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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2022 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966

## The birds and the bees Pollinator garden planned for Wilmington

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

It's a small patch of grass at the base of the footbridge connecting downtown Wilmington to the North Island.

But to the members of Build Up Wilmington—a non-profit organization of local residents working on ways to improve and enhance the city—it's also a potential canvas for Mother Nature.

On Aug. 16, Build Up Wilmington brought an idea to the members of the Wilmington City Council, by way of the University of Illinois

Extension.

The group wants to use the small area to create a pollinator garden.

Nancy Kuhajda, Will County Master Gardener, Master Naturalist and Master Composter Program Coordinator with the University of Illinois Extension, told members of the council that pollination gardens can introduce the basics of gardening and food systems to both residents and students. Such gardens provide clear, real-life examples of the interdependent nature of the food ecosystem.

Build Up Wilmington and

the Extension have teamed up to improve Wilmington's long-term biodiversity, ecological health, and sustainability through the stewardship of pollinator gardens throughout Wilmington, starting with the proposed pilot walk bridge site.

"It's a garden that will grow well with little care, not that we'll give it little care. Low water needs, low maintenance needs, no bug problems, no diseases. People can replicate a lot of this stuff into their own gardens," Kuhajda said. "We can provide a slice of reality, and we'll take care of it. Homeowners can then carry



Photo by Marney Simon

A SMALL PIECE OF GRASS will be turned into a pollinator garden on the North Island. The project is being undertaken by volunteers with Build Up Wilmington and the University of Illinois Extension.

these ideas to their landscapes. Less work, less chemicals, more sustainable, more beauty."

Kuhajda said that while the proposed patch of land is not a large space, it can create an educational opportunity even in such a small space.

"People like to look at flowers and pretty places as well. I know you have a lot of community events in town, this could help with that as well. And, it can build community partnerships as well," Kuhajda said.

Once the garden is up and

SEE GARDEN, PAGE 2

## Out with the old...



Photo by Eric Fisher

**WITHOUT ITS SHELL** - The Wilmington Water Treatment Plant on Widow's Road near the Bobcat Football field is exposed after workers using a crane to remove the final section of the building last week. The original building was built 33 years ago and after fourth months of interior work, water taken from the Kankakee River and treated for consumption was first completed on Jan. 3, 1990. The plant uses a ClariCone filtering system to treat up to 2 million gallons per day. The ClariCones are the two green funnels at right. At left is a 60-foot high silo for storing lime used in the filtering process. The \$434,000 rehab is being completed by Brieser Construction.

## Overnight parking ban lifted for downtown

Ban returns to one day a week

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

There are some new rules for parking when visiting downtown Wilmington.

On Aug. 16, the members of the City Council approved a change to the city's rules on parking, eliminating the no overnight parking rule downtown and replacing it with a ban on overnight parking on

Sundays only.

The change prohibits parking on the east side of N. Water Street from Baltimore Street to Chicago Street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Sundays, and in the west side of N. Water Street from Baltimore Street to Chicago Street between the hours of 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. on Sundays.

Also per the ordinance, parking is prohibited in the following places:

- Sidewalks

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

## Wilmington to consider additional liquor licenses

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

A brief discussion on liquor licenses before the City Council on Aug. 16 was a sneak peek to potential growth for Wilmington's business base.

Mayor Ben Dietz led the short discussion on the potential to add additional licenses.

Currently, the city is lim-

ited to how many licenses it has to grant to applicants by code. When a new potential applicant comes to the city seeking a license, the City Council holds a discussion on amending that ordinance, before voting in favor or

SEE LIQUOR, PAGE 2



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# Garden

running, Kuhajda will offer an education session for community members.

The bees, butterflies, birds, and other insect pollinators supported by the garden also benefit nearby vegetable gardens, leading to healthier, more productive harvests.

Kuhajda added that pollinator gardens benefit other animals as well, using gardens as food sources, nesting, and overwintering sites, and as host plants for their young.

Approximately 75% of all food crops grown in the United States depend on pollinator animals such as insects, reptiles, birds, and some mammals.

Once developed as a Master Gardeners and Naturalists site, the garden will qualify for volunteer services and be advertised as a site to visit. Build Up Wilmington and the Extension will also pursue certification as a Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary, Monarch Butterflies Conservation site, and a Xerces Society site which includes advertisements in all their media formats as a site to visit, with the potential to bring more visitors into Wilmington.

The site has already been marked for utilities. The next step will be "lasagna gardening,"

which involves layering with cardboard, grass and leaves in the fall, which preps the soil for planing in the spring.

Phase Two will be in the spring the addition of pavers and planting of native plants such as milkweed, followed by signage and the creation of educational opportunities.

Build Up Wilmington also hopes to add rain barrel housing.

The site will be funded through donations, partnerships, and grant opportunities, and will be tended to by volunteers.

Kuhajda said the main objective is to create a pollinator garden that will enhance the visual and functional appeal of the area, increase habitat for pollinators, and provide a learning experience.

"The further away people get from nature... the less they are going to respect it," she said of the importance of creating natural spaces in Will County, adding that there has been a loss of pollinators, including bees and butterflies.

"This isn't a vegetable garden. This is an idea of creating something that benefits pollinators but benefits your community as well. People and their gardens, one of the two top things they don't want to do outside: Too much maintenance, and bugs and disease from chemicals."

# Council

- In front of a public or private driveway
- Within an intersection
- Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- On a crosswalk
- Within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection
- Within 30 feet upon the approach to any flashing beacon, stop sign or traffic-control signal located on the right side of a roadway
- Between a safety zone and the adjacent curb or within 30 feet of the points on the curb immediately opposite the ends of a safety zone
- Within 50 feet of the nearest rail of a railroad grade crossing
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and, on the side of the street opposite the entrance to any fire station, within 75 feet of the entrance when a proper sign posted
- Alongside or opposite any street excavation or obstruction when parking would obstruct traffic
- On the roadway side of any vehicle parked at the edge or curb of a street
- Upon any bridge or other elevated structure upon a highway or within a highway
- At any place where the standing of a vehicle will

reduce the usable width of a roadway for moving traffic to less than 18 feet

• At any place where official signs prohibit parking.

Other specific areas where parking is regulated include:

- No parking on Grasskamp Boulevard, Design Road, and Ridge Way located in the Ridgeport Logistics Center
- No parking at or proximate to 309 Kankakee River Dr. Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (marked by signage)

The downtown rule restricting overnight parking seven days a week was initially put into place in 2019, but more than two dozen downtown merchants and residents petitioned the city to change that rule. On the petition, residents and property owners said they wanted to see the ban lifted for reasons ranging from eliminating risk of drunk drivers by allowing people to leave their cars on the streets after visiting local bars, to having additional space for residents to park on the street.

In other business before the City Council on Aug. 16:

- Out with the old, and in with the new.

The city of Wilmington's water treatment plant is getting a facelift, and the major work finally commenced last week with the removal of the

old building.

"If you go down Widows Road, you'll notice the water treatment plant building has been removed almost completely. Next we'll start with putting back up the new shell," Director of Public Works James Gretencord said.

The renovations at the plant were approved in August 2021. Briesser Construction is completing work, which was approved at a cost not to exceed 434,010.

Meanwhile, Gretencord also recommended to the council to approve a new contract with New Era Spreading, to remove lime sludges in the city's east and west pits.

Gretencord said the city had reached out to four companies for the proposals, with New Era coming in at the lowest price.

"This will help us going forward because a lot of these fees are included with the contractor... so these should keep costs lower in the future, and we'll have longer cleaning of the east and west pit," he added.

The contract includes the removal of wet lime sludge and dry lime from both the east and west pit at a cost of \$16 per ton, not to exceed 750 tons. The removal of the dry lime will require an excavator with a cost of \$750 for delivery and pick-up as well as \$200 dollars per hour for machine and operator time. The total

cost for delivery and machine/operator hours will not exceed \$10,000. The dry lime will then be removed at a cost of \$20 per ton.

- The council approved an amendment creating the offense of reckless conduct as a local offense against persons.

The ordinance defines reckless conduct as engaging in acts that cause bodily harm or endangers another person, or cause great bodily harm or permanent disability or disfigurement to another person, by means either lawful or unlawful

The ordinance was approved at the request of the WPD.

- The council approved the budget reports in the amount of \$2.13 million. Of those total payments, \$2.04 million were made from the TIF II fund, for projects related to expansion at the Elion Logistics Park on Lorenzo Road.
- The council approved five separate resolutions regarding the city's banking practices. The resolutions designate Mayor Ben Dietz, City Administrator Jeannine Smith, Deputy City Clerk Joie Ziller, and Aldermen Kevin Kirwin, Jonathan Mietzner, and Dennis Vice as signatories on the city's various bank accounts.

## City of Wilmington hearing would allow city to establish historic landmarks

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT THE CITY OF WILMINGTON PLANNING & ZONING MEETING ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL OF WILMINGTON, 1165 SOUTH WATER STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 60481 TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

A TEXT AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 150 - ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES TO INCLUDE PROCEDURES THAT ALLOW FOR THE CITY OF WILMINGTON TO DESIGNATE OFFICIAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS WITHIN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY AND TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATIONS OF SUCH HISTORIC LANDMARKS, INCLUDING THE PROHIBITION TO CONSTRUCT, MOVE, ALTER, CHANGE, MAKE ADDITION TO, MAKE ANY IMPROVEMENT TO, ADD STRUCTURES OR BUILDINGS ON A LOT OR TRACT WITH A DESIGNATED HISTORICAL LANDMARK, DEMOLISH OR REMOVE THE EXTERIOR OR ANY ASPECT OF THE EXTERIOR OF ANY DESIGNATED HISTORIC LANDMARK.

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE INVITED TO DO SO AND WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. PURSUANT TO SECTION 7(E) OF THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, 5 ILCS 1207(E), AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY LEGAL COUNSEL, THE CITY OF WILMINGTON MAY CONDUCT ALL OR PORTIONS OF THIS MEETING BY USE OF TELEPHONIC OR ELECTRONIC MEANS WITHOUT A PHYSICAL QUORUM PRESENT IN THE BOARDROOM. PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS MEETING IS AVAILABLE AS FOLLOWS:

JOIN ZOOM MEETING BY VIDEO: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86737492480?pwd=VmtYQ1FyYyVjUWJmRDBMUT09>

JOIN ZOOM MEETING BY PHONE: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) MEETING ID: 867 3749 2480 PASSCODE: 396642

ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE INVITED TO DO SO AND WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SUCH A REQUEST CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY OF WILMINGTON AT 1165 S. WATER STREET, WILMINGTON, IL 1-815-476-2175.

JOIE ZILLER  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK  
CITY OF WILMINGTON

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022.

## Wilmington to hold hearing for 85-acre PUD on E. Kankakee River Drive

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Wilmington, IL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on September 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. a public hearing will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Wilmington at City Hall located at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL for the purpose of receiving and considering testimony and public comment on the request of petitioner 85 Wilmington LLC, 2500 S. Highland Ave., Suite 103, Lombard IL 60148 and contract purchaser, Walrus CC LLC, 5275 Mount Vernon Way, Dunwoody, GA 30338 for a Planned Unit Development and Plat of Subdivision per Wilmington's Code of Ordinances Chapter 150, Article 6 be designated for the development of approximately 85 acres as described below. Further under the proposed PUD, the purchaser, Walrus CC LLC on Phase 1, approximately thirty (30) acres of property located on the southeast corner of E Kankakee River Drive and HWY 53 in the City of Wilmington, and as described below shall be allowed to depart from section 150.64(D)(5) and will be allowed to construct a building on Phase 1 of the site at a building height of 100 feet, shall be allowed to depart from section 150.81(D) of which its 30 acres shall not have official ROW frontage, and shall be allowed to depart from section 152.102 allowing utilities serving the site not to be run through existing ROWs.

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
THAT PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER AND ALSO THAT PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 33 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE WEST 590.00 FEET OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 590.00 FEET OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER, 1214.33 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTH 00 DEGREES 41 MINUTES 20 SECONDS WEST ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 590.00 FEET OF SAID NORTHEAST QUARTER AND ALSO ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE WEST 590.00 FEET OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER, 1685.67 FEET TO A POINT ON THE CENTERLINE OF FORKED CREEK; THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 51 MINUTES 09 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID CREEK, 290.10 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 74 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID CREEK, 240.69 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 50 DEGREES 04 MINUTES 43 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID CREEK, 189.97 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 21 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 44 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID CREEK, 231.21 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF IL ROUTE 53 PER DOCUMENT NO. 905677 AND PER DOCUMENT NO. 341279; THENCE NORTH 67 DEGREES 14 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 1060.00 FEET TO A POINT OF CURVATURE; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ALONG SAID NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE, SAID LINE BEING A CURVE CONCAVE TO THE NORTHWEST HAVING A RADIUS OF 347.12 FEET AND AN ARC LENGTH OF 425.00 FEET TO A POINT OF TANGENCY ON THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF SAID ROUTE NO. 53; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 24 SECONDS WEST ALONG SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE, 1517.95 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 1144.76 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 134.20 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST, 790.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN #03-17-25-200-011-0000  
**PHASE 1 LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
PART OF NE 1/4 AND PART OF SE 1/4 OF SECTION 25 TOWNSHIP 33 N, RANGE 9 E OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCING AT NE CORNER OF W 590.00 FT OF NE 1/4 OF SAID SECTION. THENCE S OOD 41M 20S ALONG E LINE OF W 590.00 FT OF SAID NE 1/4 AND NE 1/4, 1214.33 FT TO POB; THENCE S OOD 41M 20S W 1356.36 FT TO A POINT ON WESTLY LINE OF PARCEL DESCRIBED AS 901 KANKAKEE RD. CALCULATED NOT DESCRIBED; THENCE S 90D OOD OOS E 974.79 FT TO A POINT ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID PARCEL CALCULATED NOT DESCRIBED; THENCE N OOD 07M 24S W 1490.36 FT TO A POINT ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID PARCEL CALCULATED NOT DESCRIBED; THENCE S 90D OOD OOS W 165.20 FT ALONG SAID NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID PARCEL; THENCE S OOD OOD OOS W 134.20 ALONG NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID PARCEL; THENCE N 90D OOD OOS W TO POB. AREA 30.56 ACRES WITH A CLOSURE ERROR OF +/- 0.11 FT  
PART OF PIN #03-17-25-200-011-0000  
All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 1207(e), and guidance provided by legal counsel, the City of Wilmington may conduct all or portions of this meeting by use of telephonic or electronic means without a physical quorum present in the boardroom. Public access to this meeting is available as follows:  
Join Zoom meeting by video: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86737492480?pwd=VmtYQ1FyYyVjUWJmRDBMUT09>  
Join Zoom meeting by phone:  
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 867 3749 2480  
Passcode: 396642  
All persons interested in attending are invited to do so and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Additional information on such application can be obtained from the City of Wilmington Zoning Administrator at 1165 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL (815) 476-2175.

City of Wilmington  
Will County, Illinois  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022.

# Liquor

against prior to issuing any new licenses.

Dietz told members of the council that there are needs for additional liquor licenses on the horizon.

"I think it's a fair assumption that in the next three or

## Attorney Lynch files Elam estate claim

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
STATE OF ILLINOIS  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEONARD R. ELAM, Deceased; No. 22 PR 452

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Leonard R. Elam. Letters of Office were issued to Victor L. Senffner whose address is 4017 NW 22nd Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33993 as Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 24th day of February, 2023 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch  
For the Estate of  
Leonard R. Elam,  
Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch  
1861 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-725-8000  
Atty No.: 06275404  
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Aug. 24, 31 and Sept. 7, 2022.

## Attorney McGrath files Wade estate notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**LEGAL 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 JEANE M. WADE, Deceased, Case No.: 22 PR 41  
**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors, of the death of JEANE M. WADE, of Vandalia, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued August 11, 2022, to Robert W. Wade, as Independent Administrator, whose address is 25349 Faraday Rd., Manhattan, IL 60442, 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 24, 2023, 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.illinoislegald.org](http://www.illinoislegald.org).  
Robert W. Wade,  
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Jeane M. Wade, Deceased.  
Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170  
McGrath Law, P.C.  
440 S. State Street  
Manhattan, IL 60442  
(815) 478-4020  
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Aug. 24, 31 and Sept. 7, 2022.

four months, on top of the current licenses... we'll be asked to grant additional licenses," Dietz said. "Those are new businesses that are coming to town. Those are existing businesses that want to add that as a portion of their business. Or, businesses that are requesting an upgrade to an existing license."

Dietz said he would like to see the council consider setting more liquor licenses for availability.

He said there is potential for new licenses for existing businesses, businesses that want to build, remodel or

upgrade their current storefronts, and potential for businesses that are currently outside the city limits looking to annex in to Wilmington.

Dietz said some businesses may also want to add video gaming, in which case they are required by state statute to serve liquor for on-premise consumption.

"It's not just me granting additional licenses. It's having more licenses to give out. Currently, we don't have any official petitioners. But, we want to have those discussions," Dietz said.

Aldermen were in favor of

potentially increasing the available number of licenses.

"For growth, we need to be competitive with other towns," Alderman Thomas Smith said. "We want to be sure that we bring in new business.

City leaders said there is enough demand for new licenses that it makes sense to grant more.

Dietz asked the aldermen to bring the discussion to their constituents before coming back to council for a vote.

There was no action taken on the issue.

## Coffee & Newspapers

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One opens your eyes

### Main Street Storage to dispose of property

### LEGAL NOTICE

**Notice of Lien**  
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the State of Illinois Self-Service, Storage Facility Act, a sale or other disposition of the property of tenant, Crystal Lundemo, occupying Unit #23, will be held at Main Street Storage, 201 North Main Street, Wilmington, IL 60481, (815-476-9510) on Sept. 9, 2022 at 9 a.m., if unpaid rental charges, late fees and charges associated with the attempt to collect this debt are not paid in full before that date.  
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Aug. 24 & 31, 2022.

## Adkins petitions for name change

### PUBLIC 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.



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

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the Free Press Advocate, Box 327, Wilmington, IL 60481.

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# HAPPY birthday

## Izzy



## Sweet Sixteen

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Oakley & Cooper

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor

# A Castle on the prairie, smell that money

It's County Fair time again. Personally, I love it. It tells me that our rural way of life in this part of the County is still alive and thriving.



TIME WAS....  
Sandy Vasko

I reviewed my file on past County fairs and I found one name mentioned in almost every year starting in 1873 - Homer Castle. Let's get to know him.

Homer Castle was born in Ontario County, N. Y. on May 22, 1834. In 1854 he moved to Wesley Township, also Homer and Wilton Townships, finally in 1867 he moved to Rockville Township in Kankakee County. In 1856 he married Miss Adaline Gooding, and had 13 children.

His biography in the History of Will County 1878, merely adds that he was a breeder and shipper of Poland-China hogs. But there is way more to that statement.

He was obviously in business with his wife's family as we read in January, 1873 we read, "Homer A. Castle, Esq., of Rockville, brought to this market on Thursday, of last week, one of the finest lot of hogs of which we have heard.

April pigs, 15 in number, and averaged 383 lbs. Three other and older hogs, weighed 2,000 lbs. including one weighing 810.

These, with a lot belonging to Alanson Gooding Esq., made a car load of the best pork ever shipped from Wilmington.

And a year later, "On Tuesday last Homer C. Castle, Esq., sold a drove of 18 May and June hogs, each averaging 307 pounds. Alanson Gooding, Esq., was the purchaser."

In the Centennial year 1876 Homer hit the road with his hogs, "About this time Homer Castle and Longshore are pointing out their fancy pigs at the Centennial. Bring back the blue ribbons, gentlemen."

In a description of the Will County Fair in 1877 we read, "Gracious, what hogs! What whoppers from the pens of Francis, Stoll, Snoad, and last, but by no means least, our friend Castle, of Rockville. The latter named gentleman, with all the grace and air of ring-master, reached for his carriage whip and "stirred up the animals" for our inspection.

There among the Poland Chinas and Chester Whites sat old "Jim Crow," a \$500 (\$13,200 today) boar; nearby grunted "Queen Elizabeth" in all her glory, though without the traditional ruffle.

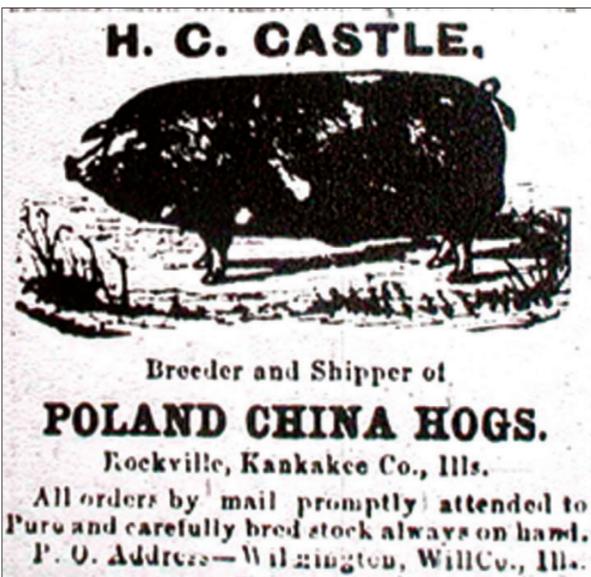
Dozens of little piglets, lively as crickets, sported around in other pens admired by all. Mr. Castle will take his stock and pocketful of blue ribbons (first premiums) to the State fair next week."

An unfortunate incident happened at that Fair. We read in the Joliet Signal, "A brutal attack was made last Thursday upon a man employed by H. C. Castle, the extensive hog breeder of Rockville, to take care of his swine while on the Joliet fair ground.

Ingalls, one of the specials security about the grounds, saw this man, who was fatigued with work and watching, sleeping by the pen which contained his employer's hogs." "Whether he supposed the man was an incendiary or whether he himself was under the influence of liquor does not appear, but he laid hold of the sleeping man, dragged him to his feet and ordered him from the ground.

The man endeavored in vain to explain that he was at his post of duty. Ingalls followed this by striking him a terrible blow with a billy, which laid his face open in a bloody manner and felled him to the ground.

His followed up the attack by other blows upon the prostrate man which left his foe beyond recognition. Help came and Ingalls was forced to refrain from his bloody work. Neither has he been taken."



An ad from the late 1800s.

In 1878 we read, "At the exposition of fat stock in Chicago, this week, we are glad to note that Homer Castle's hogs were awarded the following named premiums: First premium for boar two years and over; second premium for boar one year and less than two years; first premium for pig less than six months; second premium for pig over six months and less than one year.

Also, sweepstakes for hogs two years and over, and for pigs over six months and under

one year. Castle only had six pigs on exhibition, and surely, he received his share of the laurels."

In 1879 a heart-breaking accident occurred, "A child of Joseph Coash, of this city, one year and eight months old, was run over by a farmer's wagon on Water Street, Thursday week, and fatally injured.

It appears that the wagon was loaded with lumber, and the driver, Mr. Homer C. Castle, who is a temperate and

careful man, had his attention drawn toward two other children at the time. The little victim was playing in the middle of the road, and was unnoticed until too late. Death ensued immediately. The driver is exonerated from all blame."

This must have been all the more painful for Homer as only 7 months earlier his own daughter died of membranous croup at the age of two.

Castle also knew that a picture is worth a thousand words. "Mitchell, the photographer, has just finished some extra fine cabinet size pictures of some of H. C. Castle's blooded swine.

"Queen of the West II" and "Princess" are among them and are admired by all stock fanciers who have seen them. Mr. Castle spares neither money or pains to place his Poland Chinas in the very front rank."

Mr. Castle lived his life dealing with hogs. In 1905 we read, "Homer Castle, well known in this city, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Smith, in Waldron on Sunday last of heart disease. For the past year he has had charge of the hog department at the insane hospital.

His wife died 19 years ago. Thirteen children were born to them, eleven of whom are living. His remains were brought to this city Tuesday and laid to rest in Oakwood cemetery."

## WHS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFIT  
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The WHS Seniors of the Week feature resumes after the summer break. Each week the Free Press Advocate intends to feature seniors from the Class of 2022 who complete our questionnaire. Featured this week are Tyler Sivertson and Ella Cooper



TYLER SIVERTSON

**Tyler Sivertson**  
What do you plan to pursue after graduation?  
Computer Science

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I got 2nd place in C class at the Aim Grand Nationals for trap shooting.

What everyday activity could you win an Olympic medal in? Running up and down the stairs

Your favorite thing to eat on the school lunch menu? Cheeseburger

One thing you won't eat is? Chinese Food

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Marching band, because it is the reason I decided to go to



ELLA COOPER

public school.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Josh Dunn of Twenty-One Pilots because he is an amazing drummer and I really admire his skill.

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

If you could create a class what would it be? Any class that has a game element. There are many different games that have an educational element

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I have two siblings

What everyday activity could you win an Olympic Medal in? Sleeping

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

One thing you won't eat is? Mushroom

A sport or club that made an impact on you and why? Speech and Theater in general, it's so fun and helped me make a lot of new friends.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Freddie Mercury, I want to hear him sing in person.

If you could travel anywhere, where would you go? London to see all the history.

If you could create a class what would it be? At WHS, I would create more foreign language options (Mandarin, ASL, French)

Advice you would give to underclassmen? Don't be afraid to ask for help, most students will be happy to help you.

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY!  
Read Time Was... by Sandy Vasko  
EACH WEEK IN THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE

*In Loving Memory*

It's been 20 years since you passed. There are days it feels like yesterday. And then there are days when I can't believe that is has been this long.

**JAMIE J. JONES**  
Feb. 20, 1972 -  
Aug. 18, 2002  
From your family

### 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

entity'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.

### Lifetime Athletic passes for seniors offered at WHS

Dr. Matt Swick, Superintendent of Wilmington Schools, invites senior citizens who are residents of District 209-U to get their free athletic passes.

The passes will allow senior citizens to attend all 209-U athletic events, excluding tournaments, free of charge. Athletic passes are good for the lifetime of the card holder.

Those who are not cardholders should visit the Superintendent's office on the north side of the high school with their Medicare card Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

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*lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.*

*The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.*

*Submissions by email to: [courant@fpnusa.com](mailto:courant@fpnusa.com) with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com), -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.*

## Corrupt Illinois

**BRAIDWOOD**—Seems the Illinois lawmaker who pushed for the criminal justice reform bill had an inside deal in which he may have tried to benefit. State Senator Elgie Sims, a Chicago Democrat who pushed for HB 3653, is now being investigated by the federal government for possible corruption between himself and Axon Enterprises, Inc., a police body-camera manufacturer. HB 3653, which will allow for early release of hundreds of inmates and no cash bail in Illinois, also will require all police to wear body cameras. While Sims has yet to be charged, you see the connection here in that he drafted that police camera requirement in his legislation passed late in the night in the closing minutes of the 2021 session. I get that in corrupt Illinois that's how lawmakers do business. But the sad fact is that the governor and attorney general Kwame Raoul likely know about the allegations against Sims but do not step forward to say this is wrong and needs to stop in Illinois. Again, Raoul is nowhere to be found in this investigation.

## How much longer?

**COAL CITY**—There is a trailer in the drive way on S. Linda St. in Coal City. It's been there for three months. How long is the village going to let them keep this trailer in the driveway?

## Historical inaccuracies

**WILMINGTON**—A recent caller took a history teacher to task for spreading historical inaccuracies then turned around and did the same thing regarding Thomas Jefferson. The caller said Jefferson loved his creator which might be true because he was a Deist and not a Christian. He did not believe in the divinity of Jesus but admired his philosophy. Now as to Jefferson loving his freed slave Sally Hemings, she was freed after Jefferson's death by his daughter. He owned 600 humans and freed two of them and seven were freed after his death. He might have loved Ms. Hemings but it was still rape starting at age 14. It's not like she could just say no. But hey, romantic fantasies are not history.

## Great job

**COAL CITY**—Kudos to the building owner who cleaned up the old building on East Division Street and hired someone from Chicago to paint the awesome murals on both sides of the building. What a great job they did.

## Online video

**WILMINGTON**—I just wanted to thank the Wilmington ESDA for the online videos of the Catfish Days parade. Especially the one that actually shows Wilmington had a Grand Marshall this year. That Sunday evening, over 30 photos were e-mailed to the newspaper of the Wilmington Moose Riders and not one made the paper. What a shame. They're a great local non-profit group and would have appreciated that honor. Thank you, Wilmington ESDA.

*Publisher's note: We appreciate the submission of photos but we had the parade covered with staff-produced photos which filled more than two pages.*

## Exacerbating the problem

**WILMINGTON**—It seems as if the Democrats believe more government spending is the solutions to our problems. The Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats and signed by Biden, sounds good by a name they dreamed up, but in reality, instead of reducing inflation it may actually exacerbate the problem. If Congress wants to do something constructive, it should reduce out taxes, which would stimulate more consumer spending and this get the economy moving again. Unfortunately, that's not going to happen under the current Congress or president. But there is hope on the horizon and that is the midterm elections. We can only hope that the voters realize the dire situation and act accordingly.

## Why take the papers?

**WILMINGTON**—How many presidents take home classified papers? Why would Trump have these top secret papers in his possession; maybe to give to his buddy, Putin? Kurt has it right; Putin wants Alaska and everything else; greed and power hungry! Who does that sound like? Wake up people, study the facts, not fake news.

## Interjecting your thoughts

**WILMINGTON**—To a certain Shadow Lakes Sound-off contributor. I re-read the Sound-off post called "Fact based history" twice. Where did it say the Civil War was caused

by slavery? For that matter, the author did not even mention the Civil War. You continue to interject your thoughts to make yourself sound like the smartest guy in the room. And I imagine two highly trained educators use multiple resources, not just a single textbook, to prepare their lessons. Since you have such sage advice for teachers, why not work on your language arts skills? Your run-on sentences are quite confusing to follow.

## The Flimflam Man

**BRAIDWOOD**—Remember the bluster and braggadocio of former President Trump who often said that pleading the Fifth was only for mobsters and the guilty? Recently Trump pleaded the Fifth 440 times, averaging two times a minute, during a deposition by New York State's Attorney General. Trump is hounded by so many investigations that the old saying 'where there's smoke there's fire' seems to apply. It's true that five years ago the Trump Foundation was shut down with orders for him to never operate a charity again in New York State because he was treating the charity like his personal slush-fund. Likewise Trump defrauded his students at Trump University who successfully sued him for \$25 million. Paul

## Letting them go

**WILMINGTON**—Drug runners were caught bringing in thousands of Fentanyl pills in the shape of children's candy and vitamins. They were released and sent back to Mexico. What will it take for the president to do something?

## No whining

**BRAIDWOOD**—The police give advice with the phrase 'Comply, don't die' to prevent the loss of life during minor traffic violations. Similarly former President Trump was asked by authorities to comply with requests to return documents he illegally took from the White House when he left in January 2021. At first, the DOJ asked nicely but no compliance from Trump. Then the DOJ issued a subpoena in June and retrieved some documents from Mar-a-Lago but total compliance was still missing from Trump. That's when the search warrant was issued and that's when Trump found another way to milk millions from donors. We turn a deaf ear to Trump's whining and crying like a baby. We want to know how was he planning to use, misuse or abuse these documents? AMS

## That day in Helsinki

**WILMINGTON**—Remember in 2017 when former President Trump invited Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov into the Oval Office and shut the door? Our security analysts were horrified considering that Trump is noted for his love of our adversary Russia and considers the savage beast, Putin, a genius. At the 2018 Helsinki summit things went much worse. Trump dismissed the U.S. interpreter while he privately conversed with Putin and a Russian interpreter. Although this is forbidden, Trump got away with it and we'll never know what was discussed. At this same conference, Trump announced to the world that he trusts Putin more than U.S. intelligence causing a hair-raising howl to erupt across our nation. The question therefore is, why are we surprised that Trump stole classified top secret documents? Ralph D.

## Arming the IRS

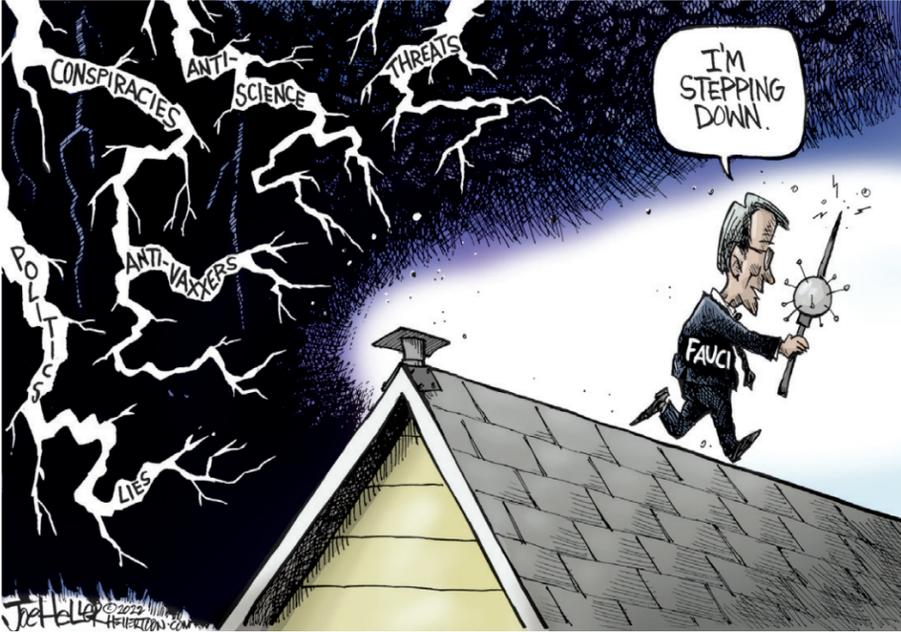
**MORRIS**—Read about the bill President Biden just signed, Inflation Reduction Act. It allocates \$80 billion to the IRS on top of the \$12 billion they got last year. They intend to hire 87,000 additional special agents. The IRS Service with 2,159 agents spent \$21 million on guns, ammunition and military style equipment between 2006-2019 and another \$700,000 worth in 2022. They have in excess 5,000 guns including automatic machine guns and five million rounds of ammunition. There could be more. Why does an IRS collection agency need guns? The IRS employee union donates 99% of its money to Democrats. What's worse is about turning over that large amount of money to 150,000 IRS agents. The Democrats' Bill turned down more money for police, border patrol agents and army recruiters to give to IRS agents. No Republican supported that bill.

## Attention soccer parents

**COAL CITY**—Attention soccer parents that park on the wrong side of North DeWitt Place. Please respect the neighborhood and park legally and no parking on the lawns. If your dogs are not service animals leave them home. There are signs that say this.

## Now he'll run

**MORRIS**—Fourteen FBI agents have come to the Republicans offices as whistleblowers to



provide information for the Republican congressional investigations after the agency raided Trump's Florida home. President Trump would have not ran in 2024. Now he will.

## Unfinished business

**MORRIS**—Wyoming Republican Liz Chaney, who last week lost her seat for re-election in Wyoming, will be around D.C. until January. She is the multi-millionaire daughter of Vice President Dick Chaney under President Bush administration. The Bushes were almost distinguishable from the Democrats and painlessly fulfilled the need for the maintenance of a two party system. One or the other member of the Bush-Clinton families was president, vice president or secretary of state for 32 consecutive years from 1981-2013. Obama not only broke the color barrier, he took the Democrats distinctly to the Left. Along comes populist President Donald Trump, and a billionaire besides, to help the disgruntled workers and lower middle class and the Bush, McCain, Romney, etc. Republicans rejected him from day one, not only the Democrats did. If president Trump doesn't run in 2024, one of the candidates he picks to carry out his unfinished program would be great.

## Terrified of Trump

**WILMINGTON**—"The Swamp" is the bureaucratic Washington, D.C. establishments, the alphabet soup of agencies whose personnel, though unelected and largely unaccountable, run our lives right down to the latest permit regulation, taxes, fees, impost and woke government requirement. The Jan. 6 committee is terrified that President Trump might return to carry out his tasks in 2024. The fury against him will be unending. How does the man and his family even handle it?

## Billions will be wasted

**BRAIDWOOD**—President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Bill without a Republican vote; \$790,000,000 while China, Russia and Iran had the biggest laugh ever. Your taxes are going up big time. Electricity gas to heat, groceries, etc. with 87,000 new IRS agents who will go after the farmers and small businesses. Billions goes to the energy commitment, more windmills, etc. like we ever needed one of them. Those countries listed above could care less about climate change. They're not about to change their ways.

## All for show

**SHADOW LAKES**—If you wonder why Americans worry about their freedom you only have to watch Attorney General Merrick Garland putting lipstick on the show trial called the Jan. 6 investigation. It's nothing but show trial because it only had a prosecution with no defense. Since when does that happen in a trial? Maybe Merrick didn't hear the story of Elizabeth Willing Powel on the steps of Independence Hall asking Benjamin Franklin what kind of government did you give us? To which Franklin replied a Republic if you can keep it. Then there was Francis Bellamy, a Socialist, who wrote the Pledge of Allegiance. He didn't write and to the Democracy for which it stands. He wrote and to the Republic for which it stands. This is a Republic, not a Democracy. Get it Penny Lane? Dan Hill

## My poetry

**WILMINGTON**—There was a crooked man who lived in a crooked house and he invited all his crooked cronies to live in this crooked

house. But then there came a ray of light and a tall straight up man and he followed the rule of law and the constitution. He put all the crooked cronies on a crooked boat and sent them up a crooked creek with a crooked paddle. So now the crooked man with the crooked back was on a crooked path and he never does come back. The end. JoAnn

## Nothing of substance

**WILMINGTON**—Have you noticed the Conservatives have a habit of being outraged and then rant and rave without saying anything of substance? An example is the execution of a legal search warrant at Mar-A-Lago. They screamed this is unprecedented but Trump's quasi-criminal presidency was unprecedented. And remember, there's a first time for everything. They tell people if the FBI can do this to Trump they can do it to you. Well if you are engaging in criminal activity they can already do it to you. They scream about the IRS hiring 87,000 agents but that hiring is over a 10 year period and the IRS is expecting 50,000 retirements. If you're not cheating on your taxes why are you worried? The Right likes to use fear to keep their base in line and that is sad. Penny Lane

## I'm predicting

**SHADOW LAKES**—I do believe that Trump will run in 2024 and he will win. But the Democrats, or I should say Communists, will assassinate him. I predicted this the first time he ran and won but I was wrong. But they did it to John F. Kennedy and they attempted it with Ronald Reagan because these Communist Democrats do not want America to be strong. Dan Hill

## Believe what you want

Well it looks like I touched a raw nerve by calling out Dan and Sharon for their Right Wing nonsense that appears weekly in Sound-off. Your defense of your views is hilarious but sad. Sharon tells us that everything she sends into Sound-off is verifiable so if Fox repeats something Newsmax said it is gospel. How ridiculous. Dan tells us that slavery didn't cause the Civil War. How strange that the south seceded soon after Lincoln's 1860 election since his party's main goal was to stop the expansion of slavery. By the way, my history books are purchased from Amazon, nobody gives them to me. Dan says all text books are screened. I'm not sure what that means but when I was teaching all the faculty members met with the textbook publishers to find the best materials for our students. But it's a free country and you can believe whatever you want. You can believe that Trump won the last election and that the Earth is flat. You can believe Corona Virus doesn't exist but if you get it horse medicine will cure it. You can believe that critical race theory is real, but climate change is a hoax. You can always find a few people who will agree with your extremist views, but the rest of us just continue to snicker and shake our heads.

## Commentary

# Illinois needs to double cover crop program to entice farmers

BY KRIS REYNOLDS

Farm families like mine know all too well dark days that have little to do with getting up before the sun.

COVID-19 created devastating effects for farm markets. Wetter-than-normal springs limited favorable planting days. Larger storm events and longer heat waves – too much wet followed by too much dry – created too much stress for farmers and crops throughout the growing season. Now, rising input costs for how much we spend to plant our grounds, and persistent weed and pest pressures that threaten crop health create their own challenges.

We persevere and ultimately prevail, keeping our state's critical agricultural economy working while constantly innovating to improve operations, build stronger soil and reduce nutrient loss. We don't just plant a few rows of seed and hope for the best. We spend countless hours in the field and making careful decisions

for sustainable strategies that help our operations, our communities, and our environment.

The state's popular cover crop program might be one of our best-kept secrets, even as the secret gets out.

Cover crops wear several hats. They hold soil in place, capturing lost nutrients before they leave the field and protecting carbon stored beneath the surface. Every acre planted, along with other sensible preventive practices, can boost farmers' bottom lines by decreasing inputs and sustaining yields – good news after dark days.

Many, like me, are recognizing the value. Since 2011, cover crop adoption in Illinois has more than doubled, according to the 2021 Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Biennial Report.

Illinois has created the Fall Covers for Spring Savings (FCSS) program that provides \$5 for every acre worth of discount on crop insurance premiums when cover crops are planted

there. More than 100,000 acres were part of the program this past year, and farmers see it as a cost-effective way to support those among them who see firsthand the benefits of protecting soil health and water quality.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture then followed Illinois' leadership with its own Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) to give that same \$5-an-acre discount. More than 533,000 acres nationwide saw the discount in 2021, and some farmers see double the benefit by securing funds from both programs.

But the demand and potential benefit far exceeds capacity today. In the state program, slots for funding have sold out in minutes. The federal PCCP reports potentially hundreds of thousands more acres that could benefit but are not enrolled.

USDA is offering PCCP enrollment again this year, and Illinois should expand its state FCSS to provide that essential state match and double the benefit for participating farmers.

We're calling on the Illinois General Assembly to double the FCSS budget to \$1.3 million in its upcoming fiscal year to reach 200,000 acres with cover crops across the state. This will create exciting new momentum and a snowball effect. As more farmers see the great results from cover crops with less risk because of FCSS support, others will join to reap those same benefits.

Farmers want to be the solution for healthy soils and clean water. They need some help from Springfield to ease anxiety, show results and build off initial progress. A small, sensible and targeted investment now in the cover crops program will be a strong step for future success in our state conservation programs. It will also give farmers the assurance we will be there to support them doing the right thing through the next set of dark days ahead.

*Kris Reynolds is Midwest director of American Farmland Trust. He is a fifth-generation farmer in Nokomis in central Illinois.*

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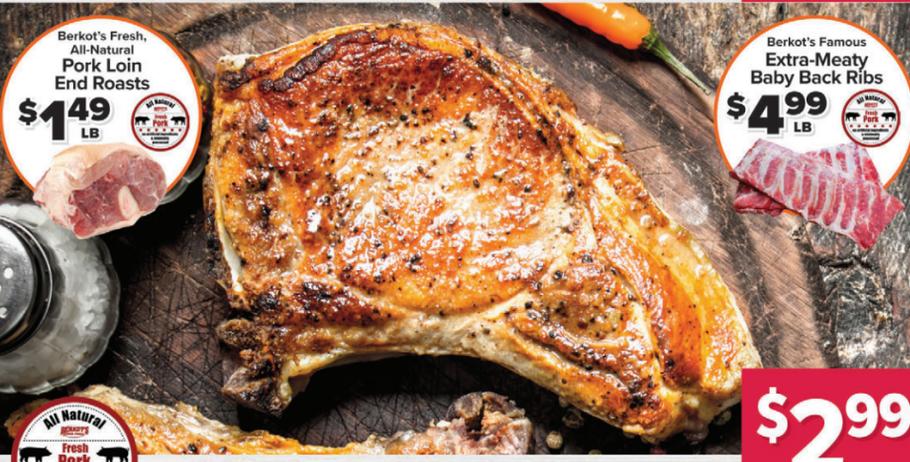
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**99¢**  
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Save more money with Berkot's weekly grocery steals

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**99¢**

Arizona Tea 128 oz



**\$2.99**

Ragu Pasta Sauce 15.5-24 oz



**3/\$5**

Lay's Chips or Kettle Chips 7.75-8 oz



**2/\$5**

Ice Mountain Water- 28 pk



**2/\$7**  
LIMIT 4



**2 FOR \$3**

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Busch, Busch Light, or Rolling Rock 30 pk 12 oz cans



Single Purchase: \$14.99

**\$11.99** when buying 2

Miller Lite, Miller 64, MGD, Coors Light, Coors Banquet, Budweiser or Bud Light 24 pk 12 oz btls or cans



Single Purchase: \$16.99

**\$13.99** when buying 2 like items

LIMIT 4

Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

# Registration underway for Corn Fest 5K Run

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers will host its annual Corn Fest 5K on Saturday, Oct. 1, from Morris Elementary School, 2001 Dupont Ave., Morris, as part of the Grundy County Corn Festival. The race begins at 9 a.m. and is preceded by a Youth Fun Run for children 10 and under beginning at 8:15 a.m..

Early bird registration for the 5K run is currently underway through Aug. 28 for \$25 per person. From Aug. 29-Sept. 26, the registration fee increases to \$28. Race day registration is \$30.

The first 300 pre-registered 5K participants will receive a unisex shirt available in adult sizes only.

The course is a 3.1 mile USATF certified course that starts on Dupont Avenue in front of Morris Elementary School and winds through residential neighborhoods. Awards will be presented to the top three in each age group, along with overall awards presented to the top three males and females.

The Youth Fun Run is \$10 per child whether registering in advance or on race day. Children ages 6-10 will run a half mile course around the grounds of the school starting at 8:15 a.m. At 8:30 a.m., children 5 and under will run a 100 yard course on the field behind Morris Elementary School. Children registered for the Youth Fun Run will receive a short sleeve cotton t-shirt.

Online registration is available through Sept. 26 at [raceroster.com/59660](http://raceroster.com/59660) or by going to [morrishospital.org/events](http://morrishospital.org/events)

The first 300 pre-registered 5K participants will receive a unisex shirt available in adult sizes only.

The course is a 3.1 mile USATF certified course that starts on Dupont Avenue in front of Morris Elementary School and winds through residential neighborhoods. Awards will be presented to the top three in each age

# Enjoy the end of the summer with a Paloma

As we wind down the 2022 edition of summer break, let's take a look at our summer checklists. Trip to the lake? Check. Sunburn? Check. Fireworks? Check. Cancelled flights/airport issues? Unfortunately, check. What about the most refreshing, most underappreciated tequila cocktail? No? Then it's time to enjoy a Paloma before summer 2022 officially ends.

halved limes, a bottle of tequila, and a bucket of ice.

When the tray arrives at your table, you simply fill your glass with ice, add tequila, squeeze in a lime wedge, and top with soda. Simple, and delicious.

The Paloma requires no special bar tools or mixology know how.

One thing that is an absolute must in a Paloma is a quality tequila, because you are going to taste the tequila. Do not let that scare you away from the Paloma.

If you use the right tequila, a quality 100% agave tequila, the drink will be balanced and you will be spared the horrific aftertaste of cheap tequila. There are few things in this world worse than bad tequila, and bad tequila is out there.

The best way to guard against bad tequila is to only use 100% agave tequila. The 100% agave offerings are dry meaning there is no unpleasant aftertaste, and you will pick up sweet notes of fruit from the agave.

How do you know if your tequila is 100% agave? Read the label. If the words "100% agave" do not appear on the bottle, put it back on the shelf and grab a different bottle. Olmeca Altos, El Amo, Hornitos, and Jimador are all



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL  
Brian Rung

excellent 100% agave tequilas that can be had cheaper than most orders at Starbucks.

Everyone has a different take on the "correct" proportions for the Paloma. I prefer to use more grapefruit soda than tequila a Paloma, whereas some prefer a heavier pour of tequila. A good starting point for the Paloma would look like the recipe below, adjust proportions to taste. I typically go a little heavy on the lime juice.

Fill tumbler with ice, then add:

- 3 oz. grapefruit soda
- 2 oz. 100% agave blanco tequila
- 1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
- Optional: add pinch of kosher salt

Stir and serve

A quick note on salting the rim of a glass: prep the glass by running a lime wedge around the rim of the glass and use kosher salt as opposed to regular table salt.

The irregular granules of kosher salt will adhere to the glass better and will dissolve slower. Kosher salt also makes for a better presentation for both the Margarita and the Paloma.

What if you prefer natural grapefruit juice in place of

grapefruit soda? No problem! You can still add the grapefruit sparkle by using fresh grapefruit juice in your Paloma, with a splash of club soda.

Sometimes a backyard gathering calls for a large batch of Palomas, and like its Margarita cousin the Paloma lends itself to large batch preparation. Once the batch is made, simply pour into your favorite tumbler and top with club soda.

A commercially bottled grapefruit juice will work in this recipe, but if you want to live your best Paloma life you will need to use fresh fruit juice.

A juicer will save time and elbow grease, and I highly recommend going to the extra mile for fresh juice. The results will speak for themselves.

The Large batch Paloma is built in a pitcher and served in your salt-rimmed favorite tumbler.

Combine in pitcher:

- 2 2/3 cups blanco tequila
- 2 2/3 cups grapefruit juice
- 1 cup fresh lime juice
- 1 cup water
- 5 TBSB agave nectar
- 1/2 TSP kosher salt

Stir ingredients

Chill in refrigerator for 1 hour

Pour into glass over ice, top with club soda

Garnish with grapefruit wedge

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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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. Please join your classmates at these events.

# State lays out \$34.6 billion multi-year spending plan

## Rebuild Illinois plan provides state funding backbone for latest annual multi-year plan

BY JERRY NOWICKI  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Transportation on Friday laid out a \$34.6 billion six-year spending plan for road, bridge, transit, rail, airport and port upkeep.

"We are aggressively, aggressively pushing all these projects across the entire state," he said.

The highway portion of the multi-year plan — a required filing each year for the state's transportation agency — accounts for \$24.6 billion of the planned spending. Of that, \$13.3 billion, or 54%, is federally funded, just over \$6 billion is state funding, \$4.1 billion comes from bond proceeds, and \$1.2 billion comes from local reimbursements.

The current fiscal year, which began July 1, is scheduled to see \$3.7 billion in new construction under the road and bridge plan.

Another near-\$10 billion in combined state, federal, local and private spending was laid out for transit, marine transportation, railways and airports. Of that, 59% was state spending and 31% federal.

Projects in that plan range from construction of high-speed rail between St. Louis and Chicago to airport upgrades to support for major port renovations at the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers near Cairo in southern Illinois.

Road projects are underway in all nine of the state's IDOT districts, from a \$54 million interchange reconstruction, bridge replacement and repair on Interstate 80 in Will County, to \$100.3 million for improvements on Interstate 24 from Metropolis to Interstate 57 in Massac, Johnson and Williamson counties.

"The renovation of nearly 4,500 miles of highway and over 400 bridges has already been completed, and virtually every Illinois resident can see and feel the results in real time," Pritzker said.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law by President Joe Biden last year allowed Illinois to expand its multi-year plan by \$4 billion, Osman said.

The fact that Illinois had an infrastructure plan when the federal law passed, Pritzker said, made the state better equipped to take advantage of federal matching funding,

which provides for an 80% federal match for a state's investment of 20% of certain projects' costs.

"Because we passed rebuild Illinois two-and-a-half years before the (federal law) was passed, we actually are shovel ready, we have the resources available," Pritzker said. "There are a lot of other states that have to come up with those dollars, don't know where they're going to come from. And so we're really in a position to do much more, much more quickly."

The Rebuild Illinois plan passed with overwhelming bipartisan majorities in Pritzker's first year as governor, marking the first state capital infrastructure plan in nearly a decade.

Lawmakers from both parties hailed it as forward-thinking for its automatic motor fuel tax increase, raised registration rates for electric vehicles, and the authorization of bonding to pay for construction.

The motor fuel tax and fee increase, contained in Senate Bill 1939 passed 48-9 in the Senate and 83-29 in the House. The spending plan, contained in House Bill 62, passed 95-18 in the House and 53-6 in the Senate. The bonding authority measure, contained in House Bill 142, passed 94-20 in the House and 53-6 in the Senate.

One lawmaker voting against all three portions of the plan was then-Rep. Darren Bailey, the Xenia Republican

and current state senator who is challenging Pritzker in the 2022 governor's race.

Bailey has frequently criticized the motor fuel tax increase, successfully using it as an avenue of attack against challengers in the Republican primary. But he hasn't offered up an infrastructure funding plan of his own.

Asked for comment on the infrastructure plan and potential alternatives Friday, Bailey's team issued a statement.

"JB Pritzker's gas tax hike gave Illinois the second-highest gas tax in the country, and some of the highest gas prices. It is simply not affordable," spokesperson Joe DeBose said in a statement. "48 states are able to build their transportation infrastructure with lower gas taxes than Illinois. We can do better with zero-based budgeting and reprioritizing spending, but not with J.B. Pritzker in charge."

Osman, who has worked at IDOT for more than 30 years and became its director under Pritzker, said the motor fuel tax increase means infrastructure improvements can continue beyond Rebuild Illinois' initial six-year lifespan.

"We are number three in the nation when it comes to interstate land mileage, and that's a big statement to make," he said. "Our system is complex, and we need that sustainable funding as we go down the road beyond the six years, for sure."

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It's the latest multi-year plan backed by the state's 2019 Rebuild Illinois infrastructure law which doubled the state's motor fuel tax from 19 to 38 cents per gallon and scheduled it to grow with the rate of inflation. That measure also increased driving-related fees, redirected a portion of the state's sales tax on motor fuel to the road fund and authorized borrowing to pay for construction projects.

"A little over three years ago, I signed our historic bipartisan infrastructure program into law," Gov. JB Pritzker said at a news conference at the IDOT building in Springfield. "And since then, Rebuild Illinois has undertaken a massive transformation of our state's transportation systems."

Approximately \$8.6 billion has already been spent in the first three years of the Rebuild Illinois plan on road and bridge projects, including over \$6.4 billion on the state transportation system and over \$2.1 billion on local systems.

It's a slower pace than laid out in the six-year \$33.2 billion spending plan passed in 2019. But IDOT Secretary Omer Osman said he's hopeful that the pace picks up as several large projects move beyond the initial engineering phase.

IDOT has expanded its engineering staff and lawmakers approved a "design-build" process in Senate Bill 2981 this year to combine the design and construction in a more efficient bidding process, which could also hasten things, he said.

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"We are number three in the nation when it comes to interstate land mileage, and that's a big statement to make," he said. "Our system is complex, and we need that sustainable funding as we go down the road beyond the six years, for sure."

# 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.

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## State Police squad car struck by DUI driver

Another Illinois State Police (ISP) squad car was hit Saturday on US Route 45 at 5152 S. Road in Kankakee County. It's the 16th Scott's Law violation involving an ISP squad car this year.

At approximately 2:34 a.m., an ISP District 21 Trooper was stationary outside of the squad car with emergency lights activated, investigating a prior traffic crash. The driver of the previously crashed vehicle and the Trooper were standing in front of the squad car.

That's when a Chevrolet Trail Blazer, traveling southbound on US Route 45, failed to yield to the stationary emergency vehicle and struck the rear of the squad car.

The ISP Trooper and the driver of the previously crashed vehicle sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were transported to a local hospital for treatment.

The driver of the Chevrolet, Austin M. Gray, 24, of Chebanse, was uninjured. He was charged with Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Operating an Uninsured Motor Vehicle, and a violation of Scott's Law - Improper Passing of an Emergency Vehicle Causing



**A STATE TROOPER** squad car was struck last week near Kankakee making it the 16th time since the beginning of the year that a State Police vehicle has been hit.

Injury to Another.

A person who violates Scott's Law, faces a fine of no less than \$250 or more than \$10,000 for a first offense. If the violation results in injury to another person, the violator's driver's license is suspended between six months and two years.

So far this year, there have been 16 ISP squad cars struck in relation to the Move Over

Law and seven Troopers have sustained injuries from Move Over Law-related crashes.

ISP is reminding the public of the requirements of the Move Over Law, otherwise known as the "Scott's Law." When approaching an emergency vehicle, or any vehicle with their emergency or hazard lights activated, drivers are required to slow down and move over.

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## Wilmington 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.

## Class of '67 plans reunion for Sept. 24-25

The WHS class of 1967 is having its 55th class reunion at the VFW in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept 24, from 5 p.m. to 11.

There will also be a get-together on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the South Island pavilion from 1 to 4 p.m. There is no cost for either event. Please join your classmates at these events.

## Coffee & Newspapers

One wakes you up  
One opens your eyes

## Celebrate 20th anniversary of Forest Preserve's Woods Walk hiking challenge

Celebrate the 20th anniversary of Woods Walk by trekking on trails throughout Will County.

The popular, self-paced Forest Preserve District of Will County hiking program kicks off Sept. 1 and runs through Nov. 30. Hike seven of 10 designated trails to earn a commemorative medallion.

"It has been a beloved program since its inception," said Jen Guest, the Forest Preserve's recreation coordinator. "In those 20 years, the Forest Preserve has grown both in acres of land and miles of trails so there are more paths to choose from."

To mark the anniversary of Woods Walk, an 11th bonus trail at Racoon Grove Nature Preserve has been added to this year's list because it was in the very first Woods Walk program.

This year's Woods Walk trails are in McKinley Woods, Hammel Woods, Hickory

Creek Preserve, Kankakee Sands Preserve near Braidwood, Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve, Prairie Bluff Preserve, Theodore Marsh, Hadley Valley and Sugar Creek Preserve. Lengths range from 1.5 miles to 3.47 miles.

To begin the challenge, pick up your Woods Walk hiking guide on or after Sept. 1 at a Forest Preserve visitor center or download an online version at [ReconnectWithNature.org](http://ReconnectWithNature.org).

Also available this year will be a map app you can use to navigate the hikes. The QR map code will be on the back page of the Woods Walk hiking guide.

The deadline to turn in a completed hiking guide submission form is Saturday, Dec. 31. Submission forms can be found in the back of the guide or online. Medallions will be available beginning Sept. 30.

## Morris Hospital Auxiliary golf outing to support patient transportation

The Morris Hospital Auxiliary will host its annual Golf Outing on Monday, Sept. 26 at the Morris Country Club, 2615 U.S. Route 6 in Morris with all proceeds benefiting the Morris Hospital Patient Transportation and LifeLine® programs. Guests are invited to play golf, purchase dinner tickets, or participate in the helicopter golf ball drop for a chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize.

Activities will begin with golfer check-in and lunch from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. At noon, golfers will head out on the links for 18 holes of golf. The cost for 18 holes of golf, lunch and dinner is \$150 per person or \$540 for a foursome.

Non-golfers are invited to support the event by purchasing tickets for a carry out dinner featuring pulled pork, roasted potatoes, coleslaw, corn, rolls and butter, and dessert. Dinner tickets are \$25 per person with food available starting at 5 p.m.

Anyone can support the cause by purchasing a chance in the helicopter ball drop that will take place at 5:30 p.m. when Kendall Copters will

drop approximately 200 numbered golf balls from the helicopter onto the fairway over hole 1. The person who purchases the ball that lands closest to or in the hole will win a \$1,000 cash prize. One golf ball can be purchased for \$20, three for \$50, or seven for \$100. Participants need not be present to win.

The Auxiliary Golfing Outing has been supporting the Patient Transportation and Lifeline services for over 20 years. The landmark Patient Transportation service has provided community members more than 240,000 trips to and from medical appointments. While the Patient Transportation service makes healthcare accessible to patients who may be unable to drive or have limited mobility, Lifeline® is an emergency response system that provides instant access to emergency assistance and peace-of-mind for individuals who live alone.

To make reservations for golf or to purchase tickets for the dinner and helicopter ball drop, go to [morrishospital.org/golf](http://morrishospital.org/golf) or call the Auxiliary Office at 815-705-7002.

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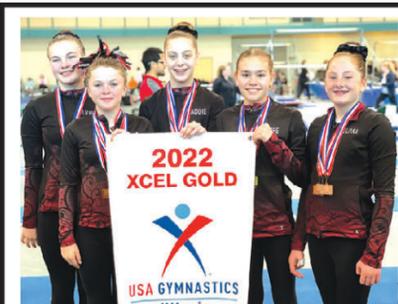
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# OBITUARIES

## Avis A. Brancato

COAL CITY—Avis A. Brancato, 86, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Aug. 23, 2022 at her home, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Aug. 30, 1935 on the family farm to William T. and Laura H. (nee Pierard) Swanson. She married Sam J. Brancato on Aug. 12, 1956 at the Assumption Catholic Church. She worked for a few years at the Joliet Arsenal before becoming a full time mother and homemaker.

Avis was a wonderful baker. Cookies and cakes were her specialty. She enjoyed reading and looking over cookbooks to find her next creations. Sitting in her screen house in her backyard, Avis took pleasure in watching the birds and her growing flowers. Ice cream was a favorite treat of hers and she would eat it three meals a day, especially enjoying Dean's Peppermint flavor. Nightly visits with family and girl's trips were some of Avis's treasured moments. Most of all, Avis had an amazing maternal instinct. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, but was also a caregiver to many family members.

She is survived by her children, Renee (Phil) McLuckie, Randi (Rich) McLuckie, Rhona (Tom) Hanley and Brad (Karen) Brancato; her nine grandchildren: Meredith (Daniel) Goode, Robert (Katie) McLuckie, Erin (Doug) Hitchcock, Ryan McLuckie, Austin (Kassie) McLuckie, Tyler



Hanley, Tanner (Jordan) Hanley, Ali Brancato and Tessa Brancato; her great-grandchildren: Kane and Mack McLuckie, Abby and Finn Hitchcock and one on the way; her sister, Naomi (Gene) Bianchetta; her sister-in-law, Marie Swanson and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Laura Swanson; her husband of 50 years, Sam Brancato; her sister and brother-in-law, LaVerne and Fritz Kelly, her brother, Ernie Swanson and her brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Delores Swanson.

Memorials may be directed in Avis's name to the Coal City Food Pantry, the Coal City Library or to the donor's choice.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City.

Funeral Services will be at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022 at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel with Pastor Mark Hughey officiating. Burial will follow at Braceville Gardner Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com).

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Judith L. Christensen

COAL CITY—Judith L. Christensen (nee Doyle), 66, of Coal City, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, with loving family at her side.

Judy was a talented cook and enjoyed making spaghetti, lasagna, and "magic" eggs for her family. She spent a great deal of time in her flower garden, was a talented sewer and loved to craft wreaths, decorate brooms and paint ceramics. What Judy enjoyed most of all was spending time with her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her fiancé of 13 years, Mark Holt; children: Tammy Misura, Jerry (Karri) Neeley, Samantha Neeley and Jennifer

(Fred) Yanez; grandchildren: Michael and Christina Misura, Jeremy and Amber Neeley, Ashlee, Freddy, Leah and Devin Yanez; brother, Richard Saunders; sister, Cheryl Doyle and her niece, Judy Holt. Other numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents, James and Florence Doyle; sister, Debra Neeley and her faithful canine companion, Harley.

A celebration of Judy's life will take place at a future date.

Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, 507 S. State St., Manhattan has been entrusted with arrangements. [www.forsythegouldfh.com](http://www.forsythegouldfh.com)



## Gene I. Borders

DIAMOND—Gene I Borders, 93, of Diamond, formerly Chicago, Blue Island and New Lenox, passed away on Monday, Aug. 22, 2022, at Park Pointe Nursing and Rehabilitation in Morris.

Born Feb. 4, 1929, in Chicago, he was a son of Walter Paul and Mary Inez (Sneed) Borders. On Oct. 11, 1947, he married Pearl Campbell in Blue Island, IL and together they cherished 74 years of marriage. Gene and Pearl lived many years in Blue Island and New Lenox, IL before moving to Diamond. He thoroughly enjoyed wood working and worked as a cabinet maker for most of his life. Gene was a loving husband, father and grandfather who cherished his family and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his wife, Pearl Borders, of Diamond; four children: Margaret Howard, of Rockledge, IL; Janice (Peter) Rossi, of Morris; Bonnie (Richard) Gill, of Cody, WY and Claude Borders, of Las Vegas, NV; 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, one half-brother and one half-sister.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022, between the hours of 6 and 8 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, one block north of IL 113, in Coal City. Funeral services will be held on Friday, Aug. 26, 2022, at 10 a.m. also at the funeral home. Pastor Joe Schripsema will officiate, and burial will follow in Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery in Oak Lawn.

Preferred memorials in Gene's memory may be made to Braceville United Methodist Church.

Friends and family are encouraged to upload photos, sign the online guestbook and share Gene's memorial page via social media by logging onto [www.ReevesFuneral.com](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com).

Funeral arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.



## Dr. Ruth Virginia Peters Wegforth

ORLAND PARK—Dr. Ruth Virginia Peters Wegforth, 88, a resident of Orland Park, IL for 14 years, passed away Aug. 16, 2022 in Orland Park.

She was born March 20, 1934 in Olivet, IL to Bryan and Margaret Peters. She was a University Professor.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Robert Wegforth; sons, John Wegforth (Heidi) and Robert Wegforth (Debra); daughter, Gayl Jones (Ed); granddaughters: Shelby Wegforth, Jennifer Brenner (Josh) and Jessica Schmidt; grandson, Austin Wegforth (Mallory); 10 great-grandchildren, sister, Joy Campbell (Dale) and sister-in-law, Shiela Peters.



She was preceded in death by her parents, brother, Donald Peters and two nephews.

Visitation will be held Thursday, Aug. 25, 4-8 p.m. at First Nazarene Church, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont, IL. Funeral services will be held Friday, Aug. 26, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the church.

Burial will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at a later date.

## Eugene Kahler

A celebration of Life will be held for Eugene John Kahler, "Gene," 59, of Arkansas, formerly of Wilmington, who passed away unexpectedly Aug. 1, 2022, at his home.

Friends and relatives are welcome to join us on Sunday, Aug. 28 from 2-4 p.m. at Tuffy's Lounge and Patio, 1099 S. Water St., Wilmington.

Born Dec. 15, 1962, in Wilmington, he was the son of Eugene S. Kahler and Helen A. Ziller. Gene graduated from Wilmington High School in 1981. He was a life-long Union Sheet Metal and HVAC worker. He owned and operated his own business, Kahler Air located in Springdale, AR. Gene was an avid



racer spending many days out on the track with friends. He also enjoyed hunting and fishing in his spare time. Gene had a wild and carefree spirit and lived every day to the fullest.

Survivors include his fiancé, Tara Knauls; daughter, Jessica (Jeremy) Penfield; grandchildren; Stella, Jeremy Jr. and Weston; son, Jay Mashburn and mother, Helen Ziller; sisters, Veronica (Marty) Orr and Valerie Newirth (Patrick Sharpton).

Gene was preceded in death by his father, Eugene S. Kahler and brother, Edward I. Kahler

WILMINGTON—Judith Carol Rodgers, 79, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022 at Aperion Care in Wilmington.

Born Feb. 8, 1943 in Christopher, IL, she was a daughter of Elmer and Lillian Lorene (Turner) Moore. She was a graduate of Christopher Community High School class of 1961. On Aug. 30, 1961 she married Herman Rodgers, and together they cherished 60 years together. Judith was a member of the Area #1 Outdoor Club and enjoyed making porcelain dolls, macramé crafting and sewing quilts. Her most cherished memories came from raising her three children and spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister who was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include her husband, Herman, of Wilmington; three children: Buck (Laura) Rodgers, of Plantation, FL; Richard Rodgers, of Jewett, IL and Daniel (Stacey) Rodgers, of Carbon Hill; seven grandchildren: Elizabeth (Keith) Janzak, Richard (Jessica) Rodgers, Gage

Rodgers, Cheyenne Rodgers, Alaynah (Bryan) Czemske, Halee Rodgers and Noah Rodgers; numerous great-grandchildren, one sister, Alberta Novy, of Godley and dear friend, Miss Rodgers.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Don and Bill; and two sisters, Shirley and Joyce.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 2022 from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12:30 p.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington. Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials in Judith's memory may be made to the Dementia Ward at Aperion Care in Wilmington.

Friends and family are encouraged to upload pictures, sign the online guestbook and share Judith's page via social media by logging onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com).

Funeral arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home.



## Judith Rodgers

## IDPH ships 1 million free COVID-19 tests for schools

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) said it is providing a one-time bulk shipment of 1 million over-the-counter (OTC) COVID-19 rapid antigen tests to K-12 public school districts outside of Chicago for the upcoming 2022-2023 school year.

The tests will be provided free of charge.

The tests are being offered upon request and are intended to supplement testing at school districts for the duration of the upcoming school year. Only one request is permitted per district.

The tests will be delivered to a single hub location in the district. Districts will then be responsible for distributing the tests to their local schools. The number of tests distributed will be based on the size of the district.

The OTC tests are intended to be distributed or to be administered in the following ways:

1) Providing tests to students with COVID-19 symptoms for at-home use, including the testing of family members or close contacts.

2) Testing of those who may have been exposed while in school.

3) Testing in alignment with the Illinois Test to Stay (T2S) program.

The tests are not intended to be used for regular screening purposes. IDPH continues to provide free weekly screening testing through SHIELD-IL and the Midwest Coordinating Center.

For more information about the State of Illinois's efforts to protect school children and teachers from COVID-19, go to: <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/communityguidance/schoolguidance.html>.

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# Darren Bailey needs money for good zingers

The two days of partisan political events during the Illinois State Fair are like miniature, stripped-down, informal versions of national political conventions. They serve as a sort of kickoff to our fall campaign season, so they are usually closely watched by reporters who cover campaigns and by insiders.

The speeches and organized theater are usually allowed to dominate coverage. Last week, gubernatorial candidate Darren Bailey was driven to the Republican Day event on a large John Deere tractor, a tailor-made image for TV and print reporters alike. He then capably delivered his well-written speech, which mainly attempted to paint the incumbent Democratic governor as an out-of-touch billionaire with soft hands who lives in a bubble and has no clue what average folks are going through.

The "hands" image was at the core of Bailey's speech. "With our hands, and our sweat, we nurture life, we strengthen our families, and we feed the world," he said. "Take a look at your hands. They're probably like mine, a little swollen, a little calloused, got scars on 'em," he said before relating the life of a farmer.

"Companies are leaving, families are leaving. Some people are just throwing their hands up and giving up," he

said later in his address. "But I mentioned your hands earlier. Look at them again. You and I are hands-on people. We fix problems all day long. Now, we've got to turn our attention to fixing this great state," he continued.

And then he contrasted "our" hands with the wealthy governor's. "On Tuesday, I milked a cow," Bailey said, which, of course, involves his hands. "Last week with JB Pritzker, he took a picture with the butter cow. Now don't get me wrong. The butter cow is amazing. ... But JB and his soft billionaire hands was safely on the other side of that protective glass, far from the work. Kind of like in his billionaire bubble. I say he doesn't care. But I want to tell you something. Maybe he just doesn't know."

The hands metaphor was also used as a means of political action: "You can't clear a field of weeds if you don't pull them out by the roots, friends, and the only way to fix Illinois is to fire JB Pritzker and get the problem out by the roots."

Clever. But images and speeches rarely make an impact with news media coverage alone. A candidate needs money to put



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

those images and zingers in TV ads and to amplify them throughout the online world.

And Bailey still has no money to do that. His principal backer, billionaire Richard Uihlein, came in relatively late but big during the primary. So, maybe he'll eventually do that again. Bailey has not yet shown any ability to raise substantial money on his own, either before the primary or since. Bailey's only reported contribution last week was just \$1,000.

Since the primary, Uihlein has contributed \$20 million to Dan Proft's People Who Play by the Rules PAC. Proft, a talk-radio host and political activist, aired some super-solid TV ads on Bailey's behalf during the primary, so at first, I didn't think it was a huge deal.

Instead, Proft has reverted back to running the type of ads that didn't win many elections when he was involving himself in legislative races (mainly with Uihlein's money). His past few ads, costing \$1.8 million at the time of this writing, simply feature unknown people who appear to be talking to an unseen interviewer just off-camera.

None of Proft's independent expenditure ads mention

Bailey by name. Pritzker isn't even featured. If, as I suspect, Uihlein ultimately wants Proft to take the helm of Bailey's campaign, then Proft isn't auditioning well. Bailey's own Uihlein-funded primary ads were infinitely superior to what's on TV now. The GOP ticket situation is currently in near-disaster mode, with Bailey under siege, but it's gonna be the apocalypse if somebody doesn't do something soon.

Individual candidate speeches usually matter far less after the state fair fades to black. And Bailey showed last week that he is not quite capable of taking reporters' questions.

Asked about his specific plan to address gun violence, for instance, Bailey said, "it would be nice if we would start obeying and following the laws that we have."

Bailey's speech and his Q&A were filled with divisive, unobscure code words about hard-working people being victimized by their leaders who must now rise up as one and smite their abuser.

But it's still much more effective than the stuff Uihlein is paying good money for right now.

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

# Local gas prices drop 24 cents in one week

The gap between the cheapest vs. most expensive area gas price narrowed this week as the cost per gallon trickled up while some stations saw a 24-cent drop.

Braidwood area stations dropped from \$4.28/gallon to \$4.04 on Monday, the community with the biggest decline.

Wilmington and Coal City stations average a 10-cent drop in prices over the week with an average of \$4.25 in Wilmington and \$4.28 in Coal City.

But the gas war in Bourbonnais and Joliet may be over as prices climbed as much as 15 cents in those communities. Still, they were cheaper as \$3.79/g average in Bourbonnais and \$3.99/g in Joliet, according to GasBuddy.com.

"While some areas saw gas prices rise slightly last week, the national average saw yet another weekly decline, extending the streak to 10 straight weeks. The pace of declines is certainly slowing down as oil prices have bounced up slightly. But the West Coast and Northeastern

U.S. are areas that still may see gas prices decline, while the South and Midwest see the drop fade and potentially slight increases," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 1.5 cents to \$4.24/g Monday. Prices in Illinois are 62.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand \$1.02/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.49/g while the most expensive was \$5.89/g, a difference of \$2.40/g.

"In addition to falling gasoline prices, the average price of diesel has fallen below \$5 per gallon for the first time since March, likely helping to cool off aggressive inflation numbers. Thus far, Mother Nature has spared us from disruptions from hurricanes, but that remains a wildcard as we head into the peak of hurricane season."

The national average price of gasoline is \$3.86/g.

# Gov. Pritzker defends end to cash bail despite law enforcement criticisms

BY ANDREW HENSEL  
THE CENTER SQUARE

Gov. J.B. Pritzker is defending the SAFE-T Act despite criticisms from law enforcement statewide that it will make Illinois less safe.

The Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today Act, or SAFE-T Act, abolishes cash bail beginning in January 2023, overhauls police training and includes other measures.

Pritzker has come under fire recently as opponents of the criminal justice measure say it will allow violent criminals to return to the

street.

At a recent event, Will County State's Attorney Jim Glasgow pushed for a repeal of the SAFE-T Act.

"It will destroy the state of Illinois," Glasgow said. "I have 640 people in the Will County jail. All their bonds will be extinguished on Jan. 1, and 60 are charged with murder."

At an unrelated news conference last week, Pritzker said the measure had helped the police.

"The SAFE-T Act does many things that support local law enforcement," Pritzker said. "We are providing the funding. We are provid-

ing cameras and ensuring local law enforcement has the necessary resources."

Pritzker also said that the elimination of cash bail prevents low-level, poorer criminals from sitting in jail for months at a time.

"We do not want someone in jail because they were arrested for a low-level crime like shoplifting to be sitting in jail for months or maybe even years," Pritzker said. "At the same time, someone who is a wealthy drug dealer, perhaps accused of murder and arrested, can show up with a suitcase full of money and get out of jail."

State Rep. Adam Niemerg, R-Teutopolis,

told The Center Square that releasing "hardened criminals" does not make the state any safer.

"Tell me how ending cash bail and releasing hardened criminals onto the streets protects our neighborhoods," Niemerg said. "I would ask the people of Chicago if the safety of their streets is any better, and I think we all know the answer to that question."

This is the second consecutive year that violent crime rates in Illinois have risen, according to a 2022 report by Safewise.com. The city of Chicago has also seen a 27% increase in crime over the past two years.

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# Nayak Farms delivering on goal to impact lives

BY KAY SHIPMAN  
FARMWEEK

David Nayak bought a Grundy County farm in October with a goal to impact lives and fight hunger. On July 28, the Chicago physician delivered fresh sweet corn to two food banks.

"I think God is calling us to feed our state," Nayak told FarmWeek the day after helping with his first harvest at the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Nayak Farms is working with Feeding Illinois to donate fresh sweet corn to food banks as part of the Farms to Food Bank initiative. Initiative partners include Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association, Illinois Farmers Market Association, University of Illinois Extension and the Prairie Research Institute's Illinois Sustainable Technology Center.

"The timing is right. We need all the food we can get," said Stephen "Steve" Ericson, executive director of Feeding Illinois.

Through Nayak Farms' efforts, 16,000 pounds of sweet corn were divided into about 13,200 meals at the Chicago Food Depository. That same day, the second of his new, refrigerated semitrailers delivered sweet corn to the Northern Illinois Food Bank in Geneva.

It seems a guardian angel and greater power helped along the way.

A central Illinois native, Nayak described how he and his wife, Alicia, concentrated on food insecurity in Chicago after medical school. An idea to establish grocery stores, possibly in a school, was tied up in red tape and logistics, but the couple's desire to fight hunger continued.

"I think God is calling us to do something bigger," he remembered telling his wife. That's when 160 acres in

Gardner came up for auction after being owned by the same family for 100 years. With an idea to fight hunger by growing food, the Nayaks attended the October auction in Dwight, bought the land, retained the longtime tenant family and joined the Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau.

Nayak chuckles recalling when he told his farm operator, Brian Christensen, about planting sweet corn to donate on some acres instead of soybeans and field corn. Christensen guessed they'd plant half an acre and was surprised to hear Nayak's goal of 16 acres and 250,000 pounds of sweet corn.

And the doctor proposed to spread out sweet corn harvest so his farmer staggered planting. On the last week of July, two of the 16 acres were picked. Nayak's goal is to harvest every 10 to 14 days until mid-October. "I want to grow the most delicious, best-tasting corn," he added enthusiastically.

Along with the farmland, other necessities came

through at the right time. After learning about harvest losses, Nayak bought a one-row corn picker that was delivered only weeks before harvest — "just in time," he said. Nayak also secured the needed trucks, bins, pallets and boxes to transport the harvest.

Nayak Farms is donating the sweet corn to food banks, while the doctor's foundation, Strength to Love, is coordinating the truck drivers, fuel and logistics, he explained. "We are blessed by God to have the ability to do this," Nayak said.

The Farm to Food Bank initiative's second-year progress has exceeded expectations, Ericson said, adding "I'm thrilled with where we are."

In addition to Nayak Farms, the initiative also gained Gibbs Family Farms in Woodford County and Roth Countryside Produce of Morton along with others. The initiative's pilot farm, Rendleman Orchards in Union County, has increased its participation, Ericson said.

Farm to Food Bank con-

nects food banks with farmers to buy fruit, vegetables, cheese, milk, meat and eggs. Interested farmers may contact Ericson by visiting FeedingIllinois.org. "I'd rather spend money on Illinois food and farmers than on transportation costs. It's a win-win-win," Ericson said.

With big plans and more ideas, Nayak hopes to donate 1 million pounds of sweet corn within a few years and provide off-season donations from a future building with a cooler and freezer. His progress may be guided by a guardian angel, his late mother Dr. Anjali Nayak. "I think my mother is smiling down," Nayak said.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*



Photo courtesy of David Nayak

DR. DAVID NAYAK carries a box of fresh sweet corn harvested from his Grundy County farm. The Greater Chicago Food Depository sorted and boxed 16,000 pounds of corn donated by Nayak.

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Photo courtesy of David Nayak

A BIN OF sweet corn from Nayak Farms moves from the Grundy County fields to be loaded and trucked to a Chicago-area food bank.

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## BBB issues warning on text scam

The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers about a reported text message scam.

The scammer poses as a lottery winner named Manuel Franco. He claims to have won a \$768 million Powerball Jackpot and is donating to 200 random individuals. These text messages request that the victim reach out to the winner's agent and provide an alternate phone number to contact.

The text messages may come from an out-of-state area code. The message details change often, such as the dollar amount being given or the name of the agent in charge of dispersing the funds.

In many cases, the scammer will request banking information or a fee to send the funds. If personal informa-

tion is given, it may lead to lost funds or hacked accounts, and any fees paid will most likely never be recovered.

Use BBB's tips to avoid this scam:

- Don't pay upfront fees to claim a prize. No legitimate sweepstakes company will ever ask to pay a fee or buy something to enter or improve the chances of winning — that includes paying "taxes," "shipping and handling charges," or "processing fees" to get a prize.
- Checks can bounce after the bank allows the account holder to withdraw cash from the deposit. Even if a bank representative tells you a check has "cleared," you can't be sure it won't be detected as a fake weeks later. One thing you can be sure of is that you will be on the hook for any funds drawn against the amount.

- Be suspicious of irregular communication. Real sweepstakes will not notify you via text or bulk mail. They will not send a check in the mail without first confirming with you. And you won't be notified that you are a winner and have to respond or act within 24 hours to collect your prize.
- A notification that you have won a prize in a contest you do not remember entering should be a red flag. Keep track of all sweepstakes entries so it's easy to check if a legitimate contest-related company is confirming winnings. When entering, read the fine print and rules for how prizes are claimed.

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### HELP WANTED

The Coal City Public Library District is seeking a part-time, 21 hour per week Circulation Clerk. Requirements include a high school diploma and computer skills. Must be available days, evenings and Saturdays. Starting pay is \$12/hour. Applications are available at 85 N. Garfield Street, Coal City. Please attach a resume. ch 34b

VanDuyn Motel is looking for part-time maintenance man/handy man, working up to 25 hrs/week. Also, looking for part-time housekeeper, working 8-15 hrs/week. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyn Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc30b-37b

Mechanic needed to maintain quads, tractors and track vehicles. General handyman for farm work, drive tractor, cut grass, helping with dog training. Wilmington area, 40 hours wk/12 months. Call 630-399-4982 before 6pm in the evening. cc33-35

Polk-A-Dot Drive In now hiring day staff. Work while your kids are in school. Stop by for an application. Braidwood. cc33-36

### HOMES FOR RENT

354 French Street, Braidwood. 3BR, 1BA, 1 car garage. Large deck, large yard renter will maintain. Refrigerator and stove are 3 yrs old, washer/dryer 6 months old. Renter is to maintain repairs or replace appliances. Available immediately. \$1,400 month. 1st, last & \$2,000 deposit. No pets. 779-225-8283. ch32-35

### HOMES FOR RENT

Diamond near bike path, 3 BR, 2 BA ranch, CA, 2 car garage, all appliances included, \$1,900 + security deposit, small pets ok, no smoking, 1 yr. lease, 815-634-8137.

### LOST & FOUND

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

### MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

Portable Generac Generator, 6500 watt, 30 amp power, transfer switch kit, 6 circuits. \$750. Lumber, 2 x 12 x 14, twelve boards, \$15 each. 815-513-5249.

### SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966.

### GARAGE SALES

#### COAL CITY

520 & 535 S. Vermillion St., Coal City. Wed., Aug. 24, 4-7pm; Thur., Fri., & Sat., Aug. 25, 26, 27, 8am-noon. Patio loungers & chairs, men's bicycle, lots of misc. ca 34b

#### WILMINGTON

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

713 S. Water Street, Wilmington, Fri., Sat., & Sun., August 26, 27 & 28 and Fri., Sat., & Sun., Sept. 2, 3 & 4 from 10am-4pm. Entire estate sale, something for everyone. ch34-35

#### WILMINGTON

Shadow Lakes Annual Flea Market and yard sale Non Residents invited Labor Day Weekend Sat., Sept. 3 8am-3pm Entrance only Gate 3 or 4a off Novy road. Maps available at gates and pavilion. For info: 815-458-3647. (No entry after 2 p.m.) ch33-35

**ADVERTISE YOUR GARAGE SALE HERE**

### 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

### BOATS

14 foot Lund fishing boat. 8 hp merc, 2 pedestal seats. \$1,550. Call 815-423-6064 or 779-279-4788. cc34-36

### DUPLEX FOR RENT

One bedroom townhouse with garage for rent in Diamond. Washer/dryer included. Newer building. One small pet is ok. Call 630-383-8198. cc31-34.

Spacious ranch duplex with 2 car garage and full basement. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, volume ceilings. Quiet Diamond neighborhood with easy access to I55. Large yard and very clean. \$1,850.00 month. 815-823-9202. cc32-35

**SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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

Braidwood, 2 BR, stove and refrigerator, w/d hookup, C/A, garbage included, \$1,000 month plus security, no pets, call 815-474-4407.

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Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices.

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### Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Braidwood Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applications to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

**Starting Salary:** \$61,655.80

**Qualifications:**

- Applicants must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law.
- Be a citizen of the United States and no felony convictions
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the State of Illinois.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) or have successfully completed an Illinois paramedic school within the last year. Must be fully licensed as an Illinois Paramedic within 6 months of hire.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates August 24th – September 7th, 2022 between the hours of 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday at Braidwood Fire Protection District, 275 W. Main Street, Braidwood, IL 60408. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/Check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed applications shall be returned to the above address no later than 4:00 pm on September 7th, 2022. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process.

- Applicants must attend the following:
- Mandatory Orientation/Written Examination: September 26, 2022 at 9am sharp. (No one will be allowed in the room after 9am).
  - Oral Interviews: Date TBD. Oral interviews may proceed the written examination dependent upon the total number of candidates.
  - Physical Ability: Must have a valid CPAT card with ladder climb issued within 6 months of conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissions, Braidwood Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the Braidwood Fire Protection District. If you have any questions, please call 815-458-2000.

Braidwood Fire Protection District  
 275 W. Main Street  
 Braidwood, IL 60408



# WILDCAT SPORTS

## New coach, same goal for the Lady 'Cats

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Lady Wildcat hitters are coming back after a season where they led the Illinois Central Eight Conference. They'll be back to claim the conference and they'll have a new coach to boot.

As previously reported, Kelly Van Duyne, of Wilmington, in her 10th (four with college) season of coaching, will be stepping into the vacant slot to coach Wilmington, who went 18-16 overall with an 11-3 conference record.

"I went and saw them play a couple games," said Van Duyne. "Being a new coach coming in this season, it was a very good season to come in. There's a lot of talented girls between seniors and juniors so it was a really nice season to come into because this team is going to be really good this year."

Van Duyne boasts about their starting lineup which includes: Senior middle blocker Jaylee Mills, junior outside hitter Bella Reyes and senior outside/right side hitter Olivia Hansen, who will be key components on the court.

"I really look forward to them leading the offense this year but you also have Olivia Hansen returning. She can play outside or right side."

She's excited about having Reyes back. She thinks she's really going to be a major asset on offense.

"Even though it's only Bella's second year on varsity, we look to her for some crucial kills and to put the ball down when we need it to be."

Joining them on the court will be junior blocker Alyssa Johnston, junior right/outside hitter Emily Cockream, junior setters Emma Grace Strong, Claire Smith and Grace Burkey back to lead the offense.

"Our junior setters are showing really nice improvement, transitioning to the varsity level. Johnston actually just got All-American at the Nationals down in Florida for volleyball so she's going to get ready to lead opposite Jaylee Mills in the front row."

On the defensive side of the ball, Lexi Liaromatis will be the libero stepping in for St.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

**DEFENDING THE BACK** side for the varsity Lady Cats on Monday during the season opener is Breanna Horton.

Francis recruit Leah Talley, who led the team in digs last year.

"I really loved the way Leah plays. I'm glad she's going on to play at St. Francis. I called Kara Curricker, their coach, and told her about her. Leah was the only one I was afraid of when I was

coaching Reed-Custer because she could win the game hands down with her defense. So there are pretty big shoes to fill but I think Lexi Liaromatis can step in and fill those shoes easily."

The 'Cats are going to be tall with some of

the tallest girls they've had at the varsity level. They're definitely going to lean on that as they attempt to take the conference again.

"We are definitely not lacking for height in the front row. They're all at least 5-9, 5-10 or taller. Plus, with how high they can jump, we should have a really good blocking jump this year."

That's one of the things that's going to help them win games. Their height is going to be a major asset. They're also blessed with depth.

"I just think all around we're good. We have depth on the bench too. If someone is struggling passing-wise, we have a couple DS's. Emily Cockream and Olivia Hansen can hit outside or right side and Bella she's our number one outside hitter so she's key. You can't go wrong with Mills or Johnston in the middle because I bet you they're probably 6-0 if not taller with their jumping ability. No one can touch how high Jaylee and Bella can jump."

Van Duyne knows there are some tough teams in the conference but she doesn't like to worry about those. The main opponent for the 'Cats is themselves.

"Manteno is always good--I try not to focus too much on the other teams. As long as we play our game win-or-lose, I'll be happy with that. There are going to be teams out there that are just going to be better than us but as long as we play to our ability, I'm not going to be mad about that loss. It's when we beat ourselves in when we're going to have to discuss things in practice but as long as we play our game, I'm not really worried about the other team. We held our own pretty good at UNO against some bigger teams we wouldn't normally see and we took second at UNO so I'm happy where things are going with this team."

Van Duyne will be assisted by Holly Robbins (JV coach) and Teisha Page (freshmen coach).

"Every team is different, every mentality is different in every school. Wilmington is used to winning so I want to continue that winning streak with the volleyball team and give them the notoriety that they deserve and that they need."

## Friday Night Lights get turned on this week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT  
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Crowd roaring, purple and white filling the stands, Friday night football is back in action.

The long awaited season, especially after Wilmington's Class 2A state championship, has Wildcat fans eager to see those Friday Night Lights get turned on for 2022.

The real question though, is how will this season play out after losing those state champion seniors? Who better to ask than the juniors who are now seniors, the ones who have the power and grit to pull off another winning season.

Colin James, Brendan Moran and Kade Hopwood are all optimistic and ready for a fight this season. Colin James coming into the season ready to have a repeat from 2021,

"I think that if we play the style of game that everyone knows that we can play we should be able to come out on top against Marengo," said James, the senior running back who led the 2021 team in yardage. "I'm super excited leading up to this game and I can't wait to finally get back into the field and see how all the off-season work that we've put in is going to translate to the field."

Moran thinks the first game against Marengo will be "good for them," and believes they are coming into this first game as prepared as they can be.

With confidence you can win, with confidence you can achieve great things and confidence is definitely something these hard working boys have.

Wilmington Football may have lost some key players but they definitely have a determination and a wide range of talented players moving up this year. Hopwood has high hopes, "We definitely lost some very good players but we have some good and big players that I think will be able to fill their shoes well and we should have a very good season," Hopwood said.

James also comes in with a great outlook for the upcoming varsity players. "Some strengths are that we have some really good juniors that are coming up that will take



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

**JUST FOR FUN** - The Wildcat football team scrimmaged on Friday for fans attending the Purple and White Night. Running with the ball during a play is Colin James who led the 'Cats a year ago in total yards rushing. He is back for his senior season along with 16 other letterman. The Wildcats open their season on Friday when they'll host Marengo. The varsity game typically starts around 7 p.m.

the spots of some of the seniors that left last year."

The truth? No one truly

knows what the outcome will be until they get out on the field and play a game. So to the

players this year, GO CATS! Let's have a repeat of last year!

## Let's go Cats



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

**WE'VE GOT SPIRIT...yes we do...especially on Purple and White Night** when the fall sports teams are introduced including the WHS Spiritline squad. Kicking up her heels during a cheer is Rylee Kettmann.

## Seniors offered lifetime athletic passes at WHS

Matt Swick, Superintendent of Wilmington Schools, invites senior citizens who are residents of District 209-U to get their free athletic passes.

The passes will allow senior citizens to attend all 209-U athletic events, excluding tournaments, free of charge. Athletic passes are good for the lifetime of the card holder. Those who are not card-

holders should visit the Superintendent's office on the north side of the high school with their Medicare card Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For all others, single passes are \$40 and family passes are \$120. Middle school students and younger must be accompanied by an adult to all sporting events.

## 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 will be

around 6:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

There will be a military flyover and a special guest singing the National Anthem. The Moose Riders will be loading up on motorcycles and American flags and special T-shirts for this event will be sold by the booster club.

Ladder trucks from the Wilmington and Coal City fire departments are planning a special display to greet veterans.

There will be honorary captains representing the VFWs from Wilmington and

Coal City who will walk out to mid field with the Wilmington and Coal City football captains for the coin toss.

At half-time five former players from each of the teams we will be honored. These will be boys who played in this big rivalry game and went on to serve our country in some way.

There are more plans in the works but what is needed most is for military veterans of all ages to show up to be honored.

## Wilmington Bobcats 2022 schedule

2022 Game Schedule

Aug. 28....Away Vs. Manhattan  
Sept.11....Home Vs. Chanooka  
Sept.11....Grandparents / Special person day.  
Sept. 18...Away Vs. Sandwich  
Sept. 25...Home Vs. Herscher  
Sept. 25...Homecoming  
Oct. 1.....Home Vs. Manteno  
Oct. 1.....8th Grade Day

Oct. 8. .Away Vs. Morris 10a.m.  
Oct. 9.....Cheer Competition @ Lincoln Way West  
Oct. 15-16. 1st round playoffs @ Peotone  
Oct. 22-23. 2nd round playoffs @Wilmington  
Oct. 29 or 30. 3rd round playoffs @Chanooka 1 day only  
Nov. 5.....Super Bowl@Bradley



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

**DOUBLE COVERAGE** - There was no getting by the varsity Lady Cats on Monday when they defeated Grant Park in two quick games during the season opener. Digging up the ball for Wilmington are Alyssa Cieszkiewicz and Lexi Liaromatis.

## Lady Cats open with a sweep

Monday was the season opener for the Lady Wildcats as they took wins at all levels against Grant Park in two games.

Wilmington's varsity squad won 25-15; 25-18, coming out strong both offensively and defensively.

Returning junior Bella Reyes led the way for Wilmington with 6 kills, 3 digs, and 2 blocks. Olivia Hansen, Alyssa Johnston, and Emily Cockcream all had 3 kills each.

Senior middle hitter Jaylee Mills added another 2 kills along with 3 blocks & 3 aces.

Defensively, junior libero Lexi Liaromatis had 6 digs and an ace.

"Everyone got to see the court at the home opener and contributed to three great wins for the night," commented varsity coach Kelly Van Duyne. "The girls have been working really hard at every practice since June. I'm really impressed with how, at every level, the girls came to play in front of a very large fan group."

Junior varsity Lady 'Cats won 25-17, 25-20. Freshman middle blocker Rachel Smith made her presence known on the JV team with a couple great kills and aces.

Backing her up offensively were Skylar Rosso and Reese Van Duyne on the outside. Rosso added a couple aces to her stats as well.

The freshmen team contributed to a 25-22, 25-22 win over Grant Park.

The Lady Cats will travel to Gardener-South on Thursday.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

**THAT'S A POINT** - Wilmington senior Olivia Hansen celebrates, along with the rest of the bench, after scoring for the Lady 'Cats at home Monday.

## Low numbers pull the plug on Wildcat soccer season

**BY SHAWN LONG**  
SPORTS WRITER

It looks like Wilmington High School will not have a boys soccer season this fall unless more players signed up to make a team.

Wilmington athletic director Brian Goff is still hoping some recruiting in the halls last week would result in a few more players.

"I suspect we'll have to pull the plug on the season here shortly," said Goff.

It's hard to play when you only have eight players. If you add injuries on top of that, that's downright impossible to field a team.

Of the 13 players who fielded the team last year, four graduated leaving the potential for nine freshmen and sophomores to return. The absence of juniors, who would now be seniors, was felt on a

team that finished 2-17 overall.

Goff noted that there are more youngsters participating in the Wilmington Youth Soccer program so things could turn for the better soon.

"The young club has good numbers so hopefully this is just a blip on the radar and we'll get back with decent numbers. I really thought we would have more kids."

A sport like soccer is second fiddle in a town that loves its football, especially after the 'Cats are the defending 2A state champions.

"Two kids that played last year went out for football instead. A couple freshmen that talked about it and they ended up going to golf instead. The upperclassmen didn't show up so we go from 10-11 to down to four really quick and that just hurts. With no seniors back, the numbers are low. We knew we'd have a lot of younger kids but we thought we'd have

more, but it just didn't work out. In a small town where the football team has had success, that's definitely a battle."

Goff praised Kevin Cavenaile, who has run the youth soccer club for many years and he has built something great down there. The club has 37 players, boys and girls, in the U12-U14 level.

"With their numbers they have down there, I'm hoping we can have some good numbers. They'll be young but hopefully we get the numbers back so we continue to build it. Those kids aren't Bobcat kids so maybe they'll stick with soccer in high school. That's the hope."

The WHS soccer season will likely end before it starts this year but next year, the hope is the freshmen class is filled with athletes who want to play.

"It looks as if numbers are going to rise and we hope they do," said Wilmington soccer coach Travis Ivanhoff.

## Long sad to leave the Free Press

**BY SHAWN LONG**  
SPORTS WRITER

They say time flies when you're having fun but you don't really ever believe it until you have a job that makes every day fly by.

Four years have flown by during my time here at the Free Press Newspapers as Wilmington, Coal City and Reed-Custer's sports reporter.

I truly loved this job and I'm sad to leave because I learned so much while I was here. I honestly wish I could stay.

I was two years out of college, having bounced around from job to job. I never really found a job that was stable and a job that I felt I wasn't even working at all. That's what I found here. I cherished every single second I spent in front of the computer screen typing out weekly stories as well as the time I spent out in the field at games taking photographs.

That's been my passion. I love writing and I've developed a love for photography that I can keep with me forever.

Prior to taking this job I had never operated a still camera. I had done some videography while in college at Illinois State which helped me follow the speed of sports but that also had a big learning curve.

At first, I was a little shaky with the camera trying to get used to everything. But it was within a year that I started to see improvement so much so that I captured my first state award in 2019 for a shot I took of a Coal City ballcarrier crossing the goal line for a touchdown.

I was so ecstatic when I received that award because I hadn't really ever won anything that prestigious before. All I knew was I wanted to do even better.

The next year I started to focus on my photos and how I was taking them, and how to make them better.

The next year, however, was 2020 when COVID-19 put the fear in all of us. Boy, what a rough year to be a sports reporter when no sports were happening! Still, I was able to take some photos during wrestling season and basketball season, one of which earned of fourth place for my second state award. The photo was of a Coal City basketball player I caught in mid-air while attempting to dunk the basketball. During the actual pandemic, I was unable to really go cover things so I had to come up with some stories basically out of thin air.

I am grateful I had publisher Eric Fisher to help me brainstorm. That really saved me. If I hadn't, I don't think the 'For the Record' or the 'Dream Team' stories would have ever been written.

It wasn't just during the pandemic. Eric was there all the time to give me ideas and to help me come up with questions to ask coaches or players depending on what kind of feature story I was writing. That's the way a boss is supposed to be and I had a great one, the best.

If there was one thing good during the pandemic is it helped me become a better sports reporter. I learned more about writing in one year than I did during my high school and college years. It involved researching newspaper archives for old records while reaching out to coaches and athletic directors to get things verified. It was a tough time but I'm glad it happened because my writing never would have developed as I was forced to think harder and do more in-depth while high school sports was on pause.

I prayed for the day when the sports lockdown would be lifted. Not only did I want the fantasy stories to end as I was running out of ideas, but there were senior athletes across the state who deserved a chance to play again.

When we were told reporters and spectators were allowed back, I must have jumped with celebration as I was so happy to get a camera back in my hands.

The only drawback was we had to wear a mask and couldn't be too close to the basketball floor. That was a small price to pay for the chance to get back out there going to games and taking photos.

It was the weirdest spring, winter and summer schedule that the IHSA had cooked up to get all the kids back in their sports.

It went by the risk level of each sport which meant basketball went first with volleyball and football. That transitioned into track, baseball, girls soccer, softball and wrestling.

It was a great opportunity to take photos and I took one of my two award winning shots during that time. It was a second place photo of a Reed-Custer pole vaulter clearing the crossbar. I knew that would get some attention at the Illinois Press Association contest but didn't know it would nab second.

I sent through a couple other photos I took during that shortened season but no dice.

My other award winning shot I took during one of my favorite events I've ever done here, the USA Waterskiing Championship that was held at Waters Edge. I took a shot of a wakeboarder from Germany flipping over a wake and I captured her face in mid-air. I was surprised I got a fourth on that shot. That shot was a winner in my book. I didn't see the winner but that was beside the point. I also wrote another really interesting article that I submitted about a professional skier. I thought that would get recognized but writing is not where I excel. Still, I did win a writing award in a story that was made honoring the Reed-Custer football team.

I wrote about the last 13 seconds of the quarterfinal football game with 13 thank yous directed towards the Comets. It ran on the front page and took 3rd place in the state.

Being a sports writer has been a privilege. I was often given the best seat in the house at high school sporting events, walking the sidelines at DeKalb for the state football championship for the Wildcats, watching the comeback Comets get to within 13 seconds of advancing to the Final Four in football, seeing Lady Coalers' fierce play at the volleyball net, some top-notch pitching by high school softball and baseball players.

I've had a blast in the spot I've been in for so long which is why it pains me to leave and to write this farewell. But the time has come for me to move on.

I intend to move to the Naperville area. Before doing that,

I'll be working for a truck brokering company in Mokena called Coso Logistics. I guess it's the next chapter in my life and I hope it includes a move north to be closer with to my girlfriend.

I will cherish the time I spent making friendships while working for the Free Press. A big thanks to the players, coaches and ADS for helping me with your quotes and comments. But mostly, thank you for being a reader.