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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966

Back to School Wilmington School Dist. 209-U approves school safety plan

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

School is back in session. Students in Wilmington School District 209-U kicked off the 2022-2023 school year this morning (Wednesday).

Earlier this month, members of the Board of Education approved this year's school safety plan, in anticipation of those students making their return.

"[It's] the same plan that the board approved in March with regard to health and wellness and safety," Superintendent Dr. Matt Swick explained to the board during their regular monthly meeting on Aug. 8. "What you approved in March got us

through the school year with flying colors. We had the ability to take a step back, to be more protective if needed, and the ability to be in school without masks on our face for in person teaching and learning. As far as the state of Illinois is concerned, I can speak for myself but I'm ready for the pandemic to be far behind. But, it's still a reality when you're dealing with the state board of education and the Illinois Department of Public Health. People are still getting infected but thankfully many of those are mild infections now. And ultimately, what was working last spring is all that we're asking to have approved."

To that end, the district will continue to implement safety measures and take extra precautions when nec-

essary to avoid illnesses and absences.

This year's mitigation strategies include:

- Students and staff members should stay home if not feeling well, and should not return until symptoms, fever, vomiting, or diarrhea has resolved for 24 hours.

- Masking is optional. The CDC and IDPH recommend masking for five days after returning from quarantine as a positive case.

- Positive COVID cases will be treated utilizing CDC/IDPH guidance. That guidance includes those testing positive for COVID-19 or known close contacts who are symptomatic should quarantine for five calendar days from onset of symp-

toms, eligible to return on day six if there is improvement of symptoms and have been fever free for 24 hours.

- COVID testing is not required for students or staff, but testing can be used to return to school prior to the sixth day if an individual is determined to be a symptomatic close contact. At-home tests will be allowed.

Preliminary enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is just over 1,200 students.

As of last week, the number of students enrolled at District 209-U include 228 students at Bruning Elementary, 320 at Stevens Intermediate School, and 284 at Wilmington Middle School.

At Wilmington High School, this

year's classes include 106 freshmen, 92 sophomores, 111 juniors, and 95 students in the Class of 2023. Also at the high school, 76 students are enrolled at Wilco, and four students are enrolled at GAVC.

The district has also added some new technology for this year, including 10 additional classroom television sets, bringing total TV to 27 district wide. Over the summer the district also replaced teach laptops at the high school, 325 Chromebooks, and updated 10 cameras around the district.

The district also added nine new educators this year.

"We've got some great hires.

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2

Pedestrian struck by Amtrak in Wilmington



Photo by Eric Fisher

EMERGENCY CREWS WERE ON the scene at the Kankakee Street railroad crossing in Wilmington in the evening hours of Thursday, Aug. 11, following a call of a train that had stuck a pedestrian. According to the Will County Coroner's office, Wilmington resident Susan A. Austin, 63, was struck by the Amtrak and pronounced deceased on the scene. An autopsy was performed on Aug. 12, and Austin's family was notified prior to the office releasing her name on Tuesday morning. The autopsy revealed multiple injuries. The Wilmington Police Department and Amtrak are investigating the incident. The final cause and manner of death will be determined at a later date pending police, autopsy, and toxicological results.

City to create local law on reckless conduct

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington is expected to create a new local law to address behavior that could potentially put other people at risk of harm.

Police Chief Joe Mitchell reviewed the proposed ordinance with members of the City Council's Committee of the Whole on Aug. 9.

The issue came about after a local business that was shutting down left the premises with some live wires still exposed.

"What we're looking to do is enact a new ordinance that allows another tool in the toolbox, when something deserves some police action but doesn't arise to the action of a custodial arrest," Mitchell said. "We had a situation last week... where someone had left a business and left live wires exposed. That could be reck-

less conduct, God forbid someone had walked over and gotten electrocuted."

The ordinance will create a local prohibition on "reckless conduct." The intent is to address egregious behavior of anyone that places others at risk of bodily harm or causes bodily harm.

The proposal will give the WPD the ability to utilize the enforcement action in lieu of a full arrest and formal criminal charges.

Per the proposal, reckless conduct will take place when a person recklessly performs an act or acts that causes bodily harm to or endangers the safety of another person, or causes great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to another person.

Violations will result in fines of \$250 to \$750.

SEE CONDUCT, PAGE 2

Road condition map stepping off point

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington has put off regular road maintenance and repaving this year, waiting for prices on asphalt and construction costs to drop.

But, the city has made some strides when it comes to preparing for the future of cleaning up those local roads.

On Aug. 9, Public Works Director James Gretencord gave the members of the Committee of the Whole a first look at the city's new pavement condition map, which

was prepared for the council by Chamlin and Associates.

The map was developed using a Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) scale of one to 10, one being the worst road conditions, and 10 being the best.

The report covered nearly all roads in Wilmington, totaling 1,011,370 square yards of roadway.

Of those, nearly 40% of road surfaces were rated as a six, 13% as a five, and 16% as a four.

"This is going to be very helpful for us when we start planning capital improvement

projects going down the road," Gretencord said. "Roads in condition 3 or less... need a complete reconstruction. Fours need a structural repave, which means asphalt lift of a few inches or better. Five can be held off longer by sealing, and fives and sixes can be crack sealed to help prevent quick deterioration."

Examples of some of the roads that are a bit worse for the wear include:

- Water Street between Van Buren and Mill is rated as a two, with cracking, potholes, and old patches.
- Washington Street

between Route 53 and Jackson is a three, with potholes and cracking.

"The only road that is rated as a one is Kahler Road," Gretencord said. "That road has been graded [since the survey] and it's in better shape, but when they were out there it was in need of grading."

City leaders said the map means the city has a starting point when it comes to planning road repairs.

"Now we have a tool that

SEE ROADS, PAGE 2

WPD nabs suspect for stolen car, drug charges, deceptive practice

STAFF REPORT

An investigation into a vehicle reported stolen out of Missouri led to a slew of other charges for the driver.

On Aug. 6 around 7:30 a.m., officers from the Wilmington Police Department located a gray Hyundai Accent with Missouri plates parked and occupied by one male subject at the first entrance to the Des Plaines Fish and Wildlife area on New River Road. That Hyundai was the subject of a stolen vehicle report.

According to the police report, officers performed a felony traffic stop and ordered the male, later identified as Isaac Loveall from Oklahoma, from the vehicle. The driver complied and was detained without further incident.



LOVEALL

After confirming that the vehicle was reported stolen to

SEE ARREST, PAGE 2



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Conduct

Mitchell said the proposed ordinance would apply to any situation where someone's actions could potentially have devastating consequences.

"Other situations that may [be included] would be if somebody leaves a loaded firearm in an unlocked vehicle, although they are the victim of a burglary or a theft that

constitutes recklessness, leaving a weapon unlocked and unsecured in a vehicle," the chief said. "There are plenty of examples. You look at the totality of the circumstances. Does it warrant a criminal arrest or more an order to appear at an administrative hearing?"

The ordinance was expected to be approved this week.

Meanwhile, the chief reported the following activity for the month of July for the members of the Wilmington Police Department:

- Pedestrian/Suspicious Stops were conducted
- 133 Business Checks
- 9,299 Premise Checks
- 8 misdemeanor and/or warrant arrests
- 1 felony arrest
- 76 written traffic warnings
- 40 compliance tickets
- 6 parking tickets
- Officers answered 501 calls for service and wrote 71 related reports.
- 28 trucks were weighed based on a suspicion of being overweight and fined accordingly

Wrote a grant seeking funding to purchase a law enforcement drone for operations. Award decision will be made in October.

Mitchell also reported that the WPD is organizing a "Cops and Kids Back to School" Event for Aug. 28 at Wilmington High School. The Department has received more than \$2,300 in donations for purchasing school supplies for students and teachers, which will be distributed at the event.

School

Everyone knows the teacher shortage is real, so it's not as easy as it used to be to fill these spots, but I think we're fortunate and I think we've got some good people."

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Feeney told the board.

Members of the board and administration also lauded the buildings and grounds crews for their hard work getting the buildings ready for students, as well as completion of summer projects, including laying a new track at the high school.

The district also reminded parents that the federal program that allowed schools to offer free breakfast and lunch over the past two years is now expired.

Families who do not qualify for free or reduced lunch will have to pay for school meals. Students whose families are eligible for free or reduced price breakfast or lunch will be able to access meals at no cost or a discounted rate.

Roads

we can use when we're planning annually for our budget," city administrator Jeannine Smith said.

Mayor Ben Dietz added that the map, which objectively compares road to road conditions, will make the process of organizing and prioritizing road projects easier.

"It takes the favoritism out of my

road versus your road, and now it's very concrete evidence of what roads are terrible," Dietz said. "We're talking more about next year. Even if we wanted to do something this year, we couldn't get it done."

Other elected officials said they were happy to see the new system put into place, which will hopefully help eliminate some of the frustration that residents see when waiting to get their areas addressed.

"Over the years you'd have where one road was done in part of a neighborhood and another street wouldn't be," Alderman Jonathan Mietzner said. "We

had that in Winchester Green... where one street was redone but then the other two or three streets were deteriorating, water was pooling in the roads."

Gretnecord said the city will use the system as a guide for road repairs starting with next road construction season.

"Going forward, if we're planning to spend X amount of dollars, we may not be able to knock all the [roads rated as twos] out but maybe we can pave a couple of threes and half the twos, whatever it may be," Gretnecord added.

Arrest

On Aug. 10, an officer of the Wilmington police department obtained and subsequently executed a search warrant on the black sentry safe and the small locked digital safe.

Additional evidence of financial crimes was located within both safes including but not limited to numerous bank checks in the name of others, two additional credit cards in the name of other individuals, drivers licenses of others from Arkansas and Oklahoma, and a Texas Certificate of Title in the name of another person.

Loveall was charged with three counts of misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts of misdemeanor bank related fraud, and one felony count of possession of a stolen vehicle. He was booked into the Will County Adult Detention Facility on \$50,000 bond. His next court date is scheduled for Aug. 31.

Road work through Coal City, Diamond to begin

A 1.58 mile roadway resurfacing project is set to begin next week.

D Construction has been awarded a state bid for the milling and resurfacing of Route 113 [Division Street] from Lincoln Street in Coal City east to the Will County line—Will Road n Diamond.

The project estimated at \$1.2 million is being funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois program.

In addition to the resurfacing work, the project includes the installation of ADA ramps on sidewalks at various intersections.

The work is scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 22 and result in lane closures through Oct. 31.

Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim told village officials that he has reached out to the contractor on a work schedule that can be shared with school officials as the project gets underway at the start of a new school year.

Given increased traffic with the start of school, coupled with business and rail traffic, Harseim said there will be delays in traveling through the construction zone.

Kelly Olson presented with Chamber trophy



Chamber photo
THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently presented Kelly Olson (left) a dental assistant with Dr. Garrett B Smith's office, Wilmington, with the Employee of the Month trophy for August. Presenting the trophy to Olson and Dr. Smith is Chamber Ambassador Dee Yehling (right), owner of The Corner Tap. Olson is a dental assistant with 30 years of experience. She was recognized by more than one patient for her dedication, passion, hard work and friendliness. "She always wants the best for each and every one of our patients," praised Dr. Smith. "Kelly is very smart, has great dental skills and a huge heart."

Attorney Adler gives notice of Keck Estate

PUBLICATION NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF STEVEN W. KECK, DECEASED NO. 2022PR451

PUBLICATION NOTICE AND NOTICE OF CLAIMS
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Steven W. Keck. Letters of Office were issued on July 25, 2022 to Angela M. Lawson Skole, as Independent Representative. The attorney for the Independent Representative is DANIEL J. ADLER, 1616 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Notice is given to Steven W. Keck's heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in this proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on July 25, 2022, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act. You also have the right under 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the Will to probate.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed with the representative or with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson St., Joliet, IL or with the representative, or both, on or before the 3rd day of February, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred unless otherwise permitted by law. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney of record within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

ADLER LAW FIRM, P.C.
DANIEL J. ADLER #03123945
Attorney for Independent Executor
1616 W. Jefferson Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
(815) 744-5300
email: danadlerlaw@comcast.net

209U Lunch menu

- Mon., August 22:** bbq shredded chicken on bun, Baked Lays, celery sticks, Jell-O cup w/peaches and choice of milk
- Tues., August 23:** italian

- sub, Wild White Doritos, cherry tomatoes/Ranch, sidekick ice cup and choice of milk
 - Wed., August 24:** chicken bacon wrap, corn, mixed fruit cup and choice of milk
 - Thurs., August 25:** hot dog on bun, nachos and cheese, baby carrots, strawberries and choice of milk
 - Fri., August 26:** turkey bacon flat-out, broccoli florets/ranch, cheez-its, peach cup and choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

Attorney McGrath files Esarove estate notice

PUBLICATION NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of LEE ELDON ESAROVE, Deceased. Case No.: 22 PR 383

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of LEE ELDON ESAROVE, of Orland Park, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued June 21, 2022, to MARK L. ESAROVE, as Independent Executor whose address is 5034 Colonial Dr., Monee, IL 60449, whose attorney of record is TIMOTHY J. MCGRATH, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the February 3, 2022, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Mark L. Esarove,
Independent Executor of the Estate of Lee Eldon Esarove, Deceased.
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170
McGrath Law, P.C.
440 S. State Street
Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@mcgrathlaw.com

Coffee & Newspapers
One wakes you up
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Breakfast at school

- Mon., August 22:** Frosted Flakes, grahams, apple juice and choice of milk
 - Tues., August 23:** waffles, orange juice and choice of milk
 - Wed., August 24:** cinnamon pop tart, keebler grahams, grape juice and choice of milk
 - Thurs., August 25:** mini cinni, orange juice and choice of milk
 - Fri., August 26:** apple jacks, bunny grahams, grape juice and choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.

Adkins petitions for name change

PUBLICATION NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO CHANGE THE NAME OF Amber Rose Adkins TO Alexander Scott Adkins, Case No. 22 MR 183

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Amber Rose Adkins adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 26th day of September, 2022 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Amber Rose Adkins be changed to Alexander Scott Adkins.

Amber Rose Adkins
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 17 and 24, 2022.

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WORKERS COMPENSATION

Got milk? Wilmington sure did!

In talking to a friend recently, she told me that hay may be in short supply this year. The first pioneers suffered no such problem. The prairie grasses made the best hay, and could be had for the taking.



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

Cattle grew fat when let out on the prairie and milk cows were giving more and better milk than could be had on regular grass hay. And that was great, but without refrigeration milk could not be stored indefinitely. Let's look at the solution.

In 1860 one way to keep milk, was to condense it and put it in a can. Some in Wilmington thought that would be good for them. We read, "A Milk condensing establishment is about being started here, provided a sufficient quantity of milk can, at present, be secured to warrant the enterprise."

No manufactory could be of more lasting benefit to our farmers than this. Farmers, send in your offers to supply to Rev. Mr. De Wolf, and secure the establishment of a milk depot here. Milk may be sent in any time during the day, and no extra work by way of hurry or early rising is asked."

No milk depot was ever built. But by 1866 we know that a butter factory had opened in Wilmington. We read in the Joliet Signal, "Forty-five tons of butter - the Wilmington Independent says that 90,000 pounds of butter were shipped

from Wilmington for the week ending June the 9th. Our neighboring young city must be a slippery place these days."

In the section of the Centennial History of the State of Illinois concerning the dairy industry we read, "The modern dairy industry of northern Illinois had its beginning in the Civil War era.

Even during the fifties, Chicago had come more and more to draw upon outlying towns for its supply of milk; in 1859 Elgin, with about 20 export dairymen, shipped 227,047 gallons of milk to Chicago.

Eight years later though, with competition from Kane and neighboring counties, the shipment from Elgin had increased only to 196,197 gallons, yet its value had risen from nine to sixteen cents a gallon."

"Meantime, the dairy industry had become far more complex. A heavy butter trade developed; the little town of Wilmington in 1866, in addition to freight shipments sent out by express, 16,912 pounds of butter in a single week.

Butter sold at 25 (\$4.80 today) to 35 (\$6.70) cents a pound and was often in such demand as to leave unsupplied the local trade."

In that same year, we read in the Wilmington Advocate, "E. Allen, Esq., informs us that Mr. Teasdale, of St. Louis, and

himself, will establish a creamery or butter factory in this city during the coming spring.

It will be located on Main Street, between Lafayette and River streets, and consume an average amount of 2,500 lbs. of milk daily. Farmers will make a note of the fact." That would translate into 291 gallons of milk a day.

Unfortunately, that would only be the production of about 65 dairy cows, given what the milk production was at the time. Not exactly enough to keep the many farmers in the area busy.

A year later, in the spring of 1877, farmers got together and built a second co-operative creamery on Water Street at the end of Fulton. It was estimated to have a 10,000 lb. a day capacity.

The same year the Wright's of Wesley built one on their farm with a capacity of 12,000 lbs. per day. Florence, who's entire population was farmers, also decided to build one in Starr's Grove with a capacity of about 8,000 pounds per day.

By one year later, in the spring of 1878 it was estimated that the two creameries in Wilmington together, were handling 36,000 lbs. of milk on a daily basis. That would be 4,186 gallons of milk a day.

Of course, our sister city Braidwood was not to be out done, and in January of 1878, we read, "Active steps are being taken to start a creamery and cheese factory in Braidwood, there's millions in it, 20,000 pounds of milk per day being estimated as awaiting manu-



A POSTCARD SHOWING cows in a creek in Wilmington. One of them looks like a milk cow.

1878, Wilmington Advocate "Wilmington cheese appears to be in good demand. Allen's creamery recently had 800 June cheeses on sale with in Chicago, with orders not to sell for less than 6 cents (1.75) per pound.

An agent for the London (Eng.) market who wanted to fill a certain contract for 1,000, after scouring the market in vain for a suitable article, sent to this city for 200 made in July, with which to fill his contract.

Out of 2,400 cheeses recently sold by the above-named creamery but five were rejected in the market, and they even brought four cents (\$1.16) per pound."

Soon the by-product of the creameries, buttermilk, was in demand as well, "Our city creameries find in Chicago a ready market for all the buttermilk that can be spared." Even the whey was sold to chicken and pig farmers.

The dairy industry in this area had come into its own. It would stay a big business into the mid 20th century.

facture.

One prominent citizen and stockholder alone promising the milk from 40 fine milk cows."

So, if we add it all up, we have approximately 74,000 lbs of milk a day from just our local farmers. That translates into 8,605 gallons, or the production of 1,912 milk cows. This does not take into

account milk that stayed on the farm for home use.

For the most part the smaller creameries produced only butter, but the two creameries in Wilmington were known for their cheese. It was sort of like mild cheddar and went under the simple name of Wilmington cheese or Allen's cheese.

We read in the August 2,

Pet Parade Winner



LARGEST PET WINNER during the Skinner Animal Clinic bike and pet parade held during Catfish Days was Mick (right) a great pyrenees entered by Anna Morgan. Also walking with her in the parade was her mother Tabitha and Masy.

Wilmington Lions planning first ever Oz Fest next month

There's no place like home....

Save the date of Saturday Sept. 10 to join the Wilmington Lions Club for a family-fun event in downtown Wilmington.

Among the activities will be a breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon with Oz characters. Perhaps youngsters will want to dine with Dorothy, the Tin man, Scarecrow, or the cowardly Lion. Costumes welcomed throughout the day.

Auntie Em's Farmers Market will be held on North Water Street, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., to peruse the antiques, artisans and crafters offerings. Farm fresh produce including vegetable and harvest décor will be available for purchase.

The Oz cordially invites all ages to a costume contest starting at 2 p.m., so dust off those ruby slippers, Glenda's wand or Wicked Witches broom.

More community events for Sept. 10 will be announced.

Is your town giving you proper public notice?

Public notice has been an integral part of the Illinois Compiled Statutes since statehood because it serves several purposes.

Public notice requires governmental entities to tell when hearings are to be held, how money is being spent, what laws are being passed, what property is being sold.

Public notice provides a permanent record of actions that are taken and a legally defensible notification of actions about to be taken.

Public notice is the only way that exact wording can be provided by the enti-

ty's counsel.

Newspapers ensure government accountability by acting as an independent third-party.

Government officials must ensure that the actions of the government are transparent to the general public.

Publication of public notices in newspapers, independent third parties, helps confirm that the government is accountable to the electorate. When a newspaper publishes a notice, it verifies that the government has provided proper notice to the public.

Wilmington Library to host knitting, crochet club

The Wilmington Public Library District hosts a knitting and crochet club with instructor Helen Ziller on the first Tuesday of the month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.. All skill levels are welcome, and you can choose to work on your own project or join us for the featured one.

For a list of supplies needed to create the monthly featured project, feel free to check the library's website or call 815-476-2834.

Jones earns degree at Loras College

Loras College has announced the names of students who earned a bachelor's degree or master's degree in 2021-2022. Joshua Jones, of Wilmington, recieved a Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice degree.

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Read Time Was... by Sandy Vasko
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Aghast and defiled

DIAMOND—One hundred FBI agents raided President Trump's Mar-A-Lago home. They used a warrant where a subpoena would have been sufficient. FBI Director Ray proved this. The Department of Justice, the US Attorney General and Biden were all aware and supported this atrocity and threat to democracy in America. It was not a legal process, it was a political debacle. They removed over 15 boxes of documents and the contents of the president's safe without looking at it or reading them. How were they to know if what they took was on the warrant? Is this considered terrorism? What were they thinking? It is abundantly clear that the DOJ and FBI are no longer advocates of the rule of law but they are above the rule of law. God help us.

Take back our country

BRAIDWOOD—It's official: Following this unprecedented and political attack on Trump, the unfounded raid on his home. It is time to drain the swamp in DC. It is now that we the people must take back our country from the corrupt clown circus in Washington. They have made a mockery of this country and are doing their best to destroy it from within. \$5.00 gasoline, highest inflation in 40 years and rising at an alarming rate and now this ridiculous boondoggle, Inflation Reduction Act, which in reality is going to speed up inflation and create an even bigger deficit. This bill is a complete joke, and not a funny one. I really feel sorry for anyone that supports this regime because, with your heads buried in the sand, you apparently have no clue what is happening. I'm talking to you, Democrats. Wake up people before it's too late. And now they are pushing the ridiculous notion that Monkey pox virus is a danger to all of us and our children. This is absolutely absurd. And if you are buying this garbage, then you are a complete fool. I urge everyone, no matter what your political preference, to vote this November and Purge this state of power hungry Democrats and purge this nation of this "Donkey Pox" the real pandemic that is killing this great country.

More U.S. debt

WILMINGTON—The \$740 billion Inflation Reduction Bill passed the Senate with a 50-50 vote. Vice President Harris signed the bill 51-50. That's her 25th time to vote on massive spending bills for the Democrats. Our grandchildren will definitely be in debt and owned by China. Wait until you get your taxes you'll maybe figure out how politics works. Most in that bill will not go into effect for 4 years. The bill will not lower inflation just get use to high prices. 87,000 new IRS agents will be hired to make sure you pay your taxes. It's all about encouraging you to vote Democrat in the November election. Be sure to vote! \$360 billion goes to climate spending.

Backwards Biden

DIAMOND—Biden reverses inflation. Biden has reversed everything about Trump. Trump inflation: 1.9%. Biden inflation: 9.1%. Sleepy Joe did it again.

Raiding Democracy

DIAMOND—Raids are now a first resort in America. Raids are a last resort in a Democracy.

Don't be a loser

WILMINGTON—The Department of Justice declares 'nobody above the law' but Trump's father commanded 'don't be a loser'. It explains Trump's lifelong lawbreaking which Trump hoped would make him the winner of fame and fortune but it only dragged him down into the belly of the evil beast. In fact, the very reason Trump is running for the 2024 presidency is to seek safe haven from the law but it might be too late. During his deposition in New York last week Trump pleaded the Fifth throughout the entire proceeding which years ago he never would have done, criticizing the Fifth as a signal of guilt. Yes, Trump's corruption has brought him down into the abyss. Ralph D.

All time low

BRAIDWOOD—The Democrat Party has reached an all time low patriotically. Guess who are the two of the biggest contributors to the Trump candidates running for office in the primaries. Gov. J.B. Pritzker has spent \$30 million to get State Senator Darren Bailey to be the Republican nominee. Political ads are being paid for by J.B. while Speaker Nancy Pelosi had worked hard to put two Colorado Republican candidates to win and they did. Democrat Zuckerberg spent millions on last election. Nice if it would all backfire.

Just 18 months

WILMINGTON—President Biden inherited a growing economy primed to rear back from the pandemic and in a year and a half he has dragged America back to the 1970s. The U.S. is in a recession. Everyone can see this except President Biden and the Democrats. Inflation costs for gas and groceries etc. are eating into wages and consumer spending is slopping.

The great deception

DIAMOND—The Great Deception about carbon dioxide with it's miraculous power to boost plant growth. No matter what level it rises to, it instantly accelerates a greener world, life in the oceans and supply of oxygen. The human world needs more food and CO2 provides it. Global Warming is a hoax." Peter Clark.

Afraid of Trump

SHADOW LAKES. My name is Dan Hill and I'm watching the news about how the FBI raided Mar-A-Lago Trump's home in Florida, the very first time it has ever been done in the United States of America. What they're looking for, God only knows. But they are trying to find any and everything they can to prevent him from re-running for president because they are afraid of all Democrats are and that includes you idiots in my community that he will bring America back to the Constitution of United States of America. But what about Hillary's 11,000 e-mails. Why didn't they ever raid her house? Hillary Clinton is a communist. The same thing with the Democrats who are looking for dictatorship in our government.

The misinformed

SHADOW LAKES—Watching Newsmax and Greta Van Susstereen says what will spark Armageddon. Well if she had read the Bible, especially Revelations, she would know and so will everyone else on this earth. Dan Hill

Clock is ticking

SHADOW LAKES—Wow! Congress passed "The Inflation Reduction Act. "Believe me when I say you will not see inflation reduction at all, if you see anything it will be the other way. I really get a chuckle when Congress says they will lower the U.S. debt. Go to the U.S. Debt Clock Real Time; these numbers are not spinning in a downward direction. They love to print and spend money. You will never see the U.S. Debt go down in your lifetime nor your son, or your grandson. Always, Margot Lane.

Change is inevitable

DIAMOND—Reply to "Part of our history" in the Soundoff Aug. 3. Hello history teacher, you called my articles in Soundoff as rants. Have you been reading out loud again? What I do write are neither right wing nor garbage, they are true and verifiable in at least two places. I prefer to get my news from NEWSMAX Magazine and the Epic Times newspaper. I'm primarily a visual learner and like to revisit things in print. I would never insult your intelligence you did a remarkable job of that yourself. As a person who earned a Master's degree in reading and supervision plus 20 additional hours in graduate learning, I am shocked and surprised that a history teacher of your stature would search for information concerning critical race theory in history books when it is clearly a politically racially dividing push in current events. It is not a phony issue and is extremely anti-American. I too started my day with the pledge of Allegiance. I am a retired teacher and don't make judgments about "teachers" in general. Your broad criticism about Republicans are neither true, verifiable or fair. For one teacher to criticize another as you did me, someone you don't know at all. I taught 4th, 5th and 6th grade and classroom discussions they were open and my only intrusion into the discussion was my only question "why do you think so?" At first they were quizzical. As they grew accustomed to my question they were ready to tell me why in discussions they led. I love to hear "why do you think so?" I believe they will use this into adulthood. They learned critical thinking skills and used them. Any critical thinking person understands you cannot change history - event follows event. The things we wish hadn't happened and the things we are proud and thankful that did. I am proud and grateful for Thomas Jefferson who loved his creator, his country and his freed slave Sally Hemings. No, history teacher, I do not think climate change is because of anything you or I caused. Change is inevitable. Nothing you or I do can stop it anymore than you can stop the earth from rotating on its axes or revolving around the sun. The sun has always controlled our climate and will continue to do so. This too is a verifiable fact. Sharon

Monkey pox rising

WILMINGTON—The first case of monkey pox surfaced in May. Cases of the once rare disease have steadily risen. California, New York and Chicago have declared monkey pox a health emergency with 7,000 cases reported among gay and bisexual men who contacted the illness through close contact. It can also pass through shared bedding, towels and clothing. Pus-filled lesions can last for weeks. Once again the health experts with poor communications were wary of labeling monkey pox a disease as it spreads "like wildfire." Have we not been down this road with HIV Aids epidemic. Both diseases started in Africa. Illegals from Africa have been crossing our southern borders unvaccinated. Thanks Joe!

Con artist congressmen

SHADOW LAKES—We now have new taxes that are supposed to be used to correct the climate change. But all that money is only going to go into the pockets of the politicians. And all the politicians that say that they can solve any type of climate problems are some of the biggest con artist that have ever lived. Since they don't even obey the same rules that they demand for the American citizens. Climate change is being used to control finances of the American citizens and take away the American citizens right to live in peace and prosperity. The leaders in Washington, D.C. took an oath to the U.S.A. that they have revoked. Which places our leaders in Congress and White House into the category of Communist Dictator. How many public servants purchase a personal electric vehicle? The tax payers will pay for their electric vehicles. Legalized theft by traitors to the U.S.A.

They're mental

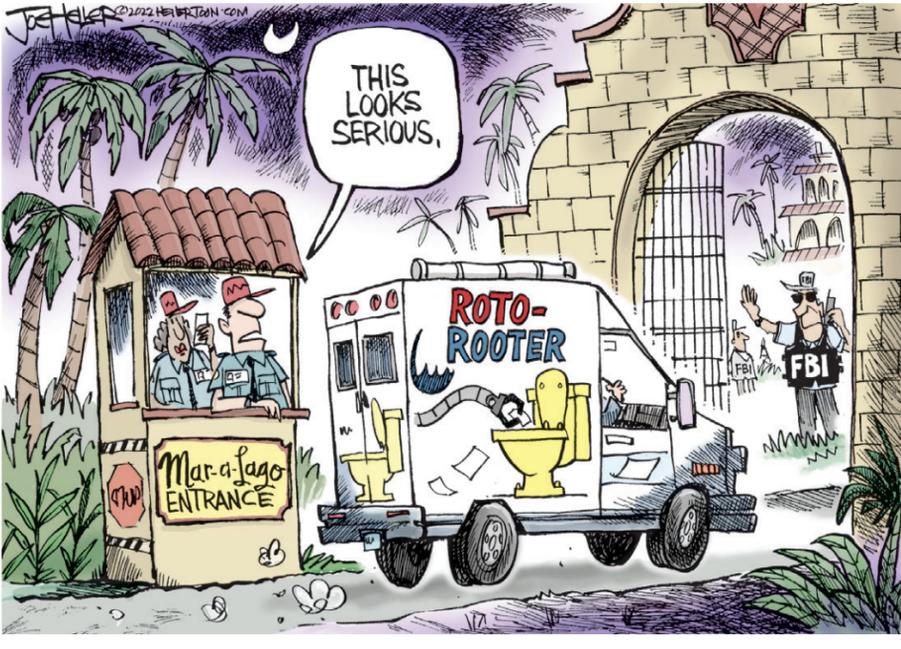
WILMINGTON— I see Joe Biden was on the news today saying that he had one thing to say and that was zero. Zero inflation for the month of July. O.K., inflation went from 9.1 down to 8.5 that's not zero inflation because it didn't go up. But 8.5 % is still a 40 year high. This guy and his Democrats are mental along with the ones in Shadow Lakes that are mental. I don't know what their problem is but I hope they pay monetarily.

It's a Swamp

Remember Aug. 8, 2022 when our FBI, on orders from the Department of Justice spent 9 1/2 hours searching and smashing a safe at ex President Trumps Mar-A-Lago mansion in Florida. Strictly political as we become a "banana republic" when that behavior goes on with our FBI and Department of Justice. Outrageous! What about doing nothing over Hillary and Hunter Biden? It's a Swamp!

Unicorns, candy canes and...

COAL CITY—This is directed toward the committee that wants to form a park district and a building to house it. In what world or reality are they living in? Are they seeing unicorns, candy canes and rainbows where in real life townspeople are struggling with inflation, post-pandemic health and economic woes, the threat of a long term recession along with a poorly run state ranked at the bottom, that has



seen people and corporations leave in record numbers. How naive and gullible do they think the people of Coal City are? There are numerous reasons why this is a bad idea. Let me expand on some of the obvious reasons why this idea should not be brought to fruition. Mainly, the financial climate right now and immediate future will not be favorable for families and businesses as they will have more important costs, issues to take care of. Costs cited in flyer may seem like a minuscule amount now but with inflation, imminent recession and an unstable financial climate statewide make this a fool's venture. Don't think for a minute that the costs quoted in the article are real. We all know that as the years go by everything will go up. It never stays as originally presented. As we have seen and are now dealing with, a state that taxes and spends beyond its means. Another fact that often goes unmentioned is that we are now paying the tornado tax and will for the next several years if not longer as usually these taxes get written into future budgets because officials think that once debt is paid off, they assume the people forgot about it and try to justify keeping it instead of erasing it. Also, few, if anyone realizes that this whole debt is the fault of a president from the state of Illinois who refused to issue a disaster declaration not once, not twice, but three times if not more to aid people from his own state. Need a hint? The schools already have the facilities needed for what these people are calling for and all it would need is cooperation between city and schools to work together and come to a sane, logical and cooperative agreement. Again, I don't know what world these people are living in but I do know that my world and reality is not filled with unicorns, candy canes and rainbows. If they want that, Disney World can satisfy that urge. This is a catastrophe waiting to happen and the people of Coal City can't let this happen. Now for a more positive and sensible idea, one mentioned in a July 6 Soundoff, how there is no new businesses on Broadway after recent restorations that were supposed to attract more businesses. How's that working out? Another foolish venture that failed to attain its intended purpose. Why not put the effort (and front money) for a park district into trying to annex Diamond into Coal City and get closer to the interstate? Looks to me like Diamond hasn't got a clue as to how to capitalize on its proximity to the highway and get businesses there. That land has been vacant for years and with the right leadership and expertise it could be a gold mine for the town. The main idea I'm trying to get across is to generate revenue, not disperse money that the town (public) doesn't have. It's a no brainer. No to a park district.

A giant mistake

WILMINGTON—To the owner of the Launching Pad: Maybe you should think about changing your sign out front to closed. It would be helpful to all the travelers who pull up and are deceived when you are advertising food and hours when you are never open. And the car you have out in front of the giant, why don't you move it? You say it's to protect the kids and other people from getting too close to the road. Well, guess what, it does not. We've seen many people getting close to the road now because your car is in the way. I think you are doing this because your business failed and you are taking it out on other people. So being a resident of Wilmington all my life I feel really bad for the out of town travelers who cannot enjoy a nice stop to eat and take pictures. Just as I feel bad to the people who helped donate their time and money and got nothing in return. And to the ones who worked for you and never got paid. The pad was a great place to work and visit years ago. We were open seven days a week and were always very busy. And yes, I know this for a fact because I did, like many others, work there. And now on a last post you made you said you were going to turn it into a museum? Well, I know I wouldn't support that and I doubt the rest of Wilmington would either. But then again, I've never gone into your business the little bit you were open anyway. When people asked me about the place I would tell them don't know, don't step foot in that place. And now have to deal with people asking all the time what's the deal with the Launching Pad? Why isn't it open? Why is that car in front of the giant? When are they going to open again? Maybe we should just send them to your house so they can ask you personally.

After the wrong people

SHADOW LAKES—Isn't it strange how the government can hire 87, 000 more tax collectors, but we cannot hire one border security guard? Always, Margot Lane

Unprecedented

BRAIDWOOD—The MAGA folks have the unmitigated gall to say how 'unprecedented' was the Mar-a-Lago raid. Where were they during the Trump presidency when Trump violated our democratic institutions to an 'unpre-

cedented' extent, putting us all in utter disbelief about Trump's disrespect to our nation? Trump's cronies pretend to clutch their pearls when they call to 'defund' the FBI and law enforcement in general which have suddenly been abandoned by the right-wingers. As Trump violates the rule of law and endangers national security, the GOP becomes an army of sycophants and yes-men who kiss the feet of a tyrant. The party of Lincoln appears to be on life support or perhaps already cold stone dead. R. K.

Pillars of the DNC

I give you the four legs of the Democratic platform. One smashed Blackberry, one fake FISA document paid for by the Blackberry smasher, one added CIC and one presidential son who sits on a China company when he's not doing drugs or covorting with prostitutes. Very impressive.

Price gouging

WILMINGTON—Will someone tell the Wilmington oil barons that their gas is 50-60 cents a gallon higher than all of Kankakee area? Gas prices are below \$4/gallon in many places in our immediate area.

Trump is pleased

BRAIDWOOD—The Mar-a-Lago raid is exactly what Trump wanted. It gave Trump an excuse to go running to his gang of militia hoodlums who are now threatening civil war by announcing that they are locked and loaded. Considering that 20 months ago authorities requested the stolen documents, they have been patient with Trump. Authorities could have sent a subpoena to Trump but he would have snorted in contempt so why waste the paper? After exhausting all other means of enforcement, the final recourse was to stage a surprise raid at his home. And because Trump is now treated like a martyr and enjoys money from publicity rolling in, Trump asks the FBI, what took you so long? Meanwhile the rest of the country is torn apart. Bobby

Weaponizing poverty

WILMINGTON—One thing I know about Jesus is he was concerned about the poorest among us. Go re-re-read Matthew and the sermon on the mount. Now contrast that with the actions of Governor Abbot of Texas using the poor for political feeder and weaponizing poverty. The irony is he is saving these immigrants souls because everyone knows that Texas is where Satan lives. Penny Lane

Success in Congress

COAL CITY—When we learned of the raid on Mar-a-Lago, we saw once again that Trump's crimes never seem to end. But fortunately, great legislation such as the Infrastructure Bill passed last fall bringing union jobs, the Gun Safety bill passed two months ago, the CHIPS bill for technological competition with China, the Burn Pit bill for veterans passed recently and the Inflation Reduction Act fighting inflation, drug costs and including the biggest climate bill in history have all passed in the past month. These bills will benefit all Americans but were passed with little or no help from Congressional Republicans. Meanwhile Trump and his angry mob are committing violence against innocent Americans and our very democracy is hanging by a thread due to political schemes by MAGA Republicans. Kurt K.

Better enforcement

SHADOW LAKES—I see people living in Coal City are a little upset with pathetic-looking properties. Well, welcome to the club. Here in Shadow Lakes, we have people that live here full time and those that live here part-time. That does not seem to make the difference. I drive by homes of people that live here full time, and these places look like dumps. We have yards with three-foot weeds and grass that you could get lost in. We have homes that could use repair and cars with outdated stickers on their plates. We too have ordinances in our by-laws. Is anything said or done? No. I guess the people that own these places have the attitude that it is mine and I can do what I want. Then comes the day when you would like to sell your home. What do you think happens when a would-be buyer looks next door? Always, Margot Lane

The nightmare continues

DIAMOND—Former President Trump has inflicted nothing less than a nightmare upon our nation for the past six years. His chaotic presidency was fraught with scandal on a daily basis and cruelty was the point to his policies as his favoritism divided us into a toxic state of political war ultimately resulting in bloodshed. Now we discover that his adolescent and criminal act of stealing documents was never resolved. Furthermore, Trump has the umbrage to be angry about the raid on Mar-a-Lago when he's lucky he's not detained and

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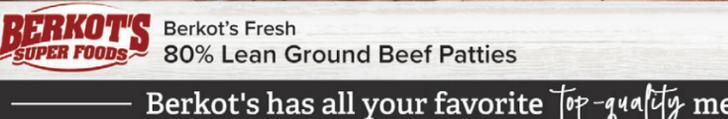


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Try the Dr. Funk cocktail to cure your end of the summer blues

Are you in a "funk"? Is it the back-to-school blues? Did your favorite baseball team let you down this summer? Perhaps you are in a funk that is general in nature. This sounds like a job for the good doctor. Dr. Funk, that is.

I have been aware of the Dr. Funk for many years, but had not tried one until recently. Dr. Funk is a bit citrus, a little sweet, cut with a nice kick of Jamaican rum and absinthe with a splash of soda for sparkle.

I absolutely loved this drink the first time that I tried it. I added the drink to my regular cocktail rotation, and then I just had to know: Is there a real Dr. Funk?

Come to find out, there is a real Dr. Funk. Bernard Funk was a German physician living in early 20th century Samoa. He was known throughout the South Seas not as a doctor, but as an excellent mixologist. Sometimes the good doctor would blend his two specialties when treating patients. One such patient was author Frederick O'Brien.

O'Brien was suffering from heat exhaustion when Dr. Funk prescribed what was basically a sparkling lemonade with absinthe, and probably a good measure of absinthe.

Rum was added to the recipe once the tiki arms race between Donn Beach and Trader Vic began in the late 1930s, but the character of the drink was undeniably South Pacific.

There is no telling how many "prescriptions" of this variety came from the office of Dr. Funk, but it became a staple of bar menus from Samoa to Tahiti long before the locals in Los Angeles got ahold of it.

Very little is known about Bernard Funk other than he was German, a doctor, and a mixologist. Occasionally you may find the drink listed online and in bars as "Dr. Funk of Tahiti".

I have no idea what the man looked like, but the Dr. Funk is almost always served in a "Fu Manchu" style tiki mug. A double rocks glass will accommodate the drink if the aforementioned Fu Manchu tiki mug is unavailable.

As I mentioned earlier, I am a fan of this drink. In the tiki world there is a laundry list of drinks that are kind of like a Mai Tai, or a Swizzle of some type, but the Dr. Funk stands alone.

The Dr. Funk is a seven-ingredient cocktail, and you

will be handsomely rewarded with flavor if you take the time to track down the proper ingredients.

By proportion, rum is the main ingredient in the Dr. Funk. Use a dark rum, preferably a dark Jamaican or demerara. Myer's, El Dorado 12, Coruba, and Appleton Estate are all excellent choices for the Dr. Funk.

Always use fresh citrus juice in your cocktails, pick up a lemon/lime squeezer for your home bar if you do not already have one.

Do your best to track down a true grenadine as opposed to Rose's grenadine which is essentially a red colored sugar syrup. A true grenadine from Sonoma Syrup, B.G. Reynolds, or Small Hand Foods will have the strong notes of pomegranate needed to make Dr. Funk proud.

The availability of



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

absinthe will vary from region to region. I find Pernod to be the best for cocktail applications. Herbsaint carries the anise flavor when used as a mixer even though it is not technically absinthe.

The distribution of absinthe is improving, but you may be limited to one or two options at your local store.

Use the darker demerara simple syrup as opposed a syrup made with cane sugar. Demerara syrup is made the just as any other simple syrup would be made: dissolve one cup of sugar into one cup of warm water and allow to cool.

I prefer a "rich" demerara syrup in tiki drinks, using a ratio of 1.5:1 or 2:1 sugar to water.

Combine all ingredients in your shaker, along with a healthy measure of crushed ice. Give it a good shake of at least 10-15 seconds before

pouring the contents into the glass. Add the club soda or seltzer to the drink when it hits the glass, do not shake soda, club or otherwise.

This is a great drink if you find yourself in a cocktail rut, in addition to the unique flavor notes it has quite the intriguing nose.

For more on Bernard Funk read Frederick O'Brien's 1920 bestseller White Shadows in the South Seas.

The Dr. Funk is built in a shaker and served over ice in your favorite tiki mug or double rocks glass.

Combine in shaker:
1/2 oz. fresh lemon juice
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
1/4 oz. grenadine
1/2 oz. demerara syrup
1/4 oz. absinthe (Pernod)
2 1/4 oz. dark Jamaican rum

Shake with crushed ice and pour unstrained into tiki mug or double rocks glass

Top with 1 oz. club soda
Garnish with pineapple fronds

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
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Information and registration forms about our program can be picked up at the church office or can be found on the church website www.fumcwillm.org. Contact Mrs. Paula through the church office at 815-476-5474.

UPCOMING EVENT

Soundoff, continued from page 4

tried for crimes immediately. Others before him, CIA Director, David Petraeus, and National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, have been convicted and punished for similar but lesser actions. Trump deserves prosecution and hopefully never to hold public office again.

Not a raid

WILMINGTON—The Right keeps calling what happened in Mar-A-Largo a raid. The truth is the FBI was serving and executing a legal search warrant. It's not like they broke down the door with guns drawn and started shooting. That's what happened to Breonna Taylor.

Rolling along

BRAIDWOOD—Why do semis continually go down Division Street in Braidwood without getting tickets? Seems to me that if they cannot control semis on a road that has been a non-truck route for years, they will not be able to control the semis from the new trucking company on Rt. 129. Get a mitt and get in the game Braidwood Police Department. Do your jobs.

A coincidence by three

WILMINGTON—We appreciate what Congress accomplished recently despite the fact that Republicans were AWOL, MIA and obstructing the work of the legislative chambers. The bills passed by Democrats recently are for the benefit of the average person instead of for corporations and for the 1% super-rich as was the case four years ago. In fact, we've discovered that three departments in the Trump administration were coincidentally involved in missing communications on and around Jan. 6. Was it incompetence or malice? We long have known that Republicans are willing to destroy the futures of everyday people through willful negligence in Congress, but would they also destroy the very structure of our national security?

Theo A.

A better name

WILMINGTON—I'm sick of the Proud Boys, especially that name. Let's call them what they really are, proud angry white men.

What's worse

WILMINGTON—What's worse for a trans or gay kid living in Florida? Answer: Having Republican parents.

She won't survive

WILMINGTON—Republican Liz Cheney, part of the January 6 Select Committee, will write a book hoping to make lots of money then she'll run for president. Remember, you read it in the Free Press Sound-off. It's nothing but politics folks. She will lose her seat in Congress. The voters aren't stupid. She doesn't care.

Adding more taxes

WILMINGTON—Credit card debt has skyrocketed and so has interest on their debt. Democrats are in denial we're in a recession as they add more taxes to the middle class.

A populist

WILMINGTON—For seven years since President Trump won the election the Washington DC Swamp has been out to get him. He's neither Democrat nor Republican. He is a populist. As a businessman he made excellent choices. The swamp rests and feeds on the progressive assumption that the mass of citizens is incapable of self government. He has awakened millions.

Red Riding Hood

DIAMOND—Red: Grandfather, why are you wearing sheep's clothing? Joe: This is what all good sheep wear, Dear Red. Red: But Grandfather, why do you need 87,000 new agents? Joe: The better to audit you, Dear Red. Red: But Grandfather, is Uncle Hunter getting a new computer? Joe: I've told you many times don't question me about Uncle Hunter's activities.

Sharon

Biden's Utopia

DIAMOND—Freedom of speech for me...but not for thee. Freedom to assemble for me...but not for thee. Freedom to petition the government for me...but not for thee. Freedom to worship for me...but not for thee. Freedom to keep and bear arms for me...but not for thee. Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure for me...but not for thee. Equal justice under the law for me...but not for thee. Registered voter

Desperate Democrats

DIAMOND—Biden has reversed everything about Trump. Trump inflation 1.9%, Biden inflation 9.1%. Sleepy Joe did it again. Also, raids are now a first resort in America and a last resort in a Democratic Republic.

Keep studying

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the article in the Aug. 10 Sound-off column called "Fact based history." Obviously because someone has a master's degree in history and taught doesn't quite understand all books given in grade and high school and college are screened before they are offered. One of the things that I learned is to know more of history you have to go outside the classroom and the books issued to you and read many other books. The Civil War did not start over slavery. It started over the taxation of the south bringing their cotton up to the north because the south did not have the manufacturing for the cotton that the north did. So maybe you master's degree people need to do a little bit more studying. Dan Hill

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUG. 19 & 20

2022 ELWOOD COMMUNITY DAYS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022

Vendors/Food Trucks ~ Friday and Saturday!
LaPasadita Mexican Cuisine, Raceway Pizza, Chef's Taste Food Truck, TCBY Truck, Auntie Anne's Truck

4:00 pm - Midnight ~ Beer Garden: Cover Charge \$3.00.
Beer, Red White & Blue, 312, Hard Seltzer, etc. \$3.00 each.

4:00 pm - Midnight ~ Margarita Truck

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Elwood Fire Department: Smoke House

5:00 pm ~ Bags Tournament Sign up: \$10 per person, single elimination, partners will be chosen in a blind draw. Tournament begins at 6:00 pm. Must be 18 and over. Any questions or to sign up please contact Darryl Lab: Darryl.p.lab@gmail.com.

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm ~ The Junkyard Dawgs Band

8:00 pm - Midnight ~ Righteous Hillbillies

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022

7:30 am - 9:30 am ~ Annual Bob Corcoran Youth Fishing Contest at Lloyd Erickson Pond: Sponsored by the Jackson Township Sportsman's Club and Larry Walsh Jr. Ages 1-15 welcome. This is a free event, but you must bring your own bait and fishing gear.

11:00 am ~ 31st Annual Elwood Days Parade: Brought to you by Elwood Cub Scout Pack #156. The parade will begin at South Street and will proceed north on Chicago Street/Brandon Rd.

Noon - Midnight ~ Beer Garden: Cover Charge \$3.00.
Beer, Red White & Blue, 312, Hard Seltzer, etc. \$3.00 each.

Noon - Midnight ~ Margarita Truck

Noon - 4:00 pm ~ Craft Show: If interested please contact Marie 815-423-5011.

1:00 pm ~ Crosstown Exotics Traveling Reptile & Bug Show
Fun educational entertainment for all ages. This is a one of a kind hands-on experience.

3:00 pm ~ The Magic of Brian Holt
A family friendly magic show for people of all ages.

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ~ Soap Box Derby Registration - Diagonal Road North End of Lloyd Erickson Park. Class 1: Ages 5-7, Class 2: Ages 8-11, Class 3: Ages 12-14. Anyone that would like to enter please contact Larry or Matt at 815-424-1077.

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Soap Box Derby Races

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ 21 and Over Cup in Hand Kickball Tournament: \$10 per person. Create a team of 10 or more and contact Nichelle to register your team. Nichelle.tomalewicz@villageofelwood.com Registration closes Friday, August 12th.

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Jackson Township History Club Display

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Bingo - Presented by the Twilighters

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Habitat For Humanity

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ 5 Person Rock Climbing Wall, 2 Person Zip Line, Foam Pit (remember your towel), Pony Rides, and a Petting Zoo!

8:00 pm - Midnight ~ Poison'd Crue - Back by popular demand!

9:00 pm ~ Fireworks

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Smiths celebrate 50th anniversary

Dale and Jerri (Garner) Smith, of Braidwood, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26, 2022. They were married on Aug. 26, 1972 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Dale is employed at LyondellBasell and Jerri is employed by the Reed-Custer School

District. They are the parents of Holly and Brian Stellano, of Braidwood and Chris and Julie Smith of Essex. They have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A celebration dinner with family will be held

Eight months of I-55 resurfacing begins

The Illinois Department of Transportation said that patching and resurfacing of northbound and southbound Interstate 55 from Weber Road to Interstate 80 in Will County will begin this week.

Overnight and weekend lane closures will be needed over the next eight months. Major travel delays are anticipated; use of alternate routes is encouraged.

To complete the work, motorists should expect various overnight and weekend lane and partial ramp closures on both sides of I-55. The closures will take place from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Sundays through Thursdays, with weekend closures starting at 9 p.m. Fridays to 10 a.m. Sundays. At least one lane in each direction will remain open.

The project, which consists of resurfacing the 13.6-mile stretch of I-55, is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time when traveling through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

Class of 1961 to hold reunion Sept. 10th

It has been 61 years since the WHS class of 1961 graduated. On Saturday, Sept. 10, at noon, the last organized reunion will take place.

It will be informal at Wilmington's South Island pavillion. The plan is to be with long-time friends who have the ability to make each other feel like kids again and catch up with the present.

There is no charge and anyone who would like to join us is welcome. If possible, please bring a folding chair, your own beverage and a dish to share during the potluck lunch. Arrive at noon and dine at 1 p.m.

For more details contact Sharon at 815-861-6534 or Lana at 414-719-1121.

Clark named to dean's list

Kaitlyn Clark, of Custer Park, has been named to the 2022 dean's list at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. Clark earned at least a 3.5 grade point average and ranked in the top 10%.

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Most Illinois schools opting out of new sex education standards

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

With the new school year upon us, it is more apparent that many school officials and parents in Illinois want no part of new standards of teaching sexual education in the classroom.

Democratic lawmakers passed a bill that aligned the state's standards with a national model. School districts were given the option to opt-out, and they have in droves.

According to the website Awake-Illinois, only 20 school districts have decided to fully follow the standards, with 534 opting out.

Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington are listed as districts that have opted out. Of the 12 districts in Grundy County, all schools have opted out while in Will County, with 29 districts, only Beecher is adopting the new standards. Most are opting out

because they don't presently have sex education classes at the elementary level.

In accordance with the National Sex Education Standards, the Illinois State Board of Education said elementary students, including kindergartners, will learn about consent, gender identity, hormone blockers and healthy relationships. Middle schoolers will learn about dating violence prevention, different types of sex and sexual harassment. High schoolers will learn more about their bodies, pregnancy and sexual health.

State Rep. Adam Niernerg, R-Dietrich, wrote an op-ed urging schools to reject the standards and said they are too much, too soon.

"This is well beyond what the conversations that should be happening with our children in schools on this particular issue, when they should be focusing on reading, study-

ing and enjoying sports," Niernerg told The Center Square.

Niernerg adds the fact that school districts and parents are saying no to the curriculum should send a message to the lawmakers who passed the legislation that they are too extreme for working class Illinoisans.

Supporters of the updated standards said the breakdown per grade level is age appropriate and important to educate children about the issues.

State Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, was behind the legislation and wanted the sex ed curriculum mandated for schools, which ultimately was excluded from the final legislation.

"It is not too early to start teaching children, as young as pre-school and definitely by kindergarten, about healthy relationships," Willis said.

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OBITUARIES

Dave Ashcraft

WILMINGTON— Dave Ashcraft, 59, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022 in Paducah, KY.

Born Nov. 7, 1962, David Eugene was a son of Carol "Jane" Ashcraft (née Fancher) and James F. Ashcraft. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1980.

Dave worked as a laborer and an iron worker. He retired from the Laborers Local #75. He was mechanically gifted with all hands on projects. He loved fishing, music and had a quick wit with the biggest smile. Dave will be remembered for always having a good time, and cherishing time spent with his grandkids.

Survivors include his mother, Jane, of Wilmington; two daughters: Julie Ashcraft and Brittany (Doug) Pulaski; step-son, Adam (Kate) Russell; four grandchildren: Emma, Katelyn, Elsie and Austin; one brother, Fred Ashcraft; three nieces: Kristin, Kara and Karli, and two



uncles: Harold Fancher and Gary (Sue) Fancher.

Dave was preceded in death by his father, one sister, Carol Rhodes; step-son Tony Russell and both his maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family received friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022 from 10 a.m. until the time of celebration of life at 12 noon. Cremation rites were accorded following the services and he was privately laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington with his father and his sister.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dave's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.baskervillefuneral.com

Debra Fuhrmann

FLORIDA— Debra Eileen (Wright) Fuhrmann, 61, passed away peacefully on Aug. 4, 2022, surrounded by the people who loved her the most.

Debbie was born in Danville, IL to William and Dora Wright. Debbie graduated from Danville High School in 1979, and finished her BA at Nova University in Davie, FL. She married Lawrence Fuhrmann Jr. in 1982. They served in the US Marine Corps together, they later lived in Homestead, FL but eventually moved to raise their children in Wilmington. After retiring, her and Larry moved to Ramrod Key, FL where she lived until her death.

Debbie worked for several years at Berkot's Grocery Store in Coal City and Dwight prior to retiring. She was extremely creative; she loved to paint and do crafts of any kind. In her spare time Debbie enjoyed crossword puzzles and sudoku, loved flowers and there wasn't an animal she didn't love; except maybe the giant



iguanas that ate her flowers, those she didn't love. Throughout her life she rescued numerous dogs, cats, birds, fish and even a baby squirrel.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 40 years, Larry; her brother, Ben (Janet) Wright, of Crawfordsville, IN; her children, Jamie (Jamie) Gragg, of Key West, FL and Cory (Gini) Fuhrmann, of Custer Park; grandchildren, Easton and Markie Chandler, of Custer Park and her greatest joy, Carter Fuhrmann of Ramrod, FL. Debbie will also be dearly missed by her lifelong best friend, Pam (Kyle) Roberts as well as Justin (Gabby) Roberts, Kelsey Roberts and Jordan Roberts who think of her as a second mom.

Debra was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will take place some time in the future.

Edward P. Carlo Sr.

BRACEVILLE—Edward P. Carlo Sr., 78, of Braceville, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

He was born on Aug. 25, 1943 in Chicago, to Phillip V. and Helen (nee Malinowski) Carlo. Edward grew up as one of six children. After high school, he served his country honorably in the United States Navy and was stationed in San Diego during the Vietnam Era. He married Karen Clark on Jan. 4, 1964 at St. Simeon Catholic Church in Bellwood, IL. Together, they raised their three sons. Edward worked as a Pipefitter with Local 597, retiring after 54 years. Edward's passions were pheasant hunting and golf. He enjoyed taking his oldest grandson, Ryan, hunting with him. He loved spending time with all four of his grandchildren and his great-granddaughter, "Little Miss B."

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Karen Carlo; his sons: Edward Carlo Jr., Phillip (Beth) Carlo and Robert (Nikki) Carlo; his four grandchildren: Ryan Sorensen, Brittany Carlo, Zakary Carlo and Brandon Carlo; his great-grand-



daughter, Brooklynn Villanueva; his sister-in-law, Cornelia Carlo; his brothers-in-law, Burton (Alice) Clark and Robert (Susan) Clark; his sister-in-law, Beverly Clark; many nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, Zeek.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Helen Carlo; his brothers and sisters and their spouses: Vincent and Marie Carlo, Dolores and Edward Beauchamp, Phillip Carlo, Patricia and Clare Phillips and Gloria and Vincent Mascio.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Edward's name may be directed to the Will County Humane Society, 24109 W. Seil Road, Shorewood, IL 60404.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A private family inurnment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery with full military honors.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Patricia Conley

GARDNER—Patricia Ann Conley, 68, of Gardner, passed away Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 at Burbank Rehabilitation Center in Burbank, IL.

Born May 26, 1954 in Philadelphia, PA, Patricia was the daughter of Albert and Marie (Berggoetz) Meneely. She graduated from Indian River High School in Chesapeake, VA with the class of 1972, and on May 19, 1973 she married Bernard John Conley at Saint Pius Catholic Church near the Little Creek Virginia Naval Base. Patricia and family relocated to Illinois where she would complete an associates degree in Elementary Education from Joliet Junior College.

She was an active woman in her communities, serving as a teacher's aid at the local schools and also volunteered her time at the Coal City Elementary School Library. Patricia was a member of the Church of Hope in Gardner, and served as both a Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts Leader. She also held employment with the Morris Herald and with the Walmart in Joliet. In her spare time, Patricia enjoyed crafting and playing computer games. But her greatest joy came from spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren who were precious to her.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Bernard Conley, of Gardner; four children: Karen (Brian) Hand, of Morris; Sherri Conley, of Chicago; Matthew Conley, of Mazon and



Kimberly Conley, of Diamond; 15 grandchildren: Brittany, Stephanie, Taylor, Abby and Samantha Hand; Tamara and Tyler Morris, Lauren and Trevor Moore, John, Aaron, Kelly, and Michael Lawson; Skylar Conley, and Ryan Lodrigue; five great-grandchildren: Camilla, Sincere, A'Zaria, Luke, and Riley; nieces and nephews: Dorothy Meneely and William, Thomas, James, and Kenneth Conley; and dear friends: Gail Hicks, Cathy and Gordon Milne, and Betty Gifford.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Christina Lawson in 2011; one brother, David (Dixie) Conley; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Marvin and Marie Conley and her brother-in-law, William Conley.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway in Coal City on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022 from 4 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 6 p.m. with Reverend Jan Chandler officiating.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service and Patricia will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

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

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

Marjorie R. Malher

PIPER CITY— Marjorie R. Malher, 80, of Piper City, IL, passed away at her home in Piper City, after a long, lingering and frustrating illness on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022.

She was born Oct. 1, 1941 in Grenada, MS. Marjorie was a long-time member and Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood where she and Dennis were married on Oct. 17, 1959. After moving to Piper City so that she and her husband could be closer to her daughter for help with her illness, she transferred her membership to the First Presbyterian of Piper City.

Marjorie worked outside the home most of her adult life with her last position held before her retirement being Traffic Manager for Diversified CPC International of Channahon. She first and foremost was dedicated to her family. She enjoyed family gatherings, decorating her home surroundings and some traveling.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis O. Malher; daughters, Nanette J. Malher, of



Ashland City, TN and Allison D. (Rick) Gjerde, of Piper City; one grandson, Dean O. Gjerde and his wife, Lane (nee Cannon) Gjerde; three great-grandchildren: Aria, Camilla and Owen Gjerde, of Charleston, IL; and one sister, Judy Pressgrove, of Oxford, MS.

She was preceded by her parents, A.V. and Janie Lou (nee Carpenter) Allison, five brothers and her beloved mother-in-law, Eva Malher.

As per Marjorie's wishes and instructions, she is to be cremated without fanfare after a family only gathering.

Inurnment will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Don Jensen

GARDNER—Don Jensen, 82, and a lifelong resident of Gardner, passed away Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born Jan. 10, 1940 in Morris, Don was a son of Harold and Myrtle (Thompson) Jensen. He was raised in Gardner and attended Gardner Schools. On March 17, 1967 Don married Sandy Wilkey in Dwight, and together they had two children, Barbara in 1967 and Jodi in 1968.

During the 60's Don worked at Uniroyal in Elwood repairing typewriters and serving on the fire department. It was then in the 70's that he followed his passion for fire service working on the Fermlab Fire Department in Batavia. Every summer Don would also repair all the typewriters for the GSW High School in his shop at home. The 80's took him to the Corps of Engineers as a Lockman, first in Starved Rock and then Dresden from where he retired in 2003. Not being one to sit around, Don soon found himself as a stock "boy" at Testa's in Coal City, and finally working at Fisher Auto Parts delivering until his real retirement in 2013 when he stopped working to care for his wife who had become sick.

Don, his dad Harold and brother, Gene literally built the Gardner Fire Department from the ground up. He served on the fire department from 1958 until his retirement in 1999, serving as chief from 1993-1999. This was a role Don truly loved doing while being of service to the community as a volunteer his whole career. In addition, Don also served as a Grundy County Deputy Coroner from 1966-2003.

Don's biggest enjoyment came from his two grandchildren, and attending every event while they were growing up. Later in life, Don's attention turned to cutting grass, whether you wanted your grass cut or not. Don was on it. He loved to be on his John Deere, and more often than not his best friend, Cuervo was on his lap



while mowing. Don did love to go to the Dollar Store where he would spend hours chit-chatting and come out with maybe two things.

Don is survived by his daughter, Barb Jett; grandchildren, Lucas (Paige) Jett and Megan Jett, and his beloved great-granddaughter, Ivy Faye Jett. His best friends, Cuervo and Red Head (Bailey) and his Granddogs, Gypsy and Brady.

Don is preceded in death by his wife, Sandy in 2014, his parents and daughter, Jodi in 1969.

Since Don was a huge Cubs fan, please wear a Cubs shirt or very casual attire, he wasn't a fancy fella. Fire and EMS friends are also encouraged to wear attire representing their respective department.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials should be to the Gardner Fire Protection District or to the family for distribution to charities of their choosing.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 230 Liberty Street in Gardner on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022 from 12 p.m. until the time of the firemen walkthrough at 3:45 p.m. Funeral services will take place at 4 p.m. with Pastor Jan Chandler officiating. Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Don will be laid to rest with his late wife and daughter.

Pallbearers will be: Lucas Jett, Brian Jensen, John Hill, Tim Hill, Howard "Duck" Lardi and Jeff Bexson. Honorary pallbearers will be: Bob Coleman, Harold Holsinger and Ken Roeske.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Gardner. www.ReevesFuneral.com

James E. Papesh

MORRIS—James E. Papesh, 74, of Morris, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Jim was born on March 28, 1948 in Joliet, to Valentine and Lorraine (nee Ward) Papesh. He served his country honorably in the United States Army, stationed in Germany during the Vietnam Era. Jim worked in mechanical maintenance for Commonwealth Edison and Midwest Generation, retiring after over 30 years. He was a classic car enthusiast and was a member of the Coachman Car Club. He was very proud of his 1964 Pontiac Catalina. A lover of fishing, Jim enjoyed many summers in Minnesota and living on Beaver Lake. He especially enjoyed fishing with his grandsons. He was also a board member of the Goose Lake Association. If you were lucky enough to meet Jim, you know he was a man of many words and a stranger to none.

But out of all his accomplishments, Jim took the most pride in building a home and raising a family with his loving wife of 44 years, Georgene Papesh (nee Cromer).

He is survived by his wife, Georgene; his



daughters, Nicole (Ben) Boresi and Jenna Papesh; his grandsons, Braxton and Boden Boresi; his brother, Gerald Papesh (Martha Harms); his mother-in-law, Joan Cromer (nee Likar); his brother-in-law, Wayne (Karen) Cromer; his sisters in law, Darlene (Chuck) Quinn and Carolyn (Don) Wortman; his nephews: Bryan (Kim) Papesh, Chris (Melissa) Papesh, Doug Papesh, Jeff Jacobs and Bruce Lundborg and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Valentine and Lorraine Papesh; his brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Barbara Papesh; his sister-in-law, Kathy Papesh; his father-in-law, Kenneth Cromer; his brother-in-law, Gregory Cromer and niece, Celissa Henning.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City. Reverend Joshua Miller officiated. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Joliet with Military Honors.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

John F. Gubbins

COAL CITY—John F. Gubbins, 72, of Coal City, passed away on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

He was born on Jan. 19, 1950 in Chicago, to John F. Sr. and Jean (nee Walsh) Gubbins. He grew up in Oak Park, IL, and graduated from Oak Park High School. He served his country honorably in the United States Army, serving from 1970-1972 during the Vietnam Era and was stationed in Germany. He married Georgine B. "Gigi" Cutsinger on Sept. 24, 1977 at the Ascension Church in Oak Park. Together, they raised their two sons, Sean and Timothy, in their family home in Coal City.

John worked as an international export agent with UPS, retiring after 45 years. He served as Commander with the American Legion Post 796 in Diamond. John enjoyed fishing, golfing and watching sports on TV, especially Notre Dame Football. Most of all, John loved spending time with family and friends. At gatherings, he entertained all with his sense of humor and everlasting tales.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Gigi Gubbins; his two sons, Sean (Nicole) Gubbins, of Channahon and Timothy Gubbins, of



Diamond; his five grandchildren: Kiana Gubbins, Ethan Gubbins, Aidan Gubbins, Tyler Gubbins and Avery Gubbins; his sister, Jeannie (the late Robert) Niemet, of Jeffman Estates; his brother, William (Bridget) Gubbins, of England; cousin, Patricia Gubbins and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Jean Gubbins and his brother, George Gubbins.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City.

Funeral Service will be from Ferrari Funeral Services on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 at 10 a.m. to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood for an 11 a.m. burial with full Military Honors. Those wishing to attend services may also meet at the Welcome Center at 10:45 a.m. at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

A luncheon will follow the service.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Norma Jean Bessette

PLAINFIELD—Born Norma Jean Kinsley on August 23, 1926, she was the daughter of James and Josephine (Pessina) Kinsley. Norma joined her husband Irving "Sonny" Bessette on August 13th, 2022.

Survivors include her loving daughters: Nora (Richard) Facchina and Amy (Alan) Singletary; sons: Robert (Deb), Patrick and Michael (Elaine), (14) grandchildren; (19) great grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter, and her brother-in-law, Pete (Donna) Bessette.

Norma was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Irving (2000); dear sister, Carol Ballak; fond brother, James (Dorothy) Kinsley, and great granddaughter Kenadie, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and classmates.

Norma was born and raised in Joliet; attended St. Patrick's grade school, and went on to St. Francis (The Academy) High School. Her first job was at the local dime-store, where she walked to work. Norma spent her summers visiting her Italian relatives in Herrin, IL, and taking the train to stay with her wonderful aunts. Everyone who knew Norma knew that it was her Irish heritage that she claimed the most. St. Patrick's Day, corned beef and cabbage, and all things green were her pride and joy!

Norma was a homemaker until the Village of Shorewood called her to fill in. Her temporary position turned into full time, where she served the residents of Shorewood from 1982 until her retirement in 2001 at the age of 74. She loved lottery tickets, the slot machines



at the gambling boats and spending time with her family. Until her 93rd birthday, Norma lived independently until sustaining a hip fracture. She spent time at the Timbers of Shorewood and the last 2 years of her life at Harbor Chase of Plainfield.

Norma's family wishes to thank Harbor Chase for the kindness and care they gave our Mom, and to Dora and Faye from United Hospice who helped her in her final days of need. Words cannot express how much we will miss her and her funny "Norma-isms". Whenever you scratch a lottery ticket, think of Norma and be certain to drink a green beer on St. Patrick's Day in her honor. It will never be the same without her.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at St. Ann Catholic Church, 24500 S. Navajo Drive in Channahon on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Revered John Klein presiding.

Inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Norma will be laid to rest with her late husband.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Norma's memorial page online.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Political beat-down just beginning in governor's race

The ongoing uproar over Darren Bailey's 2017 claim that the Holocaust "doesn't even compare on a shadow" to the lives lost to abortion reminded me of a scene in an old movie called "A Bronx Tale."

The claim Bailey made on Facebook exploded into view courtesy of a brutal TV ad by Gov. JB Pritzker's campaign. The ad begins with an announcer previewing an already-used video clip of Bailey saying he would not allow a woman who was raped or a victim of incest to have an abortion. "You may have thought you heard everything that Darren Bailey had to say about abortion," the voice-over person says before the clip is played. "But that's not all Darren Bailey has said," the person continues as the newly unearthed clip is shown to viewers.

The closing tagline of "Darren Bailey, too extreme for Illinois," is then flashed on the screen. That's pretty close to the same language used in Democratic ads which aired during the Republican primary.

There are those who say that, judging from experience, if Pritzker is using something this over the top in August, then oh my goodness he must have some really strong opposition research in store for voters when the campaign cranks up this fall.

That could very well be, and it doesn't help matters much right now that Bailey's billionaire GOP primary benefactor Richard Uihlein has not directly contributed any money to Bailey's campaign since the primary, so attacking when your opponent can't fight back in-kind has its advantages.

Bailey released a response video to another Pritzker TV ad (calling him out for hypocritically taking millions in federal farm subsidies while opposing other government social programs) that has so far received views in the hundreds, not the millions who would see something on TV.

Either way, this is a true political beat-down. And it didn't stop there. Bailey at first walked his comments back by saying, "The Holocaust is a human tragedy without parallel. In no way was I attempting to diminish the atrocities of the Holocaust and its stain on history. I meant to emphasize the tragedy of millions of babies being lost."

Then, the very next day, Bailey told Fox 32's Dane Placko that his words were "taken out of context as they typically are," and blamed

reporters. Then, Bailey was asked by a Fox Valley radio station host if he needed to apologize. Instead of doing so, Bailey laughed and said, "The Jewish community themselves have told me that I'm right," and went on to claim that "the Jewish rabbis" he'd met with had told him he was "actually right."

Bailey inexplicably kept the story alive, and Pritzker took full advantage, pounding away at his opponent every chance he got. And since then, the Pritzker campaign has piled on by providing some opposition research to reporters about other Bailey Facebook posts.

And the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition recently issued a press release complaining that "Multiple social media posts by gubernatorial candidate Darren Bailey and his wife are Islamophobic, anti-semitic, and xenophobic."

And that brings me back to the movie, which follows a young Italian-American boy as he learns life lessons from those around him, including from some mobsters.

In the scene, a biker gang known for busting up bars unwittingly walks into a mob-

owned bar and, after being told they could stay for a couple of beers, begins to cause trouble. The top mob boss tells the bikers to leave. After being rudely rebuffed, he quietly walks to the front door and locks it, then turns around and faces the bikers: "Now you can't leave," he says.

The mob boss' underlings immediately stream in through the back door brandishing baseball bats, pistols and other implements of destruction and absolutely pummel the bikers, who are then dragged outside and beaten some more, including by bystanders.

And that's basically how the rest of this campaign is going to go, even when/if Bailey's coffers are replenished. Pritzker never took his foot off of Bruce Rauner's political throat four years ago even though he was way ahead in the polls, and he kept whacking Richard Irvin long after Irvin was clearly no longer viable in the recent GOP primary.

It's just how they roll over there. Toss in the fact that Pritzker helped found a Holocaust museum and abortion rights is an issue which appears to animate him, and you can understand the desire to go all-out on this one.

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



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50th reunion for Reed-Custer class

A class reunion for graduates from the Reed-Custer Class of 1972 will be held at the Rustic Inn, 108 N. Water Street, Wilmington, on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

class of 1972, but other classes around this year are also invited. RSVP to Mark before Sept. 1 at 815-476-7290 to confirm. There will be a cash bar but free entry. Also a steak dinner will be available for \$25 each.

Braceville church to hold rummage sale

The Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 West Gould Street in Braceville, will be having a rummage sale on Friday, Sept. 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 a.m.

to 1 p.m. at the church. Also held those days will be a jewelry sale and a silent auction. For any additional information, please call the church at (815) 237-8512.

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Class of '67 to hold reunion

The class of 1967 from Wilmington High School is having a 55th-year class reunion at the VFW in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 5 p.m., ending at 11 p.m. There will also be a get-together on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the South Island Pavilion from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There is no cost for either event.

Free Press Newspapers earn state awards

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois' top newspapers were honored recently by the Illinois Press Association during the 2021 state editorial and advertising awards contest that was held last week.

The Free Press Newspaper publications received eight state awards including two 1st place awards, three 2nd place awards, two 3rd place and an honorable mention.

The Free Press Newspapers; including *The Free Press Advocate*, *The Braidwood Journal* and *The Coal City Courier*; compete in the small newspaper division for publications with circulation under 4,000 each.

Advertising
1st place = best health

care ad, The Free Press Advocate. Featured an ad for Fisher-Gentry Eye Center titled, "You can't see glaucoma coming, but we can." The ad was drafted by Eric Fisher and designed by Janet Fisher.

1st place = best garden, yard and agriculture ad, The Free Press Advocate. Designed by Eric Fisher. "Got Mud? Get Stoned!" an promoting bulk stone and mulch delivery for J&D Landscape Supply

2nd place = best classified ad, The Free Press Advocate, drafted by Eric Fisher, designed by Janet Fisher. "Make this your next company vehicle" for Illinois Transport promoting the need for bus drivers.

Editorial

2nd place = sports photo, The Braidwood Journal. Photo taken by Shawn Long of Reed-Custer pole vaulter Evan Pickard clearing the crossbar. Judges praised Long for capturing Pickard's level of concentration.

2nd place = general news photo, Free Press Advocate taken by photographer Alyssa Ohlund. "Last run for Wildcats" taken of Karsen Hansen and Kris Lamaster grasping hands as they ran out of the woods during the final playoff game at home.

3rd place = local editorial, Braidwood Journal, written by Long. "Thank you Comet football!" on the front page of the Journal after they completed the best season in school history.

3rd place = news reporting - single story written by editor Marney Simon, "Never going to be justice for her daughter." Judges commended Simon for a compelling and powerful interview.



SECOND PLACE in state! This photo taken by Shawn Long captured second place in the sports photo contest held by the Illinois Press Association. It is of Reed-Custer pole vaulter Evan Pickard clearing the bar.

4th place = sports photo, The Braidwood Journal. Photo taken by Shawn Long of the female trick champion water skier at Water's Edge ski competition.

"Local award-winning journalism if alive and well in the communities we cover," commented Eric Fisher, publisher. "I'm proud of our

employees who won state awards. Considering there were 1,725 contest entries from throughout the state and we were able to garner eight is an accomplishment we are proud of."

The Illinois Press Association, located in Springfield, represents 480 daily and weekly newspapers.

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4-7PM

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**Vendors subject to change



HER ASSIGNMENT was to attend the semi-final football game between the Wilmington Wildcats and Tri-Valley Down and get a photo symbolic of the biggest game of the season. What photographer Alyssa Ohlund got was an award-winning photo in the general news photo category of the recent Illinois Press Association statewide contest. It took 2nd place in state of Wildcat seniors Karsen Hansen (22) and Kris Lamaster (25) do a high-five hold as they run out of the woods for the last time.

Gas prices drop but expected to rise

Might the nine-week run of declining gasoline prices be over?

After a week of local gas prices falling as much as 20 cents in Braidwood, the wholesale price nationally is rising again.

"For the ninth week straight, gas prices have continued to fall, but the streak is at great risk of being broken this week with wholesale gasoline prices having bounced back up some 40 cents per gallon as oil prices have rebounded," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"That means the decline in average prices could wrap up soon, with some price increases possible as early as

this week, especially in areas of the Great Lakes. While the West Coast and some areas of the Rockies may see prices continue to drift lower, I do believe the national average could tick higher this week as the better than expected jobs report last week likely means less demand destruction than anticipated."

Area gas prices varying as much as \$1.05 with the lowest recorded price on Monday being \$3.70 in Bourbonnais and \$4.75 at I-55 Shell on Lorenzo Road. Other Wilmington stations were averaging \$4.35 on Monday.

Joliet area stations were priced at \$3.85/g while in Morris the price was \$4.19/g. Braidwood area stations were

charging \$4.28/g, while in Coal City the price was \$4.38/g average.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois declined 12.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.26/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 79.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 96.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 14.8 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.27 per gallon.

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.47/g while the most expensive was \$5.89/g, a difference of \$2.42/g.

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Estate Sale: 7030 S. Woods Rd., Gardner. Friday, Aug. 19 and Saturday, Aug. 20, 8am-4pm. Misc. hand and power tools, misc. barn items, antiques, housewares, patio set and tons more. cc 33b

WILMINGTON

211 S. Washington Street, Wilmington, Friday & Saturday, August 26-27 from 8am-4pm. Household items, clothing, some tools, misc. items. ca33-34

WILMINGTON

316 North St., Wilmington, Fri., & Sat., August 19-20 from 9am-3pm. Pool supplies, pro bingo cards, Bravo XL & other small kitchen appliances, fashion & Barbie dolls, record albums, women's clothes, shoes, purses. Much more. ca33

WILMINGTON

909 S. Joliet Street (off of Kahler Road), Wilmington, Thursday and Friday, August 18 & 19 from 8am-4pm. Multi family, good stuff, priced to sell. ca33

ESTATE SALES

Estate and Pole Barn Sale. 316 S. St. Louis St., Elwood, Sat. & Sun., August 27th & 28th, 9am-4pm. Some household furnishings, small tools, power equipment, and many miscellaneous items - too numerous to list. Some items will be priced, the rest no reasonable offer will be refused. 40 x 60 pole barn jam packed and everything must go, so don't miss out! ck32-34

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2BR apt. in Diamond, \$650/mo +utilities, no pets, 815-302-4406. cc 33b-36b

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For Sale: 16' fiber glass canoe; clean rustic pallet wood, great for walls & projects. For Free: Corner fit whirlpool tub, good condition. 815-476-2805. ca33-35

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Like new fern green sofa, 3 box cushions with maple feet, slight camel back. \$500. 815-592-0246. cc32-34

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MORRIS \$229,000 2 BR, 2 BA brick, 1/2 duplex, 2 car gar, full part fin basement. Lrg size msw/master. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BL2329	GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate Database, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 by Grundy County Offices.	MORRIS \$219,900 2 BR, 2 BA brick, 1/2 duplex, 2 car gar, full part fin basement. Lrg size msw/master. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BL2331	COAL CITY \$209,900 3 BR, 1.5 BA brick ranch home on a corner lot in desirable Coal City school district. Lorie/Owen 815-715-5959. SS280	SOLD COAL CITY \$209,900 3 BR, 1.5 BA brick ranch home on a corner lot in desirable Coal City school district. Lorie/Owen 815-715-5959. SS280
MAZON \$155,000 2-unit has newer roof, well maintained. Easy to rent property in a highly visible location just off of Rt. 47. Shawn 474-6670. CM303	MAZON \$135,000 2 Story, 3 BR home w/stylish sliding vinyl windows, 2.5 car garage and fenced yard. Call/Text Shawn 815-474-6670. CM507	VERONA \$110,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg rooms/yard. Extra 50x150 lot. Call Della 258-6467. AO432	COAL CITY \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PK62	RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront

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The benefits to upgrading your home to be energy efficient

Dear EarthTalk: I know that upgrading the energy efficiency of my home will make it less expensive to heat or cool, but will it also raise its market value significantly?



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

—J.B.M., St. Louis, MO
That depends on your definition of "significant!" According to a study published in the Journal of Urban Economics, with every 10 per cent increase in energy efficiency, a home's market value increases by approximately 2.2 per cent.

homes in Maryland sold between 2012 to 2015 had a two to five per cent sales price increase, simply because they were deemed energy efficient.

In another set of studies, the government-backed energy efficiency experts at Energy Star found that their certified

This pattern has been observed across the U.S. A six percent increase was seen in the final price tags of Energy

Star certified homes in Austin-Round Rock, Texas (sold 2009 to 2016), and an eight percent increase was found in select housing markets across Oregon, Idaho and Washington (2015).

Why is this happening? To put it simply, the average home buyer has become savvier in the world of sustainability. In a report by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), it was found that 51 percent of agents interacted with clients that were very interested, or at least somewhat interested, in sustainability.

In a related report by Energy Star, the stats showed that 83 percent of home buyers desired more efficient windows, 81 percent wanted more efficient appliances, and 80 percent wanted more efficient lighting.

Undoubtedly, homeowners have come to understand that energy-efficient upgrades translate into lower energy costs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average family spends approximately \$2,200 annually on energy bills. Thirty percent of that cost can be removed just like that through energy-efficient home modifications.

That being said, the increase in demand for sustainable homes and home upgrades may also be driven by a sense of personal responsibility.

A sweeping study by

Simon-Kucher & Partners covering 17 countries and 10,000 participants revealed that a significant paradigm shift in purchasing habits was occurring. Eighty-five percent of respondents reported that they had changed their spending habits over the past five years to accommodate a greener lifestyle.

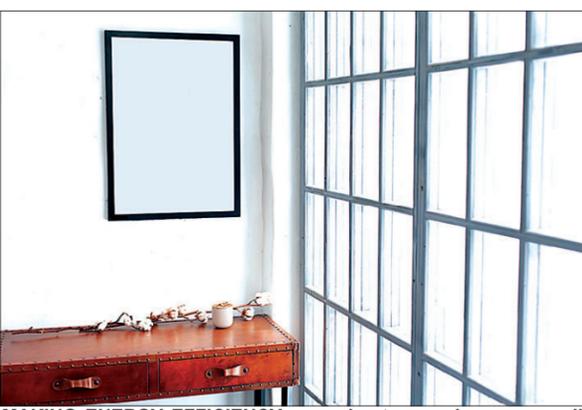
In addition, one-third of the population is willing to spend more for sustainable products or services—as much as 25 percent!

If you're feeling the same inclination, there are many ways to upgrade your home's energy efficiency. Insulating walls is usually where people begin, but sealing air leaks (even the small ones!) with caulking, spray foam and weather stripping can save anywhere from five to 30 percent on energy.

Ducts specifically are known to have leaks that can cause losses of as much as 60 percent of the heated air traveling through them.

Energy efficient light fixtures, windows, doors, skylights, appliances and hot-water heaters are all available for purchase these days, and when used in congruence with a programmable thermostats and smart-device timers, you can save a surprising amount of money in energy savings by the end of the year.

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American Standard

Symerton Homecoming all set for this weekend

STAFF REPORT

SYMERTON — The village of Symerton will host its annual homecoming for three days Aug. 19, 20 and 21 at the town hall and park on Commercial Street.

Children will be entertained by games and activities including bounce houses and kiddie tractor pull on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Symerton Tap and Grill and the Will County Farm Bureau Young Farmers are co-sponsoring a kiddie tractor pull at 2 p.m.

Symerton Tap will be open and serving fare as well

as adult beverages, kicking off the weekend with a Friday night entertainment—the Aprils Reign Band—at 7 p.m.

On Saturday the Liam Durkin Band will perform at 7 p.m. Mr. K's Chuckwagon will also be serving up grub.

On Sunday weigh-ins for an adult tractor pull begin at 9 a.m. The competition will begin at noon.

Be sure to purchase 50/50 raffle tickets as the proceeds will benefit the village park fund.

There is no cost to attend the homecoming. For more information, contact Eli Geiss at 815-592-9987.

Free mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington

Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing free food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington, on Monday, Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (until food runs out) in the church parking lot, rain or shine.

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

Participants are asked to

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

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

Tommy James and The Shondells coming to Rialto

Tommy James and the Shondells will be at Rialto Square Theatre on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, starting at \$45, at Ticketmaster.com

Crystal Blue Persuasion, Crimson & Clover, Mony Mony, I Think We're Alone Now, Draggin' The Line, Hanky Panky, Sweet Cherry Wine, Three Times in Love and Mirage are just a few of the many hits - 23 Gold Records, 9 Platinum albums and over 100 million records sold world-

wide...and 32 Billboard Hot 100 Chart Hits!

Many artists around the world have covered and continue to cover his songs including Prince, Bruce Springsteen, Joan Jett, Billy Idol, Kelly Clarkson, Rem, Dolly Parton, Carlos Santana, Cher, Tom Jones and even The Boston Pops.

Tommy's music can be heard in 55 films, 39 TV shows, and numerous commercials to date.

Class of 1972 seeking whereabouts of classmates

Planners from the Wilmington High School Class of 1972 are seeking information on classmates in order to invite them to a 50th class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Tuffy's Lounge and Patio at 7 p.m.

Does anyone know where the following people are?

John Burks, Mary Ann Calhoun, Carl Favero, John Goodwin, Mary Ann Greer, Mike Hayes, Florence Lamonica, Kathy Lewis, Doris Love, Jane Merrit, Frank Metes, Terry Parsley, Wendell Perry, Ron Richardson, Skip Romines, Dan Root, Bob Rush,

Debbie Smith Golot, Bob Taylor, Don Utke, Roxanne Hawley Dalton.

Please contact committee by Sept. 12th if you are coming: Jim Hankins 815-476-7656, Nancy Sheridan Barbour 815-353-1374 or Peggy Norman Kunz 815-545-0720.

There will not be a ticket price to attend, but a suggested \$15 per person donation will be collected at the reunion to cover expenses. Any amount collected above what is needed will be donated to the WHS Foundation for Excellence.

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66					67				68			

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
 - Swiss river
 - Nocturnal S. American rodent
 - Like coagulated milk
 - Lima is its capital
 - Lying down
 - Jai __, sport
 - Egyptian statesman
 - Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
 - Renovated
 - Chadic language
 - 18-year period
 - Beverage container
 - Natural logarithm
 - The "mecca" of basketball
 - A way to darken
 - Mackerels
 - Actor Pitt
 - Places to buy seafood
 - True firs
 - Neither
 - Fencing sword
 - Italian pastas
 - Island nation close to the U.S.
 - Begets
 - Resembles a pouch
 - __ student, learns healing
 - Sodium
 - Indicates position
 - The world has one
 - Partner to pains
 - Photographer
 - Chew the fat
 - Culture of the British Iron Age
 - Weaverbird
 - Advice or counsel
 - Asian nation
 - Brought on board
 - German river
 - Airborne (abbr.)
 - Leaf-footed bug genus

- CLUES DOWN**
- Mark left behind
 - Cry weakly
 - Ancient region in modern Syria
 - Farewell
 - Blue grass state
 - Genus of mosquitoes
 - S. Israeli city
 - You can get stuck in one
 - One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
 - First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
 - Tigers legend Fielder
 - Make more attractive
 - Horses
 - Slight projection in typefaces
 - Male parent
 - Jack and Jill are two
 - After B
 - Licensed for Wall Street
 - Missile with about 600-mile range
 - Goddesses
 - A day kids love
 - Oily secretion
 - One-tenth of a meter
 - A father's male child
 - One point east of southeast
 - Silk garments
 - Cool!
 - The color of anger
 - Trade profession
 - It can get you around
 - Mother-of-pearl
 - Hurt
 - Legendary slugger Hank
 - Polio vaccine developer
 - Incline from vertical
 - Sea creature
 - Actress Kate
 - Affirmative votes
 - Nothing
 - Pie __ mode
 - Expresses surprise

Hairagain welcomes a new stylist! **Sindy McCormick**

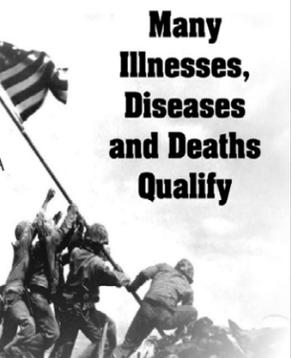
Sindy is a stylist with over 20 years experience. Her dedication and motivation to hair is also a major asset to our salon. She has relocated from Naked Sun in Diamond, IL. She will be working Tuesdays and Fridays and will be offering 10% off any first time service with her. Her first official day at work will be August 9. You can call or text 815-545-1578 to set up your appointment. Let her let you love your...Hairagain.



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WILDCAT SPORTS



Photo by Shawn Long

WILMINGTON'S Alyssa Cieskiewicz volleys the ball back over the net during volleyball camp Monday morning.



Photo by Shawn Long

LOOK OUT—Lexi Liaromatis (back) calls for the ball but backs out of the way so Skylar Rossow can get the hit during Wilmington's summer volleyball camp.

Lady 'Cats improve their skills in summer camp

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

WHS volleyball coaches are excited for the talent coming into the high school level.

The Lady 'Cats hosted summer volleyball camp this past week and got a good turnout as 35 girls joined in the fun. New coach Kelly VanDuyne was impressed by the girls coming up and just continues to work them as much as she can to get them ready for the season. The funny thing is they're not all there yet.

"We never really had everybody here at one time," said VanDuyne. "Because they had softball or Nationals for volleyball or different volleyball tournaments. There's a good group of girls coming. The freshmen are doing really well—they're holding their own. During the summer, we just try to keep them as one big team to build a team bonding. We don't separate them. It's just all one big team. That's what makes a stronger program and it's when everybody is working just as hard as the

next person. It doesn't matter what level you're playing at."

High School camp which started on Monday, July 11th runs through Thursday, July 28 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. in the high school gym. It focuses on all aspects of the game, breaking it down for them one thing after another.

"Everything with volleyball starts with serve receive so we're focusing on serve receive a lot but it's just taking a different aspect of the game every day so one practice we'll work on serve receive. The next practice we'll work on blocking—then it's hitting. It's just really focusing on one aspect of the game per practice.

The camp concludes with a form of calisthenics called 'jump training', where they'll do circuits of squats, jump squats, long jump, sit ups and crunches to try to strengthen their core and legs.

"It just gives them their conditioning and obviously everybody wants to jump higher in volleyball."

The fact that most of the girls play two sports allows that athleticism and jump to be better than it would be if they

weren't play multiple sports. VanDuyne has college experience in recruiting where most of the girls played or did play two sports in the past. It not only helps the athletes but it helps the coaches.

"From coaching college at St. Francis I did a lot of recruiting so it's always nice to see multi-sport athletes because it just gives coaches a better idea of how they can work with different players. You do start to build a relationship with your teammates so if you're just focused on one sport, a coach is only going to see that friendship and camaraderie in one team rather than if they were playing multiple sports, they could get along with everybody and work well with everybody.

She can see that playing those sports is helping most of the talented girls coming into the system. VanDuyne and her coaching staff like what they're seeing.

"It's a good group. I know there are multi-sport athletes like Molly Southall she's a phenomenal athlete, took gold in state last year for track, she's a phenomenal softball player

and she's an amazing volleyball player. It's just good to see multi-sport athletes. Rachel Miller is good too. It's a small group but they should do well because they have been playing together for a couple years."

Van Duyne wants to get the younger girls repetitions. That will only help them in the long run.

"That's what we really focus on. We try to give them as much as possible with summer time so we can get them caught up with everything that we do together so literally incoming freshmen are doing the same drills as juniors and seniors so we can try to build those gaps. During the season, you're focusing on gameplay and things like that. In the summertime, that's when they're going to learn the most."

VanDuyne and her coaching will get to see how much talent these girls really have when they start their season hosting Grant Park on Monday, Aug. 22. Until then, they have as much time as they need to work with them.



Photo by Shawn Long

WILMINGTON'S Molly Southall hammers a kill during Wilmington's summer volleyball camp held on Monday.

Young Lady 'Cats doing great things, have won 6 of 7

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Wilmington Middle School eighth grade softball team picked up a 7-6 win over Reed-Custer on Thursday to improve to 6-1 overall.

They matched the Panthers with two runs in the first and then jumped out ahead with two runs in the second to take a 4-2 lead.

Reed-Custer fired back with a run in the third and tied it at 4-4 with a run in the fifth.

Wilmington scored three unanswered runs to take a 7-4 lead before the Panthers would respond but they were unable to come all the way back as the 'Cats held on.

The 'Cats pounded out 11 hits and were led by Madisyn K, who went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs.

Sami L and Taryn G. also

drove in a run while Nina E doubled.

Aubree J., Addison B. and Aly A. and Keeley W. also had a hit.

Taryn G. started the game, giving up three unearned runs on four hits while fanning a batter.

Aly A. took over, giving up three runs on four hits while fanning seven and walking two in the final three innings.

Wilmington 5 MSVR 4

The 'Cats beat the MS Varsity Panthers on Wednesday coming back with two late runs to walk-off winners.

The 'Cats staked themselves to a 3-0 lead before MS caught up, plating four unanswered runs to grab a 4-3 advantage.

The 'Cats scored two runs in the seventh to earn the

walk-off win.

Nina E. tripled home two runs to lead them while Madisyn K. (3B) and Chesney G. also drove in a run.

Sami L. had a three hit day drawing a walk while Aly A. and Aubree J. also had a hit.

Taryn G. gave up a run on two hits while fanning a batter to start the game.

Aly A. got the win in relief, giving up one earned run on four hits while fanning eight and walking three.

Wilmington 8 Beecher 1

The 'Cats got an excellent out from Aly A. to cruise to a win over Beecher on Tuesday.

Aly A. went the distance, giving up an unearned run on just two hits while fanning 10 and walking six.

Madisyn K. led the offense, pounding a double and a triple with three RBIs.

Taryn G. also drove in a run while Keeley W. (2B) and Nina E. had two hits.

Sami L., Aly A., Sophia A. and Aubree J. also had a hit. Keeley W. and Nina E. also walked.

Wilmington 17 Channahon 0

Aly A. twirled a gem, no-hitting Channahon in a blowout win last Monday.

Aly A. fanned eight batters and walked one through three hitless innings of work.

Keeley W. drove in two runs with two hits while Nina E., Sami L. and Ashlyn W. also drove in a run. Madisyn K. also had a hit.

The 'Cats drew 14 walks and were led by Autumn L., Ashlyn W., Aly A., Taryn G. and Madisyn K., who all had two.

Addison B., Sami L. Nina E. and Keeley W. also walked.

Best Friday night pork sandwich contest is back

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Be sure to go hungry to high school football games this fall because the Pork & Pigskins Championship is back.

The Illinois High School

Association and the Illinois Pork Producers Association are partnering together to again award the best pork sandwiches served at football games.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with the IHSA on this competition again and recognize the volunteers in our

communities who work the concession stands and help us to encourage more people to consume these great pork products across the state while supporting our producers," said Illinois Pork Producers Board President Thomas Titus.

While Normal Community's A-Train pork sandwich won the title, Reed-Custer's 'Porksicle' was among the Savory 16 finalists, a few votes shy of making the Flavorful Four.

The Reed-Custer Porksicle is ranks right up there, in my book, one of the best Friday night sandwiches this reporter-on-the-go ever had. The Porksicle was perfected by volunteer cook Jerry Curl who gets a special cut from Faletti Meats, adds just the right amount of seasoning before throwing it on the grill.

Any IHSA schools interest-

ed in entering their BBQ boss in the Pork & Pigskins Championship can do so at IHSA.org beginning on August 15.

Friday Night Lights will be turned on Aug. 26, for the first week of the high school football season. That's when concession stand grills will be fired up and the smell of pork chop sandwiches will fill the air.

"Tradition, community, and amazing food are the ingredients that make-up the Pork & Pigskins Championship," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "The folks behind these grills volunteer their time and talent to support our high school students and their schools. We appreciate the Illinois Pork Producers Association helping bring their stories to light and providing recognition to these worthy

individuals who serve their communities and also cook a mean pork chop sandwich."

The 2022 competition will feature a mix of online fan voting to help determine 16 finalists. At that point special guest judges will visit each of those schools to determine the final four.

The state champion will be announced on October 22 and then recognized at the 2022 IHSA Football State Championships on Nov. 26 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign-Urbana.

The state champ will receive a prize package from the IPPA that includes a \$500 reimbursement on their pork purchase for next season, a state championship banner, and the coveted Golden Spatula.

Fans are encouraged to post photos and video of their

top pork chop sandwich contenders on social media with the hashtag #PorkandPigskins

The timeline on the 2022 Pork & Pigskins Championship includes:

Presently: Entry to become a guest judge.

Aug. 15: School entry opens until Sept. 13.

Sept. 14 - Oct. 21: Online voting and in-person judging takes place to determine the Savory 16 finalists

Oct. 22: State Champion announced on IHSA Playoff Pairing Preview Show

November 26: Champion receives prizes at 2022 IHSA Football State Championships.

So be sure to hit the concession stands at home and away games this season and cast a vote for your favorite pork sandwich.

Military veterans invited to Wilmington vs. CC game

Wilmington High School is extending a special invitation to men and women who have served in a branch of the U.S. military.

A Military Appreciation Night is planned for Friday, Sept. 9 when the Wildcats will host Coal City for the varsity football game.

All military members past or present will get free admission into the game. They also will be recognized prior to the start of the varsity game which is at 7 p.m.

The rivalry game between the 'Cats and Coalers will immediately follow.



ONE MAN TO BEAT—Wilmington running back Jaxon Trofinchuck avoids the diving tackle attempt by Coal City's Kaden Brown en route to a long run during Saturday's game.

Photo by Ann Gill



REFUSING TO GO down is Wilmington Bobcat running back Cooper Holman.

Photo by Ann Gill

Bobcats split levels with Miners to start season

The Wilmington Bobcats football teams split levels with the Coal City Miners on Sunday as Coal City captured the first two levels while the Bobcats earned wins at JV and Varsity.

The Superlight Bobcats played the Miners tough but couldn't keep up with them in a 40-20 loss.

The Lightweights were good defensively but just were unable to break through, falling

19-0.

The JV Bobcats turned it around, coming up with a 19-6 win over Coal City to make it a 1-2 record for the day.

The Bobcats completed the split as the varsity squad did a stellar job on both sides of the ball in a 16-0 shutout.

The 'Cats are hosting Peotone for their Homecoming on Sunday.

Coach says returning state champs still have some work to do

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The football 'Cats are coming off of a state championship and arguably one of the best overall seasons in the history of the program. They're hoping this year can lead to another one.

Wilmington football coach Jeff Reents admits they've still got some more work to do before that happens.

"I like that we have speed. I like that we're playing hard in practice," said Reents. "There's no doubt the team is not where I want it to be right now and they're never to the point I want them to be during camp, but there will be some growing pains, there's no doubt about that."

"When you lose as many guys as we did last year and now you're putting together a new team, how does that team evolve? If you look at last year's group--as good as it was--in the beginning of the year we were trying to figure out a lot of things and we won some close games. We were fortunate.

"Once we found our niche, we kind of took off. I would think that's going to be--we're going to have to use the beginning of the season to figure some things out. There'll be a lot of younger kids playing and how are they going to handle varsity football on a Friday night. Do I think they can do it? Yes, I do."

The 'Cats, who went 14-0 in the fall season beating Nashville 24-10 in the 2A state title game, also went 5-0 during the shortened spring season to complete a perfect, 19-0 stretch. Everything was clicking for their offense, defense and special teams, and when you have all three phases clicking, you're going to be a very successful team.

"It was a phenomenal year," said Reents. "It was a very trying year because of how many games we had. But my hat's off to all of our football staff and all of our kids but to go through the spring in that situation and win a state title the year after that, it's very special and it says a lot about our kids, our coaches and to tell you the truth, our whole school--our administration--how it all came together, how a lot of people work together and good things happened. We're fortunate and lucky that happened last year."

Returning is senior quarterback Ryder Meents, who got his taste of varsity action when Kaden Humphries went down in week three and finished it all the way through to the state title.

Now, it's his turn to show what he can do in a full season.

"He brings back some really good experience for us."

Meents completed two passes for 51 yards with a touchdown while gaining 147 with four touchdowns on the ground so he showed last year how good he can be. He showed off his speed during a Sterling Newman game when he bolted 67 yards for a touchdown so he's just not a short yardage quarterback.

Also back is leading rusher Colin James who gained 1,361 yards with 18 touchdowns last year. James packs a punch despite his 153-pound stature and can turn it on in the open field.

"He was our leading rusher last year and to have him back is something that is good."

Hunter Hayes will play fullback as the 'Cats attempt to replace last year's fullback Karsen Hansen.

"Hunter is also coming back at defensive tackle for us. He has done really well in camp so we're excited to see what he brings."

Opposite James will be either sophomore



WILDCAT GUARD Joey Allgood pulls down the line to take out the end which sets up a 47 buck in the 'Cats Double Wing offense.

Photo by Shawn Long

Kyle Farrell or senior Brandon Stahulak, who are currently in a position battle for the second wing back spot.

"Competition brings out the best in people and that's what we try to do in camp is create those competitions. Kids understand that they're competing for spots but also playing together as a team but we love creating that competition during the offseason. I feel it pushes the kids to be better."

Returning offensive linemen Kade Hopwood and Brody Benson will be back at their spots ready to push some bodies around. They did a lot of that last year.

"Having those two guys back is helping us out in the offseason. They bring back a lot of experience from that standpoint. It's helped us out offensively to have some of that experience back and to help speed up our juniors to get from sophomore football to varsity football. They all continue to help them to make sure we're playing at a high level."

Senior Jacob Wandless and Andrew Dedo are in a position battle at center.

At the guard spots, Joey Allgood and Austin Olsen are battling it out.

"They're both pretty good sized kids. They're both at 200 pounds so they move pretty well for kids their size."

At left tackle, the battle is between Peter Rampa and Sal Lozano.

"Rampa is about 215 and Sal is about 250-260 so they're good-sized kids. When you've got to replace what we had last year, those are big shoes to fill so the guys at first are going to be okay but as the season goes on, we're looking for that improvement from game-to-game."

Brendan Moran will be moving to inside

linebacker. Moran was an outside linebacker last year on the state championship team as a sophomore, compiling 34 tackles with four tackles for a loss.

Allgood and Zach Willis also are battling for a spot at inside linebacker.

At outside linebacker, there's a battle brewing between Ryan Nelson, Farrell, JT Mandac and Stahulak.

"We've got some battles going on but the guys that are back are Moran at inside linebacker, Hunter Hayes at defensive tackle. He was really good for us. James is back for us playing safety. Ryder is back at corner so those guys have done a good job from that standpoint so we're going to have to rely on that for our defense."

Despite the state championship hype, Reents is telling his players to relax and take it one step at a time. They do know, however, they are the team to beat and will have a target on their backs.

"Our kids understand that because of that success, they're circled on everybody's schedule, so they've got to give a great effort every week. Marengo is going to come down here ready to go. We've got the Josh Holz kid back at quarterback. The kid is a three-sport all-stater--he'll be one of the best athletes we'll go against all-year. It doesn't take much to look at the film and realize we're going to be playing a pretty good team that first game. I think that brings everybody back down to earth and gets them focused to know we have a tough opponent that first week."

Marengo comes to Wilmington on Aug. 26 to start the season.

Then, it's a little bit of an odd twist as Lisle

comes to town in Week 2 instead of them going to Johnsburg. Before the season started, Reents said Johnsburg backed out of the contract so the first game the 'Cats play with Lisle will be counted as a conference game whereas the second game won't be counted towards the conference.

"It got to the point in the middle of June where we didn't have a game and the team Lisle was scheduled to play--they backed out on them so we'd rather play them twice than not have a game in Week 2. It's hard to beat a team twice but that's what makes it fun. It's a great challenge for us."

The 'Cats will welcome in Coal City for their annual rivalry game on Friday, Sept 9 and follow that with another bruiser of a team at Peotone.

Herscher will come to town for Homecoming before the 'Cats square up with Comets in Reed-Custer for perhaps, the most anticipated game of the year. The 'Cats will head to Benedictine University on Oct. 7 before traveling to Streator on Oct. 14.

"I think first and foremost, you start with Braidwood. They just got a lot of kids back from a great team last year that they were in the quarterfinal and there were a lot of juniors that played last year so I look for them to be very good. I look for Lisle to be good. They have the majority of their kids coming back. That's our second game so that'll be a tough one."

"Then, you've got Coal City. Coal City is going to play us tough no matter what and they're going to be a little younger but they play such a great schedule with their first two games with Morris and Bishop Mac, and when they come play us in Week 3 they're going to be tested. That's really good football you're playing there."

"I see Braidwood being the top dog and then I see a lot of teams bunched up together. You've got Herscher--they've got a brand new coach. Their numbers are up. Streator had a brand new coach in the spring and his numbers are starting to come up because he's getting his program set and Manteno always plays us well. It's for sure a week-to-week in our conference. They know us and we know them but that's what makes great battles on Friday night."

They'll welcome in Manteno for their final game of the season before playoffs on Friday Oct. 21. Wilmington will attempt to rack up as many playoff points as they can from Week 1 to Week 8. The playoffs start Oct. 28.

All throughout the season, the 'Cats are going to strive for their first goal of conference champions and then focus on others.

"We want to be conference champions and you do that, and then after that you try to get the best seed you can playoff-wise and then you see what happens. So if by chance we're able to get into the playoffs, I still see us being in that bubble between 2A-3A but we'll wait to see what happens with all of that."

Reents, entering his 29th year of coaching the 'Cats, will have all of the same coaches he's had for the duration of his coaching tenure at Wilmington. He will, however, miss key offensive line coach Rob Murphy, who retired.

"It's been a little different without coach Murph around but so far so good. The coaches are picking up some of his responsibilities. He did such a great job for so long that. You can't replace Murph. No doubt about it but he'd be the first one to tell us to coach them up hard and get them where they need to be and that's what we're trying to do right now."