days judges were chosen by the county board. He was the only man ever to be chosen as county judge who did not have any formal education in the law.

Again from his obituary we read, "Judge Willard was a farmer - a good farmer. He honored his calling. It is not likely that even for one moment he felt a sense of shame or inferiority because he was "to the manor born." He was eminently fitted by nature to do the work of a Judge. He had a judicial mind, but that was not all. He possessed the highest attribute of the human mind."

When Willard died at the age of 81, the whole county mourned his passing. He was buried at what is now a private cemetery in Wesley Township. His pallbearers were six judges or former judges and the funeral procession stretched out for over a mile.



BOBBY PHILLIPS



KOREEN LIGID

Meet the WHS Seniors

ISABEL BRAJAS
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The Free Press Advocate features members from the Wilmington High School class of 2026. This week we're featuring Bobby Phillips and Koreen Ligid who completed our questionnaire.

Bobby Phillips
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Major in sports journalism

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

What is your best habit? Video editing
Your favorite thing to eat on the school lunch menu? Walking taco

One thing you refuse to eat? Mango

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Baseball has been my entire life since I was three years old

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Jesus Christ because he is my lord and savior.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Italy

If you could create a class, what would it be? Film class about movies

Teacher shoutout? Mr. Krop

What advice would you give to the underclassman? Enjoy the four years, they go by too fast

Koreen Ligid
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Nursing/radiology

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I love watching true crime documentaries!

What is your best habit? Being on time

Your favorite thing to eat on the school lunch menu? Mac and cheese

One thing you refuse to eat? Fish

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Volleyball because I met some friends

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Drew Starkey, because he's hot!!

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? Italy

If you could create a class, what would it be? Culinary class

Teacher shoutout? Mr. Miller

What advice would you give to the underclassman? Respect your teachers



Photo by Isabel Brajas

HISTORY TEACHERS at Wilmington High School include (from left) Mike Wilson, Drew Tyler and Elizabeth Mosier.

WHS department feature is all about history

ISABEL BRAJAS
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

This week we're going back in time with the history department at Wilmington High School.

Teachers of this department include Elizabeth Mosier who teaches A.P. U.S history, U.S history, civics; Drew Tyler and Mike Wilson who teach World Civilization, Consumer Economics, American conflicts and cultures.

Student Lailah Arrington spoke about Wilson as one whose "voice holds authority."

Mosier has been teaching for 23 years and loves to analyze historic events with her students every year.

She also make her methods student-centered so they have ways to improve their grades and get the needed material.

Sally Clifford said, "She challenges us which I like."

Sydney Swann also said, "Oh I love Mosier,

she's honestly helped me a lot."

Tyler started teaching history with the belief that you must know the root of where our issues as society started from.

Not only does Tyler wants his students to learn about history but through his activities in class, it's meant for the students to feel and live in those historical moments.

Delilah Hannan said, "I like that he re-teaches material so you actually

learn it."

Addison Van Duyne agreed, "Yeah he's a good teacher, I liked his class."

While each teacher may have a different approach, they share their ideas with one another learning different materials to help engage their students.

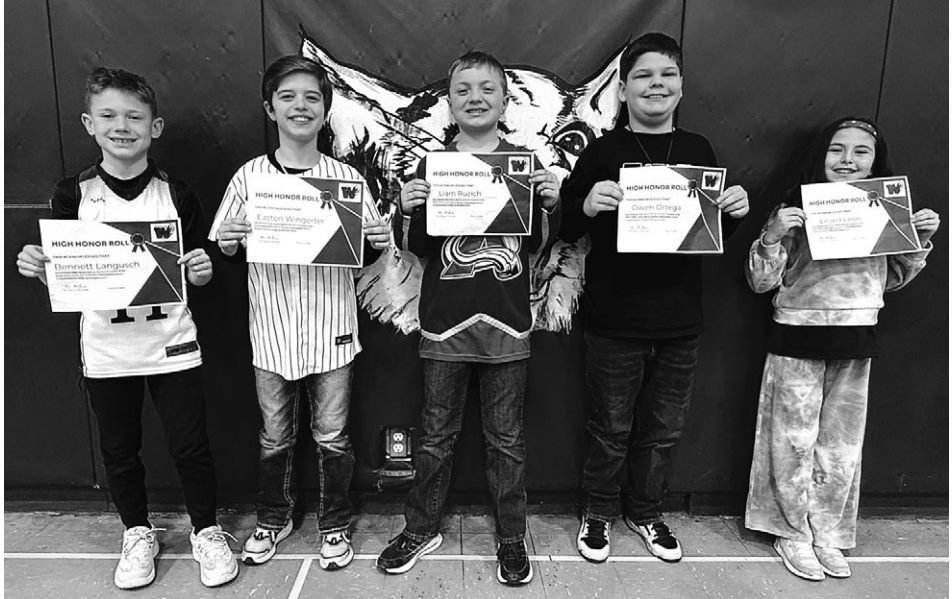
Along with collaborating, these three appreciate working along side one another.

Handwriting analysis workshop at the library

The Wilmington Public Library is excited to welcome Krislette Smeets for a handwriting analysis workshop on Wednesday, April 15, at 5 p.m. Smeets, who has trained in the craft, is back for part two after giving a well-received workshop last summer.

Newcomers are wel-

come to participate in this hands-on program. Participants will explore the basics through simple writing and drawing exercises. Registration is required to participate. Please call the library at (815) 476-2834 or stop in to register!



Courtesy photo

SIS FOURTH GRADE Mrs. Meent's second trimester high honor roll (from left) Bennett Langusch, Easton Wingerter, Liam Ruzich, Owen Ortega and Liliana Leon.

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Data centers everywhere

DIAMOND—Communities need to apply the brakes to the proliferation of data centers. Our area is a prime target due to the proximity to power sources. There are just too many unknowns that need to be thoroughly investigated. I understand the property tax revenue stream these centers propose, but lets be clear, that is a huge unknown. The property and buildings that house the mega-servers are owned by LLC corporations, which literally mean they have limited liability. They will abandon these buildings and leave a mess as soon as the technology dictates. In technology, change is imminent. To project tax revenue beyond five years is nonsense, it's guaranteed that the centers will be obsolete by then.

Playing nasty

WILMINGTON—Recently Trump played nasty when he loomed into the Supreme Court chambers during the debate of the birthright citizenship case and sat there for an hour. No president has ever done that and it indicates lack of respect for the separation of powers within the Constitution. But that's not all. Trump is lying to the people when he states that America is the only country that has birthright citizenship when in fact at least 30 other countries do. Or perhaps Trump is not lying but merely exposing his stupidity once again. Gloria

Talking trash

WILMINGTON—I looked up where the proposed new garbage company dumps their trash, it's Pontiac. Homewood uses the Wilmington landfill and the city receives a tipping fee. With the proposed new company is there a fuel surcharge fee? When you truck the trash 25 plus miles each way with diesel over \$5 a gallon, how do we save?

Law is misconstrued

SHADOW LAKES— The amendment or the law I'm not sure which, was put in after the Civil War to make all illegal immigrants citizens, had to do with black African Americans. It has nothing to do with people coming into the country today, having children and being able to stay here because their son or daughter is now a naturalized citizen. That has been misconstrued for dozens and dozens of years. Dan Hill

It was obvious

SHADOW LAKES— Watching a program on WTTW news talking about the impeachment of President Trump. A college professor was being interviewed by the news person and he mentioned names that were before my time that were impeached due to problems with physical and mental health. When they brought up the mental health they never mentioned Biden. Biden obviously had dementia. I feel sorry for him. But when they are talking about Trump being not mentally right how can they not mention Joe Biden?

Dan Hill

Access for others

WILMINGTON— In response to the Soundoff pertaining to the Lions Club. First, I support the Lions. Second, I don't think the taxpayers need to give a good ole boy deal to one organization. Legally if another organization wants the same deal what do you do? How do you justify one over the other? For example the VFW post graciously let's the American Legion use their post for meetings because they don't have a building. What if they wanted the same deal with another city owned building. How do you say no? It could be any other organization that wants the same deal with the same terms and a lease. I understand they have free utilities. The lease needs to protect the taxpayers. Someone suggested in the Soundoff that the mayor is trying to slip it in. The mayor doesn't have a lot of power, it's the alderman that do. They make the decisions. The mayor only has a vote if it's a tie. What if for some unforeseen reason the Lions club folded and left the building in worse shape than what they found it. Who pays? Our parks are really getting nice. New playground on the South Island. On Easter Sunday we walked through the park and the playground was full of families enjoying a sunny day. And yes the Lions do good but so do the Moose, the VFW and the Masons, everyone needs to be treated the same.

Bad impression

WILMINGTON— It's very sad that the

City of Wilmington will welcome hundreds of visitors to town this summer. Upon arriving to town they are greeted with a disgusting entrance on Rt. 53 that used to be the home of Gemini Giant. What can be done to clean up this eyesore? Graffiti displaying clearly words of foul nature. Yikes, what lays ahead if this is the first thing you see? Clean up that mess first before spending dollars on parades and craft shows. I am a resident and I hate driving by and seeing it. First impressions count.

Address deeper issues

WILMINGTON— Dear Mayor Dietz, Now that you've outlined what you see as your accomplishments, I think it's important we come back to the reality many residents and business owners are experiencing. Have you taken the time to truly engage with our local business community? While downtown may look improved, appearance alone is not translating into meaningful economic growth or new business development. When people say you can't bring new business in, well they are certainly wrong, economic development is not passive. It requires leadership, actively presenting site opportunities, understanding housing trends, and clearly communicating why Wilmington is a smart place to invest. Right now, that leadership feels absent. Wilmington has increasingly developed a reputation as a liquor and gambling town. Expanding liquor licenses to support more gambling establishments only reinforces that image. Is that really the identity we want for our community? We are also a nature-based community. The number of people who visit the Island for bird watching alone speaks for itself. Yet decisions are being made that threaten their very habitat, benefiting a few while risking a resource that belongs to all. Accessibility is another concern. What is being done to ensure Wilmington is ADA-compliant so that all residents, no matter their age or capabilities, can safely and comfortably navigate your community? There are also serious concerns about governance. The decorum at city council meetings has been, at times, unacceptable. As Mayor, it is your responsibility to run efficient, respectful meetings and not allow discussions to drift without direction. Transparency is also lacking, with decisions appearing unclear and, in some cases, even catching Aldermen off guard. Finally, leadership within city hall matters. The current City Administrator has not been perceived as approachable by many, appears to play favorites, and has taken credit for collaborative work while being paid a generous salary. That erodes trust. So I ask you this: How do you plan to move beyond surface-level improvements and begin addressing the deeper issues of economic growth, community identity, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and transparent leadership that Wilmington residents are clearly asking for? A significant portion of the projects you're taking credit for were made possible through federal ARPA/COVID funding—once-in-a-generation dollars provided to communities across the country. That context matters. Transparency means clearly showing residents what was funded by ARPA versus local resources and why you were able to accomplish these improvements over past administrations.

Common sense quotes

"Don't be so open minded that your brain falls out." I have actually witnessed this. It was a brain dead liberal who believed that men can have babies and humans can identify as cats. Not a pleasure to watch. No. 2 "Tolerance will reach such a level that intelligent people will be banned from thinking so as not to offend the imbeciles (Fyodor Dostoevsky)." The imbeciles of course are you idiot liberals and your acceptance of anything no matter how ridiculous or dangerous. You don't have to go along with everything. It is OK to have an opinion that is based on common sense and not just your emotions or what your idiot friends claim to be true or something you saw on the Internet. I know using your brain to think is painful for you liberals but you have to start somewhere.

The golden tractor

WILMINGTON—Why was a golden tractor sitting in front of the White House several weeks ago? Was it a sarcastic slap in the face to farmers everywhere? Was it



another false promise? It symbolized Trump's character and his insatiable lust for wealth which contradicts scripture and exposes Trump for the charlatan that he is. Trump's message of white Christian nationalism is shameful for turning Christ's message upside down. When our country strays away from truth and goodness, it must be set back on the right path. And the time is now to reject Trumpism and the evil that it has brought down upon us. Irene

Protect roosting birds

WILMINGTON— It was delightful to read Eric Fisher's article on the American white pelicans visiting our beautiful Kankakee River. (Isn't it great to still have a local newspaper?) As a birder and a walker through the North and South Island parks it was "right up my alley." So you can imagine my dismay when I discovered that the loud booms I heard one night last week were test fireworks launched from the northern tip of the North Island. Now just north of that area is an island with trees that are teeming with roosting birds at this time of year. The Audubon Society reports that loud noises, such as fireworks, can cause birds, startled from their roosts and disoriented in the darkness, to collide with buildings, trees and cars. A month or so delay of this experiment would have been so much better for our local wildlife, but it seems nature is not much of a priority for our administration. It seems they are quick to remove trees anytime they may be a bit of an obstacle, especially on the island. The trees and critters that inhabit them, and yes, also the domestic geese, are the reason most of us walk, run or ride our bikes there. Let's keep the nature as best we can, please.

Why apologize?

WILMINGTON—Can a MAGA disciple explain to me why the president demands apologies from the press or individuals when they say or write a story he views as "fake news" or a "nasty" article about him? I ask because he was taught to never admit to anything wrong and to never apologize to anyone or for anything under any circumstance. So why should anyone apologize to him? Little hypocrisy here?

Put the U.S. first

WILMINGTON—What about the country you were voted in for to help? You gave Argentina \$20 billion to help, you spent billions taking over Venezuela to help, threatening Canada, Cuba and Greenland to take over to help. His latest helping hand is in Iran where cost currently at least \$50B (Heritage Foundation stats), at least 14 dead, 350 injured Americans and 40% of our Tomahawk ballistic missiles Cruise Missiles (\$1.75M each) have been spent helping over throw a bad regime. Iran has been talking since 1979 truly a paper tiger when threatening America. But, Israel thanks you for being a good little boy. But what about us American citizens? Thanks for ripping up a existing Treaty with Iran because of jealousy of the author. Thank you for \$4.50 gas and the \$5.85 diesel. Thank you for a return of inflation increasing past 3.4% and rising. Thanks for lack of over-priced fertilizer due to Strait of Hormuz being

shut down to only you. (Sorry, not Biden on this one). That means less crops and definitely skyrocketing food prices coming. Thanks for f-bomb faced Holy Easter sermon with empty threats of annihilation of a civilization. And thanks for \$40M in foreign steel in your gaudy White House billionaire ballroom. And thanks for sneaking in that automatic Draft application for 18 yr. olds last December. Your sons thank you for billion dollar crypto deals and multi million dollar drone contracts. And thanks to your bride for that press conference reminding everyone that Epstein victims should testify openly before Congress. At least one good thing happened. It's still not going away Donald.

Money better spent

BRAIDWOOD—The mayor of Braidwood needs to get his priorities straight. The No. 1 focus seems to be on this million dollar city center instead of where it really needs to be. They could have pushed to spend that \$1.2 million dollars on improvements to the park district's current playgrounds, the skate park, the walking paths, and so much more. Giving them the grocery tax proceeds is nice and all, but what is that small amount of money going to really accomplish since everything costs way more than what they are going to get.

Rooting for bad guys

SHADOW LAKES—Hi there, I hope all you leftists are paying attention to all the world happenings. I see the left has taken a new turn. They have tried all ways to make our president look bad. I hope you see their new idea. This is the best yet. If you watch closely, the leaders of the Leftist party are now rooting for the bad guys. They always find ways to may our president look bad. Just remember this folks, if...if Iran ever gets a nuclear weapon they would never be afraid to use them. Its up you.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Blasphemous post

WILMINGTON—Sunday evening President Donald J. Trump openly denounced the Pope and even though it's not a very bright thing to do it is his opinion and has every right to express it. The blasphemous post of him portrayed as Jesus Christ is a problem. Is there no bottom to his level of moral squalor? Sometimes I get skeptical if God exists but with DJT walking the streets I know the Devil does.

People are just pawns

WILMINGTON—I am not sure Republican President Abraham Lincoln could envision what is happening to our country when he wrote his famous words "that a government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." As a senior citizen, I was always lead to believe that government is supposed to work for us, the people. No branch is exempt from this betrayal. We instinctively blame the president but Congress does nothing for the people and the Supreme Court is biased. I am so angry and disappointed in our current three branch government. It just seems like they are all in it for themselves and the American people are just pawns. Come on, November.

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WILL COUNTY OFFICIALS and the local veteran community cut the ribbon for the new Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County (VAC) office in Joliet, representing a new "one-stop shop" for veteran services. Cutting the ribbon with a large pair of scissors is Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant.

Expanded space will serve as the anchor for veteran service campus

Will County officials and the local veteran community celebrated the ribbon cutting for the new Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County (VAC) office, representing a new "one-stop shop" for veteran services.

The new space is located at the heart of the first unified Veteran Support Campus in Illinois.

"Today we're not just celebrating a larger building - We're celebrating a better way to serve veterans with the care and services they need and deserve," said VAC President Larry Shaver. "Everything we do here is to make sure all our veterans are supported, respected, and never have to stand alone."

The VAC has relocated to a newly renovated County-owned building at 1300 Copperfield Ave. in Joliet, upgrading to a 16,000 sq. foot space from their old office which was 1/4th the size. The expanded footprint will empower the VAC to expand services to Will County veterans and their families, including by hiring more veteran service officers, reducing appointment wait times, and increasing programmatic offerings.

"This is a transformational improvement to veteran services in Will County, creating a new centralized campus and expanded space for assistance and support resources," said Will

County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant.

"I'm proud that we were able to work closely with the Veterans Assistance Commission team to create a space over triple the size of their previous office, with modern amenities that will empower them to provide the enhanced counseling, employment assistance, financial and housing support, mental health services, and community-centric care that our veterans deserve."

Over 150 attendees at the ribbon cutting ceremony heard from Will County and VAC leadership on the impact of the expanded space. This included Tony Arrelano, a founding member of the VAC and Commander of the Joliet Veterans of Foreign Wars 367 and American Legion 1080, who shared how veteran services have expanded in the community in the 1993 years since the Commission was founded.

The event included a tour of the new assistance and support center, occupying the first two floors of the County-owned building. The new space includes welcoming counseling spaces, a food pantry for veterans, and a modern fitness center to support the VAC's mental health and physical health wellness programs. The expanded footprint will allow the VAC to hire more veteran service officers, reduce appointment wait times, and expand programmatic offerings.

The VAC office joins both the Hines VA's Joliet Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Volunteers of America Illinois' Hope Manor Housing at a new unified Veteran Support Campus. The renovated building also houses the Workforce Center of Will County, offering free employment services to Will County residents and businesses in a

centralized location.

"I am proud that we are opening the doors to a building that will provide necessary services to the men and women who have proudly served our great nation," said Will County Board Speaker Joe VanDuyne. "The purchase and rehabilitation of this building delivers on a bipartisan vision by Will County's leadership to assist our veterans by creating a unified campus - a 'one-stop-shop' - for these essential services."

Will County acquired the building at 1300 Copperfield Avenue in February 2021 and budgeted funds to retrofit the first two floors to serve as the home of the VAC. The building was originally constructed in 2003 and served as a medical office building connected to the former Silver Cross Hospital.

Building modernizations included customized office space for the VAC and Workforce Center of Will County, improved accessibility, upgraded technology and security infrastructure, and installation of a new roof and critical building systems.



Photo by Eric Fisher

TREE HAPPY GOOSE—This Canada goose was behaving like a wood duck in a 30-foot tall tree Saturday morning along the millrace. The goose was heard honking from its perch high on a broken limb and looked out of place with its heavy body with relatively short legs. Unlike perching birds, their feet aren't built to grip branches, and taking off from and landing in trees is risky. Might it be a female looking for a safe place to nest? That would be unusual as they typically nest along grassy shorelines, fields or on nearby strip mine lake islands.

Vendors wanted for craft show

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold an indoor/outdoor Spring Craft & Vendor Fair on Saturday, May 2. Crafters & Vendors are now being accepted. Indoor and outdoor spaces are available. For more information or to sign up, contact Stephanie Sarff at 815-685-1709. The deadline to sign up is April 25.

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Diane Jirousek

April 17

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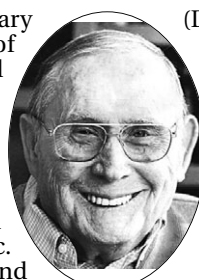


BARRINGTON—Gary L. Cooper, 87, of Barrington, IL, passed away on April 2, 2026, with family by his side. Gary was a devoted husband, loving father, proud grandfather and great-grandfather, Army veteran, and dear friend, entered eternal life on April 2, 2026. He was born on Dec. 16, 1938, to Francis Leo Cooper and Nina Cooper (Gelsthorpe).

Gary was raised in Wilmington, and remained proud of his roots throughout his life. He was an eternally optimistic fan of his alma mater, the fighting Illini. Gary met his beloved wife, Mary Lou (Thornton) in fourth grade and together they shared 58 years of marriage, raising their family in Deerfield, IL.

After college Gary was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. For his entire career, Gary was a successful salesman and executive for American Hospital Supply, later Baxter Healthcare. He took great pride in providing for his family. In retirement, Gary enjoyed travel, trips to Door County, golf, and above all, spending time with his family.

He was the proud father of Mary Beth (Robert Bagg), Patrick (Maria Connor), Michael (Lisa Schalk), and Christopher



(Deena Simon). Gary was a cherished grandfather to nine grandchildren: Sara (Tyler Reaker), Emily Bagg, Eric Bagg (Katie Wagg), Maria Cooper (Alex Redlinger), Christian Cooper, Maggie Cooper, Danny Cooper, James Cooper, and Mary Teresa Cooper. He was blessed with a great-granddaughter, Percy Lou.

Gary will be remembered for his steady presence, his gratitude for life's blessings, his deep love of family, and his kindness and strength. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Special thanks to the Prairieview staff at the Garlands of Barrington; Journey Care Hospice; his longtime caregiver, Brian; Fr. Rodolfo Ramirez, Associate Pastor at St. Anne's Catholic Parish; and Deacon Bob Powers, also of St. Anne's. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to the www.misericordia.com/giving/donate-online/ Misericordia Heart of Mercy.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Monday, May 18th at Holy Cross Parish 724 Elder Lane, Deerfield IL 60015. Visitation at 9:30 am, followed by the Funeral Mass at 10:30 am. A Celebration of life will follow and all are welcome.

Robert Tarman

COAL CITY—Robert Christopher "Bobby/Bob" Tarman, 42, of Coal City, formerly of Wilmington passed away at his residence on Saturday, April 4, 2026.

Born on Aug. 6, 1983, in Joliet, Bobby was the son of Robert Charles Tarman and the late Gail Elaine (Van Duyne) Tarman. He was raised and educated in Wilmington, attended St. Rose Catholic School, and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 2001.

From the age of 17, Bobby built a successful career in electronics and appliance sales. He began at Circuit City, moving on to sales manager at Grants, and later continued his career at ABT Appliances in Glenview, IL. Bob truly loved working in sales and especially treasured the lifelong friendships he built with his coworkers, whom he considered family.

As a young man, Bobby was passionate about natural bodybuilding and working out. He was also an avid car enthusiast and had the exciting opportunity to race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina. Among his most prized possessions was his beloved Ford Shelby Mustang.

Above all else, Bob found his greatest joy in being with his family. He was a proud and devoted father who especially loved coaching his younger daughters in league soccer, where he was affectionately known as Coach Bob. Bob had a heart of gold and would do anything for anyone in need. His kindness, generosity, and love will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



He is survived by his father, Robert Tarman, of Coal City; his wife, Julie (Spiezio) Tarman, of Minooka; his three daughters: Kendyl Tarman, of Joliet and Jillian and Molly Tarman, of Minooka; his sister, Lisa Tarman, of Coal City; his aunts and uncles: Larry (Susan) Tarman, Laura (Tony) Esparza, Linda (Mike) Bober, Joseph (Georgene) Van Duyne, Michael (Pam) Van Duyne, Mary Ellen (Jim) Gajack, and Christopher (Shari) Van Duyne; as well as numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Gail Tarman; his maternal grandparents, Joseph and Charlotte Van Duyne; his paternal grandparents, Richard "Dick" Tarman and Shirley Hack; his uncle, Bill (Tina) Tarman; and his aunt, Ann Savage-Williams.

Cremation rites are being accorded, and the family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington, on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 2 p.m. until the time of the memorial service at 7 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bobby's memory to the donor's charity of choice.

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

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

Kay Veronda

COAL CITY—Kay D. Veronda, 88, of Coal City, passed away on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026 at Morris Hospital.

She was born on May 23, 1937 in Aurora, IL. She grew up in the towns of Kewanee, Pontiac, and Morris before settling in Coal City. She graduated from Coal City High School Class of 1955. Kay married Andrew J. "Bugs" Veronda Jr. on Oct. 12, 1957 and they were married for 47 years until the time of Bugs' passing in 2004. First and foremost, Kay was a great homemaker, cooking delicious dishes for her family and friends. She was employed off and on over the years at different places and many numerous restaurants. She worked as a waitress at several local establishments, including the Gay 90's, The Good Table, The Manor Marketplace, Abe's, and The Backyard Pub. She also worked for a time at Cardinal Transport and at Grundy County Farm Bureau where she finally retired from.

Kay's retired years were spent babysitting her five grandchildren, who fondly called her Grandma V or Gam-Gam. She enjoyed going to many of their games, performances or activities. She was an avid Coaler fan and would attend as many games as she could. She was also an avid Chicago Cubs fan, having gone to many games over the years with the Eileen Villager's bus trips. Later in life, she took up the sport of golf with a few of her friends, and would hit the links in Essex or Dwight. Kay also loved the sport of Professional Bull Riding, if you can believe that, and she followed her favorite riders and bulls over the years and would never miss it on TV. She could tell you statistics, along with rider injuries and how mean a bull was. She also loved playing games, whether it be cards, scrabble, UNO or dominoes. Her card-playing friends met every Thursday at her house at 9:00 am to play the card game Peck all day and munch on the smorgasbord they made. And, all her family knew not to call her between 3:30 -4:00pm because she was watching/solving Jeopardy. She was also a collector of many elephants and tea pots, and was very proud of her sister', children's and grandchildren's artwork that they had made over the years and put them on display for all to see. And of course if you knew Kay, she was famous for the assortment of soups she would make at home and when she worked at the Backyard Pub. She always said "No one goes home hun-



gry at my house! " We can still see her working hard in the kitchen in her signature Mumus and asking the grandkids what kind of "special snack" that they wanted.

Kay is survived by her children, Scott (Kathy) Veronda, Lynne (Walt) Mahaffay, and Gail (John) Watson; her five grandchildren, David (Holly) Veronda, Michael (Sarah) Veronda, Kayla (Cody) Mahaffay-Musson, Kellee (Paul) Phillips, and Kyle Watson, and six great-grandchildren, Katherine, Kaylee and Jake Veronda, Ainslee and Ada Musson, and Nash Phillips; her sister, Judy Darin; her niece, LeAnne (Mike) Tjelle; her nephew, Lon Kunz, and great-nephew Ryan Kunz. She is also survived by her special card-playing friends, Marilyn Hook, Carolyn Longest, Darlene "Peanut" Palmer, Bev Luck, Jeanie Anselmo, Sharon Marizza and Cathy Smith; also her dear neighbors, Betty Manietta, Mark and Jean Lissy, Greg and Lynn, and special friend, Paula Payne.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bugs Veronda; her daughter, Shelly Veronda; her granddaughter, Mary Katherine Veronda; her sister, Sandy Paul, and her parents, Eunice and Rip Stewart.

We would also like to thank the staff at Heritage Woods of Dwight and Serenity Estates, especially her adopted granddaughter ("G.D."), Alissa Tadey and the rest of the ladies that dotted on our Mom in her final months. She will always be remembered for her sweet personality, quick wit, and love of classic rock and pop music from the 40's, through the 80's (especially Elvis), her red Geranium pots in her front yard, her love of elephants, feeding the songbirds, and for hosting all the family holiday parties.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Coal City Food Pantry, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago or the Coal City Athletic Booster's in Kay's name would be appreciated.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A "Celebration of Life" for Kay will be on Saturday, April 18th, 2026 from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm at the Berst Center Hall, 180 South Kankakee Street, Coal City, IL 60416.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrari-funeral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Roseanna Wallace

WILMINGTON—Roseanna Wallace, 96, and a lifelong resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 2, 2026 with her family by her side.

Born Dec. 5, 1929 in Wilmington, Rose was the daughter of Frank and Rose Chaney. She was raised in Wilmington where she attended Wilmington schools, and on Dec. 27, 1947 she married Howard Thomas "Slick" Wallace and together they continued to make Wilmington their home where they raised their family.

Rose dedicated her life to being a wonderful wife and mother, ensuring that her family had a warm home to grow in. She supported her husband by raising their children and maintaining their home with as much love and care as possible. Rose was a lifelong, dedicated member of the Women of the Moose Chapter 781 in Wilmington, and in her leisure time she enjoyed bingo and was an avid euchre player. Being with family was what made her happiest and seeing her family tree blossom was her proudest achievement. Rose was blessed with 96 years, but those who knew and loved her were even more fortunate to have her as part of their lives.

Survivors include three children: Samuel (Beverly) Wallace, of Greenup, IL and Mary Faye Hendron and Lewis Curtis



Wallace, both of Wilmington; three grandchildren: Penny Lynn Burns and Samuel Wallace Jr. both of Joliet and Gary Pauley Jr. of Mattoon, IL, as well as numerous great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Rose was preceded in death by her parents and husband; four brothers: Carlos, Hampton, Curtis, and Chester Chaney; and two grandchildren: Julie Ann Calhoun and Heather Marie Cardoza.

Per her wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Saturday, April 18, 2026 from 11 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 1 p.m. Inurnment will follow at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to Uplifted Hospice for their devoted care to Rose over the past few weeks.

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

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

Low interest loans offered to those affected by March 10 storm

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low interest federal disaster loans for Illinois businesses, private nonprofits, and residents affected by severe storm and tornado occurring on March 10.

The declaration covers the Illinois counties of Ford, Grundy, Iroquois, Kankakee, Livingston and Will, as well as the Indiana counties of Lake and Newton which are eligible for both Physical Damage Loans and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) from the SBA.

Businesses and private nonprofits are eligible to apply for business physical disaster loans and may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and

equipment, inventory and other business assets.

Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for home and personal property loans and may borrow up to \$100,000 to replace or repair personal property, such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances. Homeowners may apply for up to \$500,000 to replace or repair their primary residence.

Applicants may also be eligible for a loan increase of up to 20% of their verified physical damage for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include strengthening structures to protect against high wind damage, upgrading to wind rated garage doors, and installing a safe room or storm shelter to help protect property and occu-

pants from future damage.

SBA's EIDL program is available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations with financial losses directly related to the disaster. The SBA is unable to provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, or ranchers, except for small aquaculture enterprises.

EIDLs are for working capital needs caused by the disaster and are available even if the business did not suffer any physical damage. They may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills which could not be paid due to the disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 4% for businesses, 3.625% for PNPs, and 2.875% for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the first loan disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms, based on each applicant's financial condition.

SBA customer service representatives will be at the Bradley Economic Development Co., Northfield Square Mall Unit 548, Bourbonnais, IL 60914, Monday - Friday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but you can schedule an in-person appointment in advance at appointment.sba.gov.

To apply online, visit sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is June 8.

Gas costing nearly \$1/g more than last year

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 9.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.36/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 67.7 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 97.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.1 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.61 per gallon.

Indeed, locals are feeling the pinch with gas in Wilmington ranging from \$4.08/g at Mohsen, with Shell charging \$4.24/g. Expect to pay \$4.55/g all over Braidwood.

In Coal City, gas is ranging from \$4.53/g at Shell and \$4.55/g at Gas N Wash.

Morris will save you a few pennies, with gas at \$4.09/g at most locations, but at Amoco it's \$4.24/g. Bourbonnais offers gas for \$4.04/g at Gulf, up to \$4.09/g at Gas N Wash.

"Average gasoline prices surged for many Americans through the first half of last week before easing in some areas after oil prices slipped following President Trump's announcement of a ceasefire," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "However, with a breakdown in talks and renewed escalation over the weekend, motorists should prepare for

another round of price increases. The move toward a full blockade of the Strait of Hormuz is compounding global supply concerns and risks further disrupting flows, which pushed oil prices sharply higher in Sunday night trading. As a result, gasoline prices are likely to jump again this week, with diesel expected to follow, until there is a meaningful restoration of shipping through the Strait."

The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.79/g while the highest was \$5.69/g.

SUNDAY FUNDAY!

DOORS OPEN AT NOON! FIRST RAFFLE AT 2PM!

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Every **TUESDAY** at 553 W. Kennedy Rd. Braidwood

You must play BINGO to participate.

Doors open at 4pm. Drawing is held at intermission.

Queen of Hearts Pot is \$5,550.00

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Braidwood Post 039

BINGO

Tuesday Night Flash Max Bingo

Pull Tabs	6:30pm	Hot Food, Snacks & Beverages
Bingo	6:30pm	553 Kennedy Road
Doors Open	4:00pm	Braidwood, IL 60408

Home of the "Big Guy"

Commander Bill Kiley

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May 2 | **May 3**

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Explore 15 communities for antiques, food, outdoor markets, festivals, entertainment, historic museums and more! Each town has a free giveaway—get all 15!

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www.ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com

YOUR *Big Welcome* to a *Legendary Road*

It's too volatile to know what to expect

State government revenues were up \$1.571 billion at the end of the third quarter, according to the most recent report from the legislature's bipartisan, bicameral Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

The almost \$1.6 billion in new revenues is an increase of 4.2 percent. The state budget was crafted last year with an expectation that revenues would rise just 2.3 percent for the full fiscal year, so that's pretty darned good news.

The commission revised its projected revenue estimates upward last month by \$684 million, or 1.2 percent, above the original



Rich Miller
CAPITOL FACTS

budget forecast last May. The continued revenue increases in March "further reinforced" last month's upward revision, the commission claimed in its latest revenue report issued at the beginning of April.

So why is the newly revised annual revenue estimate less than half of the increase so far this fiscal year?

Well, as COGFA notes, April can be a volatile month. It's tough to accurately predict what will happen when people make their tax payments.

Also, the state has a history of not accurately estimating how personal and corporate income taxes as well as the Personal

Property Replacement Tax will break out during the tax year.

A "true-up" has to be done, and this year's state budget expected that state coffers would take the short end of the stick and local governments would benefit via the PPRT, but that hasn't yet happened. So, COGFA is wary.

Also, without further changes to state corporate tax laws to decouple from last summer's massive federal tax cuts, the huge slide in corporate tax receipts will continue. Many of our state corporate taxes are tied to federal laws.

As of now, those corporate receipts are down 6.2 percent for the year, but they were projected to increase by 10.8 percent when the state budget was passed before Congress slashed so many corporate taxes.

Only mentioned briefly in the latest monthly report is the potential economic fallout from the attack on Iran and the subsequent closure of a key petroleum shipping lane. It's such a volatile situation that nobody really knows what to expect in the fiscal year's final three months.

And that brings us to President Donald Trump's recently proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027, which starts October 1.

The proposal would slash funds for infrastructure projects by \$15.2 billion, reduce public school funding by \$8.5 billion, eliminate the program to help low-income households with utility bills, cut higher education funding by \$2.7 billion, reduce law enforcement and public safety programs by \$1.7 billion, cut homelessness grants by \$393 million, eliminate the school meals program, etc.

That's on top of the gargantuan cuts to Medicaid and nutrition assistance programs included in last summer's reconciliation budget. Some or even most of this proposed budget appears to be performative. The president tried to get rid of LIHEAP last year, for example. But President Trump is convinced that social programs are riddled with corruption, and he said before unveiling his budget proposal that childcare, Medicaid and even the federal Medicare program should all be state funded.

"The United States can't take care of daycare," the president said at a private event. "That has to be up to a state. We can't take care of daycare. We're a big country. We have 50 states. We have all these other people we're fighting wars with. We can't take care of daycare. You've got to let a state take care of daycare. And they should pay for it, too. They should pay. They have to

raise their taxes, but they should pay for it.

Medicaid, Medicare, all these individual things. They can do it on a state basis. You can't do it on a federal. We have to take care of one thing, military protection. We have to

guard the country. But all these little things, all these little scams that have taken place, you have to let states take care of them."

President Trump also mentioned that education funding should be a state funding issue.

Dial 9-8-8 for mental health help

988 is a confidential lifeline and available 24/7. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or facing a mental health or substance use crisis, help is just a call or text away.

Life can throw us unexpected challenges, and sometimes it can make you feel overwhelmed. You are not alone, help is here. Call or text 988 to be connected with a trained, compassionate crisis counselor who can help you navigate difficult times.

This message is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Free Press Newspapers.

The Joliet Slammers unveil prison inspired look

The Joliet Slammers, in conjunction with the Joliet Area Historical Museum, are continuing to bring baseball back to life at the Old Joliet Prison as they gear up for "The Big House Ballgame" on Thursday, April 30th with festivities starting at noon and a 3:05 p.m. first pitch.

The event will feature prison-inspired uniforms modeled after designs discovered within the walls of the Old Joliet Prison. With support from Dr Pepper and the Route 66 Centennial Commission, the Slammers have brought

the historic yellow and black jersey design back to life—adding another authentic element to The Big House Ballgame experience.

On the day of the game, fans will have the opportunity to bid on the historic game-worn jerseys through the team's online auction platform, DASH. Fans are encouraged to keep an eye out on all of the team's social channels for more information.

In addition, the first 1,000 fans through the prison gates will receive a commemorative tin cup

giveaway in partnership with Eames Law Group.

This giveaway serves as a nod to daily life inside the prison.

"The Big House Ballgame is about celebrating the Route 66 Centennial and creating lasting memories for the Joliet community in a truly unique setting," said Night Train Veeck, EVP of the Joliet Slammers. "From the uniforms and giveaway, to the atmosphere, this will be one of the most memorable events in team history."

The Route 66 Centennial Celebration is set to kick off Thursday, April 30th with gates opening at noon, with pregame blues performances, Route 66-themed entertainment and a historic exhibition game as the Joliet Slammers face off with Frontier League rival, the Gateway Grizzlies.

With limited capacity at the Old Joliet Prison, fans are encouraged to secure tickets in advance. Tickets are available at www.joliet-slammers.com

The Joliet Slammers play in downtown Joliet, and are members of the professional, independent Frontier League. Call the ticket office at 815-722-2287 for more information.



APRIL 30TH, 2026 | OLD JOLIET PRISON
LIMITED TICKETS REMAINING - GET YOURS NOW!

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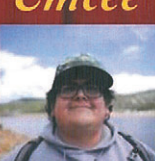
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BRIAN ATKINSON



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April 25 | ENTRY \$20

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SEATING STARTS AT 7PM | SHOW STARTS AT 8:03PM

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SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, 2026
FROM 10AM TO NOON

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

Visit DEATakeBack.com for a collection site near you.

THE PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF CVS PHARMACY

1101 S. Water Street (Rt. 102),
Wilmington, IL

Clean out your medicine cabinets and file cabinets all at the same time! Free Shredding event.

Funded by HLM Recovery, ONDCP, & a CDC Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act Grant



for a Healthy Community
www.wilmington-coalition.org
815-476-1660



TRI-COUNTY R.O.S.C. SERVING WILL, GRUNDY & KANKAKEE COUNTIES

Event in partnership with the DEA, The Wilmington Police Department, HLM Recovery 180 Tri-County R.O.S.C. and The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community.



Library to hold annual book sale

Time to recycle your books

The Wilmington Public Library District will be holding a used book sale Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26. The sale will run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Saturday and from

noon until 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Books will be sold for \$3 a bag, and the library will provide the bag. Donations of clean, smoke-free books and DVDs for the book sale will be accepted only from April 20 through April 24, with a

limit of one box donated per patron due to space limitations.

The library kindly asked for books free of mold, dirt, and smoke damage, no encyclopedias, VHS, outdated medical & text books or other obsolete materials will be accepted.

Senior citizens can get exemptions on tax bill

The Will County Supervisor of Assessments office will hold a 2026 Exemption Event for senior citizens on Monday, April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Jackson Township at 100 E. Mississippi Ave. in Elwood.

Exemption specialists to assist homeowners with low income senior citizen

assessment freeze (total household income of \$75,000 or less) and with Senior Homestead exemptions for anyone 65 years and older.

Also eligible are disabled person(s) or veteran(s).

For more information call 815-740-4648 or visit www.willcountysoa.com.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Ads & Classified Display Ads
Fridays - 5 p.m.

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

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

Cost

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



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



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington - 3 bedrooms, upstairs. \$1,200 per month. \$1,600 security deposit. No pets. 815-365-2829, leave a message. ch13-16

GARAGE SALE

Braceville - 213 E Main. Thurs. & Fri., April 16-17, 9AM-5PM. Sat., April 18, 9AM-Noon. Kids, ladies (some new), and men's clothes. Toys, books, household, bicycles. Lots more, come see.

HELP WANTED

Experienced hair stylist or barber wanted. Paid commission or rent chair. Located at Bodacious Curls in Coal City. 815-634-4997.

HELP WANTED

Part-time worker needed to help count, sort and insert newspapers. Couple hours on a Friday or Monday, plus 3 hours at 5AM Wednesdays. For details see Eric at The Free Press, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington.

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@trinityservices.org.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 34359 Hickory Avenue, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Residential). On the 23rd day of April, 2026 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff V. UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF RETHA M. PALMER; RICHARD KUHN AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR RETHA M. PALMER, DECEASED; ARLENE OSBORN; STEVEN OSBORN; DAVID TIBBETT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant.** Case No. 25 FC 0442 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four

REAL ESTATE

(24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois

REAL ESTATE

Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **JOHNSON, BLUMBERG AND ASSOCIATES 30 NORTH LASALLE SUITE 3650 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602 P: 312 541-9710 F: 312 541-9711** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on April 1, 8, & 15, 2026.



REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 25050 South Timber Drive, Elwood, IL 60421 (Residential). On the 7th day of May, 2026 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Plaintiff V. Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Christine Kolenda; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. 25 FC 0042 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., April 15, 22, & 29, 2026.

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815-791-2913

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Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., Call Lee 815-791-5731.

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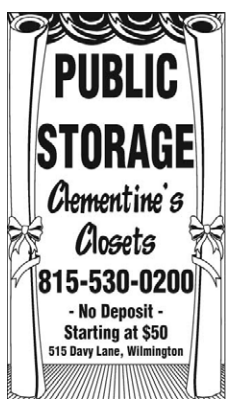
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TUTORING

Does your 2-4th grader need extra help? I am a retired teacher of 34 years willing to help out. For \$20/hour I would love to teach reading, math, or both. It would be at the Wilmington Public Library. Contact me if interested Tina at 815-370-8786. cc12-15

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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.

HELP WANTED HELP WANTED HELP WANTED

City of Wilmington Employment Opportunity Announcement City Administrator

The City of Wilmington, Illinois, is seeking a candidate with strong leadership skills to serve as their next City Administrator. Wilmington is located along historic Route 66 and bisected by the Kankakee River, the City of Wilmington combines all the best aspects of rural and suburban living. With a population of just under 6,000, spread out over 14 square miles. The annual operating budget is around \$31+ million. Wilmington has a Mayor-Council form of government and has 48 full time employees and 8 part time and seasonal employees.

Qualified candidates should possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited university preferably in public administration, business or other related field. At least 2 years of experience in a progressively responsible professional management position is preferable. Ideal candidates must have a strong work ethic, decision making skills, written and oral communication techniques and accounting proficiency. Experience in grant obtainment and tax increment financing is desired. Starting salary range is \$140,000 - \$160,000 and dependent upon experience and qualifications.

Interested candidates should apply by April 30, 2026 with a cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least five (5) professional references to email: to the attention of HR Department, City of Wilmington, 1165 S Water St, Wilmington, IL 60481.

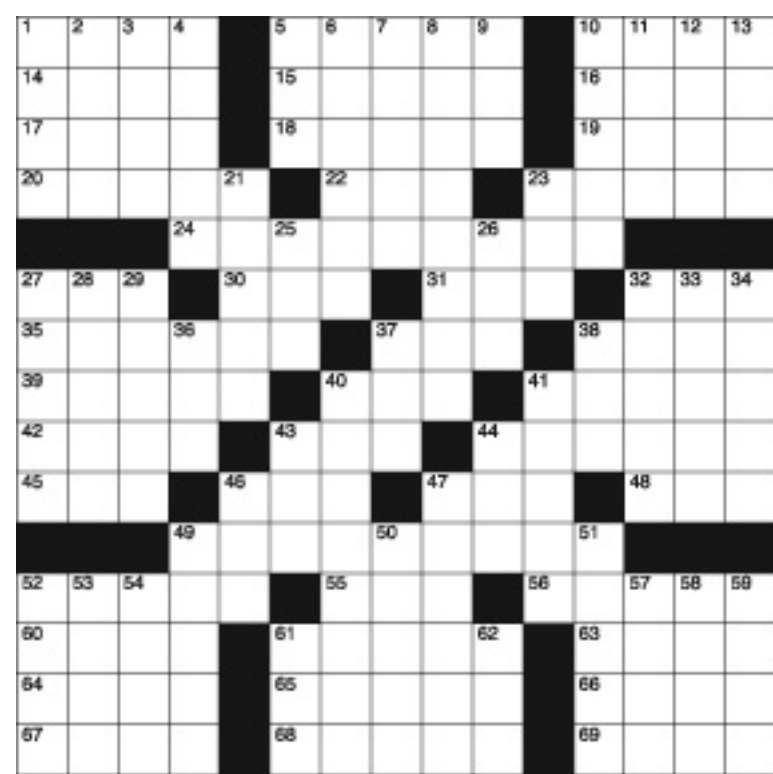
The City of Wilmington is an equal opportunity employer.
Posted: April 10, 2026

BOAT FOR SALE BOAT FOR SALE

Boat for Sale



14' Lund boat with 2008 Shorelander trailer and 50 pound thrust electric motor, carpeted floor and two seats included. \$1400 or best offer. 815-922-2878



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Greek goddess of marriage
 5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
 10. Abba __, Israeli politician
 14. Dark olive black
 15. Light, crinkled fabric
 16. Notre Dame has a golden one
 17. Leaked blood
 18. Confronted
 19. Negligible amount
 20. Facilitated
 22. Hill or rocky peak
 23. Minneapolis suburb
 24. Songs to one's beloved
 27. Brake horsepower
 30. Angry
 31. Children's game
 32. Spelling is a type of one
 35. Obtained in return for labor

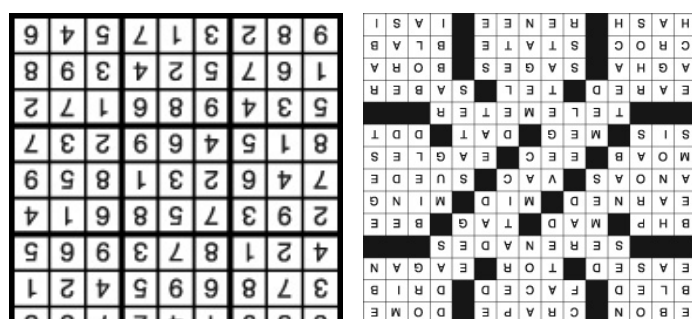
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog-__
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals

63. French Polynesian island Bora __
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

- CLUES DOWN**
1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
 2. Ancient Syrian city
 3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
 4. Range of mountains
 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
 6. Spoke
 7. City in Georgia
 8. Theatrical
 9. CNN's founder
 10. Icelandic poems
 11. Bjorn __, tennis player
 12. Bowfin genus
 13. One point north of northeast
 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
 23. Electroencephalograph
 25. Cool!
 26. Male parent
 27. Where some gymnasts work
 28. Capital of Vietnam
 29. Sailboats
 32. Shelter (Scottish)
 33. Completed
 34. Discharge
 36. Arrest
 37. Partner to cheese
 38. Coffee receptacle
 40. Stagnate
 41. Satisfies
 43. Snakelike fish
 44. Consume food
 46. Type of school
 47. Erase
 49. Inform
 50. Girl's given name
 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 52. Every one of two or more things
 53. Northern India city
 54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
 57. Weapon
 58. Amounts of time
 59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
 62. Witness



Puzzle Answers



Wildcats sweep Herscher, remain in hunt for ICE title

The Wilmington baseball team kept itself firmly in the ICE Conference race last week, sweeping a two-game set from Herscher while setting up a pivotal stretch of games that could shape the title chase.

The Wildcats improved their conference standing with a 13-2 win Monday followed by an 8-1 victory Tuesday, giving Wilmington a key sweep and keeping them within striking distance of the top of the league.

Wilmington currently sits third in the ICE standings, with its only conference loss coming against second-place Coal City — a team the Wildcats will get another shot at when they host the Coalers on Wednesday.

In Monday's opener against Herscher, Wilmington used a big early inning to seize control and never looked back. The Wildcats plated six runs in the second inning and finished with 13 runs on 12 hits.

Zach Ohlund led the offense with three hits including a home run and a double for three RBIs, while Declan Moran added two hits and four RBIs. Bobby Phillips chipped in with a pair of RBIs, and the Wildcats received contributions throughout the lineup.

Cooper Holman

earned the win on the mound, allowing just two runs on three hits while striking out eight over five strong innings.

Wilmington completed the sweep Tuesday with another solid all-around performance in an 8-1 victory.

Ryan Kettman set the tone both at the plate and on the mound. He collected three hits and two RBIs while also earning the win, tossing five innings and allowing just one run on five hits. Dierks Geiss closed out the game with two scoreless innings.

Cooper Holman continued his strong week with a grand slam for four RBIs, while the Wildcats capitalized on scoring opportunities and took advantage of eight walks to keep pressure on Herscher throughout the game. Nash Rink, Ryan Schraeger, Brysen Meents, Geiss and Moran all contributed hits.

The Wildcats carried that momentum into the latter part of the week, bouncing back from an 11-5 non-conference loss to Lincoln-Way Central on Thursday with a dominant 15-0 shutout of Gardner-South Wilmington on Friday.

Kettman again led the way with three hits (triple and a double) for three RBIs, while Zach Ohlund added two hits (double)

and three RBIs. Brysen Meents scored three runs, and Wilmington finished with 13 hits in the five-inning victory. Phillips and Schraeger had two hits each while Logan Murphy, Dane Van Dwyne and Meents also contributed one hit apiece.

Tyler Krand delivered a standout performance on the mound, striking out eight and allowing just three hits in four shutout innings.

With the sweep of Herscher in hand, Wilmington remains firmly in the conference race, trailing only Coal City and Manteno. The Wildcats will look to build on their momentum with a critical stretch ahead.

If Wilmington can take care of business in its Monday-Tuesday series against Lisle, all eyes will turn to Wednesday's showdown with Coal City — a chance to avenge its only conference loss and potentially shake up the standings.

Beyond that, the Wildcats face perhaps their biggest test of the season with a two-game series against conference-leading Manteno (4-0) on April 20 and 21.

With the ICE title still within reach, Wilmington's strong play against Herscher has positioned the Wildcats for a defining stretch in the days ahead.



Photo by Eric Fisher

GOING! Wilmington catcher Zach Ohlund comes up throwing the Lincoln-Way Central runner was trying to steal second base. Ohlund fired a perfect throw to second where shortstop Ryan Kettman caught the ball with time to spare, placing the tag on the runner for an out.



Photo by Elaine Ohlund

FIELDING A GROUNDER for Wilmington is shortstop Nina Egizio.



Photo by Elaine Ohlund

DIVING AFTER THE ball hit down the leftfield line is Lady Wildcat Sami Liaromatis.

Lady 'Cats rout Plano

The Wilmington girls soccer team wasted little time taking control last week, exploding for seven first-half goals on its way to a 7-1 non-conference victory over Plano.

The Wildcats dominated from the opening whistle, finishing with 19 shots, including 16 on goal, in one of its most complete performances of the season.

Kylie Motykowski led the charge with a hat trick, scoring three goals to pace the Wildcats' attack. Audrey Powlick added two goals and an assist, while Addison Van Dwyne contributed a goal and two assists in a well-balanced offensive effort.

Hailey Romano also found the back of the net, and Tracy Jones recorded an assist to round out the scoring.

The Reapers managed just four shots on goal, with the Wildcats' defense keeping pressure away from the net for most of the match. Tracy Jones earned the

win in goal, making three saves, while Remi Thomas also saw time in net.

Plano broke up the shutout with a second-half goal, but the outcome was never in doubt after Wilmington's explosive first half.

Wilmington girls soccer team ran into a strong Herscher squad Thursday, falling 6-2 at home in conference play to move to 1-3 overall.

The Tigers used a fast start and a strong second half to pull away, taking a 2-1 lead into halftime before adding four more goals after the break.

Wilmington stayed competitive early, with Van Dwyne providing all of the Wildcats' offense. She scored both goals for Wilmington, including converting on a penalty kick, and finished with three shots, two of which were on goal.

The Wildcats will look to regroup Monday when they travel to Manteno.



Photo by Eric Fisher

CELEBRATING HER FIRST goal of the season is Hailey Romano (center) who was the first to score against Plano last week. Celebrating with her are Addison Van Dwyne (2) and Kylie Motykowski (3).

Lady Wildcats stay red-hot, extend win streak to nine

The Wilmington softball team continued its early-season surge, winning all four of its games last week to extend its winning streak to nine straight after opening the year with three consecutive losses.

The Lady Wildcats capped the week with a 13-3 victory over Gardner-South Wilmington on Friday, using a balanced offensive attack and strong pitching to secure the win.

Wilmington scored in every inning, highlighted by a four-run third and a three-run fifth to pull away. Keeley Walsh led the offense with four hits and two RBIs, while Molly Southall and Emilie Strong each drove in two runs. Sami Liaromatis added two hits and an RBI as part of a 13-hit team effort.

Lexi Strohm earned the win in the circle, allowing just three runs on five hits while striking out six over five innings.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Wildcats turned in one of their most explosive performances of the season in a 22-3 rout of Plainfield

South.

Wilmington erupted for 22 runs on 19 hits, including an 11-run third inning that broke the game open. Walsh again set the tone with four hits (two doubles) and three RBIs, while Southall added four hits and two RBIs. Liaromatis had a pair of doubles and two RBIs. Emilie Strong drove in four runs, and Nina Egizio finished with three hits and three RBIs as the Wildcats' lineup produced up and down the order.

The week began with a sweep of Herscher.

In Monday's opener, Wilmington rolled to a 16-5 victory. Egizio led the charge with four hits and four RBIs, while Walsh added four hits. Southall homered and drove in two runs, and the Wildcats totaled 16 hits in the win.

Wilmington completed the sweep Tuesday with an 8-2 victory, getting a strong performance in the circle and timely hitting. Egizio again paced the offense with three hits and three RBIs, while

Liarmatis added two hits. Lexi Strohm and Meredith Marquardt combined to limit Herscher to just two runs on three hits.

Across the four-game stretch, Wilmington's offense remained the driving force, piling up 59 runs while consistently producing big innings. Walsh, Egizio, Southall and Strong all turned in standout weeks at the plate, while the pitching staff provided steady outings to keep opponents in check.

After a slow start to the season, the Lady Wildcats have quickly found their rhythm.

They will be tested by Lisle home and away on Monday and Tuesday, travel to Joliet Catholic on Thursday and host Joliet West on Friday. Wilmington and Reed-Custer both lead the ICE Conference with 4-0 records.

Manteno, who they play Monday and Tuesday, has only played two conference game but won them both.

CONTACT US AT
news@fpnusa.com
or call
815-476-7966
WITH YOUR STORY
IDEAS

Meents Law P.C. files
Antich estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE
OF ROSE CLARA ANTICH,
Deceased;
NO. 2026 PR 59

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of
Rose Clara Antich, Letters of Office
as Independent Executor was issued
on March 24, 2026, to John Turner,
whose address is 3201 Salisbury Ct,
Friendswood, Texas 77546; whose
attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 1861
Black Road, Joliet, Illinois, 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed
in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit
Court at the WILL County Courthouse,
River Valley Justice Center, 3208
West McDonough Street, Joliet, IL
60435, or with the representative, or
both, on or before October 6, 2026, or
if mailing or delivery of a notice from
the representative is required by
Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of
1975, the date stated in that notice.
Any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered
by the claimant to the representative
and to the attorney within ten (10)
days after it has been filed.

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

John Turner
Independent Executor of the Estate
of Rose Clara Antich, Deceased

Marilyn L Wysocki
Meents Law, P.C.
1861 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney No.: 06198698
Email: MLWysocki@MeentsLaw.com

Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, April 1, 8 and
15, 2026.

Meents Law P.C. files
Blowers 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 NICHOLA LOUISE BLOWERS,
Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 030

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of
Nichola Louise Blowers, Letters of
Office as Independent Executor was
issued on March 24, 2026, to Amanda
Zarobsky, whose address is 611 E.
View Street, Lombard, IL 60148;
whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C.,
1861 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed
in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit
Court at the WILL County Courthouse,
River Valley Justice Center, 3208
West McDonough Street, Joliet, IL
60435, or with the representative, or
both, on or before October 6, 2026, or
if mailing or delivery of a notice from
the representative is required by
Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of
1975, the date stated in that notice.
Any claim not filed on or before that
date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered
by the claimant to the representative
and to the attorney within ten (10)
days after it has been filed.

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

Amanda Zarobsky
Independent Executor of the Estate
of Nichola Louise Blowers,
Deceased

Marilyn L Wysocki
Meents Law, P.C.
1861 Black Road
Joliet, Illinois 60435
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
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E-mail: MLWysocki@MeentsLaw.com

Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Wednesday, April 1, 8 and
15, 2026.

WILDCAT SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

RECORD BREAKING RUN—Wildcats (from left) Fynn Bryant, Billy Moore and Hunter Kaitschuck run in the same heat during the 100m at Coal City, placing among the top four. Moore (1st, 11.23 seconds) and Bryant (2nd, 11.34 seconds) broke the personal record time of Coach Todd Lockwood in the 110m. It was a record that stood for 57 years. Kaitschuck came in fourth at 11.71.

Wildcats break more records during CC quad

The Wilmington Wildcats' track and field team competed in their first outdoor meet on April 8 when they traveled to Coal City to compete against the hosting Coalers, Reed-Custer Comets, and

the Dwight Trojans. The boys finished third in the meet and the girls finished fourth. There were many outstanding performances on the night. McKenna Van Tilburg continued her splendid

spring by winning the 100 meter dash in a new school record time, breaking the 100 meter hurdles school record, and winning the 300 meter hurdles. All 3 performances are best in Class A girls right now.

Both Billy Moore and Fynn Bryant broke Coach Todd Lockwood's 57-year-old personal record in the 100m. On the night, the boys set 35 personal records and the girls set eight. That is the most PR's set in a regular meet. (Personal records are PR's. Meters are marked as m.)

Girls performances:

Taylor Stickel (JR) - 800 m - 2:59.80 m - 3rd
Miley Swarengen (JR) - 800 m - 3:24.88 - 7th, 1600 m - 7:48.12 - 5th
Sophia Albright (SO) - shot - 27'02 (PR) - 3rd, discus - 74'07 (PR) - 2nd
Lailah Beck (SO) - 800 m - 3:04.18 (PR) - 5th, 1600 m - 6:47.96 (PR) - 2nd
McKenna Van Tilburg (SO) - 100 m - 12.30 (PR) - 1ST, 100 m high hurdles - 14.89 (PR) - 1ST, 300 m hurdles - 47.24 - 1ST
Lilly Govero (FR) - 100 m - 15.67 (PR) - 16th, 200 m - 32.64 (PR) - 7th
Roslyn Wengelewski (FR) - shot 23'01 (PR) - 6th, discus - 57'11 (PR) - 6th

Boys performances:

Terrell Garner (SR) - 200 m - 27.58 (PR) - 11th, long jump - 15'10 (PR) - 8th
Dom Guzier (SR) - 200 m - 27.67 - 12th
Ed Kurze (SR) - 100 m - 13.37 (PR) - 21st, 400 m - 1:07.82 (PR) - 7th
Billy Moore (SR) - 100 m - 11.23 (PR) - 1ST, long jump - 20'11 (PR) - 1ST
Aiden Poulos (SR) - 1600 m - 5:36.96 (PR) - 6th, 3200 m - 12:39.48 - 2nd
Camdon Allen (JR) - shot - 38'09 (PR) - 6th, dis-

cus - 110'08 (PR) - 6th
Fynn Bryant (JR) - 100 m - 11.34 (PR) - 2nd, long jump - 19'05 (PR) - 3rd
Jimmy Lewsader (JR) - 400 m - 53.77 (PR) - 2nd, 200 m - 23.62 (PR) - 3rd
Liam Anderson (SO) - 1600 m - 5:51.62 (PR) - 8th, 800 m - 2:42.75 - 6th
Cole Boersma (SO) - 200 m - 244.23 (PR) - 5th, 300 m hurdles - 46.58 (PR) - 3rd
Jason Guzier (SO) - 200 m - 32.72 (PR) - 15th, discus - 67'03 (PR) - 18th
Logan Hill (SO) - 200 m - 27.80 (PR) - 14th, 300 m

hurdles - 53.74 (PR) - 7th
Hunter Kaitschuck (SO) - 100 m - 11.71 (PR) - 4th, 110 m high hurdles - 15.35 (PR) - 1ST, high jump - 5'08 (PR) - 2nd
Noah Morris (SO) - shot - 31'11 (PR) - 11th
Steven Ortiz (SO) - 200 m - 34.09 (PR) - 16th, long jump - 12'01 - 10th
Zander Van Duyne (SO) - 110 m high hurdles - 18.49 (PR) - 4th, 300 m hurdles - 48.01 (PR) - 4th, high jump (NH)
Jax Friddle (FR) - 300 m Hurdles - 1:02.85 (PR) - 8th
Stephen Kinnett (FR) -

shot - 28'05 (PR) - 17th
Julian Lowery (FR) - 1600 m - 5:51.87 (PR) - 9th, 3200 m - 12:54.99 (PR) - 3rd
Colby Wengelewski (FR) - shot 28'06 (PR) - 16th, discus - 68'03 (PR) - 17th
4X100 meter relay - 45.49 (PR) - 2nd Bryant, Nate Cupples, Lewsader, Moore
4X100 meter relay - 57.10 (PR) - 5th Friddle, Ortiz, Hill, D. Guzier
The Wildcats will compete in the Seneca Invite on Friday. On Monday they will host Coal City and Clifton Central.



Photo by Eric Fisher

LONG JUMP LANDING—Wilmington senior Billy Moore clears 6.40m to finish in first during the Coal City Quad meet.



Photo by Eric Fisher

THROWING THE SHOT for the Lady Wildcats is Sophia Albright, a sophomore, who finished third at Coal City.

WMS track teams set personal records for starters

The young Wildcats of WMS certainly showed they will be a dangerous team come May Sectionals. Wilmington pushes PRs (personal records) more than anything and between the 6-8th grade boys and girls there were 24 new PRs.

"The first meet is the hardest. However, everyone came with focus and performed to the best of their abilities all evening long," said coach Nate Strong. "This team will be a force by May if they continue to put in the work."

7th grade boys

110m hurdles Bentley Key ran a time of PR 20.33 (1st) and Ian Issert ran a 24.61 (4th).
100M Bentley Key ran a PR 14.14 (3rd) and Nick Wells ran a 16.62 (5th)
200M Bentley Key ran PR 29.41 (3rd) and Evan Gebhardt 38.17 (12th)
400M Ryder Meskill ran a 1:12.70 (2nd) and Aiden Dumycz ran a PR 1:38.99 (7th)
800m runners Ian Browning, Indy DeMaso, Sawyer Cravens and Sawyer Jandura ran times of 3:20.52 (3rd) 3:21.55 (4th), 3:22.81 (5th) and 3:36.68 (8th)
1600M Sawyer Cravens ran a PR of 6:47.74 (5th), Ian Browning ran a 7:13.32 (7th), Matthew Chiappetta ran a 8:51.61 (10th) and Aiden Guzman ran a 8:57.97 (11th)
4X1 team of Bentley Key, Ian Issert, Evan Gebhardt and Nick Wells ran 1:03.52 (3rd)
The 4x2 relay team of Damon Peters, Johnny Long, Indy DeMaso and Ryder Meskill ran a 2:20.74 (2nd)
4x4 team of Nick Wells, Aiden Dumycz, Evan Gebhardt and Ryder Meskill ran a 5:59.36 (2nd)
Medley relay team of Damon Peters,

Nick Wells, Johnny Long and Declan Crutchfield ran a 5:37.30 (2nd)
Shot Put throwers Jaxson Mack threw PR 7.10M (5th) and Brextin Hicks 4.83M (11th)
Discus throwers Sawyer Cravens threw PR 16.35M (5th) and Jaxson Mack PR 16.05 (6th)
High Jumper Johnny Long PRed with a jump of 1.41M (2nd)
Long Jumpers Ian Issert and Brady Van Duyne jumped 3.21M (7th) and 3.14M (8th)

Team Scores: Morris 218, Wilmington 95, Seneca 57 and MVK 8

8th grade boys:

100M Chase Brueggert ran a 13.05 (3rd) and Jack Grygiel PR of 13.74 (6th)
200M Chase Brueggert ran a 26.62 (1st) and Aiden Lawson 28.26 (5th)
400M Gage Sorensen ran a 1:31.99 (6th) and D.J. Mathena 1:42.99 (7th)
800M 6th grader Gabe Holm ran a 2:48.72 (3rd) and Aiden Browning ran a 3:08.14 (6th)
The 4x1 relay team of Aiden Lawson, Aiden Browning, Jack Grygiel and Chase Brueggert ran a 55.30 (3rd)
The 4x2 team of Jackson Van Duyne, Brady Van Duyne, Aiden Dumycz and Gage Sorensen ran a 2:17.05 (3rd)
4x4 team of Chase Brueggert, Gage S, Jackson VD and Aiden Lawson ran 5:53.69 (2nd)
The Medley Relay team of Jack Grygiel, Aiden Lawson, Jackson Van Duyne, Aiden Browning ran a time of 4:54.85 (4th)
Field Events had Shot Put throwers Logan Iwen and Marcus Sogale throw PR 7.79M (1st) and PR 7.39M (2nd)
Discus Throwers were Marcus Sogale

with a throw of PR 21.44M (4th) and Jayce Strong with a PR 15.67M (9th)
Long Jumpers Jack Grygiel had a jump of 4.62M (2nd) and Jackson Van Duyne with a jump of 3.78M (6th)
Team Scores: Morris 167, MVK 93, Wilmington 82, Seneca 61
7th grade girls:
100m hurdles Maeve Bryant ran a time of 16.70 (1st place) and Brooke Dickover ran 20.32 (5th place)
100m Maeve Bryant at 13.67 (1st) and PR! And Aria Jandeska 15.60 (4th place)
200M Maeve Bryant ran a 28.29 (1st) and PR! And Emily Van Duyne PR 31.76 (3rd).
400M Aryanna Prinko ran a 1:25.79 (4th) and Aria Jandeska ran a 1:30.24 (6th)
800M Charlotte Crutchfield ran a 3:17.43 (2nd) Makenzie Huffer ran 3:56.22 (9th), Charlotte Paulsen ran a 3:58.08 (10th) and Elly Grygiel ran a 4:23.58 (11th)
1600m Charlotte Crutchfield ran a 6:57.64 (1st) and Makenzie Huffer 8:04.52 (4th)
The 4x1 relay team of Madison Smith, Chloe Kohl, Elly Grygiel and Emma W ran a 1:09.99. (4th)
The 4x2 team of Brooke D, Aleah S, Aria J and Aryanna P ran a 2:11.12 (1st).
The 4x4 team of Brooke D, Aleah S, Aria J and Aryanna P ran a 5:52.29 (2nd)
The new Medley relay team of Chloe K, Madison S, Emma W, Charlotte C ran 5:52.29 (2nd)
In the field events Jayden Vance threw the shot 5.68M (2nd) and Kylie Burgess threw a distance of 5.26M for (5th)
In Disc Kylie threw a distance of PR 14.64 (2nd) and Jayden threw 13.99 (4th)
In Long Jump Aryanna Prinko jumped a distance of PR 3.40M for (5th)

Team Scores: Morris 147, Wilmington 122.5, MVK 76, Seneca 59.5
8th grade girls:
100M hurdler Skylar Boersma ran a time of 18.61 (1st)
In the 100m Raelynn Grygiel ran a time of 14.86 (1st) and Holly Holm ran a 15.14 (3rd)
200m Skylar Boersma ran a 30.98 (3rd) and Riley Shepherd ran a 32.77 (5th)
400M Kenzie Lupinski PRed with a 1:18.86 (2nd) and Kaylee Lovig ran PR 1:26.30 (7th).
800M Holly Holm ran a PR 3:13.64 (3rd)
4x1 team of Skylar Boersma, Emily Van Duyne, Raelynn Grygiel and Maeve Bryant ran a 55.45 (1st) which was 9/10ths of a second from the school record and 6/10ths of a second from state qualifying time!
4x4 team of Kenzie Lupinski, Riley Shepherd, Emily Van Duyne, Holly Holm ran a 5:39.79 (1st)
The Medley relay team of Raelynn Grygiel, Kenzie Lupinski, Kaylee L and Holly H ran a 5:21.42 (2nd)
In the field Shot putter Lilly Bailey threw a distance of PR 7.98M (1st) and 6th grader Vivienne Ceci threw 5.48M (7th)
Discus throwers Lilly Bailey threw a distance of PR 28.04M (1st) which is past state qualifying. Vivienne Ceci threw 12.56M (7th)
In Long Jump Skylar Boersma jumped a distance of 3.79M (3rd) and Raelynn Grygiel jumped 3.68M (5th)
Team scores: Morris 152, Wilmington 105, Seneca 78, MVK 44. Thursday they travel to Seneca.