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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966



Photos by Eric Fisher

A DEDICATED GROUP—Volunteers line up to serve veterans from the Manteno Veterans home during the biannual rib dinner honoring military men and women. Volunteers at Malcolm J. Mayo VFW Post in Wilmington treat veterans from area nursing homes to a homemade rib dinner. The VFW, American Legion Post 191 and members of the Wilmington ESDA joined forces last week in welcoming two bus loads of veterans and their escorts. Altogether about 75 meals were served including all-you-can-eat ribs, polish sausage and sauerkraut, corn casserole, cowboy beans and homemade desserts. About 150 pounds of ribs were prepared, enough for the veterans to have seconds if they wanted. About 25 volunteers help cook, serve and clean up each time. It was another successful lunch as no one left hungry.



Illinois BUILD Act

Towns would have little say on housing

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Leaders in Wilmington, Braidwood and Diamond are increasingly sounding the alarm over Gov. JB Pritzker's proposed Illinois BUILD Act, warning the legislation would strip authority from local officials and give sweeping zoning power to the state.

Municipal leaders across the region argue the proposal threatens to sideline city councils and local planning boards by forcing communities to comply with state-mandated housing policies regardless of infrastructure limitations, stormwater concerns, school impacts or neighborhood character.

During the May 5 Wilmington City Council meeting, officials delivered some of the strongest criticism yet of the controversial proposal, arguing the legislation represents a major erosion of municipal authority.

Mayor Ben Dietz said city leaders are moving quickly to oppose the measure as debate intensifies in Springfield.

"While I had previously mentioned at both past council meetings as well as the last committee meeting, the Illinois Municipal League had not taken any additional steps to counter the governor's legislation other than to be opposed to it," Dietz said.

Springfield overreach

The BUILD Act — promoted by Gov. Pritzker's administration as a solution to Illinois' housing shortage — seeks to increase housing density and availability statewide. But the fear is the legislation will override local zoning authority by forcing municipalities to allow higher-density residential development and reduced lot-size requirements.

Opponents are comparing the BUILD Act to the state's aggressive push for large-scale solar and wind developments across Illinois, where counties and municipalities that reject them are facing lawsuits and state intervention.

Dietz said the Illinois Municipal League has now formally entered the fight by submitting a competing proposal to the governor's office and municipalities statewide.

"The IML has officially submitted its proposal to the governor's office as well as to municipalities," Dietz said. "The IML has also put together a great webpage filled with information on the governor's proposed BUILD Act as well as the IML's proposed REAL Housing Act."

Dietz said Wilmington added a resolution opposing the legislation directly to the council agenda because hearings on the proposal are approaching rapidly.

SEE BUILD ACT PAGE 2

Road projects, new signs get council approval



A NEW LOOK for Wilmington. One of the designs suggested for a Welcome to Wilmington sign includes a retro look with lime green, blue and orange colors. The city council has awarded a contract for two signs.

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Get ready for more etch-a-sketch streets as the Wilmington City Council approved a bid that will pave some streets while bringing pavement preservation strategies for others.

The council awarded a \$327,146.75 contract to Austin Tyler Construction, Inc. for the city's 2026-2027 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) maintenance program.

Austin Tyler was lower than four other bidders including Gallagher Asphalt (\$344,161), D Construction (\$365,857), Iroquois Paving Corp (\$368,786) and PT Ferro Construction (\$380,671). City engineers originally estimated the road work would cost

The road repairs will be funded through Illinois'

motor fuel tax. The work will include patching, resurfacing and surface treatments designed to extend pavement life.

Rather than reconstructing failing roads at far greater cost, the city continues to emphasize preventative maintenance.

Gateway Sign Project
Aldermen also approved a \$186,823.01 contract with Ace Sign Co. to construct two monument signs welcoming visitors to the city.

The bid includes permanent structures with masonry bases with steel and aluminum supports, along with illuminated neon lighting. The designs will have a retro look based on Wilmington's new logo.

Ace Sign was the lone bidder for the project. The location for the two signs are on Bridge Street and on

property owned by DuPont at East Kankakee River Drive and Highway 53.

Catfish Days

Rounding out the spending for the night were two smaller expenditures supporting Wilmington's annual Catfish Days festival.

The council approved a \$600 performance agreement for comedian Jason Kollum, along with \$525 for Kids Party Paint to provide children's entertainment.



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Gorgeous Beefsteak Tomatoes

7 Up Family 24 pk can
Limit 1 • Adtl: \$9.99

\$8.99

Dr Pepper 24 pk can
Limit 1 • Adtl: \$9.99

Local cops prepare for their sweetest sting operation yet

On Friday, May 15, the Braidwood and Wilmington Police Departments will join forces for the 23rd annual Cop on a Rooftop fundraiser benefiting Special Olympics of Illinois.

Members of both agencies will be collecting donations at the Gas N-Wash located at 3010 E. Division Street in Diamond from 5 a.m. to noon. The fundraiser is a partnership with Dunkin' and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois.

Officers will be stationed on Dunkin rooftop while volunteers collect donations at ground level.

This partnership has been a huge success over the years; in fact, more than \$11.1 million dollars has been raised in Illinois.

Dunkin' guests who donate to Cop on a Rooftop will receive a coupon for a free donut. Guests who donate \$10 or more will receive a coupon for a free medium hot or iced coffee.

2026

Law Enforcement Torch Run swag will also be available for purchase. All money collected goes directly to support programming for Special Olympics athletes across the state.

Of you cannot attend in person, donations can be made online through Special Olympics.

Meents Law P.C. files David 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 OLIVER WEBSTER DAVID, JR.,
Deceased; No. 2026 PR 145**

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Oliver Webster David, Jr., Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on April 16, 2026, to Nancy Beth David, whose address is 23448 West Coal City Road, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 30, 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.

Nancy Beth David
Independent Administrator
of the Estate
of Oliver Webster David, Jr.,
Deceased

Meents Law P.C. files Garrett 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 DENNIS GARRETT, Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 179**

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Dennis Garrett, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 17, 2026, to Rebecca J. Beasley, whose address is 217 N McIntyre Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, River Valley Justice Center, 3208 W. McDonough Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 30, 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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Ellen Elizabeth Georgeff
Independent Administrator
of the Estate
of DONNA MARIE COUCH,
Deceased

Meents Law P.C. files Vercellotti 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 ANN VERCELLOTTI,
Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 178**

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of ROSE ANN VERCELLOTTI, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 30, 2026, to Curt M. Vercellotti, whose address is 1709 Mason Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435; 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 W. McDonough Street, Joliet, IL 60435, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 15, 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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Curt M. Vercellotti
Independent Executor of the Estate
of ROSE ANN VERCELLOTTI,
Deceased

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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 29, May 6 and 13, 2026.

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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 29, May 6 and 13, 2026.

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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 13, 20 and 27, 2026.

Sheriff's sale of 21458 HIGHWAY 113

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

GITSIT SOLUTIONS, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF GV TRUST 2025-1 Plaintiff,
vs.
GRUNDY BANK, MORRIS, ILLINOIS AS TRUSTEE, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 18, 2004 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 1434, UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 18, 2004 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 1434, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant.
No. 25 FC 1228

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **24th day of March, 2026**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **28th day of May, 2026**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW) OF SECTION NINETEEN (19), IN TOWNSHIP THIRTY-TWO (32) NORTH, AND IN RANGE TEN (10) EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWESTERLY CORNER OF THE LAND DESCRIBED IN WARRANTY DEED RECORDED MARCH 27, 1924, AS DOCUMENT NO. 364956, FROM CATHERINE WARNER TO BURTIS L. FRENCH AND NORA FRENCH, HIS WIFE; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG THE CENTER OF THE HIGHWAY SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 364956, TO THE SOUTH BANK OF THE KANKAKEE RIVER; THENCE EASTERLY ALONG SAID RIVER BANK TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION WITH THE NORTHWESTERLY LINE OF THE LAND DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED RECORDED AS DOCUMENT NO. 364956; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 21458 HIGHWAY 113 A/K/A 21458 W. ROUTE 113, WILMINGTON A/K/A CUSTER PARK, IL 60481

Description of Improvements: Single Family Residence
P.I.N.: 01-25-19-103-003-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
**Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel LLC
175 N Franklin Suite 201
Chicago, Illinois 60606
P: 312-357-1125
F: 312-357-1140**

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 6, 13 and 20, 2026.

Elion Partners wants to remove “unproductive” land from TIF

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

A public hearing to consider a 2026 amendment to the TIF redevelopment plan for Ridgeport Logistics was held in tandem with the city council meeting on May 5.

Specifically, Elion Logistics Park proposed areas to be removed from the Ridgeport Intermodal Terminal Facility Area.

Attorney Ben Schuster representing Elion Partners, spoke on behalf of the development, explaining that the developer wishes to remove unproductive land from the terminal facility area.

“...it is primarily undeveloped land or something that will never be developed in terms of the actual building,” Schuster said. “There’s some stuff around the periphery that is going to remain.”

Since 2010, there have been numerous amendments involving boundary changes to allow for new development. In 2024, the city council agreed to amend the developer’s original plan to change the

boundaries to include another property on Kavanaugh Road which involved the construction of a 1.65 million square foot Amazon warehouse.

The property being added has not been subject to growth and development, and no building permits have been issued.

Most of the area to be added was farmland. Any part not being farmed was woodland or wetlands.

“Some of those parts are coming out so we can match up the boundaries with what’s going in,” Schuster said, but provided no information on plans for the future.

There were no questions or comments from the public, and the council passed the amendment.

“It’s a win for us and for the city,” Schuster concluded.

A copy of the 2026 TIF Plan Amendment, which includes a revised boundary map, has been on file with the City since February 20, 2026, is available for public inspection and may be obtained from the City of Wilmington. Please call (815) 476-2175

between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

BUILD Act,

continued from page 1

“I have added item 6-C without bringing it to committee because time is of the essence as the governor is having subject matter hearings on this in the coming weeks and has indicated that he is willing to work on some of IML’s requests,” Dietz said. “As such, the IML is looking for municipalities to formally adopt resolutions to justify support across the state.”

Surrendering control

Attorney Bryan Wellner serves both Wilmington and Braidwood. Wellner warned council members that the legislation would dramatically weaken the ability of municipalities to control development within their own borders.

“We should explain what this is about,” Wellner said during the May 5 meeting. “That is proposing from their side of things to address the housing shortage in the state of Illinois.”

Wellner said the proposal would require communities to loosen zoning regulations many municipalities consider essential for responsible planning.

“What it is largely doing is restricting our ability to zone housing and forcing us to meet certain standards,” Wellner said.

He cited provisions involving “smaller lot sizes” and “higher density zoning in residential areas” affecting both single-family and other residential districts.

“It’s largely taking power away from municipalities,” Wellner added.

Of storms and stormwater

Terry Kernc, Mayor of Diamond and Vice President of the Illinois Municipal League, said the BUILD Act ignores the reality that communities across Illinois face vastly different infrastructure and planning challenges.

“The Governor’s BUILD ACT is not a model that is one size fits all communities,” Kernc said in a May 10 email regarding the proposal.

Kernc pointed to provisions she believes could create unintended consequences for rural and suburban communities.

“The multi-family parking of 0.5 spaces per unit is not reasonable, especially in communities where public transportation is not available,” Kernc said.

She also warned that stormwater management and flooding impacts appear to be largely overlooked in the proposal.

“Stormwater and lot coverage is not considered and could create flooding issues where they never existed before and increase flooding issues in areas already impacted by flooding,” Kernc said.

Kernc further criticized the state for failing to adequately include local governments in discussions surrounding the legislation.

“Brad Cole, Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Municipal League has repeatedly sought to get a seat at the table so that all stakeholders were represented, without success,” she said.

Despite opposing the legislation, Kernc acknowledged that affordable housing remains a serious issue statewide — but argued the solution must involve collaboration with local governments rather than mandates from Springfield.

“Affordable housing is a big problem for families in Illinois,” Kernc said. “It deserves to be addressed with all stakeholders at the table, and a lot of thought, time, and effort should go into the final product. It must benefit all residents throughout the state, regardless of how large or small their community is, or where in the state they live.”

IML CEO Brad Cole sent correspondence to the Illinois General Assembly on behalf of Kernc and other municipal officials urging lawmakers to reject what they describe as a one-size-fits-all state mandate.

“Local governments have the responsibility to provide well-planned, safe and affordable communities for residents while balancing short-term needs with long-term planning,” Cole said. “A one-size-fits-all approach to housing policy simply does not work in a state as vast and diverse as Illinois.”

Municipal officials argue decisions involving housing density, zoning, infrastructure, traffic, schools, utilities, and drainage belong at the local level — not dictated by lawmakers in Springfield.

The Illinois Municipal League’s REAL Housing Act proposal is designed to increase housing affordability by addressing taxes, construction costs, and regulations, while preserving local zoning authority.

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to end its spring session on May 31, which is the likely deadline for action.

Meents Law P.C. files Garrett 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 DENNIS GARRETT, Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 179**

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Dennis Garrett, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 17, 2026, to Rebecca J. Beasley, whose address is 217 N McIntyre Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, River Valley Justice Center, 3208 W. McDonough Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 30, 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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Rebecca J. Beasley
Independent Executor of the Estate
of Dennis Garrett, Deceased

Meents Law P.C. files Vercellotti 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 ANN VERCELLOTTI,
Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 178**

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of ROSE ANN VERCELLOTTI, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 30, 2026, to Curt M. Vercellotti, whose address is 1709 Mason Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435; 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 W. McDonough Street, Joliet, IL 60435, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 15, 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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Curt M. Vercellotti
Independent Executor of the Estate
of ROSE ANN VERCELLOTTI,
Deceased

**Dylan J. Hakey
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Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 13, 20 and 27, 2026.

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**Dylan J. Hakey
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
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Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 6352259
Email: Dylan@MeentsLaw.com**

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 29, May 6 and 13, 2026.

Sheriff's sale of 1101 N. Joliet St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., Plaintiff,
vs.
KILEY BARR; MATTHEW TAYLOR; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE RURAL HOUSING SERVICE Defendant.
No. 24 FC 0260

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the **2nd day of March, 2026**, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the **4th day of June, 2026**, commencing at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 1001, Joliet, IL 60432, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder or bidders the following-described real estate:

LOT 90, IN NORTHCREST, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTHEAST 1/4 AND PART OF THE NORTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED OCTOBER 18, 1948 AS DOCUMENT 646750, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE SOURCE MATERIAL BENEATH THE SURFACE, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO MINE AND REMOVE THE SAME, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 1101 N. Joliet Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

Description of Improvements: Residential
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-107-030-0000

Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act.

Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State.

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MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, May 13, 20 and 27, 2026.



The Free Press Advocate
USPS No. 307-450
Published weekly, 52 times a year,
on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
111 S. Water St., Box 327
Wilmington, IL 60481
Periodicals postage paid at
Wilmington, Illinois

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Free Press Advocate,
111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Subscription rates: \$46 Grundy & Will counties; \$53 other Illinois counties and \$60 out of state
G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:

- 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966
- 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Odds and Ends, emphasis on the odd

When reading a newspaper I often come across "fillers," small one or two paragraph articles on strange or unusual happenings. It is the same for the old newspapers I read. So here is a small collection of fillers that I found peaked my interest.

During the first few decades of white settlement, Wilmington was considered as part of the Far West. And it did resemble the towns you see depicted on TV westerns, with saloons and plank sidewalks. Life was on the rough side. We read in the Feb. 5, 1862 Independent, "On Monday last, a kind of free fight took place in this town between a party of some 20 or 30 "hale fellows well met," which resulted in now and then, a scratch over the winker, and a very

small amount of blood lost. After the battle was over and the smoke had cleared away, one Chas. O'Connor complained to Justice Young of having been assaulted, battered, bruised, knocked, kicked, cuffed, and maltreated by Elijah Cotton, whereupon Justice Young mercifully issued a warrant against Cotton. A jury was immediately called, and the testimony of some half a dozen witnesses taken, when the jury went out about five minutes, and returned with a verdict of "not guilty."

From Nov. 16, 1864 edition, "During the past



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

week, we have had, right here in Wilmington, a genuine wife sale - one of the kind we occasionally read of as having occurred elsewhere. A painter of this town, named Cook, traded his wife off to a man named Peck, for - what do you think, reader? - A huge pile of money? Or something very tempting? Not at all! She was traded off for a recipe for making salve! One of our prominent citizens was called upon to witness the bargain and stipulations between the two men, and Peck soon after started with his purchase for Wisconsin. Great God,

what a country, and how we progress!"

From Dec. 21, 1864, "The Pound Master of Wilmington has either been a long time absent from home, or else observes his duties very loosely. Cows continue to climb into farmers' wagons, and not only clean it of everything that bears resemblance to a straw, but generally manage to do more damage to packages of various kinds. F. D. S. Stewart proposes to donate a load of hay, to be brought in at any required time, to the poor cattle owners of Wilmington, to be fed publicly to their poor half starved stock. Shame on men who permit their cows to run at large, and plunder and damage the property of their neighbors! The quickest and

best way to abate the nuisance is to install a Pound Master who will not be afraid to attend to his duties, and who will show no favors."

During the Civil War, silver coins became scarce, and this presented a big problem for merchants who needed to make change. Bear in mind when reading the following filler that John Daniels was not only Wilmington's first mayor, but when his bank failed, the citizens of Wilmington lost a half a million dollars. From July 9, 1862, "Owing to the great scarcity of silver with which to make change, John H. Daniels has just issued cards of the denominations of 50 cents, 25 cents and 10 cents. They are redeemable in sums of \$5 in U. S. Treasury notes. This will help all who choose to help themselves. Let all who can use them conveniently, therefore, do so, and we will hear no more growlings at the scarcity of change."

Our final filler has not to do with the town of Wilmington, but with a place a lot of us have passed by, perhaps without notice. Those familiar with local history are familiar with the story of Chief Shabbonna and how he warned the white settlers of Black Hawk's rampage in 1832. Now, when driving to Morris on Pine Bluff road, west of the entrance to Goose Lake Prairie, you cross the Mazon River. This story takes place at that point.

From Dec. 14, 1864, "On Thursday last the body of Mrs. Shabbonna and that of her little granddaughter were found in the



A PHOTO OF Peace Chief Shabbonna, whose wife and granddaughter passed away in 1864.

Mazon, at the Pine Bluff Crossing. Her team was found on the bank just beyond. It is supposed that she was on her way to the residence of Sam Holderman, and by some tip or jolt of the wagon was thrown out into the stream, and by reason of her age and great bulk was unable to get out, and then drowned in but a few inches of water."

"Mrs. Shabbonna was the wife of the old Indian chief. She is supposed to have been in the neighborhood of 85 years of age, and probably weighed some 350 pounds. We have seen her frequently, but never saw her standing, but always sitting or reclining in her wagon. Her body is buried in the Morris cemetery beside that of her husband."

Even today you can visit her grave as well as that of the Chief and daughters and grandchildren in Evergreen Cemetery in Morris. There you will find gifts left to honor Shabbonna and his family.



Photo by Elaine Ohlund-Fisher

WHS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—Over \$125,000 in local scholarships were recently presented to seniors graduating from Wilmington High School. The impressive total is thanks to local businesses, non-profits and families who have established scholarships in memory of a loved one. Seniors who received the awards on April 29 include: (front, from left) Dierks Geiss, Melia Hincherrick, Jack Cutter, William Moore, Joey Lewsader, Ryker Feil, Evan Kuypers, Zachary Ohlund and Decklan Proffitt. Second Row: James Iwen, Austin Dietz, Logan Van Duyne and Reagan Jandura. Third row: Logan O'Donnell, Mark Gable, Cole Boudreau, Alexis Strohm, Taylor Stefancic, Kailyn Motykowski, Rachel Smith, Ava Spicer, Delaney Redwitz, Paiton Fritz, Grace Jones and Abigail Harding. Fourth row: Norah Unley, Alyssa Chiappetta, Ella Hansen, Makenna Adams, Alana Bown, Peyton Buza, Rianna Swearingen, Sydney Swann and Aubrey Strong. Back row: Ryan Kettman, Caius Drown, Samuel Payne, Hunter Lewis and Nathan Kirchner.

Community awards over \$125,000 to WHS seniors

Just over \$125,000 worth of scholarships were presented to 39 Wilmington High School seniors during the District 209U held its annual Awards Night.

"We are truly blessed to live in a community that gives back to our students at Wilmington High School," commented WHS Principal Scott Maupin. "Thanks to everyone for making this night possible. This is a marvelous evening for our seniors."

Scholarships presented the their recipients include American Federation of Teachers awarded to Sydney Swann and Ryan Kettman

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Post 191 awarded to Kailyn Motykowski and Ryker Feil

Ark Lynn Real Estate, Business/Entrepreneurship awarded to Logan Van Duyne and Anthony Johnston

Athletic Director's Choice awarded to Ryan Kettman

Barbara L. Tryner Memorial awarded to Sydney Swann

Bessie and John Tryner Memorial awarded to Anthony Johnston and Hunter Lewis

Bonnie & Burnell Southall Family awarded to Dierks Geiss and Peyton Buza

Basil E. Crutchfield Masonic Building Trades Award awarded to Decklan Proffitt

Wilmington Masonic Lodge awarded to Austin Dietz and Dierks Geiss

Mason's Bill & Dorothy Locke awarded to Kailyn Motykowski

Mason's Jim McGraw awarded to Peyton Buza

Masonic Jerry Vance awarded to Paiton Fritz

Berkot's Charitable Foundation awarded to Rianna Swearingen

C.J. Begler Memorial awarded to Anthony Johnston and Evan Kuypers

Chamber of Commerce awarded to Kailyn Motykowski and Logan O'Donnell

Chloe McCully Memorial awarded to Peyton Buza

Claire Rowland Memorial awarded to Rachel Smith

Clennon Family awarded to Alexis Strohm, Hunter Lewis and Rianna Swearingen

Clennon Family Building Trades awarded to Zach Ohlund

Daughters of American Revolution awarded to Austin Dietz

DeLong Co. awarded to Paiton Fritz

Donald Gresham Memorial awarded to Mark Gable

Dr. and Senator Sue Rezin awarded to Logan O'Donnell

Educational Pyramid awarded to Alyssa Chiappetta, Mark Gable, Norah Unley, Rianna Swearingen and Alana Bown

First Bank of Manhattan awarded to Sam Payne

Fred L. Kempes Memorial awarded to Austin Dietz and Ella Hansen

Gale Czys Memorial awarded to Grace Jones

Helen Francis Boggan awarded to Grace Jones and Norah Unley

Jason Forsythe Memorial awarded to Caius Drown

Joe Smith Memorial awarded to Taylor Stefancic

John & Barb Persic Family awarded to Sydney Swann

John and Mary Proffitt awarded to Taylor Stefancic

Joliet Junior College awarded to Austin Dietz

Josten's awarded to Nathan Kirchner

Larry Walsh Memorial awarded to Ava Spicer and Ella Hansen

Lester J. Smith American Legion Post 191 awarded to Austin Dietz, Rachel Smith, Aubrey Strong, Paiton Fritz and Ella Hansen

Linda Suzanne Darabaris Memorial awarded to Austin Dietz

Lions Club awarded to Alexis Strohm and Peyton Buza

Minner Family Four Year awarded to Austin Dietz, Aubrey Strong and Logan Van Duyne

Kent Moon Scholarship awarded to Paiton Fritz

Modern Music Masters Honor Society (Tri-M) awarded to Grace Jones and Abigail Harding

Nick Dziuban Memorial awarded to Ryker Feil and Evan Kuypers

Nutt Family awarded to Logan Van Duyne, Sydney Swann, Alexis Strohm and Joseph Lewsader

Patricia Forsythe Campbell awarded to Alyssa Chiappetta

P.E.O. awarded to Sydney Swann, Ava Spicer

Plese Scholarship—Taylor Stefancic

Rose O'Brien Scholarship awarded to Kailyn Motykowski and Anthony Johnston

Shawn Conner Emergency Management awarded to Reagan Jandura

Stehlik Teachers of Tomorrow awarded to Taylor Stefancic

Strong Family awarded to Logan Van

Duyne and Aubrey Strong

Student Council Good Citizen awarded to Alyssa Chiappetta

WHS Athletic Boosters awarded to Logan Van Duyne, Ryan Kettman, Melia Hincherrick and Taylor Stefancic

WHS Interact Club awarded to Austin Dietz, Ava Spicer and Melia Hincherrick

Wilco awarded to Kailyn Motykowski

Wildcat awarded to Makenna Adams

Wildcat Self Storage awarded to Logan Van Duyne, Evan Kuypers and Zach Ohlund

William M. Enz awarded to Ryker Feil

Will County Farm Bureau awarded to Paiton Fritz and Ella Hansen

Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community awarded to Grace Jones and Melia Hincherrick

Wilmington 209-U Foundation for Excellence awarded to Austin Dietz, Grace Jones, James Memphis Iwen, Logan Van Duyne, Aubrey Strong, Dierks Geiss, Melia Hincherrick, Alexis Strohm, Kailyn Motykowski, Sydney Swann, Ava Spicer, Reagan Jandura, Ryan Kettman, Rachel Smith, Ella Hansen, Jack Cutter, William Moore, Logan O'Donnell, Delaney Redwitz

and Norah Unley.

Wilmington High School NHS awarded to Austin Dietz, James Memphis Iwen, Makenna Adams, Alexis Strohm, Alyssa Chiappetta, Dierks Geiss and Melia Hincherrick

Wilmington Moose Lodge 241 awarded to Caius Drown

Wilmington Music Boosters awarded to Grace Jones and James Memphis Iwen

Wilmington Rotary awarded to Logan Van Duyne and Ella Hansen

Bruce R. Browning Memorial Rotary awarded to Ava Spicer

Women of the Moose awarded to Rianna Swearingen

Wilmington Historical Society Roger Mayne awarded to Rachel Smith

Wilmington Park District awarded to Austin Dietz, Ava Spicer, Aubrey Strong and Ella Hansen

Illinois State Scholars awarded to Alyssa Chiappetta, Austin Dietz, Caius Drown, Mark Gable, Memphis Iwen, Alexander Lawson, Hunter Lewis, Logan O'Donnell, Aubrey Strong and Norah Unley

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Not Tom's choice

COAL CITY-What a slap in the face to the members of the Coal City Area Club. The newsletter states that Tom is retiring. Tom did not want to retire. It was not Tom's choice. It is the board's choice to force Tom out. After 21 years of devotion to this area club and this board wants to get rid of someone who is dedicated and loves this place. Obviously it's because they don't like him or he's not a yes man but that's really sad. You members need to step up for your club members and your club board because this is uncalled for. I am signing this and I hope there is no retaliation for signing my name. What a slap in the face for Tom

Peggy Uerkwitz

Need one big paper

WILMINGTON—I believe the editor of this paper should put all three towns papers together into one paper. We are all interested in each other's news.

Tom is retiring?

Oh my God. What is this area club board thinking about? Tom is retiring? I don't think so. From my understanding this board is pushing him out. So whoever is reading the newsletter believe that Tom is not going anywhere. They are forcing him out so anything you read is all lies. This is from a concerned member of this club who has watched this club become beautiful. I think this board has a lot of issues to take care of themselves. Good luck Tom.

Tone down hostility

COAL CITY—Reasonable people can disagree about a proposed data center. Citizens have every right to ask questions, demand answers, and express support or

opposition. That is how local government is supposed to work. What should concern everyone, however, is the growing level of hostility surrounding the discussion. Too much of the public conversation — especially online — has shifted from debate into personal attacks, profanity, ridicule, and harassment of neighbors simply because they hold a different opinion. It twists stories from far away to scare the crowd. Local investors who legally buy and sell land are treated like enemies. While objectors never succeeded to be investors. Residents asking fair questions or expressing support are accused of corruption or hidden motives. Citizens are being made pawns to help greed. That is not civic engagement. It is intimidation. At the same time, rumors are increasingly being presented as facts. Claims about catastrophic water use, pollution, unbearable noise, and "secret back room deals" continue circulating even though no formal application has yet been filed and any future proposal would still require public hearings, engineering review, and compliance with local ordinances. Preliminary discussions between developers and municipal staff about procedures and standards are not corruption. They are part of normal government operations in every community. Coal City deserves thoughtful discussion, respectful disagreement, and factual debate — not online mob behavior. No matter where someone stands on this project, we should all reject personal destruction, rumor campaigns, and hostility before they do more damage to the character of this town than any development project ever could.

Boycott high gas

BRAIDWOOD—I'm calling about the gas at Casey's in Braidwood. They got



some nerve. One day the gas is \$4.99.9 the next day it's \$4.97.9 they lowered it two whole pennies. Thank you very much. That's a slap in the face to consumers. I myself will boycott their gasoline there. I'll go to Morris, that's all I've to say to the person that does the pricing there. Should be ashamed. If you can't lower it five or ten cents you shouldn't even mess with the billboard. The advertising sign. That's all I've go to say.

Enforce parking laws

WILMINGTON—What is the sense of putting up no parking signs if you're not

going to enforce them. There are cars parking on Meadow Wood day and night. And now with West River Road being closed it's even gonna be more dangerous. Is it going to take somebody getting hurt in order for something to be done?

Unfair to women

WILMINGTON— I think that it is unfair that women might lose access to abortion pills while men can get all kinds of male erection pills through the mail. Remember all unwanted pregnancies were caused by a man.

Commentary

America should lead in AI-for public safety and security

BY JOHN M. CABELLO

Around the world, countries are racing to lead in artificial intelligence. Whoever shapes this technology will have a huge advantage when it comes to economic growth, global influence, and national security. For the United States, the goal should be simple: The technology that powers our future must be built in America, not in China.

The conversation about American technology and innovation is no longer reserved for technology leaders or elected officials. Innovation is woven into the very fabric of our communities at every level, from small businesses to education and infrastruc-

ture. And as a longtime champion for public safety, I'm happy to see modern technology being used across Northern Illinois to support law enforcers in their efforts to sustain safer communities.

In Rockford and across Illinois, law enforcement agencies have been among the most receptive to the promise of innovation in reaching public safety goals. From body-worn cameras to drone technology and modern data systems, innovation has already reshaped the way departments investigate crimes and respond to emergencies.

Artificial intelligence is the next step in that progression. Modern policing

generates an enormous amount of information. Detectives consistently review hours of body-camera footage, surveillance videos, emergency calls, and reports from multiple agencies. AI tools can analyze that data far more quickly, helping investigators identify key evidence, connect cases, and solve crimes faster.

These technologies can also help departments detect patterns in criminal activity. By analyzing data across incidents, locations, and timelines, AI systems can reveal connections that might otherwise go unnoticed. This allows departments to deploy resources more strategically and prevent crime rather than simply respond to it.

Of course, new technology should always be implemented responsibly. Policymakers, technology developers, and law enforcement leaders all have a role to play in ensuring that AI tools are used

transparently and fairly. Public trust must remain central to how these technologies are deployed. But we must also consider who builds and controls the technology.

Countries like China are investing heavily in artificial intelligence because they recognize how transformative it will be. The nations that lead in AI will have a powerful advantage economically, technologically, and militarily. That advantage will influence everything, from the AI tools used by students and small businesses to the AI-enabled tools used by local police officers.

That's why it is so important that the United States continues to lead. The technology that powers our law enforcement agencies, our infrastructure, and our national security should be developed by American companies and reflect American laws and values. The alternative would weaken our public

safety and jeopardize our communities.

If we want to strengthen public safety, remain globally competitive, and ensure these powerful technologies reflect democratic values, the United States must continue to lead in AI

— and make sure the systems shaping our future are built right here at home.

State Rep. John M. Cabello has served in the IL House since 2012. He represents the 90th District.

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Soundscape ecology helps the enviroment

Dear EarthTalk: How does "soundscape ecology" help the environment?

-- L.M., via email



A vast web of species, including humans, connect ecosystems across the globe. Understanding the interactions animals have with their environments reveals that sound is key to that connection.

Soundscapes are the combination of all natural and man-made sounds within an environment. Three major sound types contribute to a soundscape: sounds generated by organisms, non-living natural sounds (like from sunlight, water, soil, air and temperature), and sounds from humans or human-made technology. They are referred to as biophony, geophony, and anthropophony respectively.

The study of bioacoustics has shown how vital soundscapes are for inter- and intra-species interactions. Maia Persche,

a field biologist and bioacoustics researcher at Baraboo Hills Research Collective, explains the complexity of a soundscape: "...species that evolve together in an ecosystem all call at a different time or pitch, so their calls don't overlap, and they can be heard above the background... Like, if two frog species call at the same time, maybe one will have a high pitch, and one will have a low pitch. Or if they have the same pitch, they might call at different times of the day."

The primary disruptor of natural soundscapes is anthropophony, or noise pollution. Noise pollution impacts species behaviors and can cause habitat fragmentation. Due to different levels of tolerance for acoustic disturbance, a habitat may be inaccessible to animals even if it appears intact, due to noise infiltration.

Noise pollution also affects humans. According to UCLA Health, chronic exposure to high decibels is linked to an increase in stress hormones, risk of heart disease, and cognitive impairment.

Silence is not the solution, but instead we must embrace and recapture natural soundscapes.

Landscape architects, like Ohio State University's Dorothée Imbert and her students, are incorporating soundscape ecology into new designs.

Their novel proposals at Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York, include raised bluffs and an "acoustic planting matrix." This strategy uses native plants to dampen noise in some areas and attract noise-tolerant animals to others. The pursuit of natural soundscapes is not limited to land. Coral reefs, teeming with life, are also being researched.

A study by Timothy Gordon with the University of Exeter found that introducing healthy reef soundscapes to dead reefs improved fish presence.

Whether improving the environment for sensitive species or human well-being, natural soundscapes achieve meaningful goals. You can start by actively engaging with local planning processes, like attending annual master plan meetings. This is a great way to advocate for a step toward soundscape harmony and away from noise pollution.

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

Memorial Day parade, ceremony planned May 23 in Wilmington

Community members are invited to honor the nation's fallen service members during a Memorial Day parade and ceremony scheduled for Saturday, May 23, in Wilmington.

The annual event, presented by American Legion Post 191 and its Ladies Auxiliary, will begin with parade lineup at 10:30 a.m. in the Grundy Bank parking lot. The parade will step off at 11 a.m., traveling south

on Water Street before concluding at Memorial Park on Vine Street, where a ceremony honoring veterans will be held.

Organizers are encouraging residents to line the route and show their patriotism by bringing American flags.

Volunteers are also being sought to help create a flag line along the parade route. Junior high and high school students who participate will receive four

community service hours, according to event organizers.

The ceremony at Memorial Park will serve as a tribute to those who gave their lives in service to the country, continuing a long-standing community tradition of remembrance.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Peggy Kunz Dore at 815-545-0720.

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Bird viewing offered at Lake Renwick

The Will County Forest Preserve District will be offering Lake Renwick Migratory Bird Viewing, 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 16, at the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield.

View nesting herons, egrets and cormorants and possibly bald eagles from the viewing platform during controlled access hours. All ages; free.

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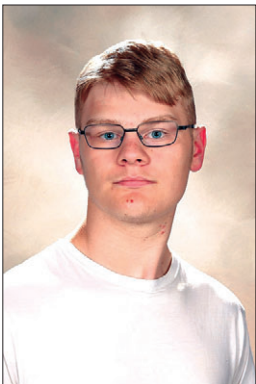
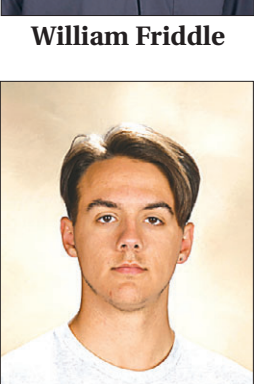
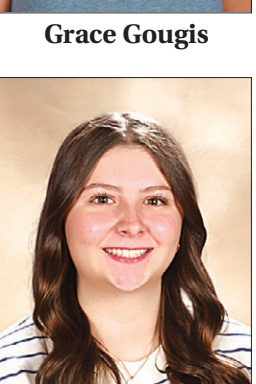
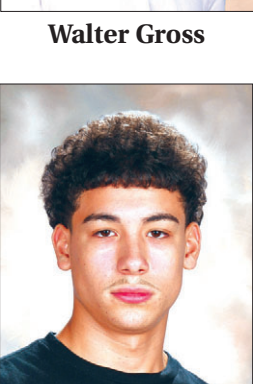
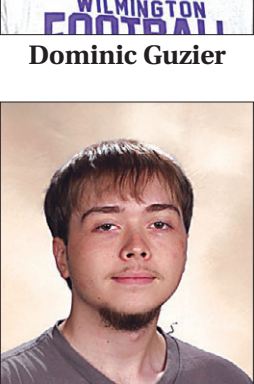
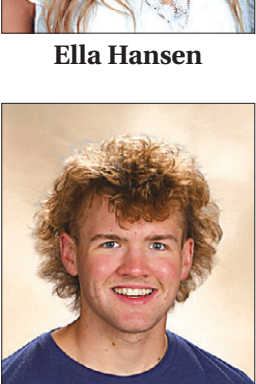
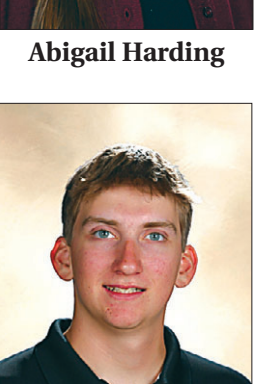
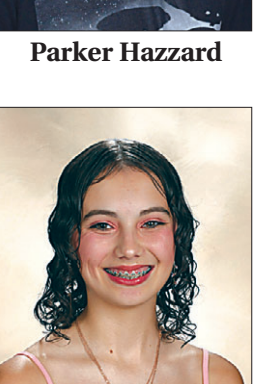
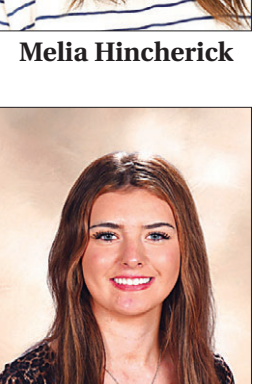
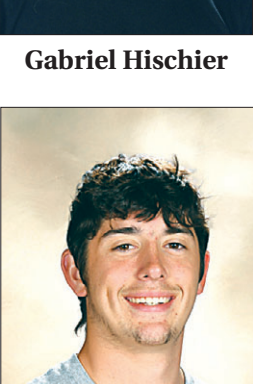
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 Jack Cutter	 Austin Dietz	 Caius Drown	 Julie Enriquez	 Abigail Farley	 Ryker Feil	 Meghan Fisher
 William Friddle	 Paiton Fritz	 Mark Gable	 Terrell Garner	 Dierks Geiss	 Grace Gougis	 Walter Gross
 Dominic Guzier	 Delilah Hannan	 Ella Hansen	 Abigail Harding	 Parker Hazzard	 Melia Hinchierick	 Gabriel Hischier
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Wilmington High School Class of 2026



Gabrielle Kircher



Nathan Kirchner



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Edward Kurze



Evan Kuypers



Alexander Lawson



Ava Lenart



Evan Leonard



Hunter Lewis



Joseph Lewsader



Koreen
Nicole-Liquid



Madelyn Loren



Logan McGray



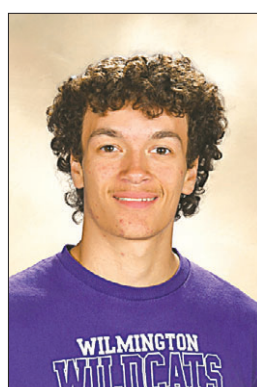
Nathaniel
McKendrick



Trevur McLin



Brayden Michaels



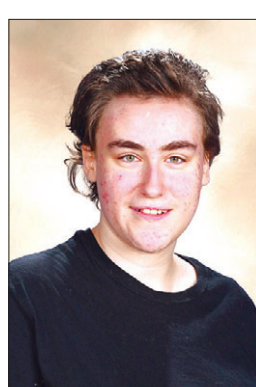
William Moore



Jamileth
Morales-Martinez



Olivia Morris



Olivia Mosley



Kailyn Motykowski



Logan Murphy



Jay Nevels



Logan O'Donnell



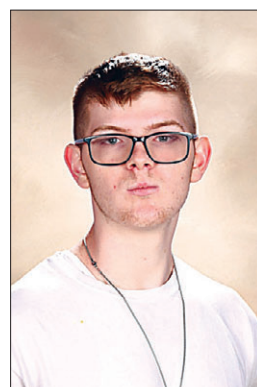
Isabelle OHalloran



Zachary Ohlund



Jason Palmer



Ethan Pape



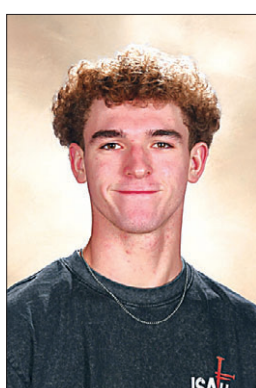
Matthew Parthun



Samuel Payne



Allen Peace



Robert Phillips



Madeline Pomykala



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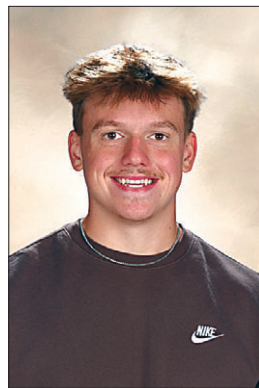
Wilmington High School Class of 2026



Nicholas Simek



Olivia Sitarz



William Slayton



Rachel Smith



Molly Southall



Ava Spicer



Benjamin Squellati



Taylor Stefancic



Kai Sterkowitz



Alexis Strohm



Aubrey Strong



Candice Surdey



Sydney Swann



Rianna Swearengen



Remington Thomas



Norah Unley



Logan Van Duyne



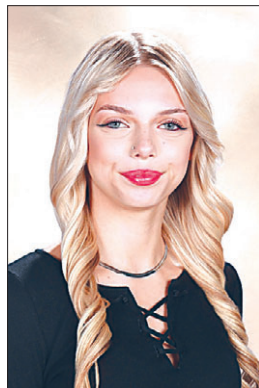
Lucas Vance



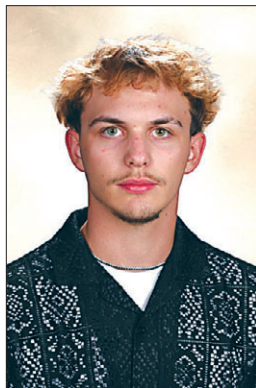
Sean Vazquez



Chase Warthen



Karsyn Wiggins



William Workman

COMMENCEMENT
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CLASS OF 2026 WILL BE
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AT 7:00 P.M.
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Wilmington senior chosen for 26-day learning program in Ireland

Wilmington senior Austin Dietz is among four Will County high school students selected to attend The Irish Life Experience (ILE) this summer.

The ILE is a 26-day cultural and academic program offered to American and Canadian high school students.

The program consists of a wide variety of classes, workshops and tours based in three locations throughout Ireland. The program introduces North American students to the essential characteristics and qualities of Irish life.

Dietz was chosen by the Irish American Society of County Will (IASCW) to receive \$4,400 toward the

ILE Summer Program tuition of \$6,050. Three other Will County students also selected are Julia Szymala, Joliet Catholic Academy; Weston McCure, Lincolnway West HS; and Madelyn Punda, Plainfield East HS. They will travel to Ireland from June 28 to July 23.

IASCW Executive Director Tim Brophy presented certificates to the students at the annual IASCW Scholarship Banquet on April 19. Including 2026 recipients, the IASCW has awarded scholarships to 63 students since 1983.

The 2025 IASCW scholars who attended the program included Sally

Clifford, Wilmington.

Eligible students live in Will County and/or attend a Will County high school. Applicants are asked to complete an application that includes schoolwork accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, and an essay explaining why they wish to travel to and study in Ireland.

By being immersed in Ireland's history and culture, young adults can better understand and appreciate a country whose people have played a significant role in the history of Western civilization. For more information about the program, go to the ILE www.irishlifeexperience.com website.



ALL CONFERENCE ARTISTS - These three student artists from WHS were recently titled all conference winners during the ICE art competition held at Lisle High School. From left, Alana Bown received all conference for her painting of a Wilmington cemetery scene. Ava Spicer received all conference for her portfolio of various artwork from freshman year to now, her senior year. Morgan Farrell won first place for her water color painting.

OBITUARIES

Dennis Garrett

BRACEVILLE— Dennis E. Garrett, 58 of Braceville, passed away Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at his residence. He was born March 2, 1968, to Dennis and Jean (née Poppleton) Garrett in Joliet, IL.

On April 1, 2006, Dennis married Lois Pressler, and together they shared 20 years of life, creating countless memories along the way.

Dennis worked for several years as a forklift operator for US Cold Storage in Wilmington. He loved spending time with family and especially enjoyed time spent at the Braidwood Recreation Club. Dennis loved golfing, fishing, watching NASCAR, and cheering on the Alabama Crimson Tide with a proud "Roll Tide." He was also a loyal Chicago Cubs fan who enjoyed watching baseball, relaxing in his garage, watching westerns, tending to his garden, enjoying a cold Busch Light, and never passing up his favorite sweet treats, especially Ding Dongs. Above all, he cherished the companionship of his beloved grand-dog, Bucky.

Surviving are his loving wife, Lois Garrett; his beloved children: Taylor (Jordan) Garrett of Morris; Cody Garrett of Braceville; Kilee (Zachary) Crichton of



Elmhurst, IL; and Megan (Henry) Coates of Tumwater, WA; and his cherished grandchildren: Milo David Coates and Logan Michelle Coates. Also surviving are his sisters: Teresa (Allen) Sanches of Morris; and Rebecca Beasley of Wilmington; his brother, David (Sherri) Garrett of South Wilmington; as well as several nieces and nephews: Jake Garrett and great-nephew Bentley, Josh Garrett and great-niece Dalilah, Tim (Nettie) Garrett, Mandie Sanches, Anthony Garrett, Kayla Garrett, and Stephanie Beasley.

Dennis was preceded in death by his cherished parents.

Visitation will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at R. W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, with funeral services beginning at 7:00 p.m. In honoring Dennis's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

For more information and to visit Dennis's online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhome.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Barbara Greenan

ORLAND PARK—Barbara Ann Greenan, 74, of Orland Park, formerly of Diamond, and Chicago, passed away on Friday, May 8, 2026 at Parc Joliet.

She was born on June 14, 1951 in Chicago to Charles and Erla (nee Linden) Orpurt. She married James P. Greenan on May 20, 1972. They were married for 42 years before his passing. Together they raised four children. Her family was her life.

She is survived by her son: Corey (Stacey) Greenan, Shawn (Latrese) Greenan, Ryan (Kathleen) Greenan and James Greenan; her six grandchildren: Khiya, Mackenzie, Patrick, Linden, Declan and Mason and her sister, Beverly (the late Joseph) Lodato.



She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Linden Orpurt.

Visitation will be from 4:00 until 8:00 pm on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City, IL 60416.

Funeral services will be at 10:00 am on Thursday, May 14, 2026 also at Ferrari Funeral Chapel with Father Joshua Miller officiating. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service.

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.

Jewel Julie Reeves

COAL CITY—Jewel Julie Reeves (Miller) passed away peacefully in her home on May 4, 2026.

Wife of the late James K. Reeves, mother of Doug (Janis) Reeves; grandmother to: Damon, Kaitlyn, and Meghan; Sister to Ernest Miller; aunt to Katherine (Johnathan) Dixon, and great nephew Conner.

Julie was well known in the community for her work in elderly care for many families in Grundy and Will counties and a dedicated member of the Coal City Junior Woman's Club and later helped form the Prairie State Woman's Club. Her fundraising efforts with PSWC were always dedicated to veteran's causes, a cause close to her heart.



She will be dearly missed by numerous family, friends and members of the community.

She is preceded in death by her father, Herman Miller and mother June Miller both of Lombard, IL.

As were Julie's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will be hosting a memorial visitation from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm on Friday, May 15, 2026 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, 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.

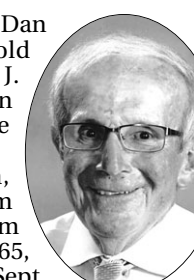
Dan Phelan

WILMINGTON— Dan J. Phelan, "As the old story goes..." Dan J. Phelan went to heaven on May 10, 2026 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, IL.

Dan was born Sept. 15th, 1947 to the late Mary Rita and Jim Phelan. He graduated from Peotone High School class of '65, and he married Lynne Gast on Sept. 12th, 1970 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Manhattan. Dan was in the United States Army Reserves, retired from the Laborers Local Union 75, but he was born a farmer and continued to farm all his life. His passion was growing pumpkins for his granddaughter Shay. Dan was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's Church in Wilton Center, was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, who never knew a stranger.

He is survived by his wife Lynne of 55 years; five children: Mike (Cindy) Phelan, Margie Phelan (Eric Foerster), Julie (Jim) Molitor, Kevin (Tara) Phelan and Brian (Amilyn) Phelan; and his grandchildren: James, Toby, Maggie and Shay; brothers and sister: Bill (Georgia) Phelan, Mary (Mike) Lappe, and Ed (Judy) Phelan; several nieces and nephews.

Dan was preceded in death by his son



and daughter: Margaret and Joseph; mom and dad: Mary Rita and Jim Phelan; brother Jerry Phelan; sister-in-law Vicky Phelan, and niece Theresa Osburn.

The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. until the time of Rosary Service at 7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be held Thursday, May 14, 2026 at St. Patrick Catholic Church, 14936 West Wilmington-Peotone Road, at 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Dan Hoehn, and burial will follow at Mt. Saint Patrick Catholic Cemetery in Wilton Center.

Preferred memorials may be made as gift's in Dan's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends may sign the guest book, upload photographs or share Dan's memorial page online by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

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

Sandra Stacey

KANKAKEE— Sandra Sue Stacey, 77 of Kankakee, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2026, in her home with her loving family by her side.

Born Aug. 27, 1948, in Coolinga, CA, Sandra Sue Stacey was a daughter of Donald and Betty (Durham) Stacey. She spent most of her childhood and school years throughout different areas of California.

Later in life, Sandra made her home in Wilmington, where she built a fulfilling career as a certified nursing assistant in Joliet for many years. She also devoted herself to serving as an aide at a special education school, where she lovingly assisted in the long-term care and support of her son.



Sandra was independent by nature, yet she shared a special lifelong bond with her dear friend Betty, who was like a sister to her. Always on the go, Sandra found joy in simple pleasures such as crocheting and thrift shopping. Above all, she treasured time spent with her family. She never missed an opportunity to be with her grandchildren, whether it was swimming, visiting parks, or simply taking long drives together. Her grandchildren were truly the light of her life, and the love she shared with them will be deeply missed and forever cherished.

Survivors include her grandchildren: Daniel Ramos, Erika Ramos, Victor Ramos, Jessica Ramos, and Julianna Ramos, all of Kankakee; great-grandchildren: Lilianna Mendez, Jonnathan Mendez, Marduk Ramos, Izabella Ramos, Zaiden Madrigal, Jayla Juarez, Kristian Madrigal, Aurelija and Ismerie Varela; great-great-grandchildren: Adriel Mendez, Xavier and Milani Salazar; and daughter Michele Kunkel of Bradley, IL.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents, her three sons: Thomas, Victor, and Brian Kunkel, and her best friend Betty Lou.

Per her wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

Memorials may be made to the UpliftedCare of Bourbonnais, IL, as they cared for Sandra with nurturing hearts.

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

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

Larry Trimby

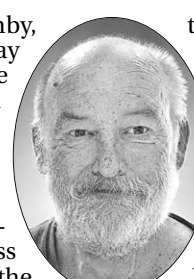
CUSTER PARK—Larry Trimby, 68, of Custer Park, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, with his family at his side.

Born July 9, 1957, in Joliet, Lawrence Ray was the son of Homer and Vivian (Weber) Trimby. He graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the Class of 1975 and went on to complete the Sheet Metal Workers Local 50 apprenticeship program. Larry worked as a journeyman sheet metal worker for 34 years, retiring from Local #265 in 2012.

Larry was a dedicated volunteer at Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington, where he assisted with the preschool program and contributed his time to many special projects and events.

Larry had a great sense of humor and loved to make others laugh, often sharing amusing stories. He was an avid fan of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears and enjoyed watching their games. Above all, Larry cherished time with his grandchildren, taking great pride in attending their soccer and baseball games, as well as school programs. He also enjoyed watching nature programs and American history documentaries.

Survivors include his son Shane (Elizabeth) Trimby and their children, Layla and Luke of Bourbonnais; his daughter,



Kristin (Jon) Winker and their children, Kolton and Reese of Wilmington; his twin brother, Jim (Mary) Trimby of Bonfield; sisters: Susan Trimby and Connee Trimby, both of Custer Park and Michele (Gary) Hoppenrath of Somerset, Kentucky; his nephew, Thomas of Somerset and niece, Jeni (Trace) Lambert of Bloomington, IL.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Vivian Trimby and sister, Margaret Trimby Bungo.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 from 9:30 a.m. until time of funeral service 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery, Braidwood, where Larry will be laid to rest with his sister.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Larry's memory to Grace Lutheran Preschool, 907 Luther Drive, Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Larry's memorial page online.

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

Extension Service offering free pressure canner testing

As gardeners begin planting seedlings, it's also time to think about what needs to be preserved.

Home preservation methods like canning, freezing, dehydration, and fermentation extend the shelf life of foods compared to storing fruits and vegetables fresh. Preserving food at home helps reduce waste, frees up refrigerator space, offers convenience with ready-to-use ingredients, and helps retain nutrients.

A variety of foods can be canned at home using boiling water bath canning and pressure canning. Pressure canning is necessary when preserving low-acid foods, especially meats and vegetables.

It's important to have your equipment checked each year. Visit the Pressure Canner Testing Sites map to find the nearest University of Illinois Extension testing center. Tests are free and typically take about 15 minutes per canner.

"Over time - and sometimes new out of the package - the needle on a dial-gauge pressure canner reads incorrectly," says Caitlin Mellendorf, food and nutrition educator. "If the dial gauge is not measuring the accurate pressure, foods inside the pressure canner may be under-processed, which increases the risk of serious illness from botulism."

Along with testing, Illinois Extension offers in-person canning and preserving classes around the state. Watch recorded trainings from the Canning with Confidence and Fill Your Pantry series at home. Read more about canning, freezing, drying, and fermentation on the Food Preservation website.

Frederick West

MEXICO, MO—Frederick Claude West, 84, of Mexico, passed away on Thursday, April 30, 2026, at his home.

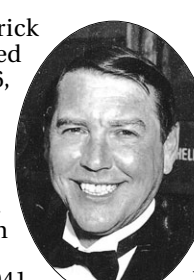
A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 8, at St. Brendan Catholic Church, with Fr. Dave Veit officiating. Burial will follow at East Lawn Memorial Park.

Fred was born on May 19, 1941, in Mexico, MO, the son of Paul E. and Erna Elizabeth (Leake) West. On Aug. 24, 1963, he was united in marriage to Rosemary Ann Lively at St. Brendan Catholic Church in Mexico. He shared 62 devoted years of marriage with Rosemary until her passing on Feb. 4, 2025.

Fred graduated from St. Brendan High School, where he was a member of the basketball team, and later earned his degree from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield.

Following his education, Fred began his career at A.P. Green before going on to work for Caterpillar Tractor in Joliet, IL, where he dedicated 30 years of service.

He was a faithful member of St. Brendan Catholic Church and remained active in his community. Fred was especially involved with the Mexico Senior Center, where he served as president for many years.



Fred enjoyed dancing, playing cards, and riding his motorcycle with friends. He treasured those friendships deeply and considered them an extension of his family in Mexico.

Survivors include three sons, Paul (Chie) West of Japan, Tony West (Renee Cavanaugh) of Plainfield, IL, and Philip (Natalie) West of Coal City, IL; fourteen grandchildren: Dylan West, Dalton West, Rebecca Flatt, Brittney West, Jonathan West, Rachel Cavanaugh, Reagen Cavanaugh, Ritchie Cavanaugh, Natalie West, Kelsey Butthuis, Jacob Porterfield, Cailyn Ziegler, Colin West, and Cameron West; twelve great-grandchildren: Gavin, Sophia, Noah, Max, Elijah, Raelynn, Myla, Annie, Waylon, Henry, Ryan, and Charlotte; and three siblings: Kay McClain of Cincinnati, OH; Ron West of Chandler, AZ; and Beth Wisdom of Cincinnati, OH.

Memorial donations may be made to the Mexico Senior Center, 606 E. Park Street, Mexico, MO 65265, or to St. Brendan Catholic Church, 615 S. Washington Street, Mexico, MO 65265.

Arnold Funeral Home in Mexico, MO, is serving the family.

Online condolences may be left at www.arnoldfh.com.

Feeling hot, hot, hot?

Scientists are constantly learning more about cancer - what causes it, how it impacts our body and how to treat or cure it. One study has looked at a possible link between frequent drinking of hot beverages and an increased risk of esophageal cancer.

So should coffee drinkers worry? Not drastically, but you should always be mindful of what you put in your body, says Edie Krueger, MD, a radiation oncologist at OSF HealthCare.

"The science behind it is that there's thermal injury to the lining of the esophagus, or the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach. The thermal injury causes the cells to become aberrant [not normal, in other words] and grow on their own without any checkpoints. That's basically what cancer is," Dr. Krueger says.

So what should people do? Dr. Krueger says if you're a morning coffee or tea person, that's fine. But if you drink scalding hot beverages multiple times a day, consider changing habits. Let the drink cool off before taking a swig. The study mentions 65 degrees Celsius (149 degrees Fahrenheit) as a danger zone. That's about the temperature when you get coffee right out of the pot, Dr. Krueger says. Also, swap the afternoon hot coffee or tea with another drink. "Things in moderation are fine," Dr. Krueger says.

Why it's important. Esophageal cancer is not the most common in America (around 20,000 cases per year, Dr. Krueger says). But she says it's a "tough cancer to treat," underscoring the need to know about it and get treatment sooner rather than later.

She says there are two types of esophageal cancer. The most prevalent in America is adenocarcinoma. The other type, squamous cell carcinoma, is the one with a possible link to hot drinks.

"The symptoms, in general, are things like reflux or trouble swallowing - especially trouble swallowing things like bread or tough foods like steak or chicken. Just really hard to get food down," Dr. Krueger explains.

"Usually, esophageal cancer is treated with what we call trimodality therapy. That's surgery, chemotherapy and radiation," she adds.

Avoiding alcohol, smoking and obesity are ways to help prevent esophageal cancer.



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Grundy Bank announces a lip sync battle for charity

Grundy Bank is proud to announce the First Annual Grundy Bank Lip Sync Battle for Charity, a fundraising event bringing together local nonprofits for an afternoon of entertainment, friendly competition and community support.

The event will take place on Friday, June 12, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fraternal Order of Eagles in Downtown Morris. Fundraising will run from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, followed by performances beginning at noon. Rielly Sanders will host the event and perform both before and after the competition.

"We're excited to introduce the First Annual

Grundy Bank Lip Sync Battle for Charity as part of our summer event lineup," said Marketing Director of Grundy Bank, Ava Terry. "This new and interactive event offers our community a fun way to come together in support of local nonprofits. We look forward to seeing the creativity of participating teams and the energy from the audience!"

Participating nonprofit teams will perform their lip sync routines in front of a live audience. Teams will consist of 1-4 participants, with performances lasting 90-120 seconds. All song selections will be family-friendly and will be kept confidential until performance time.

Winners will be determined through a combination of fundraising totals and audience voting. Grundy Bank will award a \$250 donation to the nonprofit that raises the most funds during the event, and another \$250 donation plus a trophy to the audience-choice winner.

This event aims to bring the community together in a lively, high-energy atmosphere that highlights creativity, fun, and support for local nonprofits.

The participating nonprofit teams will be announced on Friday, May 15, on the Grundy Bank Facebook page.

Electronics dropoff in Wilmington

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, May 14, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

Scrap metal like pots and pans, baking sheets, car jacks, chains, keys, copper pipe and wire, door knobs silverware and more.

Vendors wanted

Organizers are looking for craft vendors for a craft/vendor show at the American Legion in Gardner on June 6, during the all town garage sales. For more information call 815-641-5334 or email creativegmzcrafter@gmail.com.

Record price for diesel expected in days ahead

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 3.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.95/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 56.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.57/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.2 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.623 per gallon.

Gone are the good old days when gas was inching its way under \$3/g.

In Wilmington expect pay anywhere from \$4.79/g at Amoco to \$4.94/g at Circle K. In Braidwood, the low is \$4.97/g at Casey's with the BP and Marathon charging \$4.99/g.

In Coal City, gas is \$4.99/ across the board.

In Morris you'll pay

\$4.69/g at Pilot or \$4.99/g at BP. Bourbonnais won't save you much, with gas ranging from \$4.77/g at Gulf to \$4.99 at Gas N Wash.

"Average gasoline prices declined in just six states over the last week, led by the Great Lakes region, where motorists in states like Michigan and Ohio saw prices fall sharply, while Indiana experienced even steeper relief after the state temporarily waived both its excise and use taxes on gasoline," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Those declines helped pull the national average lower by roughly 8¢ over the last several days after oil prices eased mid-week on optimism that the U.S. and Iran could reach a deal. However, that optimism has since largely

unraveled, with talks appearing to stall and President Trump signaling the latest proposal is unacceptable, helping push oil prices higher again in Sunday electronic trade. As a result, many states could see another round of price cycling in the days ahead, potentially sending the national average toward the \$4.65-per-gallon mark if oil continues climbing. In addition, diesel prices across much of the Great Lakes region are nearing new record highs."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$4.19/g while the highest was \$6.35/g.

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Know your rights when setting up Autopay

Attorney General Kwame Raoul is urging Illinoisans to understand their rights when setting up automatic payments - often referred to as autopay - for recurring fees like gym memberships, utility bills, subscriptions, student loans, car payments and mortgage or rent payments.

"While many consumers enjoy the ease of paying for recurring fees and memberships through autopay, it is important they have information on their rights and options when issues do arise," Raoul said. "I encourage all Illinoisans to use the information contained in this Consumer Alert and never hesitate to contact my office's Consumer Fraud Bureau with any questions or concerns."

Attorney General Raoul is reminding consumers that although autopay can be convenient, it can also cause headaches if a company still processes charges after an autopay is canceled, the approved amount changes without warning, or payments are charged on a different date than originally scheduled. In these situations, Raoul reminds consumers they have important rights, including under a federal law called the Electronic Fund Transfer Act (EFTA). The EFTA provides consumers with important protections when payments are authorized by the consumer in advance on a recurring basis and are made electronically from a bank account or debit card.

Before preauthorizing payments, Raoul's office recommends consumers:

Verify the company. Only use autopay and share sensitive banking information with companies when you have verified the company's legitimacy and reputation by, for example, doing an internet search for the company's name with the words "scam," "review," or "complaint."

Read the terms of agreement. Companies must give consumers the terms of a payment authorization that allows the company to debit a bank account or charge a debit card. The terms must be laid out in a clear and understandable manner. Consumers are also encouraged to keep a copy for their records.

Once a payment is preauthorized, it is important to know what banks can and cannot do:

Written authorization is required. Before a company can start collecting money through autopay, they must have a written or electronic authorization signed by the consumer. Upon request, the company must also provide a copy of the authorization.

Autopayments can be canceled. Consumers can always revoke authorization at any time by telling the company or the bank. However, if consumers want to stop a certain payment, that revocation

notice must be made at least three business days before the scheduled payment.

While autopay can be canceled over the phone, it is best practice to also send a written notice of cancellation to both the company and the bank. The letter should clearly say that authorization is being revoked. A bank may need specific information and may also require a few days' notice before a scheduled payment. Banks may also charge a stop-payment fee.

Consumers cannot be forced to agree to autopay when repaying a loan. A company cannot require a consumer to repay a loan by automatic payment from a bank account or debit card as a condition for approving a loan unless the loan is an overdraft line of credit. Instead, the company must allow manual payments.

If the amount of an autopayment changes, consumers have extra protections. Companies must let consumers know at least 10 days before a scheduled payment if the payment will be different from the authorized amount or authorized payment range. Companies must provide consumers with the differing payment amount and the date of the transfer.

Consumers are always encouraged to pay attention to their account balances, as an overdraft fee or insufficient funds fee may be levied if a bank account balance is too low when an automatic payment goes

through. With the proliferation in the use of autopayment options, consumers are also encouraged to regularly check their bank statements for any subscriptions on autopay that are no longer in use or that have been forgotten about.

If a consumer spots an unauthorized withdrawal or a payment processed after authorization was revoked, they are encouraged to contact their bank right away to let them know. When unauthorized money transfers are disputed in a timely manner, consumers often have the right to get their money back. Consumers are encouraged to always follow up with a company in writing and keep a copy for their records.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) accept complaints against banks and companies who violate consumers autopay rights. Attorney General Raoul also strongly encourages Illinoisians who believe their autopay rights have not been honored to file a complaint on the Attorney General's website or by calling the Attorney General's Consumer Fraud Hotlines: 1-800-386-5438.

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 21458 HIGHWAY 113 A/K/A 21458 W. ROUTE 113, WILMINGTON A/K/A CUSTER PARK, IL 60481 (Single Family Residence). On the 28th 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: **GITSIT SOLUTIONS, LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS SEPARATE TRUSTEE OF GV TRUST 2025-1,** Plaintiff V. **GRUNDY BANK, MORRIS, ILLINOIS AS TRUSTEE, UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF A TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 18, 2004 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 1434, UNKNOWN BENEFICIARIES UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED DECEMBER 18, 2004 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NUMBER 1434, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,** Defendant. Case No. **25 FC 1228** 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

REAL ESTATE

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: **JOHN-SON, BLUMBERG AND ASSOCIATES 30 NORTH LASALLE SUITE 3650 CHICAGO, IL 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 Wed., May 13, 20, and 27, 2026.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 725 E Rose Lane, Godley, IL 60407 (Single Family Home). On the 21st 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. Michael J. Toothman; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. **25 FC 0808** 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: 630-794-9300** 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 29 and May 6 and 13, 2026.

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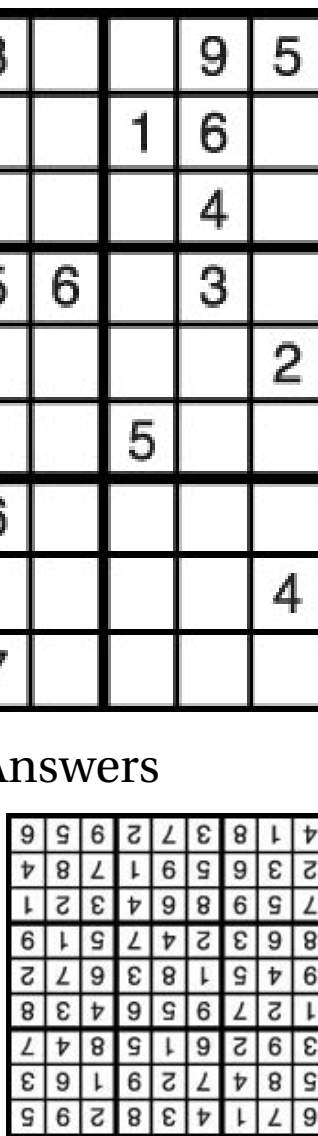
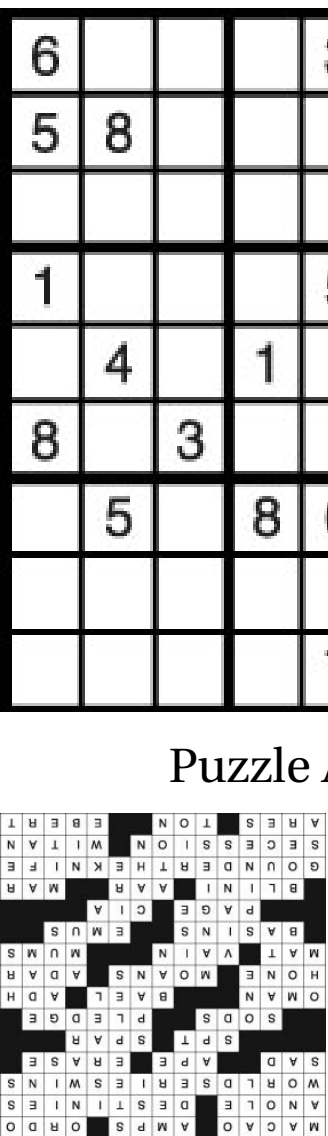
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1				5	6		3	
	4		1					2
8		3				5		
	5		8	6				
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				7				

- CLUES ACROSS
1. Notable casino destination
 6. Current units
 10. Roman military unit
 14. American lizard
 15. Fates
 17. The Yankees have lots of these
 19. Unhappy
 20. Mimic
 21. Remove from the record
 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
 23. A way to fight
 24. Turfs
 26. Contract
 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
 31. Tree species
 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
 34. Perfect
 35. "Partner" to groans
 37. Jewish calendar month
 38. Where wrestlers work
 39. Egotistical
 40. Potted plants
 41. Containers
 43. Large, flightless birds
 45. Part of a book
 46. American spies
 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
 49. Swiss river
 50. Disfigure
 53. Have surgery
 57. Formal withdrawal
 58. Early English council
 59. Area units
 60. 2,000 lbs.
 61. Siskel and ____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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	47	48						49			50	51	52
53							54			55	56		
57									58				
59						60				61			

Puzzle Answers



- CLUES DOWN
1. Animal jaws
 2. Small water buffalo
 3. An appliance has one
 4. Every
 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
 6. Very skilled
 7. No more than what is specified
 8. Tire measurement
 9. Towers
 10. Forward
 11. Jacob ____, American journalist
 12. Vale
 13. Former CIA
 16. Middle Eastern nation

18. Exhausts
22. South Dakota
23. The complete duration of something
24. Kids love him
25. Singular
27. Cod genus
28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
29. Resistance unit
30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
31. Cast out
33. 60-minute periods
35. Most worn
36. European river
37. Atomic mass unit
39. Items of food
42. Body parts
43. Ireland
44. Partner to Pa
46. Sammy ____, songwriter
47. Dutch settler
48. Full-grown pike fish
49. Sun or solar disk
50. Minute arachnid
51. From a distance
52. A monthly expense
53. Young women's association
54. Brazilian state
55. Air freight provider
56. Pointed end of a pen

WILDCAT SPORTS



THE WILMINGTON BOYS track team changed history on Thursday during the ICE conference meet with their highest placement in two decades, coming in third overall.

Seven Wildcat runners have an All Conference night

The Wilmington track and field team traveled to Reed-Custer on May 7 to compete in the ICE conference tournament. History was made as the boys finished with their highest place in the 21st century with their 3rd place finish.

The boys had never finished better than 6th in the past two decades. The girls finished 6th in the 8 team field. There were many outstanding performances on the night.

Highlights include seven athletes earning All-Conference honors. To earn All-Conference recognition, an athlete has to finish 1st or 2nd in their respective events.

All-Conference performers were Billy Moore in the 200 meter dash and long jump, Jimmy Lewsader in the 400 meter dash, Hunter Kaitschuck in the 110 meter high hurdles and 300 meter hurdles, McKenna Van Tilburg in the 100 meter dash, 200 meter dash, 100 meter high hurdles, and the 300 meter hurdles, and the 4X400 meter relay team of Fynn Bryant, Cole Boersma, Nate Cupples, and Jimmy Lewsader.

The boys set three new personal records (PR's) and the girls added 1, bringing this year's total for boys and girls to 163

PR's. Meters are marked as m and personal records are marked as PR's.

Girls performances:

Taylor Stickel (JR) - 800 m - 2:49.68 (PR) - 7th, 400 m - 1:19.13 - 10th
Miley Searengen (JR) - 400 m - 1:22.67 - 11th, 1600 m - 7:40.13 - 9th
Sophia Albright (SO) - shot - 25'08 - 7th, discus - 71'03 - 7th
Lailah Beck (SO) - 800 m - 3:01.38 - 9th, 1600 m - 6:39.56 - 6th, 3200 m - 14:40.04 - 4th

McKenna Van Tilburg (SO) - 100 m - 12.71 - 1ST, 200 m - 26.18 - 1ST, 100 m high hurdles - 15.28 - 1ST, 300 m hurdles - 47.10 - 1ST
Lilly Govero (FR) - 100 m - 15.44 - 14th, 200 m - 31.62 - 9th
Roslyn Wengelewski (FR) - shot 22'05 - 11th, discus - 63'03 - 9th

Boys performances:

Billy Moore (SR) - 100 m - 11.64 - 3rd, 200 m - 23.21 - 2nd, long jump - 19'01 - 1ST
Aiden Poulos (SR) - 800 - 2:25.69 - 9th
Camdon Allen (JR) - shot - 42'01 (PR) - 4th, discus - 108'05 - 8th
Fynn Bryant (JR) - 100 m - 11.89 - 5th, long jump - 17'05 - 8th
Jimmy Lewsader (JR) - 200 m - 23.98 - 4th, 400 m - 52.52 - 2nd

Liam Anderson (SO) - 800 m - 2:32.88 - 12th, 1600 m - 5:44.35 - 10th
Cole Boersma (SO) - 400 m - 53.51 - 4th
Jason Guzier (SO) - discus - 73'03 - 14th
Hunter Kaitschuck (SO) - 110 m high hurdles - 15.39 - 1ST, 300 m hurdles - 42.04 - 2nd, shot - 37'10 - 10th
Zander Van Duyne (SO) - 110 m high hurdles - 18.60 - 7th, 300 m hurdles - 45.97 - 5th

Julian Lowery (FR) - 1600 m - 5:41.19 (PR) - 9th, 3200 m - 11:54.33 (PR) - 6th
4X100 meter relay - 45.33 - 3rd - Bryant, Nate Cupples, Lewsader, Moore; 4X200 meter relay - 1:46.69 - 6th - Cupples, Ed Kurze, Logan Hill, Dom Guzier; 4X400 meter relay - 3:37.87 - 2nd - Bryant, Boersma, Cupples, Lewsader; and 4X800 meter relay - 10:05.65 - 5th - Poulos, Lowery, Anderson, Boersma

The Lady Cats return to action on Thursday, May 14 when they travel to Seneca to compete in the IHSA sectional meet in hopes of qualifying for the state tournament in Charleston and the boys return to action on Wednesday, May 20 when they, too, travel to Seneca to compete in their IHSA sectional meet.



Photo by Eric Fisher

WILDCAT SENIOR Billy Moore jumps out of the starting blocks during the running of the 100m dash in which he finished in third place.

Billy Moore breaks record in 400m dash

The Wildcat track and field team traveled to Reed-Custer on May 5 to compete against the host Comets, Peotone Blue Devils, Herscher Tigers, and the Clifton Central Comets. The boys won their meet and the girls finished 4th overall.

The outstanding performance on the night was run by Billy Moore, as he broke the 26 year old 400 meter dash record. Billy's time was 50.26, beating the old record by Roland Nightengale's 51.20.

On the night, the boys set 11 new personal records (PR's), bringing this year's total for boys and girls to 159 PR's. Meters are marked as m and personal records are marked as PR's.

Girls performances: Taylor Stickel (JR) - 800 m - 2:53.46 - 3rd
Sophia Albright (SO) - shot - 27'01 - 6th, discus - 66'08 - 6th
Lailah Beck (SO) - 1600 m - 6:30.60 - 1ST

McKenna Van Tilburg (SO) - 200 m - 26.94 - 1ST, 100 m high hurdles - 15.40 - 1ST,

Lilly Govero (FR) - 100 m - 15.29 - 10th, 200 m - 32.04 m - 10th
Roslyn Wengelewski (FR) - shot 23'01 - 8th, discus - 57'07 - 8th
Boys performances: Nate Cupples (SR) - 200 m - 24.06 (PR) - 2nd, 400 m - 56.45 (PR) - 3rd
Terrell Garner (SR) - 100 m - 13.82 - 22nd, 200 m - 30.36 - 16th
Dom Guzier (SR) - 800 m - 2:41.17 - 8th
Ed Kurze (SR) - 400 m - 1:05.39 (PR) - 7th
Billy Moore (SR) - 400 m - 50.26 (PR & new school record) - 1ST

Camdon Allen (JR) - shot - 39'11 - 3rd, discus - 100'07 - 7th
Fynn Bryant (JR) - 100 m - 11.66 - 1ST, 200 m - 24.00 (PR) - 1ST
Jimmy Lewsader (JR) - 200 m - 24.69 - 3rd, 300 m H - 43.89 (PR) - 1ST

Liam Anderson (SO) - 200 m - 27.66 (PR) - 10th, 800 m - 2:33.38 - 5th
Cole Boersma (SO) - 400 m - 54.44 - 2nd
Evan Cravens (SO) - shot - 27'00 - 18th, discus - 76'03 - 17th
Jason Guzier (SO) - discus - 76'03 - 17th
Logan Hill (SO) - 100 m - 12.91 (PR) - 9th
Hunter Kaitschuck (SO) - 110 m HH - 15.32 (PR) - 1ST, shot - 38'10 (PR) - 4th

Noah Morris (SO) - 400 - 1:19.40 (PR) - 10th, discus - 76'10 - 16th
Zander Van Duyne (SO) - high jump - 5'01 - 3rd
Jax Friddle (FR) - 100 - 13.87 - 24th

Stephen Kinnett (FR) - 100 - 14.78 - 26th, shot 27'11 - 16th
Julian Lowery (FR) - 800 m - 2:31.10 - 4th
Colby Wengelewski (FR) - shot - 27'06 - 17th, discus - 61'10 - 25th

Lady 'Cats on the verge of ICE title

The Wilmington softball team rattled off three more victories to improve to 21-5 overall and move to the brink of an ICE Conference championship.

The Wildcats entered yesterday's matchup against Streater needing a win to secure the conference crown before wrapping up the regular season Thursday at home against Rosary.

Wilmington capped the week Friday with an 8-5 victory over Reed-Custer in a high-scoring rivalry matchup.

The Wildcats pounded out

15 hits in the win, led by Ally Allgood, who went 3-for-4 with two RBI and a double. Taylor Tenn added two hits and two RBI, while Taylor Stefancic, Nina Egizio, Emilie Strong and Sami Liaramatis each collected two hits.

Lexi Strohm earned the complete-game victory in the circle, allowing five runs on eight hits while striking out three.

Reed-Custer was paced by Kamryn Wilkey, who had three hits and scored twice, while Amber Syc added two hits,

including a home run, and drove in two runs.

Earlier in the week, the Wildcats shut out Peotone 3-0 behind a dominant pitching performance from Taryn Gilbert.

Gilbert tossed a two-hit shutout while striking out five without issuing a walk. Wilmington's defense backed her up with an error-free effort.

The Wildcats broke through in the fifth inning when Stefancic delivered a two-run triple and later scored as part of a three-run frame. Keeley Walsh and Nina

Egizio each collected three hits in the victory.

Wilmington also rolled past Bloom 19-1 in four innings in one of the team's most explosive offensive performances of the season.

The Wildcats erupted for nine runs in the first inning before adding six more in the second and four in the third. Molly Southall powered the offense with a pair of home runs and seven RBI, while Keeley Walsh finished with three hits and three runs scored.

Taylor Stefancic added two hits and two RBI, Nina Egizio scored three times, and Meredith Marquardt drove in three runs.

Wilmington finished with 19 hits in the shortened contest.

The Wildcats now turn their attention toward the postseason as they prepare to enter the Class 2A Pontiac Sectional bracket next week. Before that, however, Wilmington had one more opportunity Thursday against Rosary to sharpen its game and potentially celebrate an ICE Conference title run.

Softball brackets include several top-talent teams

The road won't be easy for Wilmington, Coal City and Reed-Custer softball teams as they gear up for the IHSA Class 2A Pontiac Sectional.

All three local programs landed in Sub-Sectional B, where Seneca and Manteno will serve as regional hosts before the surviving teams advance to Pontiac for sectional play.

Wilmington enters the postseason carrying the best record among the local teams at 21-5 overall and earned the No. 3 seed. The Wildcats will open regional play Tuesday, May 19, against sixth-seeded Bishop McNamara at the Seneca Regional.

That game is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. following the opener between second-seeded Seneca and seventh-seeded Reed-Custer.

The Lady Wildcats have put together one of the area's strongest seasons and appear positioned for a potential postseason showdown with powerhouse Seneca, which enters the playoffs with a dominant 27-1 record and

the No. 2 seed in the subsection.

Reed-Custer, meanwhile, heads into the postseason with a 14-9 record and the No. 7 seed. The Comets face a difficult opening draw against host Seneca at 4:30 p.m. May 19.

Despite the challenge, Reed-Custer enters the playoffs battle-tested after navigating a competitive regular season schedule. A win over Seneca would immediately shake up the entire subsection bracket.

The Seneca Regional championship game is scheduled for Friday, May 22, at 4:30 p.m., with the winner advancing to the Pontiac Sectional semifinals.

Coal City will begin postseason play one day later at the Manteno Regional.

The Lady Coalers, 16-12 overall, earned the No. 5 seed and will face fourth-seeded Manteno at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 20. The other side of the regional bracket features top-seeded Beecher awaiting the winner between Peotone and Herscher.

Coal City has shown flashes of strong offensive production throughout the season and now looks to put together a postseason run against a balanced regional field.

The Manteno Regional championship game is scheduled for May 22, with the winner moving on to Pontiac.

The Pontiac Sectional semifinals will begin May 26 and May 27 before the sectional championship game is played May 29 at Pontiac High School.

The winner of the Seneca Regional will meet the champion from the Fairbury Prairie Central Regional in one sectional semifinal, while the Manteno Regional winner will square off against the Lexington Regional champion in the other semifinal.

With Wilmington entering red hot, Coal City hoping to peak at the right time and Reed-Custer aiming for an upset, all three area programs will try to extend their seasons deeper into the state tournament.

Sweep week for the 'Cats

The Wilmington baseball team capped a successful week Saturday morning by rallying past Shepard 6-4 in eight innings to improve to 16-5-1 overall on the season.

The Wildcats picked up three victories during the week and showed their confidence in close games as they prepare for the final stretch of the regular season.

Saturday's win over Shepard required late-game heroics after Wilmington watched a one-run lead disappear in the seventh inning.

Cooper Holman put the Wildcats on the board in the fourth inning with a solo home run to left field, and later delivered the biggest hit of the game in regulation. With Wilmington trailing entering the seventh, Holman ripped a two-run single to give the Wildcats a 4-3 advantage.

Shepard answered in the bottom half of the inning, capitalizing on a Wilmington error to tie the game at 4-4 and force extra innings.

The Wildcats

responded immediately in the eighth.

Ryan Kettman blasted a triple to center field to drive home the go-ahead run before Brysen Meents followed with an RBI single down the left-field line to extend the lead to 6-4.

Kettman then closed the door on the mound, earning the win after allowing just one unearned run on two hits over three innings while striking out five.

Tyler Krاند started the game for Wilmington and struck out six over four innings, allowing only one earned run.

Holman finished 2-for-5 with three RBI while Kettman also collected two hits and drew two walks. Wilmington showed patience throughout the contest, working eight walks as a team.

Earlier in the week, the Wildcats swept Peotone in dominant fashion.

Wilmington opened the series Monday with a 15-0 victory in four innings behind a domi-

nant pitching performance from Holman, who allowed just one hit while striking out 10.

The Wildcats exploded offensively with 13 hits, led by Kettman, who went 2-for-3 with three RBI. Cooper Holman added two hits and two RBI, while Ryan Schraeger drove in three runs.

Wilmington followed Tuesday with a 14-1 victory over the Blue Devils.

Kettman again led the offense, finishing 4-for-4 with five RBI and three doubles. Nash Rink drove in three runs, while the Wildcats piled up 15 hits in the shortened contest.

Kettman also earned the win on the mound, striking out seven over five innings.

With the three-win week, Wilmington improved to 16-5-1 overall and continued building momentum heading into the final weeks of the regular season and postseason play.

The 'Cats will host Andrew Thursday.