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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966



BLUE BACKS BLUE

Photo by Rose Panieri

MEMBERS OF THE Wilmington Police Department welcome newest officer Thomas Duffy (center) to the unit. From left are officers Max Pinski, Brandon Warick, Kyle Standford, Sgt. Fabian Reyes, Thomas Duffy, Police Chief Adam Zink, Jared Lynn, Jeremy Bailey and Detective Sean Liaromatis.



Photo by Rose Panieri

THOMAS DUFFY, WILMINGTON'S newest police officer (left) takes the Oath of Office with Mayor Ben Dietz on Tuesday, Aug. 4, during the Wilmington City Council meeting.

City amends Taco Bell development agreement

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Developers of a planned Taco Bell with a drive-thru window in Wilmington will contribute up to \$60,000 toward a proposed pedestrian crossing near the restaurant site under an amendment to the project's conditional use ordinance approved by the City Council Aug. 4.

The amendment modifies a condition attached to the Taco Bell development at the vacant property on South Water Street (Illinois 102) across from the McDonald's.

The original condi-

tional use was approved by the council on Feb. 17, 2026. Under the revised ordinance, the developer remains responsible for contributing to a new pedestrian crossing on the south approach of Illinois Route 102 at Kahler Road, provided the improvement receives approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The crossing could include new sidewalk segments, ADA-compliant curb ramps, accessible pedestrian signals with push-buttons and new pavement markings for a marked crosswalk. All improvements would be

constructed within the public right-of-way.

Crosswalk justification

Alderman Jonathan Mietzner said he has observed that many pedestrians—including children—already walk through the grass along Route 102 or cross between Dollar General and Old National Bank rather than using the existing crossing. He said the new signaled crossing would provide a much safer route.

It was also pointed out that the city has been consistent with previous developments, including Love's Travel Stop, which was required to install a multi-

use path and U.S. Cold Storage, which will extend the multi-use path as part of its project.

The amendment limits the developer's financial responsibility to a maximum of \$60,000. If the total cost of the crossing exceeds that amount, the City of Wilmington will pay the remaining balance. City officials said the change was made at the developer's request while retaining the pedestrian crossing as a condition of the project's approval.

The ordinance passed on a 5-1 vote, with Alderman Kevin Kirwin casting the lone dissenting vote.

Following the meeting, Kirwin said his opposition was not directed at pedestrian safety, but at the lack of information regarding the project's total cost to taxpayers.

"When I asked what it's going to cost the taxpayers, the answer was they didn't know," Kirwin said. "There's no number there of what this whole project is going to cost."

Kirwin said he was concerned the public might mistakenly believe he is opposed to the crossing itself.

"I'm not against safety. It's just that we don't know what it's going to cost us."

He also questioned whether a new crossing is absolutely needed at that location, saying Illinois Route 102 primarily serves vehicle traffic and already contains several nearby driveways and intersections.

"There's really no foot traffic on 102 that there is a need for this," Kirwin said. "It's definitely a state highway, and mostly 80% is vehicle traffic."

The remainder of the conditional use ordinance for the Taco Bell development remains unchanged.

Let there be light

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Soon, the City of Wilmington will be a beacon to Route 66 visitors far and wide, and more delightful and dazzling to its residents. Even better, the project will also save taxpayers a few bucks.

On July 28 the City Council approved payment of a \$23,912.25 invoice to Universal Lighting of America, Inc. for a citywide lighting improvement project designed to reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs.

The payment covers Invoice No. 105504, which includes the purchase and installation of new LED lighting at several municipal facilities and public spaces.

The project replaces existing lighting at the public works facility, city hall, the downtown decorative acorn-top fixtures, and the footbridge.

Work included replacing area lights, barn lights and wall pack fixtures at

the public works facility, installing new LED area lights and wall packs at city hall, retrofitting 38 downtown decorative fixtures with LED mogul-base lamps and converting 12 footbridge fixtures to LED lighting.

Project documents estimate the improvements will reduce electricity consumption by 68%, generating approximately \$7,945 in annual energy savings and an additional \$2,145 in annual maintenance savings, for a total estimated annual savings of about \$10,091.

The total project cost was \$30,824. A utility rebate of approximately \$5,970 reduced the city's share to \$24,854. The invoice approved by the council totals \$23,912.25 and reflects the final amount due after the anticipated rebate was applied.

The proposal estimates the project will pay for itself in approximately 2.5 years while providing more than \$100,000 in operating savings over the next decade.

Final payment made on project

The City of Wilmington has approved the final payment to Brieser Construction Co. for work completed on the North Island Park concrete pad project.

The City Council authorized payment of Invoice No. 73407 in the amount of \$29,190, representing the final balance due under the construction contract.

According to the invoice, the original con-

tract totaled \$116,760. Change orders increased the project cost by \$1,713, bringing the revised contract amount to \$118,473.

The city had previously paid \$89,283, with the final payment completing the contract. No retainage remained on the project.

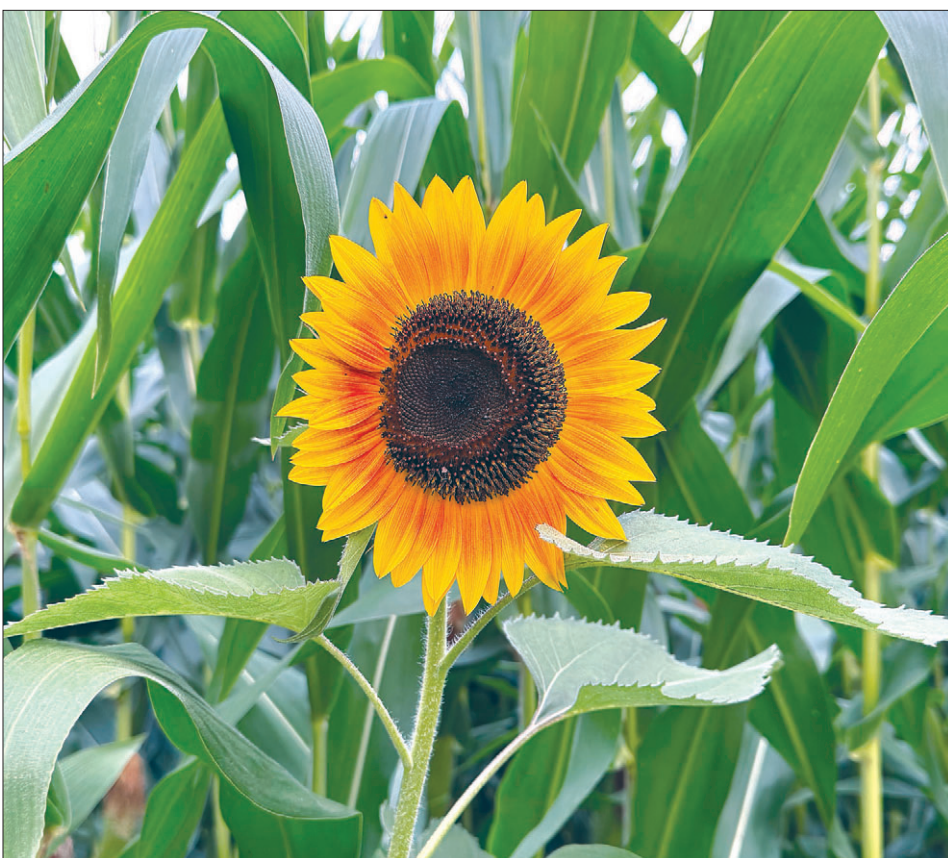


Photo by Eric Fisher

A SUNNY SURPRISE—One sunflower apparently didn't get the memo that this was a corn field. Growing among towering stalks along Kahler Road in Wilmington, the rogue bloom has managed to rise high enough to show off its brilliant colors. Corn commonly reaches 7 to 10 feet, but sunflowers can be formidable competitors, with some varieties topping 10 feet. For now, this one seems perfectly happy just finding its place in the sun.

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Code Enforcement urges residents to help prevent flash flooding

Keep leaves and yard debris out of the street, drains

As severe weather becomes more frequent, the City of Wilmington Code Enforcement Division is reminding residents that a few simple yard maintenance practices can make a significant difference in protecting our neighborhoods from flash flooding.

Storm sewer systems are designed to carry rainwater safely away from streets, homes, and businesses. However, when leaves, grass clippings, branches, and other yard debris are swept or blown into the street, they can accumulate over storm sewer inlets and prevent water from draining properly.

During periods of heavy rainfall, blocked storm drains can cause water to back up quickly, resulting in flooded streets, damaged property, hazardous driving conditions, and unnecessary strain on the city's stormwater infrastructure.

Residents can play an important role in preventing these problems by taking a few simple steps throughout the year:

- Rake and collect leaves instead of pushing them into the street.
- Bag or compost leaves and other yard waste whenever possible.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways rather than using leaf blowers to direct debris into roadways.

- Keep grass clippings, branches, dirt, mulch, and other materials away from storm drains.
- Before and after major storms, check the storm drain near your property and safely remove any loose debris that could restrict water flow.

These small efforts help reduce localized flooding, protect public and private property, improve roadway safety, and reduce maintenance costs for the entire community.

Residents are also reminded that storm drains are intended only for rainwater. Yard waste, trash, construction debris and other materials should never be placed in streets, ditches, or storm sewer inlets.

The City of Wilmington appreciates the continued cooperation of residents in maintaining clean neighborhoods and protecting our community during severe weather. Working together, we can help ensure that stormwater systems function as intended and reduce the risk of flash flooding during intense rain events.

For additional information about City services, visit www.wilmington-il.gov or contact the City of Wilmington at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481, or by calling (815) 476-2175.

City of Wilmington Code Enforcement Division "Clean Yards. Clear Drains. Safer Streets. Stronger Community."

K-9 officer sniffs out cocaine tossed from car window

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

A Seneca man is facing felony drug charges after authorities say he threw packages of cocaine from his vehicle during a traffic stop on Interstate 80, only to have them recovered with the help of a Grundy County Sheriff's Office K-9.

Josh Socha, 36, of Seneca, was arrested by the Grundy County Proactive Unit following a traffic stop at approximately 3:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 3.

According to the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, deputies stopped Socha after observing that he was driving a vehicle displaying registration plates assigned to a different vehicle.

During the stop, a deputy reportedly saw two objects being thrown from the passenger-side window before the vehicle came to a stop. Additional deputies responded to assist with the investigation, and a search of the roadside led



JOSH SOCHA

to the recovery of one package containing cocaine.

A second package was located after K-9 Groot, assigned to the Proactive Unit, conducted an article search of the area.

Deputies then conducted a probable cause

search of the vehicle, where they located a third package containing cocaine, along with drug paraphernalia consistent with cocaine use.

Authorities said the recovered cocaine weighed approximately 30 grams in total and was packaged in three separate bags.

Socha was charged with Manufacture and Delivery of 15 to 100 grams of cocaine, a Class X felony, and Unlawful Possession of Cocaine, a Class 1 felony.

He was transported to the Grundy County Jail and was later released under Illinois' pretrial release provisions.

As with all criminal cases, the charges are allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

City approves accelerated IMRF payment

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

The City of Wilmington will make a one-time accelerated payment of \$26,517.83 to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) to satisfy an employer pension obligation triggered by a significant increase in an employee's earnings.

The payment will be made from the Water Operating Fund.

According to documentation provided by IMRF, the charge is assessed when the cost of an employee's retirement exceeds the employer contributions made during that employee's career.

Under IMRF rules, employers are required to

pay the portion of the pension's present value that is attributable to earnings increases during the employee's final rate of earnings period that exceed the greater of 6 percent or 1.5 times the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Consumers (CPI-U).

The employee's reported wages increased from \$90,179.29 during the Feb. 1, 2024, through Jan. 31, 2025, service period to \$111,433.90 during the Feb. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026, period, and then to \$118,860.02 for the Feb. 1, 2025, through Jan. 31, 2026, service period identified in the IMRF statement.

Based on those earnings, IMRF calculated an accelerated payment of \$26,517.83 to replenish the employer reserve account.

IMRF allows certain accelerated payments to qualify for an exemption if the wage increase resulted from standard business practices and meets specific eligibility requirements. However, the city's agenda item called for payment of the invoice, which is due within 90 days to avoid interest charges.

If payment is not made within that period, interest begins accruing and the balance must be paid within three years.

Braidwood & Wilmington to hold meetings on boundary agreement

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CITY OF BRAIDWOOD AND CITY OF WILMINGTON BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Braidwood, Illinois, and the City of Wilmington, Illinois, are considering an Intergovernmental Jurisdictional Boundary Line Agreement between the City of Braidwood and the City of Wilmington ("Boundary Line Agreement"). The proposed Boundary Line Agreement establishes the extraterritorial boundaries of each municipality for the purpose of any future annexations between them. The Boundary Line Agreement also establishes a jurisdictional boundary for the exercise of extraterritorial power over development in unincorporated areas within one and one-half miles of the City of Braidwood's and the City of Wilmington's respective corporate boundaries. The Boundary Line Agreement establishes limits beyond which both the City of Braidwood and the City of Wilmington would agree not to annex. The proposed Boundary Line Agreement will be effective for 20 years.

Pursuant to Section 11-12-9 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/11-12-9), notice is hereby given that, in not less than 30 days and not more than 120 days from the date of this notice:

(1) The City Council of the City of Braidwood will consider the proposed Boundary Agreement at its City Council meeting on September 22, 2026 at the Braidwood City Hall, 141 W. Main Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408; and

(2) The City Council of the City of Wilmington will consider the proposed Boundary Line Agreement at its Village Board meeting on September 15, 2026 at the Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Both of the aforementioned meetings will be open to the public. Each the City of Braidwood and the City of Wilmington is expected to take action on the proposed Boundary Line Agreement at their respective meeting, as set forth above, or at a subsequent meeting.

The proposed Boundary Line Agreement, including a depiction of the proposed boundary line on a map, is available for public inspection in:

(1) The Office of the City Clerk of the City of Braidwood, 141 W. Main Street, Braidwood, Illinois 60408; and

(2) The Office of the Deputy City Clerk of the City of Wilmington, 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481.

Any member of the public may inspect the Boundary Line Agreement at either of the aforementioned locations during regular business hours.

Sarah Weaver, Braidwood City Clerk
Joie Ziller, Wilmington Deputy City Clerk
Dated: August 12, 2026

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wed., August 12, 2026.

Will County lists 'multiplier' for area township properties

Real Property Assessment Notice

The following is a list of factors (multipliers) applied by the Supervisor of Assessments to various townships:

Wilmington	1.0700*
Florence	1.0810*
Reed	1.0330*
Custer	1.0795*
Wesley	1.0870*
Jackson	1.0365*

In accordance with Illinois State Statute, a notice is to be mailed and published for all parcels in a quadrennial year. A complete list of revised assessments will be available to

the public for 30 days after the date of publication at your local Township Assessor, The Will County Supervisor of Assessments Office, and website: www.willcountysao.com.

** In some instances, the factor is not applied to all property classes.*

Assessment complaints will be accepted by the Will County Board of Review within 30 days after the date of publication in a local designated newspaper for your township.

Dale D. Butalla, CIAO-M Supervisor of Assessments

Esposito named to dean's list

Karissa Esposito, of Wilmington, was among more than 1,000 students named to Elmhurst University's Spring 2026 Dean's List.

The Dean's List is composed of students who during the term concerned, attained a grade-point average of 3.75 or higher out of a possible 4.00.

Attorney Meents files Barnett 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 DOUGLAS ALAN BARNETT,
Deceased;
No. 2026 PR 435

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DOUGLAS ALAN BARNETT, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on July 31, 2026, to Paula Marie Barnett, whose address is 521 Fairlane Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60435; 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 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before February 15, 2027, 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.

Paula Marie Barnett
Independent Executor of the Estate
of DOUGLAS ALAN BARNETT,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: Frank@MeentsLaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 19 and 26, 2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF WILL)

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

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING
Plaintiff,
vs.

MARC OSMANSON; BREANNE OSMANSON; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY D/B/A THE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendant. No. 25 FC 1093

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Public notice is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment entered in the above cause on the 27th day of March, 2026, MIKE KELLEY, Sheriff of Will County, Illinois, will on Thursday, the 27th day of August, 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 5, IN BLOCK 34 IN THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF WILMINGTON, (FORMERLY WINCHESTER) IN THE EAST 1/2 OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4 OF SECTION 25, IN TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, AND IN RANGE 9, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 17, 1836 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 253633, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 319 N KANKAKEE ST, WILMINGTON, IL 60481
Description of Improvements: not applicable
P.I.N.: 03-17-25-340-001-0000

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:

ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC.

1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120

NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563

P: 630-453-6960

F: 630-428-4620

Plaintiff's Attorney

MIKE KELLEY
Sheriff of Will County

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 12 and 19, 2026.

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Display Advertising: Friday, noon
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Greener construction and maintenance of roads

Dear EarthTalk:
What's new in terms of making the construction and maintenance of roads and highways more efficient and greener?
-- Wendy Streeter, Exeter, NH

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Highways are changing as engineers look for ways to make roads last longer while reducing pollution. Instead of relying only on carbon-heavy paving methods and fixing potholes after they appear, many road agencies are using recycled materials, smarter technology, and artificial intelligence (AI).

These new ideas help roads better handle extreme weather while cutting waste and lowering construction costs.

One of the biggest changes is the use of recycled materials. TechniSoil Industrial has developed its "Neo" paving system, which mixes recycled plastic into road construction.

The company says the process can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% while using about 150,000 recycled plastic

water bottles for every lane mile of roadway. Rather than sending plastic to landfills, it becomes part of a stronger road surface.

Old tires are also finding a new purpose. Along Interstate 85 in Georgia, The Ray serves as an 18-mile "living laboratory" where new transportation technologies are tested, including Rubber Modified Asphalt (RMA), which uses crumb rubber made from discarded tires. Texas Materials has also created its Super Sand Mix, replacing more than 42% of traditional asphalt binder with recycled tires and roofing shingles.

These roads are more resistant to cracking, provide better traction, and even reduce traffic noise. As Allie Kelly, Executive Director of The Ray, explained in CNN's report on the project, "We see waste as a resource."

Scientists are also improving the pavement itself. Some new asphalt contains tiny capsules filled with bio-based oils that automatically seal small cracks before they grow. Other roads use embedded steel fibers that can be heated with magnetic induction to extend pavement life up to three times longer.

Porous asphalt and permeable concrete allow as much as 80% of rainwater to pass through the sur-



INNOVATIVE NEW TECHNOLOGIES in the way we make and maintain roads promise greener travel all around.

face, reducing flooding, preventing hydroplaning, and helping replenish groundwater.

Technology is making road maintenance smarter as well. Intelligent Compaction rollers use GPS and onboard sensors to ensure pavement reaches the correct density during construction. Embedded sensors continue monitoring concrete long after it is poured, while AI-powered cameras and automated repair machines can detect and fix small cracks before they become costly potholes.

New temperature-sensitive paint and glow-in-the-dark lane markings can also improve driver safety during icy conditions.

Looking toward the future, government agencies are also beginning to integrate renewable energy directly into the trans-

portation grid. Solar panels and piezoelectric energy harvesters are being installed along highway shoulders and beneath surfaces to capture clean electricity from passing vehicular traffic and sunlight.

As Sean Weaver, founder and CEO of TechniSoil Industrial, noted when discussing modern eco-friendly paving methods, "I'm captivated by the idea that roads are one of the first downstream applications for recycled plastic that is bigger than the size of the plastic problem itself."

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

Mum flower fundraiser

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood is holding a Fall Mum Flower Sale.

These huge 9 inch pots will be delivered to the church on Wednesday, Sept. 16, and will be ready to bloom beautifully for your fall decorating.

They are \$12 each and are available in orange, yellow, purple, pink, bronze & white.

Call or text LuAnn Bolatto at 815-790-7134, Lora Grant 815-955-9927 or Joyce Bauer at 815-584-7239, by Sept 9 to order.

U of I announces dean's list

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has announced 9,005 Dean's List students, awarded for the 2026 spring semester.

Local students include: August Burns of Coal City, Thomas Kemp of Elwood and Kyndal Smolenski of Wilmington.

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Electronics dropoff in Wilmington

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Aug. 13, 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.

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The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper.
Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.
Submissions by email to: courant@gmail.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.

We get bupkis

WILMINGTON—Supreme Court declared Trumps Tariff nonsense illegal and ordered that cash returned. Ordinary citizens bought the tarified products from Trump's Big Corporations that eagerly donated multiple millions for his elections. But ordinary citizens received nothing, nada, not a dime. Meanwhile Apple got \$2.2B, Costco \$2B, Target \$2B, Home Depot \$2B, Nike \$1B, and America's favorite Trump donors the Walmart with \$10B. Keep voting like fools expect to get treated like fools. Wake up.

Let that sink in

SHADOW LAKES—Let this sink in. The legal name of Hitter's Party in 1932 was "The Democratic Socialist Party." Let that sink in. Obediently,

Margot Lane

Where the money is

BRAIDWOOD—I'm writing in response to the SoundOff Nothing New Here. This city council has now been in office over a year. From what I see the only new business is a self-storage and that's related to one of the car dealerships that came to town before this council was elected. What I see is a big raise in water and city hall getting all sorts of technology that makes THEIR jobs easier. I mean, really? We already pay them to do a job, but on top of that they buy technology and hire consultants to do a job they're already paid to do. I heard Dunkin wanted to open a shop in Braidwood, but no one returns their call. This manager isn't interested in getting businesses in town. He'd rather bring in consultants. That's where the money is.

Televised meetings

WILMINGTON—About the article about our aldermen and mayor making city council meetings more user friendly, I'm one of those people who can't make it to meetings because of illness. It would be great to have a video of the meeting on YouTube. What do you have to hide gentlemen? There should be a state law that requires city council meetings be televised. This groups is sneaky.

Only fooling yourself

WILMINGTON—Remember, every bad thing that is going right now the Republican Party is in full leadership of. The President, the Senate the House of Representatives and even the Supreme Court is fully controlled by Republicans. They have majority in every governing body. Save the Democratic blame bs, they have been boss for 20 months. Tired of hearing the blame on a party with zero control. Distraction war, gas, food, housing, clothes, Medicare and Medicaid all controlled by greedy Republicans. Quit pretending you have Republican values and goals when reality says you are BROKE or just getting by paycheck to paycheck. You are only fooling yourself. Who else was involved in Epstein child rape ring of pedophilia? You dam well know admit it.

Or are you just a hypocrite?

Isn't that strange?

COAL CITY— Fun fact, the class of 1981 turns 63 this year and were born in 1963. The class of 1972 turns 72 this year. Isn't that strange?

Sue B.

Beware of AI

SHADOW LAKES— It has been brought to my attention that the doctors that operate on human beings have become so lazy that now they are using robots to operate on people. What people don't understand is that a computer glitch or wrong button pushed on the key board or if there is even the slightest change in voltage could cause permanent damage. Medical profession has turned into a corporation that only wants money and patients are secondary. It seems that their oath has turned into a financial goal. The hospital administrators look at people like they are nothing but numbers. Robots can be rebuilt and last for eternity. Human beings are not made with wire and metal parts and are not cyber like RoboCop. Maybe people will be used by the hospitals like in the movie Soylent Green and will be put on a conveyer belt. Human life has become less important than a computer. How do you sterilize a robot? It would not be able to pass under inspection to a patient when their in surgery. Beware of AI.

Help injured vets

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. I have a Vietnam Recon Specialist 1969-1971. I watch these ads with the Wounded Warrior project the government calls a war. The government should take care of 100% of their injured veterans without these additional people.

Trump toilet paper

We all know that Donald Trump craves money and has to have his attention, name or face on everything and has sold everything from Bibles to golden sneakers and who knows what else. There is a perfect product idea that Trump should promote. What would be better than Donald Trump toilet paper? He could have is name and his smiling face or mugshot on every sheet. The senile or corrupt old fool could once again line his pockets with money by selling this wonderful new product. His brainwashed followers would happily purchase it and his more numerous opponents would buy it so they could honor him in true patriotic fashion at least daily.

Not such a nice guy

WILMINGTON—The more I see of this Donald Trump I'm beginning to think he's not such a nice guy.

Provide Proof

SHADOW LAKES—To Sherrie Michaels... your comment about Carl Sandberg High School. Quote, "Most of the parents of students there are doctors, lawyers, etc." Would you please provide proof for this statement? Obediently yours, Margot Lane



Watch out for yourself

BRAIDWOOD— Not sure why the police department dropped their efforts to control our huge e-bike problem just because the state has a bill coming. Meanwhile school is starting and we're going to have kids on e-bikes and e-scooters all over the place. I'm tired of "Start Seeing Motorcycles" and watching out for reckless kids. It's time they start watching out for themselves, and it's time the cops do something about it.

Enjoy your ignorance

WILMINGTON—Can you look your children or grandchildren straight in the eyes and comfortably say, "You are going to have a better future than I did?" Politicians openly stealing and grifting right before our eyes and we can't do a thing because that party (R) holds the majority in every single department of the government and they refuse to even acknowledge the shameful situation that occurs on a daily basis. Iran no longer even cares what idle bs threat comes out of his mouth. He talks smack to make people feel better and then he mysteriously invests millions in the stock market to get sudden windfall gains and his great news about ending his Distraction War suddenly falls apart. Back to school time, have fun shopping, a lot of you voted for him so enjoy what your willful ignorance has brought upon all 360M Americans.

They'll be outed

WILMINGTON—Senators Bill Cassidy, Thom Tillis and John Cornyn after openly saying they could never vote for Trump's personal attorney (for years) to be the next Attorney General caved and did vote for him. Cowards for the rest of their days on earth. Hiding, manipulation and deception of the Epstein files will contin-

ue, but it will not go away. Those evil monsters will eventually be outed and no sane person will be surprised who that one chosen guy definitely is.

Taxes are unreal

BRAIDWOOD—Groceries and gas prices are driving many to food banks. People are in desperate situations. Ah, but our fire department wants a tax referendum, our leaders want a city center, utilities want more money. Our taxes are unreal. Keep going. Who are you going to tax when we all lose our homes?

Try being grateful

BRAIDWOOD—People of Braidwood are such hypocrites. There's a lot of "we want, we want, we want, we want"... but the same people doing the wanting are the same ones who don't want to support the efforts of others or pay a little more in property taxes for all of the things they want. They want to have their cake, eat it too, but not pay for it. This town is so full of miserable people who dislike living in Braidwood because they want more, more, more. Maybe they should just try being grateful for what we actually have in town.

America comes first

WILMINGTON—For 10 years the Democrats have said Trump would end democracy but now we see the Democratic Socialist Party, the left arm of the party, is saying if they win we will destroy Democratic way of life with government control of everything. No ICE, no police, open borders, no jail, no holiday government because they are white supremacy. We have been told 911 never forget the new Democratic Socialist Party says America had it coming. If you are a Democrat please please get back to your roots, America first, not party.

Commentary

U.S. needs to make Head Start stronger, not lower expectations

BY KENDRA DAVENPORT

Head Start has helped generations of children grow up healthier, safer, and better prepared to succeed because the federal government made early childhood development a national priority.

That federal commitment has helped ensure that a child's access to strong early learning, health screenings, family support, and a safe classroom does not depend entirely on where they live or what their state is able to provide.

Easterseals supports reducing unnecessary paperwork so educators and local programs can

spend more time serving children. But cutting red tape cannot become an excuse for cutting the standards that keep children safe and ensure families receive consistent, high-quality support.

The changes under consideration will weaken expectations around class sizes, developmental and health screenings, family engagement, staff preparation, and basic safety.

The consequences of this are very real: fewer educators in classrooms, developmental delays going unnoticed, families receiving less help accessing healthcare, and fewer protections for children who need additional sup-

port. Head Start is strong because it has been treated as a national commitment. Abandoning that commitment leaves a child's development up to their ZIP code.

Families and community organizations are already being asked to absorb the impact of cuts across healthcare, education, food assistance, and other essential programs.

They need a federal government that's committed to making Head Start stronger, not one looking for ways to lower expectations and call it reform.

Kendra Davenport, President and CEO of Easterseals

HELP FOR VETERANS



BE THE ONE is the suicide prevention part of the American Legion. Vets can call: 779-206-8391, The Wilmington Help Line to talk with a Veteran who has had PTSD. There is help, only a phone call away.

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Interior/Exterior

The overly narrow informal probe

House Speaker Chris Welch sat down for interviews with some selected reporters last week. He told most of them that his office had conducted an “informal investigation” into sexual harassment allegations against former Rep. Harry Benton (D-Plainfield) in 2023.

Welch's staff has not responded to our request for an interview (same goes for the Chicago Tribune). But nobody asked whether he and his staff spoke to anyone other than Benton and the 22-year-old district office staffer who accused Benton of sexual harassment during that informal investigation after she'd resigned to avoid more harassment.

Benton resigned last month. Jessica Dixon Heitman also worked in Benton's office at the time and has said she left because of the treatment of the young woman. But, as far as I can tell, nobody talked to her in 2023. Heitman was recently appointed to replace the disgraced Benton.

So, based on talking to just two people, Welch concluded that this was a he-said, she-said dispute and, therefore, since no formal complaint was filed, Benton “was entitled

to a constitutional right to due process,” Welch told WGN. “I had to support a member, and I supported a member.”

His caucus committee contributed \$1.4 million to Benton's reelection campaign.

Set aside for a moment the constitutional right to receive \$1.4 million in campaign contributions after an overly narrow informal probe. Speaker Welch also told WGN, “we had to respect the wishes of the survivor, even though she didn't want to go through a formal complaint process.”

However, as the Tribune has reported, the accuser's main reason for coming forward was to make sure that no other woman would be harassed by Benton.

At least two more women were sexually harassed by Benton after that, according to the Legislative Inspector General.

And despite what House Speaker Chris Welch reportedly told the House Democratic Women's Caucus last month and then WGN TV last week, the Illinois AFL-CIO issued a remarkably forceful response to a question I asked by releasing a statement saying, “Any suggestion that Harry Benton — or any elected official — controlled labor's support for a candidate or caucus is

false.” Last month, I informed subscribers that Speaker Welch told members of the Women's Caucus, “Harry Benton went around telling union people that the Speaker retaliated against him and should have given more support in his last [2022] race,” a member paraphrased Welch's response at the time.

The Tribune reported last week that the paper had learned from participants in the meeting that “Welch assisted the now-disgraced former lawmaker's 2024 reelection campaign with \$1.4 million to prevent Benton from actively working to curb organized labor support to the speaker's war chest.”

And Welch told WGN TV last week that, while he regretted supporting Benton, “labor was a big advocate of Representative Benton. As a union member himself, he had a lot of support.”

Some folks I talked to said it looked like Speaker Welch was throwing labor under the bus, so I reached out to the Illinois AFL-CIO and asked for its react to last week's stories.

“The Illinois AFL-CIO has no tolerance for sexual harassment, in the workplace or anywhere else,” the labor umbrella organization declared.

“We were deeply disturbed by the Legislative Inspector General's report and by recent reporting on former Rep. Harry Benton's egregious conduct, and we agree with his decision to resign. Any

suggestion that Harry Benton — or any elected official — controlled labor's support for a candidate or caucus is false. It is clear the General Assembly needs to take further action to strengthen its policies and procedures to combat harassment and support the brave victims who come forward.”

The Tribune also quoted some Democrats close to organized labor who accurately noted that “Benton had little power to influence organized labor or its massive fundraising apparatus.”

Labor did support Benton in 2024, and a big reason was Benton's Republican opponent was Gabby Shanahan. At the time, Shanahan worked for the anti-union Illinois Policy Institute. I've written several times (including in my syndicated newspaper column in 2024) that there was no way on this Earth that organized labor wanted an IPI staffer in the General Assembly. Shanahan is running again this year, but she no longer works for the IPI.

Now, a question could be asked about what would've happened if Speaker Welch or someone in his organization had told union leaders about the 2023 sexual harassment allegations against Benton by a 22-year-old district staffer.

But remember, Welch's “informal investigation” included talking to only Benton and the staffer. And then the matter was closed.

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

Free concert with 38 Special & Warrant at the Illinois State Fair

Music fans are invited to experience an unforgettable night at the Illinois State Fair when legendary southern rock band 38 Special performs a free Grandstand concert on Monday, Aug. 17. The concert will kick off with special guest Warrant.

For more than five decades, 38 Special has brought their signature blast of guitar-driven southern rock to audiences around the world. Known for their infectious blend of muscle and melody, filled with the arena-rock pop hooks, the band has produced a long list of hits that have stood the test of time, including “Hold On Loosely,” “Caught Up in You,” “Rockin' Into the Night,” “If I'd Been the One,” and “Second Chance.”

With over 20 million albums sold, 38 Special continues to tour nationwide, delivering high-energy performances that showcase their timeless sound and unmistakable

style. “Our team works hard to make the Illinois State Fair accessible for everyone,” said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. “Governor Pritzker's commitment to adding a free Grandstand concert rounds out an already amazing line up of live music at the fair this summer.”

The free 38 Special concert takes place Monday, Aug. 17 at the Illinois State Fair Grandstand. Gates open at 7 p.m. and no ticket is required, but attendees must go through security screening prior to entering the Grandstand.

Admission is free for kids 12 and under every day of the fair. On Monday, Aug. 17, senior citizens and scouts in uniform get free admission while general admission is \$5.

The Illinois State Fair runs Aug. 13-23 in Springfield.



NANCY "GABY" VALLADOLID'S photo of a two-spotted bumblebee at Isle a la Cache preserve in Romeoville won first place in July's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Kindergarten teacher gets A+ for contest-winning bumblebee photo

A Romeoville kindergarten teacher won July's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest with a close-up shot of a bumblebee coated in pollen.

Nancy "Gaby" Valladolid photographed the two-spotted bumblebee as it inadvertently spread pollen while sipping nectar from an anise hyssop plant at Isle a la Cache preserve in Romeoville.

One contest judge said the photo was chosen as the winner because it beautifully portrays “one of nature's tiniest creatures doing one of its most important jobs.”

Valladolid said she loves photographing bees, even though they are not always easy subjects.

“Sometimes I follow a bee for quite some time

and it's cool to see the different interactions with each flower,” she said.

Nature photography can be both joyful and educational, she added.

“I worked hard to capture this photo, but not as hard as these bees,” she said. “They are so valuable and precious. Now my 4-year-old son is learning how valuable honeybees and bumblebees are to our planet.”

Honorable mentions went to:

- Amy Miller of Joliet for a moody shot of the sun at Rock Run Preserve in Joliet.

- Mark Hanna of Romeoville for a photo of a 13-lined ground squirrel munching on dandelions at Prairie Bluff Preserve in Crest Hill.

- Joe Viola of Shorewood for a picture of fawns nursing at Rock Run

Preserve.

Contest continues

The Preserve the Moment photo contest continues through Dec. 31. Monthly winners receive a \$75 gift card. Overall winners will receive Mastercard gift cards worth \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

The contest is made possible through the support of The Nature Foundation of Will County.

Participants are encouraged to read the rules at ReconnectWithNature.org before entering. Up to five photos may be submitted per month through the District's contest upload page. All photos must be taken at a Forest Preserve District of Will County location.

Mobile food pantry coming to Braidwood

Many families are struggling to bring food to the table. That is why The Village is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank to host a mobile food pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive, Braidwood, on Monday, Aug. 17, at 5 p.m.

Families in the Braidwood and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for about a week. Distribution will be first come first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required.

The Village is a church that works with the community to help where it is needed the most.

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Symerton Homecoming 2026

Presented by:
The Village of Symerton

Tues, August 18	Elwood vs. Symerton—16" Softball game @ 6 pm
Weds, August 19	Manhattan vs. Symerton—16" Softball game @ 6 pm
Thurs, August 20	Manhattan vs. Elwood —16" Softball game @ 6 pm
	Car/Vintage Tractor Show 4:30-7:30 pm (WEATHER PERMITTING)
Fri, August 21	The Southside Social Club Live Band on the patio—7:00 pm
Sat, August 22	"The Equals" Live Band @ 7:00-10:00 pm on the patio
	Volley Ball Tournament Reg. 10am - Start 10:30
Sun, August 23	Tractor Pull @ noon North side of the park
	Kiddie Pedal Pull—Register @ 1 pm/pull starts @ 2 pm
	Ice Cream Truck 12 noon—2 pm and "Ice Ice Baby" icees
	Billy Gray Music—3:00 pm

Sunday: All day long: Kids activities, face painting & games, animal petting zoo and show, 50/50 raffle and drinks and food at Symerton Tap and Grill.

⇒ **Mr. K's Chuckwagon (Serving Saturday from 11 am—8 pm & Sunday 11 am—6pm)**

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Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Henry Merkel is State Fair Alternate for Woodworking 4.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Benjamin Floyd is a State Fair Delegate for Civil Engagement and Dog Show – Novice Category.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Tracy Jones is a State Fair Delegate for Tractor.

Local 4-H winners advance to State Fair

The annual Will County 4-H General Project show was recently held with seven delegates and one alternate qualifying for the Illinois State Fair.

Each of the projects were selected by the member to learn topics that interest them. This could be anything from learning how to cook, build a robot, or care for the environment.

One of the most important aspects of 4-H project work is that the 4-H member decided what they want to learn and do as they explore their project. This allows the project to be self-paced, and gives children important skills in setting and working towards their goals.

When a 4-H member enters a project in their county show, it is reviewed by a judge; whom interviews the member on why the project was chosen, what was learned, how it was completed. Once rankings are selected of the project in that specific category, some are selected to represent their county at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield; giving them the chance to earn additional awards.

Awards Wesley 4-H members received at the county show include:

- Veronica Boyer; Creative Writing – Blue Ribbon.

- Logan Burmaster; Family Heritage – Blue Ribbon.
- Kenzie Cosgrove; 5th Placing Horse Mare Halter
- Benjamin Floyd; Civil Engagement – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.
- Benjamin Floyd; Dog Show – Novice Category – State Fair Delegate.
- Jacob Floyd; Visual Arts/Paper & Metal – Blue Ribbon.
- Caleb Floyd; Visual Arts/Wood – Blue Ribbon.
- Caleb Floyd; Visual Arts/Mixed Media – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.
- Tracy Jones; Tractors – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.
- Caleb Merkel; Woodworking 2 – Blue Ribbon.
- Caroline Merkel; Cloverbud – Green Ribbon.
- Charlotte Merkel; Visual Arts/Wood – Blue Ribbon.
- Henry Merkel; Woodworking 4 – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Alternate.
- Josiah Merkel; Woodworking 3 – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.
- Samantha Merkel; Beekeeping 3 – Blue Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.
- Samantha Merkel; Visual Art; Heritage Arts – Blue

Ribbon – State Fair Delegate.

All members of clubs from across Will County that were selected at the general project show will show their projects at the fair in Springfield on Saturday, Aug 15, in the Orr Building.

About Wesley 4-H Hustlers

Wesley 4-H Hustlers is one of the oldest continuously operating 4-H clubs within the State of Illinois; dating back to approximately 1928. This club was formed in Wesley Township, and today is based out of Wilmington.

The primary area of focus for this youth organization is Wilmington, Wesley, Florence, Reed, and Custer Townships in Southern Will County, but is open to all individuals regardless of location of residence.

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for career tomorrow.

4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills.

Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.org, find them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4-H.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Josiah Merkel is a State Fair Delegate for Woodworking 3.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Samantha Merkel is a State Fair Delegate for Visual Art, Heritage Arts and Bee Keeping.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Caleb Floyd is a State Fair Delegate for Visual Arts/Mixed Media.



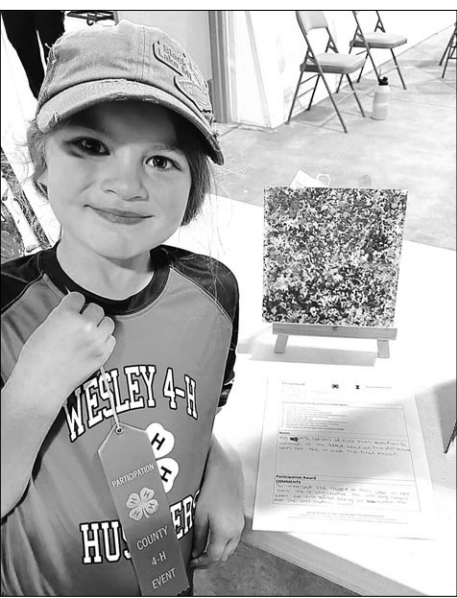
Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Jacob Floyd earns Blue Ribbon for Visual Arts/Paper and Metal.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Charlotte Merkel earns a Blue Ribbon for Visual Arts/Wood.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4H HUSTLER Caroline Merkel earns Green Ribbon for Cloverbud.



Courtesy photo

WESLEY 4-H HUSTLER Caleb Merkel earns a Blue Ribbon for Woodworking 2.

OBITUARIES

Everett Wengstrom

PEOTONE—The world became a little quieter on July 29, 2026, when Everett Steffan Wengstrom, 46, of Peotone, left us. Born on Aug. 28, 1979, Everett lived a life filled with loyalty, curiosity, humor, and a deep, unwavering love for his family. He had a presence that made people feel understood and supported, a gift he shared with everyone who knew him.

Everett was the beloved son of Warren Wengstrom and Valerie Mezger Wengstrom, and a devoted brother to LaVonne (Jacob) Kirby and Ericca (Rollin) Hill. To his nephew Steffan (Kendal) Wengstrom, niece Alyssia (Jai) Barajas, and great-nephew Ezra Wengstrom, he was a mentor, a role model, and a quiet hero. His love extended across generations, reaching numerous great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, and extended family who all felt the warmth of his presence.

He is survived by his aunts and uncles: LeNore Wengstrom, Kristine Pane, Jeffrey (Sandra) Mezger, and Debra Mezger; and by his cousins: Nikki (Cory) Simon, Crystal (Jake) Rutherford, Randy (Sheryl) Mezger, Alyssa (Eddie) Wendler, Chad Planeta, Steven (Jessica) Pane, Abram (Cindy) Lawrence, Jeff Mezger, Jen (Frank) Lesniak, Nathan (Audrey) Stirling, Angela (Phil) McDonald, Shanae (Chris) Uhalt, Luke (Yasmee) Stirling, and countless other family and friends who loved him deeply.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Everett and Helen Wengstrom; maternal grandparents, Richard and LaVonne Mezger; his uncle, Randy (Kathy) Mezger; uncle, Rik Stirling and cousins Valynda Planeta and Adam Lawrence.

Everett's life was defined by devotion — especially to his family. He was the kind of brother and son who showed up without being asked, who listened without judgment, and who loved without conditions. To his nieces and nephews, he was “Funcle,” the fun uncle who made every



moment brighter. He was protective, thoughtful, and quietly heroic. If someone was hurting, he noticed. He carried a fierce loyalty that made his loved ones feel safe in a way only he could provide.

Everett was committed to learning and growth. He earned his Electrical Engineering degree from DeVry University and was actively pursuing his Master's in Business, always pushing himself to achieve more.

Professionally, Everett was respected as a Regional Area Maintenance Manager at C&W Services and over saw 10 sites in the Chicagoland Area. His coworkers admired his intelligence, creativity, and willingness to help anyone who needed it. He approached every challenge with patience, skill, and genuine care.

Everett had a brilliant, curious mind and a heart full of passion for the things he loved. He embraced life with enthusiasm, humor, and a sense of wonder.

Above all, Everett loved life and wanted to live it fully. Everett loved his family. Every gathering, every laugh, every shared moment mattered. He showed up, he protected, he listened, and he cared. He stood up to the bully, helped the unfortunate, and lived with a quiet bravery that made him a hero to many. His legacy is love, loyalty, and the countless lives he touched simply by being himself.

In lieu of flowers, donate to a home-less charity of your choice reflecting Everett's compassion for those in need.

Memorial visitation will be held on Aug. 22, 2026, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel with a Memorial Funeral Service to begin at 3 p.m. A potluck fellowship will take place afterward as the family gathers to honor Everett's life, share memories, and celebrate the beautiful soul he was.

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.

Taste more for less during the 2026 Illinois State Fair

Big flavors don't come with big price tags at the Illinois State Fair. This year, two food promotions will offer money-saving opportunities for fairgoers, all day, every day of the 2026 Illinois State Fair.

The \$5 Fix is a budget-friendly way to enjoy a variety of food. All day every day in the Reisch Pavilion, food vendors will offer a \$5 food item on their menu.

Whether you're craving corn fritters or a slice of s'mores dessert pizza, the \$5 Fix makes it easy to experience fun fair food without overspending. It's a convenient way for families, students, and anyone looking for a tasty treat to stay on budget.

"When planning the fair, Governor Pritzker shared a priority of making the Illinois State Fair affordable for families," said Illinois Department of

Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II. "These food specials help families enjoy a day at the fair without stretching their budgets."

For those looking to nibble, Small Plates, Big Tastes in the Village of Cultures offers sample-sized portions for just \$3, giving fairgoers the chance to taste a variety of dishes without committing to a full meal.

Whether you are introducing your family to new cuisines, sharing bites with friends, or searching for your next favorite Fair food, Small Plates, Big Tastes lets you experience more for less. It is the perfect opportunity to explore new flavors, support local vendors, and create delicious memories, one bite at a time.

"We want everyone to enjoy the incredible flavors and experiences showcased in the Village of

Cultures without worrying about the cost," said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. "These sample-sized portions are a fun, affordable way to explore cuisines from around the world, discover something new, and come back for a full-sized portion of their favorite."

There will be more than 120 food vendors at this year's fair. Some of the must-try vendors include Backdraft BBQ on Coliseum Lane; Erma's Cinnamon Rolls on Illinois Ave.; Tikka Street in the Village of Cultures; Ben's Soft Pretzels on Central Ave. and Five Star Pickles & Sausages in the Expo Building.

Plan your visit, bring your appetite, and enjoy all the flavors of the 2026 statefair.illinois.gov Illinois State Fair, Aug. 13 through Aug. 23 in Springfield.

From circus acts to concerts

More than 160 hours of free entertainment offered at the Illinois State Fair

With free entertainment, daily discounts and attractions for all ages, the Illinois State Fair offers families countless ways to make memories without stretching their budgets.

"We are excited to offer a diverse lineup of free entertainment options," said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "Our goal is to ensure the Fair remains accessible to everyone, and we're committed to keeping it affordable."

The Double the Fun parking promotion will be offered on Thursday, Aug. 13. If you pay to park on the Illinois State Fairgrounds on Aug. 13, you will receive free parking on a return trip to the fair on the following Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

"TWOsday" features \$2 admission for seniors and adults on Tuesday, Aug. 18. To enhance this family-

friendly promotion, North American Midway, the fair's carnival operator, will also offer all rides at \$2 each. This is in addition to honoring all Mega Passes and Jumbo Passes sold before and during the fair.

State Fair theme and discount days:

Thursday, Aug. 13: County Fairs & Horse Racing Day, Double the Fun Parking Promotion

Friday, Aug. 14: Agriculture Day

Saturday, Aug. 15: Kids Day

Sunday, Aug. 16: Veterans & Gold Star Families Day (Free admission for veterans and their immediate families)

Monday, Aug. 17: Senior & Scout Day (Free admission for seniors and scouts in uniform)

Tuesday, Aug. 18: TWOsday (\$2 admission for seniors and adults)

Wednesday, Aug. 19: Governor's Day

Thursday, Aug. 20: Republican Day

Friday, Aug. 21: First Responder & Healthcare Heroes Day (Free admission for first responders and healthcare workers with ID)

Saturday, Aug. 22: Park District Conservation Day

Sunday, Aug. 23: Family Day

Stop by the Illinois Department of Agriculture Tent and look for the 8-foot inflatable barn, home to Farmer Betsy and her friends, Pauline the Pig and Chuck the Calf. Fairgoers can interact with these animated characters while learning more about Illinois agriculture in a fun and engaging way.

Big Top Adventures will present free performances every day in Happy Hollow at 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 7 p.m. The 800-seat circus will showcase an exciting lineup of jugglers, clowns, trapeze artists, and other

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Pheasant hunt reservations underway

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is accepting reservations online for pheasant hunting opportunities at the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area near Wilmington and the Kankakee River State Park on Illinois 102.

The daily permit fee for each hunter is \$35 for residents; \$40 for nonresidents. Hunters can reserve permits by using a credit card. The credit card account will be billed when hunters submit an application. A transaction fee of \$1 or 2.25 percent of the permit fee (whichever is higher) will be assessed, except for applications submitted for the Illinois Youth Pheasant Hunt.

Nine sites provide lengthy hunting seasons for hunters, as well as special hunting days for young hunters. Those sites include the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area, Kankakee River State Park and the Iroquois County State Wildlife Area.

At Des Plaines, hunting opportunities are available for hunters with disabilities where special vehicles are provided to assist with the hunt.

Online permit reservations for the first drawing period on IDNR-operated sites ended Monday. Two additional one-week drawing periods are scheduled thereafter concluding on Aug. 24.

Standby hunting will

be limited this year. Only a few permits may be available daily at each site. Daily standby drawings will occur immediately at the conclusion of the regular check-in time.

Hunters are strongly encouraged to access IDNR-operated controlled pheasant hunting sites by using the online permit reservation system. Online permits are available up until 9:00 a.m. the day prior to the hunt.

A reminder that hunters are required to use non-toxic shotshells at the Des Plaines SFWA.

For complete details, check the controlled pheasant hunting website at <https://dnr2.illinois.gov/controlledhunt>.

talented performers.

Also in Happy Hollow, discover Dinosaur Encounters and step into a prehistoric adventure the whole family will enjoy. Explore interactive activities from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., then catch live stage shows at 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m., and 6 p.m.

Harness Racing, Watershow Productions High Dive Show, Kardenni the Magician, Sky High Balloon Guy, and Street Drum Corps all offer free events throughout the Illinois State Fair.

On Aug. 19, celebrate the fair's top agricultural achievements at the Sale of Champions, where outstanding livestock and exhibitors take place.

Returning is the Dillinois State Fair Pickleball Showdown, a round robin doubles tournament happening Saturday, Aug. 22 in the Orr Building, with youth and adult divisions. Register to compete or just come to watch an exciting day of competition.

Step inside Gate 2 to explore the free Route 66 Experience, an interactive exhibit celebrating the history and culture of America's most famous highway.

Don't miss the free concerts every night of the fair. Head to Grand Central Stage at 7:30 p.m. to enjoy live music:

Thurs. Aug. 13—Casey Donahew; Fri. Aug. 14—Mike Tramp of White Lion; Sat. Aug. 15—The Sweet; Sun. Aug. 16—Lakeview; Mon. Aug. 17—Shake Baby Shake (50s & 60s); Tue. Aug. 18—The Creekers; Wed. Aug. 19—The Band Perry; Thurs. Aug. 20—Rumours - The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Show; Fri. Aug. 21—Kobanova.; Sat. Aug. 22—Vertical Horizon; and Sun. Aug. 23—Slater Nalley.

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Thank you for reading the classifieds. They still get results!

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 631 N 2nd St, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 20th day of August, 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: **NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing Plaintiff V. Joshua W Lindsay; et. al.** Defendant. Case No. **25 FC 1283** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee,

shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by sub-divisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in Free Press Newspaper on Wed., July 29, August 5, and 12, 2026.

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE of 319 N KANKAKEE ST, WILMINGTON, IL 60481 (not applicable). On the 27th day of August, 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: **NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING Plaintiff V. MARC OSMANSON; BREANNE OSMANSON; PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS; STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY D/B/A THE LAND TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendant.** Case No. **25 FC 1093** 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,

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: **ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC. 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS 60563 P: 630-453-6960 F: 630-428-4620** 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., Aug. 5, 12, and 19, 2026

Registration underway for Fallen Heroes run & walk during Elwood Community Days

The Bradley Veerman Charity Fund is proud to announce the annual In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes 5K Run & Walk, taking place on Friday, Sept. 11, at Lloyd Erickson Park in Elwood.

The event begins with a special remembrance ceremony at 5 p.m., followed by the 5K Run & Walk at 6 p.m.

This year's event holds special significance as the nation commemorates the 25th anniversary of September 11, 2001.

Participants will gather to remember the lives lost, honor the courage and sacrifice of first responders and public servants, and celebrate the enduring spirit of service that continues to unite communities across America.

Hosted in conjunction with Elwood Community Days, the event benefits the Bradley Veerman Charity Fund, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting first responders, advancing public safety initiatives, providing EMS education, and assisting charitable organizations that serve our communities.

The charity was established in memory of Bradley Veerman, a dedicated firefighter, paramedic, police officer, Executive Director of the Laraway Emergency Telephone System Board (Will County 9-1-1), and public servant whose passion for helping others continues to inspire the organization's mission.

The Bradley Veerman Charity Fund has provided educational scholarships, supported emergency responders and partnered with organizations committed to improving public safety throughout the

region.

"Our goal is to bring our community together to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while continuing Bradley's legacy of compassion, service, and commitment to helping others," said April Veerman, President of the Bradley Veerman Charity Fund.

"Every participant, volunteer, sponsor, donor, and supporter helps us honor our fallen heroes while making a lasting difference in our communities."

Participants of all ages and abilities are encouraged to register. Registration includes an event T-shirt, finisher medal, admission wristband to Elwood Community Days beer ticket for participants 21 years of age or older, and the opportunity to honor America's heroes while supporting a meaningful cause.

Community members can purchase an official In Memory of Our Fallen Heroes event T-shirt online. Shirts are available for anyone who wants to proudly wear them throughout Elwood Community Days while honoring our Fallen Heroes.

Community members who are unable to participate are also encouraged to support the event through sponsorships, volunteer opportunities, or donations.

Registration is now open. For race registration, sponsorship opportunities, volunteer information, donations, or to purchase an official event T-shirt, visit: <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Elwood/ElwoodCommunityDaysK>.

Wandless earns degree

Rachel Wandless of Wilmington, has earned a degree in MAT, Athletic Training, at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa.

Olivet Nazarene University dean's list

Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais has announced its 2026 spring dean's list.

To qualify for inclusion on the Dean's List, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale. Local student's include: Landon Jankus of Braidwood, Melody Kinder of Coal City, Hope Dillinger of Custer Park, Jessica Castle, Julia McCully, Drake Robertson, Evan Surdey and Grant Wilburn all of Wilmington.

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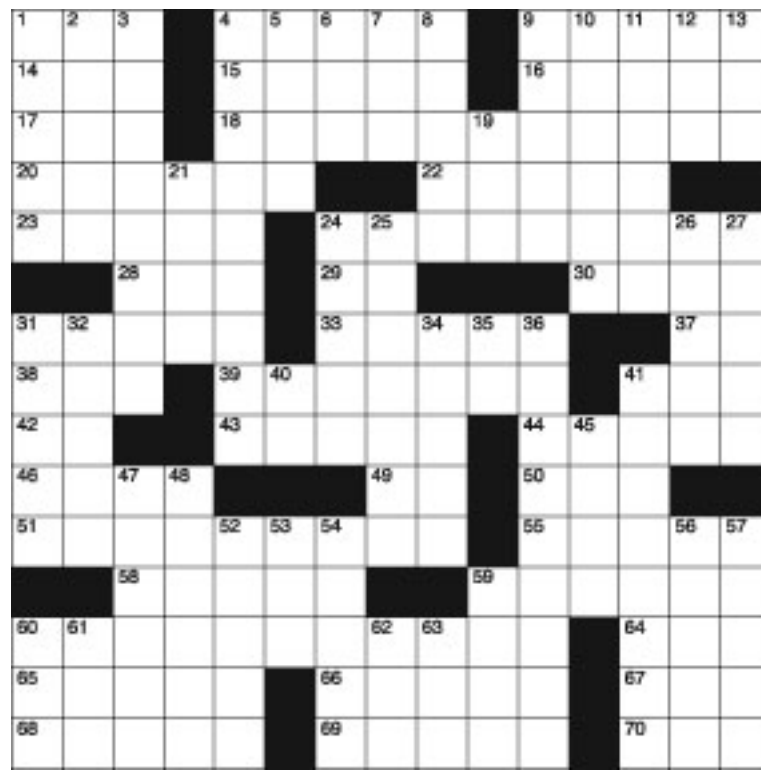
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CLUES ACROSS

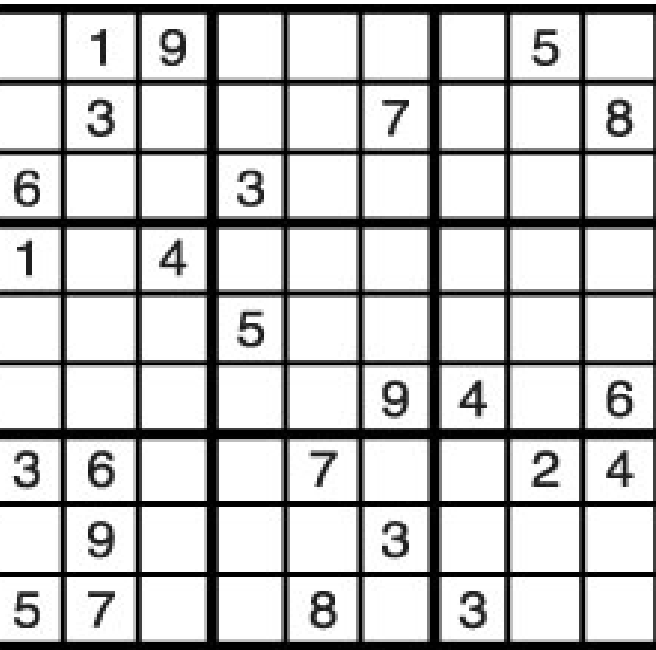
- Midway between south and southeast
- Fathers
- Wine grape
- Al Bundy's wife
- Derived from ammonia
- Venezuelan state
- Interest rate
- Experts
- Vascular tissues
- Smooth and glossy
- Administrative region in S. Korea
- One from Damascus
- Special interest group
- It cools your home

CLUES DOWN

- Oh, God!
- Intestinal pouches
- Men
- Twelfth star in a constellation
- Former CIA
- Arrange in grades of size
- A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- "The Great Lakes State"
- Having earlike appendages
- Momentarily stop
- Ancient kingdom
- Of I
- White clerical vestment
- Songs to one's beloved
- Charges

CLUES DOWN

- Involuntary muscular contraction
- Eastern US transit agency
- Leaves a place
- Cease to participate
- Current units
- Cease to exist
- General's assistant (abbr.)
- Earth vibration
- Very strong winds
- For each one
- A bog
- The creation of beautiful or significant things
- Affirmative
- Pie ____ mode
- Nonclerical
- Indonesian island
- Educational environment
- Namibian peoples
- Bring out or develop
- Moves into a place of thought
- Out of the way
- Loads a ship
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Distinguishes
- The ancient Egyptian sun god
- Secondary or explanatory title
- Relating to a wing
- One who gives a speech
- In the middle
- Loop with a running knot
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Sweet persons
- Put into play
- Small cattle breed
- Millisecond
- Revolutions per minute
- They ____
- Moon crater
- A place to stay the night



Level: Intermediate

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

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



It's all in the pen of the writer, perspective

I guess I haven't gone two days in a row without hearing that dreaded word - "AI". Not even a word at all really, just a couple of letters. But these letters have the whole world talking. One group of folks seem to think that it is the greatest thing that mankind has ever evented. While another group think that it signals the end of civilization as we know it.



Sandy Vasko

The first problem I see with it is, that I can no longer tell what is real and what is not. This leads to the many accusations about "fake news." Is this something new or has it always been with us? Perhaps no news is fake, it may all be in the way you look at it, or perhaps the way the writer looks at it. Hop on the way-back machine, destination Wilmington 1879.

I first took notice of the example of different perspectives when I was transcribing a column from the Joliet Signal from the fall of 1879. The column was written by an anonymous writer who called himself "Sionilli." His name is not the only thing backwards about him. His perspective of life in Wilmington seemed totally dead, dull and boring.

My evidence is his September 30 column, "What a blessing rain is! There are some who don't like rain, but I believe no one in Wilmington objected to the one we had Tuesday afternoon and night."

"The schools are all in good condition, and under the supervision of our able principal, are likely to do more and better work this year than ever before."

"Prof. Fargo, of Bloomington, delivered a lecture on vocal music and breathing last Monday evening, in the Presbyterian Church, to an attentive and appreciative audience."

His final bit was a blatant commercial if I ever read one. "We learn that wherever Zell's Condensed Cyclopedia has been shown, it has met with great approbation and immeasurable sales. Having examined the work, we are prepared to say, as most of our eminent educators have said, that Zell's Condensed Cyclopedia is a very valuable and useful work, and one that ought to be in the hands of every person who cares any thing for intelligence. Wm. A. Crawford, agent, is now in Wilmington introducing this work."

Really! Is this the most interesting newsworthy stuff you could have sent

to the Signal from Wilmington? You have got to be kidding me! I decided to look back at what previous columns were like.

I found that our friend Sionilli had only taken over writing about Wilmington that month. The previous Wilmington news had been gathered by the editor of the Signal himself. There I found the real news.

In the previous month, August of 1879, we read, "The residents of the neighboring city of Wilmington were startled in an unusual manner last week by a series of fatalities. Last Thursday the news was rapidly circulated that a well-known citizen named Samuel Rauworth had committed suicide in front of his own house by shooting himself with a Winchester rifle, death ensuing almost instantly. No cause was assigned for the deed although domestic trouble was hinted at by those more familiar with the life of the deceased."

"During the afternoon of the same day an 18-month-old child of Joseph Coash, while playing on the street, was run over by a heavily loaded farmer's wagon and instantly killed. It is said that the driver's attention was attracted by other children in the road, and that he is considered blameless for the accident."

"Dispatches from Wilmington of last Saturday announce, that

Charles Woods shot and dangerously wounded John Hayes and Frank Gavican, whom he caught in the act of stealing melons. The shooting occurred about 5 miles from Wilmington. The boys shot at were aged respectively 16 and 19 years, while Woods is said to be a large and powerful man."

"During the races at the Wilmington race course Saturday afternoon, a collision occurred which resulted in knocking down two horses and very seriously injuring Willie White, one of the riders."

"Sunday morning an infuriated bull, in a pasture near the city, chased a 10-year-old boy named Jefferson, who was mounted on a horse owned by Senator White. The horse took fright and ran against a barbed wire fence, throwing the boy on the opposite side and injuring him seriously."

This column certainly gives us a wholly different view of Wilmington. So, was the first mentioned column "fake news" giving the world a different viewpoint of Wilmingtonians? No, it is just a different viewpoint on what should be reported on and why? In one case the reporter chose to highlight the grizzly details, while in the other, pleasant social dignity and selling books were the highlight of Wilmington life. Just a different perspective.

Police hand out 98 speeding tickets

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Motorists with a heavy foot got an expensive reminder to ease off the accelerator last month.

The Wilmington Police Department announced that officers conducted 172 traffic stops during a July traffic safety campaign aimed at reducing speed-related crashes and fatalities.

The enforcement effort was carried out in partnership with state and local law enforcement agencies across Illinois.

During the month-long campaign, Wilmington officers issued: 98 speeding citations, three distracted driving

citations, one citation for driving with a suspended, revoked, or not possessing a valid driver's license, and 22 other traffic citations

The campaign encouraged motorists to slow down and drive safely, reminding drivers that excessive speed remains one of the leading contributors to serious and fatal traffic crashes.

The enforcement initiative was funded through federal traffic safety grants administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Police are encouraging motorists to continue following posted speed limits, eliminate distractions behind the wheel, and help make Illinois roadways safer for everyone.

Man indicted on multiple domestic violence charges

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

A 24-year-old Wilmington man has been indicted by a Will County grand jury on multiple domestic violence-related charges stemming from a July incident.

According to Will County court records, Gabriel Alvarez was indicted Aug. 6 on one count of Aggravated Domestic Battery by Strangulation, a Class 2 felony, one count of Unlawful Restraint, a Class 4 felony, and six counts of Domestic Battery Causing Bodily Harm, each Class A misdemeanors.

The indictment replaces the original criminal complaint filed after Alvarez's arrest on July 25.

Court records indicate Alvarez has remained in the custody of the Will County Sheriff's Office since his arrest.

During a detention hearing held July 25, prosecutors petitioned to deny pretrial release. Will County Judge Colette Sfford granted the request, finding Alvarez should remain detained pending further court proceedings.

According to the court docket, the grand jury returned a true bill of indictment on Aug. 6. The court accepted the six-count bill of indictment, ordered it filed and scheduled the case for arraignment.



GABRIEL ALVAREZ

ment. A previously issued warrant was stayed because Alvarez was already in custody.

The case remains pending in Will County Court.

As with all criminal cases, the charges against Alvarez are allegations, and he is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

Burrow named to President's honor roll

Jake Burrow, Wilmington, has been named to the President's Honor Roll for the Spring 2026 semester at Bismarck State College.

Students must maintain at least a 3.50 grade point on a 4.00 scale for the BSC President's Honor Roll.

Sheriff office warns of increase in gaming machine burglaries

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

An increasing number of vandals wearing masks and brandishing sledge hammers have been breaking into gaming facilities after hours.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) and other local law enforcement agencies are urging local business owners and residents to remain alert following a recent increase in overnight burglaries targeting taverns and other businesses with video gaming machines.

The warning comes as break-ins have also been occurring in neighboring Will County, where authorities have investigated a string of burglaries involving gaming machines and cash.

"The crimes typically occur during overnight hours when businesses are closed," a press release from the GCSO stated.

Investigators said the offenders target video gaming machines, often causing significant property damage in the process.

The sheriff's office noted it has investigated similar incidents over the past several years in the Goose Lake area, Gardner, Braceville, and South Wilmington.

According to police, a growing wave of burglaries is also hitting Will County, with several businesses targeted just days apart by masked thieves armed with sledgehammers.

On Aug. 6, burglars broke into Villa Nova Pizza in Lockport, smashing gaming machines and the cash registers.

Reducing risks
To reduce the risk of becoming a victim, business owners are encouraged to make sure doors, windows and other access



SECURITY CAMERAS SHOW burglars vandalizing gaming machines and other property on Aug. 6 at a Lockport restaurant.

points are securely locked, verify that alarm systems and surveillance cameras are operating properly, improve exterior lighting where possible, and review security procedures with employees," police advised.

Authorities also recommend limiting the amount of cash left inside gaming machines and elsewhere on the premises overnight whenever practical.

Hyper-vigilance
The Grundy County Sheriff's Office is asking residents to keep their eyes open.

"Residents are being asked to remain vigilant during overnight hours," according to police. "Anyone who observes suspicious people or vehicles near a tavern, gaming establishment or other closed business is urged not to confront those involved."

Instead, residents are

urged to call 911 and provide as much information as possible, including descriptions of any individuals or vehicles and the direction in which they traveled.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office said prompt reporting from the public can play an important role in preventing additional burglaries and helping investigators identify those responsible.

Lenart earns dean's list

Claire Lenart of Wilmington has been named to the Saint Mary's College Dean's List for the Spring 2026 semester.

To earn this academic honor at Saint Mary's, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale, and no grades lower than a C.

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2026 Wesley Township assessment of real properties

PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE TO
WESLEY TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS:
ASSESSED VALUES FOR 2026**
Valuation date (35 ILCS 200/9-95): January 1, 2026
Required level of assessment (35 ILCS 200/9-145): 33.33%
Median level of assessments for the County: 31.86%
Valuation based on sales from (35 ILCS 200/1-155): 2023, 2024, 2025

Publication is hereby made for equalized assessed valuations for real property in this County in accordance with 35 ILCS 200/12-10. As required by 35 ILCS 200/9-210 and 35 ILCS 200/10-115, the following equalization factors have been applied to bring the assessments to the statutorily required three-year median level of 33.33%:

Farm Land and Farm Improvements	1.0000
Residential:	1.0870
Commercial:	1.0000
Industrial:	1.0000
Farm Homesite and Dwelling:	1.0870

Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/10-115, the Farm Land assessments for the 2026 assessment year will increase by 10% of the preceding year's median cropped soil productivity index as certified by the Illinois Department of Revenue with data provided by the Farmland Assessment Technical Advisory Board resulting in a \$56.71 per acre increase/decrease for each soil productivity index.

Questions about these valuations should be directed to:

Jennifer Freis
21333 W. Ballou Road
Wilmington, IL 60481
(779) 232-9896
Office Hours are: By Appointment Only

Property in this County, other than farmland and coal, is to be assessed at a 33.33% median level of assessment, based on the fair cash value of the property. You may check the accuracy of your assessment by dividing your assessment by the median level of assessment. The resulting value should equal the estimated fair cash value of your property. If the resulting value is greater than the estimated fair cash value of your property, you may be over-assessed. If the resulting value is less than the fair cash value of your property, you may be under-assessed. You may appeal your assessment to the Board of Review.

If you believe your property's fair cash value is incorrect or that the equalized assessed valuation is not uniform with other comparable properties in the same neighborhood, the following steps should be taken:

1. Contact your local Township assessor's office to review the assessment.
2. If not satisfied with the assessor review, taxpayers may file a complaint with the Will County Board of Review. For complaint forms, instructions, and the Rules and Procedures of the Board of Review, call (815) 740-4648 or visit www.willcountysao.com for more information.
3. The final filing deadline for your township is generally 30 days from this publication date. The filing deadline is September 14, 2026. After this date, the Board of Review is prohibited by law from accepting assessment complaints for properties in this township.

Your property may be eligible for homestead exemptions, which can reduce your property's taxable assessment. For more information on homestead exemptions, call (815) 740-4648 or visit www.willcountysao.com.

Your property tax bill will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final Equalized Assessed Value} - \text{Exemptions} = \text{Taxable Assessment}$$

$$\text{Taxable Assessment} \times \text{Current Tax Rate} = \text{Total Tax Bill}$$

All equalized assessed valuations are subject to further equalization and revision by the Will County Board of Review as well as equalization by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

A complete list of assessments for this County for the current assessment year, except for those assessments that were changed solely by equalization as noted above, is as follows:

08 WESLEY

PIN 8 24-01-103-016-0000
JOHNSTON PAUL A TRUST
TOT 15016
PIN 8 24-01-103-017-0000
OAKWOOD CEMETERY ASSOCIAT
TOT 2416
PIN 8 24-01-200-004-0000
JOHNSTON PAUL A TRUST
TOT 61067
PIN 8 24-01-204-009-0000
MELHORN PAUL D REV TRUST
TOT 10030
PIN 8 24-01-204-010-0000
MELHORN PAUL D REV TRUST
TOT 5138
PIN 8 24-01-400-003-0000
CERES FARMS CROPLAND HOLD
TOT 17441
PIN 8 24-01-400-004-0000
DANIELSON FAMILY TRUST
TOT 57998
PIN 8 24-01-400-005-0000
CERES FARMS CROPLAND HOLD
TOT 1841
PIN 8 24-12-103-001-0000
MANCUSO FMLY REV TR
TOT 478209
PIN 8 24-12-201-001-0000
CERES FARMS CROPLAND HOLD
TOT 19713
PIN 8 24-12-202-009-0000
CRUTCHFIELD MATTHEW KATHR
TOT 126541
PIN 8 24-12-400-003-0000
DUNN EDWARD E
TOT 41289
PIN 8 24-12-400-004-0000
JONES BARBARA B LVG TRUST
TOT 225867
PIN 8 24-12-400-006-0000
SCHMALE SCOTT MICHAEL
TOT 4896
PIN 8 24-12-400-007-0000
GONZALEZ ANTONIO
TOT 9350
PIN 8 24-13-205-065-0000
KASIELSKI ALEKSANDER
TOT 36641
PIN 8 25-01-100-001-0000
HAZELTON C A D EARLS D M
TOT 141026
PIN 8 25-01-100-005-0000
MCCAUGHN CARRIE A
TOT 28209
PIN 8 25-01-100-007-0000
MCCAUGHN CARRIE A
TOT 59905
PIN 8 25-01-200-002-0000
AG GRAIN INC
TOT 49478
PIN 8 25-01-200-003-0000
MCCAUGHN CARRIE A
TOT 47685
PIN 8 25-01-300-001-0000
HAZELTON DAVID EARLS DIAN
TOT 25157
PIN 8 25-01-300-002-0000
HAZELTON DAVID EARLS DIAN
TOT 25102
PIN 8 25-01-300-005-0000
STREMPER SCOTT D PATRICIA
TOT 80977

PIN 8 25-03-300-011-0000
BASKERVILLE MICHAEL R PAT
TOT 122565
PIN 8 25-03-300-012-0000
BORUNDA OMAR NANCY CABALL
TOT 139897
PIN 8 25-03-300-013-0000
CHANEY JAMIE LEE
TOT 5290
PIN 8 25-03-300-014-0000
MELVIN ZACHARY ALAN
TOT 5242
PIN 8 25-03-300-015-0000
TORDAI DIANE M
TOT 27628
PIN 8 25-03-400-007-0000
JOHNSTON DOUGLAS NOLA LVG
TOT 43534
PIN 8 25-03-400-008-0000
JOHNSTON DOUGLAS NOLA LVG
TOT 108825
PIN 8 25-03-400-009-0000
JOHNSTON WILLARD L TRUST
TOT 48061
PIN 8 25-03-400-010-0000
AG GRAIN INC
TOT 54883
PIN 8 25-04-100-006-0000
FOX GARY LEEANN
TOT 134898
PIN 8 25-04-100-007-0000
WALSH ANDY COLEEN
TOT 206402
PIN 8 25-04-100-008-0000
KEELEY AGNES ANN
TOT 5043
PIN 8 25-04-100-009-0000
WERNER DONALD A JR
TOT 475
PIN 8 25-04-100-010-0000
WERNER DONALD A JR
TOT 50981
PIN 8 25-04-100-011-0000
WERNER FAMILY TRUST 770
TOT 7606
PIN 8 25-04-200-001-0000
RILEY RACHEL L REV TR
TOT 50078
PIN 8 25-04-200-007-0000
REYES JENNIFER
TOT 110487
PIN 8 25-04-200-009-0000
PIKE DANA B
TOT 91183
PIN 8 25-04-200-010-0000
SPANGLER THOMAS R JOSEPH
TOT 10941
PIN 8 25-04-200-011-0000
SPANGLER JOSEPH R
TOT 21232
PIN 8 25-04-300-001-0000
KEIGHER JOHN
TOT 51683
PIN 8 25-04-300-005-0000
WERNER DONALD A JR
TOT 12563
PIN 8 25-04-300-006-0000
HACKMAN WILLARD A DEBORAH
TOT 12733
PIN 8 25-04-400-005-0000
GOODWIN KENNETH
TOT 41227
PIN 8 25-04-400-008-0000
RODAWOLD JAMES M
TOT 29446
PIN 8 25-04-400-009-0000
FREDERICKS RONALD J LISA
TOT 117901
PIN 8 25-04-400-010-0000
BROMBERK RONALD
TOT 6258
PIN 8 25-04-400-011-0000
BROMBERK RONALD
TOT 6251
PIN 8 25-04-400-012-0000
BROMBERK RONALD M
TOT 6261
PIN 8 25-04-400-013-0000
WEITENDORF ENTERPRISES IN
TOT 24325
PIN 8 25-04-400-014-0000
COMPARETTO JAMES A CONCEP
TOT 250556
PIN 8 25-04-400-015-0000
TEDESCO NEIL
TOT 82340
PIN 8 25-05-100-001-0000
BUTCHER JAMES M
TOT 38463
PIN 8 25-05-100-002-0000
R F GROUP TR 1104
TOT 36046
PIN 8 25-05-200-004-0000
KENNEDY MARY JANE
TOT 29687
PIN 8 25-05-200-005-0000
KENNEDY MARY JANE
TOT 42791
PIN 8 25-05-200-006-0000
SORENSEN DAVID J
TOT 39907
PIN 8 25-05-200-007-0000
LOVELL JOHN A
TOT 6998
PIN 8 25-05-200-008-0000
LOVELL DAVID P RITA E LVG
TOT 8617
PIN 8 25-05-200-009-0000
GRANGER DONALD E JANE E D
TOT 8050
PIN 8 25-05-200-012-0000
GRANGER JANE E
TOT 1016
PIN 8 25-05-200-013-0000
LOVELL JOHN A
TOT 3231
PIN 8 25-05-300-007-0000
ISSERT DEBRA LVG TR
TOT 121815
PIN 8 25-05-300-008-0000
ISSERT DEBRA S LVG TRUST
TOT 5239
PIN 8 25-05-400-002-0000
MARSHALL JANICE K LVG TR
TOT 63821
PIN 8 25-05-400-003-0000
KENNEDY MARY JANE
TOT 57716
PIN 8 25-06-100-005-0000
MORRIS ROBERT M JR
TOT 103427
PIN 8 25-06-100-025-0000
MELHORN MICHAEL SANDY
TOT 122224
PIN 8 25-06-100-027-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 740
PIN 8 25-06-200-001-0000
BUTCHER JAMES M
TOT 86489
PIN 8 25-06-300-005-0000
FREIS WILLIAM J JENNIFER
TOT 119326
PIN 8 25-06-300-006-0000
POLLACK WILLIAM M MARION
TOT 90942
PIN 8 25-06-300-008-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1063
PIN 8 25-06-400-012-0000
ISSERT DEBRA S LVG TRUST
TOT 229920
PIN 8 25-07-100-006-0000
FRANCIS JUDY S LVG TR
TOT 22254
PIN 8 25-07-100-014-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 7166
PIN 8 25-07-100-015-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 128
PIN 8 25-07-200-003-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 5194
PIN 8 25-07-200-004-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 5187
PIN 8 25-07-200-005-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 5210
PIN 8 25-07-200-006-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 5913
PIN 8 25-07-200-007-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 3544
PIN 8 25-07-300-008-0000
SWITZER KAASANDRA ROBERT
TOT 92379
PIN 8 25-07-300-045-0000
FRANCIS JUDY S LVG TR
TOT 5581
PIN 8 25-07-300-047-0000
SIMMONS JOSEPH KARLI
TOT 3308
PIN 8 25-07-300-048-0000
DKAP TRUCKING INC
TOT 3201
PIN 8 25-07-300-049-0000
HURLEY SUSAN GEORGE
TOT 3673
PIN 8 25-07-300-050-0000
HANSEN MARK KIMBERLY
TOT 22479
PIN 8 25-07-300-051-0000
HENKE GREGORY A HAYLEY
TOT 3564
PIN 8 25-07-300-052-0000
GODSEY MIKEL SHAY
TOT 105506
PIN 8 25-07-400-006-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1182
PIN 8 25-08-100-002-0000
HANDEL ROBERT J MARY LEE
TOT 52419
PIN 8 25-08-100-003-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 4277

PIN 8 25-08-100-004-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 5264
PIN 8 25-08-100-005-0000
JOHNSON CHRISTOPHER L LVG
TOT 9700
PIN 8 25-08-100-009-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 468
PIN 8 25-08-200-001-0000
HANDEL ROBERT J MARY LEE
TOT 77086
PIN 8 25-08-200-009-0000
GOODWIN KENNETH E DEBRA A
TOT 79912
PIN 8 25-08-200-010-0000
GOODWIN KENNETH
TOT 85425
PIN 8 25-08-200-011-0000
GOODWIN KENNETH
TOT 133987
PIN 8 25-08-300-005-0000
OLSON KENNETH E TR
TOT 70484
PIN 8 25-08-300-007-0000
HONRUD JAY H REV LVG TRUS
TOT 17064
PIN 8 25-08-300-008-0000
HONRUD JAY H REV LVG TRUS
TOT 11994
PIN 8 25-08-300-009-0000
MAY MARK J ROXANA A
TOT 101369
PIN 8 25-08-300-012-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1760
PIN 8 25-08-400-001-0000
HONRUD JAY H REV LVG TRUS
TOT 25257
PIN 8 25-08-400-004-0000
MCKIRKY LAND LLC
TOT 19632
PIN 8 25-08-400-005-0000
GOODWIN ROBERT E RESIDUAR
TOT 18843
PIN 8 25-08-400-006-0000
GOODWIN WILLIAM J JR
TOT 65458
PIN 8 25-08-400-007-0000
HONRUD JAY H REV LVG TRUS
TOT 3050
PIN 8 25-08-400-008-0000
HONRUD JAY H REV LVG TRUS
TOT 34762
PIN 8 25-09-100-005-0000
GOODWIN JEAN
TOT 54456
PIN 8 25-09-100-006-0000
MCKIRKY LAND LLC
TOT 52372
PIN 8 25-09-100-007-0000
MAURER GERALD A
TOT 79099
PIN 8 25-09-200-001-0000
BURGESS STEVEN E KATHLEEN
TOT 170454
PIN 8 25-09-200-004-0000
NEESE KRISTOPHER J CARLEY
TOT 84769
PIN 8 25-09-200-005-0000
HAZELTON DAVID EARLS DIAN
TOT 40499
PIN 8 25-09-200-006-0000
CHAVEZ SACRAMENTO
TOT 197687
PIN 8 25-09-200-007-0000
NEESE CARLEY A KRISTOPHER
TOT 4969
PIN 8 25-09-200-008-0000
WIDLACKI WILLIAM A SUSAN
TOT 20731
PIN 8 25-09-300-001-0000
GOODWIN FARM LLC
TOT 182841
PIN 8 25-09-400-008-0000
GOODWIN CHRISTY
TOT 81396
PIN 8 25-09-400-011-0000
SHULTZ BEAU ROSE
TOT 147483
PIN 8 25-09-400-012-0000
GOODWIN FARM LLC
TOT 32264
PIN 8 25-09-400-013-0000
KUCHARSKI RONALD J MARY B
TOT 120238
PIN 8 25-09-400-014-0000
HAZELTON DAVID EARLS DIAN
TOT 43744
PIN 8 25-09-400-015-0000
RUSTEBERG JAMES W DEC TRU
TOT 6276
PIN 8 25-10-100-006-0000
WIDLACKI WILLIAM A SUSAN
TOT 74318
PIN 8 25-10-100-007-0000
ZAPOTOCZNY HELEN DEC TR
TOT 52706
PIN 8 25-10-100-008-0000
DUARTE MAXIMILIANO J ABRA
TOT 54698
PIN 8 25-10-100-010-0000
MELVIN BRIAN
TOT 15752
PIN 8 25-10-100-012-0000
KLUK DAN AMY
TOT 11951
PIN 8 25-10-100-013-0000
CARY SANDRA
TOT 66353
PIN 8 25-10-200-002-0000
BENOIT ELIZABETH K TRUST
TOT 49782
PIN 8 25-10-200-003-0000
NUGENT AARON M
TOT 66779
PIN 8 25-10-200-004-0000
FLANIGAN JOSEPH SUSAN L
TOT 25074
PIN 8 25-10-300-001-0000
ZAPOTOCZNY HELEN DEC TR
TOT 71828
PIN 8 25-10-300-003-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND NVSTMNTS
TOT 17110
PIN 8 25-10-300-004-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND NVSTMNTS
TOT 3668
PIN 8 25-10-300-005-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND NVSTMNTS
TOT 3680
PIN 8 25-10-300-006-0000
TICHY CAROL
TOT 4884
PIN 8 25-10-400-001-0000
TICHY CAROL B
TOT 50737
PIN 8 25-10-400-002-0000
ARCHIBALD JULIANNE G TR
TOT 50370
PIN 8 25-11-100-005-0000
KENNEDY KATHRYN TRUST
TOT 48820
PIN 8 25-11-100-007-0000
BELL SUSAN M
TOT 52142
PIN 8 25-11-200-001-0000
KACIJA LVG TRUST
TOT 25783
PIN 8 25-11-200-002-0000
WHITESIDE SUE A DONOHUE
TOT 92861
PIN 8 25-11-200-003-0000
KEYS NORMA JEAN
TOT 39909
PIN 8 25-11-300-002-0000
BENJAMIN JACOB L
TOT 16309
PIN 8 25-11-300-005-0000
NUGENT D S TR DONOHUE JOS
TOT 34000
PIN 8 25-11-300-006-0000
JACKSON MATTHEW K
TOT 10584
PIN 8 25-11-300-007-0000
NUGENT DANNY P SUZETTE I
TOT 39267
PIN 8 25-11-400-001-0000
BENJAMIN JACOB L
TOT 49826
PIN 8 25-11-400-002-0000
DONOHUE WHITESIDE SUE A
TOT 14805
PIN 8 25-11-400-003-0000
WHITESIDE SUE A DONOHUE
TOT 29290
PIN 8 25-12-100-003-0000
WHITESIDE SUE A DONOHUE
TOT 12742
PIN 8 25-12-100-007-0000
KEYS NORMA JEAN
TOT 12935
PIN 8 25-12-100-010-0000
KESTEL DALE
TOT 2557
PIN 8 25-12-100-011-0000
BORNHOFFEN GERALD
TOT 181455
PIN 8 25-12-100-014-0000
NOLAN DYLAN
TOT 6882
PIN 8 25-12-100-015-0000
KESTEL DALE
TOT 3945
PIN 8 25-12-100-016-0000
KESTEL DALE
TOT 4201
PIN 8 25-12-100-018-0000
KESTEL JOHN J BARBARA A
TOT 178700
PIN 8 25-12-100-019-0000
KESTEL DALE N
TOT 3172
PIN 8 25-12-100-020-0000
KESTEL DALE N
TOT 32828
PIN 8 25-12-200-006-0000
MILTON FARMS INC
TOT 70248

PIN 8 25-12-200-009-0000
BENJAMIN JACOB
TOT 9890
PIN 8 25-12-300-003-0010
MAUE DAVID A
TOT 26180
PIN 8 25-12-300-003-0020
MAUE DAVID A
TOT 20182
PIN 8 25-12-300-005-0010
MAUE DAVID A
TOT 13479
PIN 8 25-12-300-005-0020
MAUE DAVID A
TOT 17690
PIN 8 25-12-400-001-0000
MCBRIDE BRIDGET A
TOT 55035
PIN 8 25-12-400-005-0000
RAGAIN DANIEL CYNTHIA
TOT 35212
PIN 8 25-12-400-006-0000
RAGAIN DANIEL L CYNTHIA J
TOT 173517
PIN 8 25-13-100-002-0000
MCCARTHY ROBERT E DEC TRU
TOT 32872
PIN 8 25-13-200-002-0000
MCCARTHY ROBERT E DEC TRU
TOT 77128
PIN 8 25-13-200-003-0000
RAGAIN DANIEL CYNTHIA
TOT 43944
PIN 8 25-13-200-004-0000
PROFFITT OWIN KELLY
TOT 78680
PIN 8 25-13-300-002-0000
CAIRNS JOHN G SR REV TR
TOT 12122
PIN 8 25-13-300-003-0000
WHITESIDE SUE A DONOHUE
TOT 49571
PIN 8 25-13-300-004-0000
LEONARD RICHARD J DEBRA E
TOT 58135
PIN 8 25-13-400-003-0000
HOLLENBECK PARK A TRUST
TOT 25088
PIN 8 25-13-400-004-0000
HOLLENBECK PARK A TRUST
TOT 24995
PIN 8 25-13-400-005-0000
HOLLENBECK PARK A TRUST
TOT 189400
PIN 8 25-13-400-006-0000
HOLLENBECK PARK A TRUST
TOT 14797
PIN 8 25-14-100-010-013-0000
BANAS ANDREW J JENNIFER L
TOT 76626
PIN 8 25-14-100-015-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 788
PIN 8 25-14-100-016-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1564
PIN 8 25-14-100-017-0000
JACKSON GERALD K BARBARA
TOT 28840
PIN 8 25-14-100-019-0000
NUGENT AARON M GLORIA K
TOT 113748
PIN 8 25-14-100-020-0000
JACKSON GERALD K BARBARA
TOT 14834
PIN 8 25-14-100-021-0000
JACKSON MATTHEW K
TOT 14297
PIN 8 25-14-200-004-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1729
PIN 8 25-14-200-005-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 3615
PIN 8 25-14-200-006-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1818
PIN 8 25-14-300-004-0000
ENGLER PROPERTIES LLC XVI
TOT 8440
PIN 8 25-14-300-009-0000
SUMMERS-VACHE FARMS LLC
TOT 40760
PIN 8 25-14-300-012-0000
BERGMAN RONALD
TOT 186171
PIN 8 25-14-300-016-0000
BERGMAN SEAN
TOT 1892
PIN 8 25-14-300-018-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1021
PIN 8 25-14-400-008-0000
MARSHALL MARGUERITE
TOT 31893
PIN 8 25-14-400-009-0000
MARSHALL JANICE K LVG TR
TOT 33079
PIN 8 25-14-400-011-0000
LEONARD RICHARD J DEBRA E
TOT 248238
PIN 8 25-14-400-013-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1255
PIN 8 25-15-100-010-0000
TICHY CAROL
TOT 26479
PIN 8 25-15-100-011-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND INVSTMNTS
TOT 3602
PIN 8 25-15-100-012-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND NVSTMNTS
TOT 13092
PIN 8 25-15-100-018-0000
SMITH JAMES A DAWN L
TOT 85219
PIN 8 25-15-100-024-0000
STOWE DAVID C MARY E
TOT 56489
PIN 8 25-15-100-026-0000
CROCKETT DAVID A
TOT 93778
PIN 8 25-15-100-029-0000
BRANDT WILLIAM
TOT 1944
PIN 8 25-15-100-031-0000
MEYER BERNARD W DENISE M
TOT 75758
PIN 8 25-15-100-032-0000
KILGORE GEORGE A
TOT 139446
PIN 8 25-15-100-036-0000
HENRY BROOKE
TOT 113356
PIN 8 25-15-100-038-0000
MELVIN ZACHARY
TOT 80930
PIN 8 25-15-100-039-0000
MEDLIN MICHAEL E BRENDA L
TOT 2410
PIN 8 25-15-200-004-0000
BRANDT FARMLAND NVSTMNTS
TOT 5438
PIN 8 25-15-200-005-0000
TICHY CAROL B
TOT 27617
PIN 8 25-15-200-006-0000
DONOHUE WHITESIDE SUE A
TOT 112573
PIN 8 25-15-200-008-0000
ARCHIBALD JULIANNE G TR
TOT 42005
PIN 8 25-15-200-010-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 587
PIN 8 25-15-300-006-0000
BURROUGHS RUSSELL CARA
TOT 4069
PIN 8 25-15-300-008-0000
SWANSON DOUGLAS E NANCY J
TOT 119851
PIN 8 25-15-300-014-0000
DONOHUE WHITESIDE SUE A
TOT 11986
PIN 8 25-15-300-015-0000
KRUCK QUENTIN R KATHLEEN
TOT 93649
PIN 8 25-15-300-016-0000
VANDERHYDEN JUSTIN JONNIE
TOT 45402
PIN 8 25-15-300-018-0000
BENNETT RANDAL A
TOT 46605
PIN 8 25-15-300-020-0000
TENNANT DEBRA L
TOT 64840
PIN 8 25-15-300-021-0000
CRISP REV FMLY TR
TOT 107220
PIN 8 25-15-400-001-0000
DONOHUE WHITESIDE SUE A
TOT 4579
PIN 8 25-15-400-009-0000
MASSULLO MARIO KATHY LVG
TOT 411915
PIN 8 25-15-400-010-0000
MASSULLO MARIO KATHY LVG
TOT 487
PIN 8 25-15-400-018-0000
HANNON MICHAEL KAREN A
TOT 3602
PIN 8 25-15-400-020-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1070
PIN 8 25-15-400-021-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 1456
PIN 8 25-15-400-022-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 259
PIN 8 25-15-401-004-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 150
PIN 8 25-15-401-005-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 150

PIN 8 25-15-402-002-0004
FOREST PRESERVE DIST
TOT 360
PIN 8 25-16-100-002-0000
NAUGHTON JAMES A
TOT 8119
PIN 8 25-16-100-005-0000
PILLING KAYANN LOUDON ROS
TOT 13399
PIN 8 25-16-100-009-0000
GOODWIN PHIL J CHRISTY
TOT 159143
PIN 8 25-16-100-011-000

WESLEY TOWNSHIP, continued

PIN 8 25-21-400-005-0000 RIGGS JIM D JOYCE M TOT 50105	PIN 8 25-22-400-006-0000 SOUTHALL LEXI TOT 88249
PIN 8 25-22-100-006-0000 STEPANEK BRIAN T TOT 96305	PIN 8 25-22-400-008-0000 BURNS JAMES A LAURA F TOT 44929
PIN 8 25-22-100-015-0000 HALL GREGORY MARISSA TOT 72677	PIN 8 25-22-400-010-0000 HERNANDEZ RAMIRO REYNA TOT 131841
PIN 8 25-22-100-022-0000 MONTI BRADLEY LISA TOT 4995	PIN 8 25-22-400-011-0000 GONZALEZ-GONZALEZ EDUARDO TOT 78807
PIN 8 25-22-100-023-0000 DANIELS LLC TOT 17112	PIN 8 25-22-400-012-0000 CASTILLO FRANK M JR LISA TOT 48942
PIN 8 25-22-100-024-0000 SHERRY MICHAEL REBECCA TOT 4628	PIN 8 25-22-400-013-0000 LUCA VICTOR TOT 203551
PIN 8 25-22-100-025-0000 BOLIN RYAN NICOLE TOT 13413	PIN 8 25-23-100-002-0000 LIVERY OF SEISIN III INC TOT 42950
PIN 8 25-22-200-002-0000 WEITENDORF ENTERPRISES IN TOT 47210	PIN 8 25-23-100-006-0000 FOX GARY TOT 15819
PIN 8 25-22-200-003-0000 WEITENDORF ENTERPRISES IN TOT 88860	PIN 8 25-23-100-007-0000 J2C2 FOX FARMS LLC TOT 17006
PIN 8 25-22-300-008-0000 BUTTERFIELD CHARLES TERES TOT 40199	PIN 8 25-23-200-001-0000 MARSHALL MARGUERITE TOT 36159
PIN 8 25-22-300-009-0000 OFT LAND LLC TOT 17815	PIN 8 25-23-200-002-0000 BUTTERFIELD CHARLES TERES TOT 47896
PIN 8 25-22-300-010-0000 STEPANEK BRIAN EVELYN TOT 5138	PIN 8 25-23-300-002-0000 LIVERY OF SEISIN III INC TOT 4507
PIN 8 25-22-400-001-0000 MARSHALL CHARLES SANDRA TOT 18676	PIN 8 25-23-300-011-0000 LIVERY OF SEISIN III INC TOT 22258

PIN 8 25-23-300-012-0000 MATTUIS SHAWN DONNA TOT 2215	PIN 8 25-24-100-002-0000 ROBERTSON NED PHILLIP TOT 42718
PIN 8 25-23-300-013-0000 CTLTC B7908145526 TOT 3380	PIN 8 25-24-100-003-0000 CAIRNS JOHN G REV TR TOT 48553
PIN 8 25-23-400-014-0000 LINDEMULDER BRANDON AMAND TOT 14031	PIN 8 25-24-200-001-0000 ROBERTSON NED PHILLIP TOT 54092
PIN 8 25-23-300-015-0000 MATTHUIS SHAWN DONNA TOT 7366	PIN 8 25-24-200-003-0000 JOHNSON CARL R MAE ANN TOT 43135
PIN 8 25-23-400-010-0000 LIVERY OF SEISIN III INC TOT 36440	PIN 8 25-24-200-004-0000 BERGERON CAROL A TOT 21982
PIN 8 25-23-400-013-0000 MATICHAK TED J BETH A TOT 77028	PIN 8 25-24-300-002-0000 BURNS JAMES A TOT 27719
PIN 8 25-23-400-014-0000 ROPP ROLAND TR TOT 96011	PIN 8 25-24-300-006-0000 BURNS JAMES TOT 3013
PIN 8 25-23-400-015-0000 LIVERY OF SEISIN III INC TOT 38822	PIN 8 25-24-300-007-0000 GO TO LC TOT 4717
PIN 8 25-23-400-016-0000 PROCTOR JERRY C TOT 99757	PIN 8 25-24-300-008-0000 BURNS CHERYL L CHRISTOPHE TOT 31170
PIN 8 25-23-400-018-0000 FLYNN JOHN S MARGARET A T TOT 53036	PIN 8 25-24-300-009-0000 STRAWSON WILLIAM A ANN M TOT 29583
PIN 8 25-23-400-019-0000 FLYNN JOHN S MARGARET A T TOT 149815	PIN 8 25-24-300-010-0000 STRAWSON WILLIAM A ANN M TOT 19257
PIN 8 25-23-400-020-0000 BROWNING NATHAN D TERESA TOT 124239	PIN 8 25-24-400-001-0000 JACKSON GERALD BARBARA TOT 78704
PIN 8 25-23-400-022-0000 SMITH JOHN C WENDY K TOT 64472	PIN 8 25-24-400-002-0000 STRAWSON RONALD L EILEEN TOT 71562

PIN 8 25-25-100-001-0000 GO TO LC TOT 30689	PIN 8 25-25-100-001-0000 STRAWSON RONALD L EILEEN TOT 15553
PIN 8 25-25-100-002-0000 STRAWSON RONALD L EILEEN TOT 42725	PIN 8 25-25-100-003-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M TOT 85131
PIN 8 25-25-100-004-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M TOT 29217	PIN 8 25-25-100-005-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M TOT 85101
PIN 8 25-25-100-006-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M TOT 98926	PIN 8 25-25-100-007-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M N TOT 33036
PIN 8 25-25-100-008-0000 ROBERTSON NED P DIANE M N TOT 31367	PIN 8 25-25-100-009-0000 BACKHOFF TYLER J ASHLEY J TOT 182584
PIN 8 25-25-100-010-0000 BUTTERFIELD CHARLES TERES TOT 55	PIN 8 25-25-100-011-0000 OFT LAND LLC TOT 66485

TOTAL PARCELS FOR 8 416

Published in the Free Press
Advocate, Aug. 12, 2025

2026 Wilmington Township assessment of real properties
PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE TO
WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP TAXPAYERS:
ASSESSED VALUES FOR 2026**
Valuation date (35 ILCS 200/9-95): January 1, 2026
Required level of assessment (35 ILCS 200/9-145): 33.33%
Median level of assessments for the County: 31.86%
Valuation based on sales from (35 ILCS 200/1-155): 2023, 2024, 2025

Publication is hereby made for equalized assessed valuations for real property in this County in accordance with 35 ILCS 200/12-10. As required by 35 ILCS 200/9-210 and 35 ILCS 200/10-115, the following equalization factors have been applied to bring the assessments to the statutorily required three-year median level of 33.33%:

Farm Land and Farm Improvements	1.0000
Residential:	1.0700
Commercial:	1.0000
Industrial:	1.0000
Farm Homesite and Dwelling:	1.0700

Pursuant to 35 ILCS 200/10-115, the Farm Land assessments for the 2026 assessment year will increase by 10% of the preceding year's median cropped soil productivity index as certified by the Illinois Department of Revenue with data provided by the Farmland Assessment Technical Advisory Board resulting in a \$56.71 per acre increase/decrease for each soil productivity index.

Questions about these valuations should be directed to:

Isaac Orr
120 N. Main St
PO BOX 397
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7255
Office Hours are: By Appointment Only

Property in this County, other than farmland and coal, is to be assessed at a 33.33% median level of assessment, based on the fair cash value of the property. You may check the accuracy of your assessment by dividing your assessment by the median level of assessment. The resulting value should equal the estimated fair cash value of your property. If the resulting value is greater than the estimated fair cash value of your property, you may be over-assessed. If the resulting value is less than the fair cash value of your property, you may be under-assessed. You may appeal your assessment to the Board of Review.

If you believe your property's fair cash value is incorrect or that the equalized assessed valuation is not uniform with other comparable properties in the same neighborhood, the following steps should be taken:

1. Contact your local Township assessor's office to review the assessment.
2. If not satisfied with the assessor review, taxpayers may file a complaint with the Will County Board of Review. For complaint forms, instructions, and the Rules and Procedures of the Board of Review, call (815) 740-4648 or visit www.willcountysoa.com for more information.
3. The final filing deadline for your township is generally 30 days from this publication date. The filing deadline is September 14, 2026. After this date, the Board of Review is prohibited by law from accepting assessment complaints for properties in this township.

Your property may be eligible for homestead exemptions, which can reduce your property's taxable assessment. For more information on homestead exemptions, call (815) 740-4648 or visit www.willcountysoa.com.

Your property tax bill will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Final Equalized Assessed Value} - \text{Exemptions} = \text{Taxable Assessment}$$
$$\text{Taxable Assessment} \times \text{Current Tax Rate} = \text{Total Tax Bill}$$

All equalized assessed valuations are subject to further equalization and revision by the Will County Board of Review as well as equalization by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

A complete list of assessments for this County for the current assessment year, except for those assessments that were changed solely by equalization as noted above, is as follows:

03 WILMINGTON	PIN 3 17-06-200-012-0000 J & J FAMILY TR TOT 64350
PIN 3 17-04-100-002-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-06-301-014-0000 LTC HTJ 178 TOT 6912
TOT 35077	PIN 3 17-06-302-001-1033 CAMBRUZZI RAY JOYCE TOT 115605
PIN 3 17-05-100-005-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-06-400-003-0000 SECTION VI INC TOT 671789
TOT 33616	PIN 3 17-06-400-039-0000 SHACK LLC TOT 148325
PIN 3 17-06-100-002-0000 SHACK LLC TOT 171806	PIN 3 17-07-100-025-0000 CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST TOT 24150
PIN 3 17-06-200-001-0000 GROUP K INC TOT 5440	PIN 3 17-07-100-026-0000 CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST TOT 619
PIN 3 17-06-200-007-0000 SHACK LLC TOT 11385	
PIN 3 17-06-200-008-0000 TASH SHARRELL E TOT 128982	

PIN 3 17-07-201-005-0000 BERTINO JOSEPH DONNA TR TOT 158124	PIN 3 17-18-400-001-0000 MURRELL HEIDEMARIE SAMUEL TOT 23581
PIN 3 17-08-200-050-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-18-400-002-0000 MURRELL HEIDEMARIE SAMUEL TOT 23649
TOT 19600	PIN 3 17-18-400-004-0000 JOHNSEN JOHN W TR 1993-1 TOT 44600
PIN 3 17-08-300-002-0000 CHECKMATE CONTRACTORS INC TOT 92473	PIN 3 17-19-100-002-0004 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 29230
PIN 3 17-08-400-005-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 14970	PIN 3 17-19-200-003-0000 BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY TOT 3865
PIN 3 17-08-400-006-0000 BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY TOT 47531	PIN 3 17-19-200-006-0000 GROHNE MARGARET T TR TOT 21883
PIN 3 17-08-400-032-0000 GAVICAN FARM LLC TOT 8933	PIN 3 17-19-200-007-0004 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 10977
PIN 3 17-08-400-033-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 287	PIN 3 17-19-200-008-0004 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 254
PIN 3 17-08-400-034-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 12533	PIN 3 17-19-300-003-0000 CECO EMPLOYEES REC ASSOC TOT 146304
PIN 3 17-08-400-035-0000 GAVICAN FARM LLC TOT 3900	PIN 3 17-19-300-005-0000 GROHNE DAVID F REV TR TOT 66029
PIN 3 17-09-100-002-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-19-400-002-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 63918
TOT 19692	PIN 3 17-19-400-009-0004 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 884
PIN 3 17-09-300-023-0000 GAVICAN FARM LLC TOT 83382	PIN 3 17-20-100-002-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 28078
PIN 3 17-09-300-024-0000 BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY TOT 35	PIN 3 17-20-100-003-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 36534
PIN 3 17-12-200-002-0000 KANTOWSKI-VARI ANTHONY D TOT 82256	PIN 3 17-20-200-003-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 14962
PIN 3 17-12-400-002-0000 PRAIRIE CREEK GRAIN CO IN TOT 645914	PIN 3 17-20-200-006-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 4109
PIN 3 17-12-400-003-0000 HASSEMAN STEPHEN A TOT 5762	PIN 3 17-20-300-002-0000 JOLIET JR COLLEGE FOUNDAT TOT 41259
PIN 3 17-12-400-008-0000 PRAIRIE CREEK GRAIN CO IN TOT 136015	PIN 3 17-20-300-003-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 55900
PIN 3 17-13-300-002-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-20-300-004-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 116103
TOT 2779	PIN 3 17-20-400-019-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 2514
PIN 3 17-14-300-002-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-21-200-007-0000 ADAR RPLI LLC TOT 14118
TOT 2779	PIN 3 17-21-200-009-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 122965
PIN 3 17-15-300-020-0000 READMAN MAE TRUST TOT 518632	PIN 3 17-21-200-010-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 2179
PIN 3 17-15-400-003-0004 I.D.N.R.	PIN 3 17-21-300-007-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 2138
TOT 12366	PIN 3 17-21-300-025-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 1062
PIN 3 17-16-103-003-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 335971	PIN 3 17-21-400-007-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 190870
PIN 3 17-16-200-013-0000 CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST TOT 31963	PIN 3 17-22-100-034-0000 READMAN MAE TRUST TOT 661674
PIN 3 17-16-200-018-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 4936	PIN 3 17-22-300-003-0000 GARTKE GENE TOT 63744
PIN 3 17-16-200-019-0020 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 484632	PIN 3 17-22-300-014-0000 RS DRAUDEN HOLDINGS LLC TOT 72977
PIN 3 17-16-200-020-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 5576	PIN 3 17-22-300-018-0000 GARTKE GENE TOT 2309
PIN 3 17-16-201-001-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 113179	PIN 3 17-22-300-019-0000 SKUPIEN FRANK VERONICA TOT 125543
PIN 3 17-16-202-001-0000 HPT PSC PROPERTIES LLC TOT 3578418	PIN 3 17-22-300-020-0000 GARTKE BARBARA LVG TR TOT 79527
PIN 3 17-16-300-006-0000 A-R RIDGEPORT III LLC TOT 97034	PIN 3 17-22-400-003-0000 WEITENDORF JOHN TOT 57802
PIN 3 17-17-100-008-0000 RAGAIN MICHAEL B TOT 6123	PIN 3 17-22-400-019-0000 SPANGLER THOMAS J REV GRN TOT 113058
PIN 3 17-17-100-009-0000 WCS LAND CO LLC TOT 5742	PIN 3 17-22-400-020-0000 SPANGLER THOMAS J REV GRN TOT 33778
PIN 3 17-17-100-010-0000 WALSH MICHAEL D JEAN A TOT 5922	PIN 3 17-22-400-021-0000 SPANGLER THOMAS J REV GRN TOT 32666
PIN 3 17-17-100-011-0000 ANZELC CHARLES JR JUNE TOT 6001	PIN 3 17-23-200-003-0004 I.D.N.R.
PIN 3 17-17-100-012-0000 BOGASH SETH DAVID TR TOT 121308	TOT 46813
PIN 3 17-17-100-013-0000 OVERTON JESSE W TOT 100363	PIN 3 17-23-300-038-0000 HURSH DOROTHY CONNOR TOT 61420
PIN 3 17-17-100-014-0000 KARNEZIS NAPOLEAN REV TR TOT 5982	PIN 3 17-23-300-009-0000 FRIDDLE JEFFREY TOT 160157
PIN 3 17-17-100-015-0000 WCS LAND CO LLC TOT 6074	PIN 3 17-23-307-014-0000 BOJOVIC SANDRA TOT 6877
PIN 3 17-17-100-018-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 98202	PIN 3 17-23-400-001-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 12089
PIN 3 17-17-100-020-0000 DMG 2018 FARM LLC TOT 11689	PIN 3 17-23-400-011-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 2310
PIN 3 17-17-100-021-0000 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 8883	PIN 3 17-23-400-012-0000 SUNDINE JUDITH A REV TR TOT 43551
PIN 3 17-17-200-006-0000 GROHNE DAVID F REV TRUST TOT 30702	PIN 3 17-23-400-013-0000 SUNDINE RAYMOND L JR TOT 94824
PIN 3 17-17-200-010-0000 BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY TOT 55	PIN 3 17-23-402-001-0000 SPANGLER THOMAS J REV GRN TOT 20016
PIN 3 17-17-200-019-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 165206	PIN 3 17-24-100-006-0004 I.D.N.R.
PIN 3 17-17-200-020-0000 SCOPE INVESTMENTS LLC TOT 41215	TOT 41137
PIN 3 17-17-300-003-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 45982	PIN 3 17-24-100-007-0004 I.D.N.R.
PIN 3 17-17-300-004-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 46701	TOT 12241
PIN 3 17-17-300-005-0000 DMG 2018 FARM LLC TOT 13134	PIN 3 17-24-100-008-0004 I.D.N.R.
PIN 3 17-17-400-007-0000 BNSF RAILWAY CO TOT 11670	TOT 1535
PIN 3 17-17-400-014-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 124301	PIN 3 17-24-200-002-0000 HARWOOD ENTERPRISES LLC TOT 4684
PIN 3 17-17-400-015-0000 ADAR RIDGEPORT IND PRTRNS TOT 212682	PIN 3 17-24-300-022-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 69651
PIN 3 17-18-100-007-0000 NORTON WILLIAM B TOT 87817	PIN 3 17-24-302-005-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 87309
PIN 3 17-18-200-004-0000 DMG 2018 FARM LLC TOT 81309	PIN 3 17-24-302-008-0000 FECHT MARK TOT 30258
PIN 3 17-18-200-005-0000 JOHNSEN JOHN W TR 1993-1 TOT 22635	PIN 3 17-24-315-004-0000 WALINSKI JAYSON TOT 221223
PIN 3 17-18-200-008-0000 JOHNSEN JOHN W TR 1993-1 TOT 53659	PIN 3 17-24-315-008-0000 WALINSKI JAYSON TOT 151332
PIN 3 17-18-300-006-0004 BOARD TRUSTEES UNIVERSITY TOT 6861	

PIN 3 17-24-400-003-0000 MMKR LLC TOT 274642	PIN 3 17-25-324-011-0000 APE PARTNERS LLC SER WILM TOT 87066
PIN 3 17-24-400-005-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 8170	PIN 3 17-25-324-012-0000 APE PARTNERS LLC SER WILM TOT 25352
PIN 3 17-24-400-010-0000 LOVES TRAVEL STOPS CNTRY TOT 2005000	PIN 3 17-25-324-013-0000 APE PARTNERS LLC SER WILM TOT 11662
PIN 3 17-25-104-009-0000 BASECAMP PROPERTIES LLC TOT 43988	PIN 3 17-25-324-014-0000 APE PARTNERS LLC SER WILM TOT 12216
PIN 3 17-25-104-014-0000 HOLMAN CAMERON A TOT 33901	PIN 3 17-25-324-015-0000 APE PARTNERS LLC SER WILM TOT 15568
PIN 3 17-25-104-017-0000 HOLMAN VAN A ALI J TOT 35032	PIN 3 17-25-324-016-0000 GRUNDY COUNTY NATL BANK TOT 28676
PIN 3 17-25-105-010-0000 LONGEST JERRICK TOT 30498	PIN 3 17-25-324-017-0000 GRUNDY COUNTY NATL BANK TOT 91598
PIN 3 17-25-107-011-0000 BASECAMP PROPERTIES LLC TOT 34116	PIN 3 17-25-324-018-0000 FIRST BANK OF MANHATTAN TOT 2020
PIN 3 17-25-107-012-0000 SCHULZ JUSTIN R TAYLOR J TOT 52418	PIN 3 17-25-325-007-0000 G R ZOUGANELIS LLC TOT 11886
PIN 3 17-25-107-013-0000 MUNICIPAL TRUST & SAVINGS TOT 43624	PIN 3 17-25-325-008-0000 G R ZOUGANELIS LLC TOT 11886
PIN 3 17-25-109-012-0000 902 WASHINGTON LLC TOT 42371	PIN 3 17-25-325-009-0000 G R ZOUGANELIS LLC TOT 11886
PIN 3 17-25-110-030-0000 511-525 KENVUE LLC TOT 192954	PIN 3 17-25-325-010-0000 G R ZOUGANELIS LLC TOT 22381
PIN 3 17-25-110-040-0000 511-525 KENVUE LLC TOT 12990	PIN 3 17-25-325-012-0000 FAVERO DOUGLAS J TOT 35018
PIN 3 17-25-113-004-0000 LINKE BETTYLOU TOT 72616	PIN 3 17-25-325-015-0000 SMITH GARRETT B REV TR TOT 73136
PIN 3 17-25-120-004-0000 KAITSCHUCK LARRY K TOT 535	PIN 3 17-25-325-017-0000 DODGE MICHAEL JENNIFER TOT 33648
PIN 3 17-25-200-011-0000 85 WILMINGTON LLC TOT 72190	PIN 3 17-25-325-018-0000 FISHER JEFFREY L MARY THE TOT 99530
PIN 3 17-25-200-017-0000 LOMBARDI NICHOLAS C DONNA TOT 37188	PIN 3 17-25-326-001-0000 RAYMOND WILLIAM J CHRISTA TOT 4775

WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP, continued

PIN 3 17-25-408-005-0000 S & S DEVELOPMENT LTD TOT 70968 PIN 3 17-25-408-007-0000 S & S DEVELOPMENT LTD TOT 52512 PIN 3 17-25-409-003-0000 VANDUYNE BRIAN J TOT 8560 PIN 3 17-25-410-001-0000 LOMBARDI NICHOLAS C TR TOT 128568 PIN 3 17-25-410-003-0000 VAN DUYN LEO CATHY TOT 3960 PIN 3 17-25-410-004-0000 LOMBARDI NICHOLAS C DONNA TOT 10332 PIN 3 17-25-416-012-0000 EVERS MATHEW D TANA JO TOT 54789 PIN 3 17-25-417-009-0000 BASECAMP PROPERTIES LLC TOT 39853 PIN 3 17-25-418-020-0000 COONEY BAILEE CATHERINE TOT 44583 PIN 3 17-25-425-003-0000 AAGESEN GEORGIA FMLY TR TOT 44310 PIN 3 17-25-427-001-0000 COLLINS JOHN TOT 90420 PIN 3 17-26-100-009-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 3558 PIN 3 17-26-100-015-0000 BISPING LLOYD TOT 7171 PIN 3 17-26-100-018-0000 ROHDER JIM TOT 3055 PIN 3 17-26-100-019-0000 KURZE KURT AMANDA M TOT 105747 PIN 3 17-26-100-020-0000 WOLCOTT SCOTT D STACEY A TOT 106551 PIN 3 17-26-100-021-0000 RODRIGUEZ LORENZO B MICHE TOT 166667 PIN 3 17-26-100-022-0000 ODONNELL BRIAN TOT 189065 PIN 3 17-26-100-023-0000 MILLER JOSEPH C JURGITA TOT 3659 PIN 3 17-26-100-025-0000 PIATEK GRZEGORZ OKTAWIA TOT 187469 PIN 3 17-26-100-026-0000 MAGANA JOSE TOT 2534 PIN 3 17-26-100-027-0000 MAGANA JOSE G TOT 1917 PIN 3 17-26-200-001-0000 SPANGLER THOMAS J REV GRN TOT 59541 PIN 3 17-26-202-021-0000 WEITENDORF ENTERPRISES IN TOT 15685 PIN 3 17-26-300-007-0000 BRANDON TR 2012-1 TOT 29293 PIN 3 17-26-300-008-0000 VAN DUYN KEITH S JULIE M TOT 2772	PIN 3 17-26-300-009-0000 BRANDON TERESA M TOT 45195 PIN 3 17-26-300-010-0000 BRANDON TR 2012-1 TOT 321 PIN 3 17-26-300-011-0000 BRANDON TR 2012-1 TOT 76 PIN 3 17-26-300-012-0000 VAN DUYN KEITH S JULIE M TOT 145841 PIN 3 17-26-300-023-0000 BRANDON TR 2012-1 TOT 5059 PIN 3 17-26-300-030-0000 COMMONWEALTH EDISON CO TOT 4116 PIN 3 17-26-300-032-0010 GORUP FRANK F TR TOT 2313 PIN 3 17-26-300-032-0020 GORUP FRANK F TR TOT 10164 PIN 3 17-26-300-036-0000 BRANDON DARRELL A TOT 639 PIN 3 17-26-300-038-0000 TRIBE JACOB TOT 880 PIN 3 17-26-400-003-0000 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Illinois communities say they're interested in new nuclear facilities

The state lifted its moratorium on new nuclear facilities, but development could still be decades away

BY MAGGIE DOUGHERTY
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois has opened the door to a new era of nuclear energy generation, but a question remains: Where would new nuclear power plants go?

It's an issue that Gov. JB Pritzker directed state agencies to explore this spring, when he signed his first executive order of the year and as the state seeks to stave off projected energy shortfalls that could spur higher energy prices and jeopardize reliability in coming years.

The goal of the order was to bring at least two gigawatts more energy online, enough to power up to two million homes or 20 large data centers.

Illinois took its first official step back into nuclear energy when Pritzker signed the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act this January, lifting a nearly four-decade ban on building new large-scale nuclear power plants.

What does Pritzker's nuclear energy executive order do?

That moratorium was signed in 1987 by then-Gov. James Thompson as the U.S. looked for solutions to safely store radioactive nuclear waste. The same year, the passage of the federal Nuclear Waste Policy Act had tasked the U.S. Department of Energy with evaluating a potential site to bury all the nation's nuclear waste deep underground.

Nevada's Yucca Mountain was designated as the most promising location, but the plan was not well-received by residents of the Silver State, which did not have any commercial nuclear reactors of its own. Fulfilling a campaign promise, then-President Barack Obama cut funding to the project in 2009 and the following year his administration halted its license review, effectively killing the project.

Illinois' ban on new nuclear plants was meant to last until the federal government implemented a solution for nuclear waste storage. Spent nuclear fuel is stored primarily onsite at the state's six power plants in water-filled pools and dry storage casks, an indefinite extension of what was originally supposed to be a short-term solution. Those six plants, including Constellation's Braidwood and Dresden plants, host 11 reactors that still generate over half of the electricity produced in the state.

But nearly 40 years later and no closer to an answer, lawmakers lifted the ban on new large-scale nuclear plants; the state had previously lifted a moratorium in 2023 on construction of small modular reactors generating less than 300 megawatts, though there are none commercially available in the U.S.

"The executive order was an important acknowledgement that nuclear energy must be part of the Illinois future," said Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, who has long been a proponent of lifting the moratorium. "The conversation has shifted from whether we need nuclear to how we get the projects built."

Nuclear communities

Now, as the state looks to kickstart nuclear development, it's beginning conversations about where new plants would go.

To that end, Pritzker directed state agencies to begin soliciting interest from communities open to hosting new nuclear facilities, as well as developers who may consider building and operating them.

Ultimately, leaders from nine communities around the state expressed interest in bringing new nuclear reactors to town. The letters are not a definitive declaration that any specific nuclear proposal has been accepted or received zoning approval, but rather the beginning of further conversations.

About half of Illinois' baseload power comes from nuclear generation, and Pritzker said at a quantum technology forum last week that the prevalence of the technology has made finding sites for potential development easier in Illinois.

"We don't have the problem where people are saying, 'Well, I don't know about nuclear ... we don't want that near where we live,'" he said. "Guess what? We have 11, you know, we have major power plants all across northern Illinois, and people are like, 'sure you can build another power plant nearby.'"

So, what communities are holding the door open to nuclear, and why?

Of the nine Illinois communities that responded, six are those that already host nuclear: the city of Marseilles and the counties of DeWitt, Grundy, Ogle, Rock Island and Will.

Two more are counties that have lived alongside large-scale power plants of another type: coal. Those are Peoria County, which saw its coal-fired power plant decommissioned in 2022, and Jasper County, which is set to see its coal plant decommissioned next year.

The final response came from the Illinois Nuclear Power Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which is seeking a microreactor for research and workforce training purposes. The energy capacity generated by the reactor UIUC seeks, a maximum of 45 megawatts, would not contribute directly to the state's energy utilization goals, but UIUC argued it would strengthen the state's position as a national nuclear leader.

Bringing new nuclear to all nine sites would not be necessary to meet Pritzker's two-gigawatt goal; that could likely be achieved by building just two new power plants. Constellation, the operator of all six of Illinois' existing plants, estimated it could add 500 megawatts, a quarter of the total goal, to the grid through upgrades on current sites alone.

Jobs, taxes, energy

In their response letters, many of the communities mentioned the potential for new high-paying jobs and long-term tax base stability as economic development priorities that drew them to pursuing nuclear.

All the responses touted existing utility-scale infrastructure, skilled workforce bases and residents' familiarity with living side-by-side with large-scale energy generation.

Officials from the counties ending coal production expressed pride in their regions' roles in energy production. Both counties proposed the site of their coal power plants as potential locations to house new nuclear, as they have appropriate zoning, space, water resources and existing transmission lines.

While ComEd customers in northern Illinois see energy prices set through auction by the grid administrator PJM, most Ameren Illinois customers in central and southern parts of the state rely on the

Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO.

Of Illinois' six nuclear plants and 11 reactors, only Clinton's single reactor is on the MISO grid.

"MISO has a need for that power just as much as PJM does, and I think it behooves all of Illinois to not just think of the power needs within the PJM-Chicagoland area, but to look at the power needs across the entire state," Sorrel told Capitol News Illinois. "All of us have needs to try and have affordable power for the buildings we work in and the homes we live in, and the more generation that can be brought online, whether it be solar, wind, nuclear, the better off we're going to be."

Time and money

DeWitt County's Clinton plant is often cited as a top candidate for further nuclear development, as the current site is already owned by Constellation. It is the only single-reactor plant in the state, whereas the rest have two.

Constellation has also already obtained an early site permit from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which oversees nuclear plants. The preapproval effectively reserves the land for future nuclear development for the next two decades, with options to renew further.

But even at a site with all the preapprovals lined up, it will take time to bring new nuclear energy online.

Jennifer Walling, CEO of the Illinois Environmental Council, an environmental advocacy group, estimated it would take 20 years to see a new large-scale nuclear plant materialize, or 10-15 years for small modular reactors that are still largely in development. And, she said, the cost could be high.

The last nuclear plant built in the U.S. was the Vogtle plant in Waynesboro, Georgia, which came online in 2023, seven years later than planned and \$17 billion over budget. Ratepayers were on the hook for over \$7.5 billion of that spending, raising residential energy bills by 10%.

To Walling, new nuclear doesn't meet the urgency of Illinois' energy needs, due to the financial and time constraints of building it. Three state agencies issued a report late last year that predicted shortfalls could hit northern Illinois by 2029 and the rest of the state by 2031 if the state doesn't implement policy changes.

"You're definitely looking at something that's going to take a while, and this is a short-term crisis that's happening," Walling said. "Any proposal to build new nuclear should really look deeply at how it's going to affect ratepayers. What is the real cost going to be?"

Meanwhile, environmental and consumer advocates say the opportunities for renewables and battery storage are outpacing what nuclear can offer on costs.

For example, a boom in solar development led Peoria County to approve 37 permits for solar farms from 2017 to 2024, bringing in new taxes to support local school districts. A single wind farm in Henry County brought over 200 jobs and was estimated to contribute over \$25 million in property taxes.

And those projects can be faster to deploy; solar and battery storage projects can be built in 12-18 months, and wind projects about two years, according to the Wall Street Journal. The delay in getting renewable energy online, however, has largely happened at the grid operator level.

"Beginning to mid of my tenure in the

General Assembly, people pretty much viewed renewables and environmentally sustainable energy as kind of an extra, kind of a nice thing, not a big business," Rep. Ann Williams, D-Chicago, said. "But now wind and solar and storage are big business. They're creating jobs. They're giving back to communities."

New tech, developer constraints

Many advocates of nuclear are hoping to see the emergence of small modular reactors, advanced reactors that are much smaller in scale than full-sized nuclear plants and can be pre-manufactured in factories and then shipped and installed on site. They generate around 300 megawatts of energy, nearly a third of traditional nuclear reactors.

Currently, there are only two small modular reactors, or SMRs, commercially operating in the world, one in Russia and one in China, though there are dozens more designs in development and four in advanced stages of construction, though none operating commercially for energy production in the U.S.

Consumer advocates aren't optimistic they'll materialize in time to be a silver bullet for Illinois.

Developers themselves are mixed on the issue. Of the three responses the state received, two were from companies proposing SMRs. One of those was NANO Nuclear Energy, which has entered formal agreements with the University of Illinois for the micro modular research reactor.

Another developer, Blue Energy Global Inc., submitted a letter outlining a proposal to bring 3-5 SMRs. The 24-page letter had over 170 redactions.

"As (SMRs) have yet to be deployed commercially in the U.S., considerable uncertainty exists about the construction cost, construction schedule, and operating costs of these new reactor technologies," Constellation wrote in its letter. "Cost uncertainty creates substantial challenges to engaging customers and investors in new project development."

Though Constellation's letter made no commitments to building or expanding nuclear in Illinois, the company said it considered its existing six sites to be the most promising options for further development. The company said it would be feasible to build at least six gigawatts of new energy at those sites, far surpassing Pritzker's two-gigawatt target.

The state agencies and partners tasked with reviewing the interest letters from developers and communities are mandated to issue a report with their findings and recommendations in August.

The pitch

Will County expressed interest in developing new utility-scale nuclear generation, touting existing energy infrastructure. The county has not selected a specific site, but said several sites generally near existing power generation facilities — including the Braidwood plant — may be good fits.

Grundy County expressed interest in hosting a new nuclear site, pointing to the region's past pro-nuclear stance and already established industrial zones which allow nuclear facilities without special-use permits. A specific address has not specified; other than in one of three heavy industrial corridors.

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