

Skip the pasta, it's still a treat!



Wildcats go lights out over Lisle



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THE FUN OF A LADY WILDCAT VICTORY!!!



Photo by Amy Walker

LADY WILDCAT FANS were fired up last Thursday when the Wilmington volleyball team hosted Coal City to decide which team would take over the ICE conference. To drum up support a handful of seniors set up a game day table with microphone and speakers to do some announcing between matches and timeouts. At left Brandon Adolfo does push-ups while Brendan Moran adds some color commentary to the delight of student fans. The positive energy worked in as the Lady Wildcats upended Coal City in two close games. For more turn to sports.

Firefighters learn skills for success in evolving situations

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Continuing education is a key factor for the success of first responders, as that education provides the means to learn and grown amongst the ever changing backdrop of threats to public safety.

To that end, the Chief Shabbona Firefighters' Association held the "Pow Wow 2023" on Sunday, Sept. 10 at the Constellation Energy Midwest Fire Training Academy in Morris, covering new issues that affect how firefighters and emergency medical services (EMS) respond to calls for help.

Classes this year included basic firemanship, firefighter self rescue and survival, alternative fuel vehicles, and active threat response.

Wilmington Fire Department Deputy Chief Todd Friddle worked with firefighters and EMS on active threat response, including responding to mass violence incidents and dealing with the mass casualties that can result from those acts.

Friddle asked the firefighters to think about mass casualty incidents not just as active shooters, but as any act of mass violence, including an offender who uses other types of weapons including knives



Photo by Marney Simon

WILMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT Deputy Chief Todd Friddle instructs emergency medical personnel on proper techniques to pack wounds and stop bleeding during a session on active threat response during the Chief Shabbona Firefighters' Association 2023 Pow Wow fire training school, which was held on Sunday, Sept. 10 in Morris.

or even an automobile.

"I think it's important that we have a common playbook and response mode that we can apply to any type of violent incident and still do the things that we need to do, and not be thrown off our game," Friddle said. "I see that happen in public safety, where if

the incident doesn't fit the specific bill that we're talking about of an active threat incident, public safety has a hesitancy to engage the things that we need to do to mitigate that incident. I don't know why that is. But, we need to keep this in general terms. We can apply this to a lot of differ-

ent things."

Friddle said that while the most common narrative for mass violence is school shootings, responders need to be prepared for incidents of mass violence that might involve businesses, warehouses, churches, and most often, open spaces.

The deputy chief said first responders have significantly changed how they respond to mass casualty incidents since Columbine High School in 1999. At that time, the active shooters were dealt with as a SWAT incident, which left victims trapped inside waiting for help while the shooters continued to sweep the building. Only after SWAT made entry were the wounded brought out to waiting medics.

Today, response includes rapid deployment, which includes a police-led contact team to engage and attempt to neutralize the offender, followed by a rescue task force of police officers and emergency medical service personnel, so police can provide protection as EMS retrieves injured people.

"Active threat" situations include incidents in which there is an individual or indi-

SEE POE WOW, PAGE 2

Fixes on the way following SIS upgrade project

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

It's rare to complete a multi-million dollar project without a few kinks.

And the improvements at Stevens Intermediate School are no exception.

On Sept. 11, Wilmington School District 209-U Superintendent Kevin Feeney gave his monthly report to the members of the board of edu-

cation, which included just a couple of issues to be smoothed out with the SIS project, a massive overhaul of the building's 30 year old heating and air conditioning system as well as additional upgrades to the building.

The 13-week project, which was completed by Precision Controls, involved several weeks of asbestos

SEE SIS, PAGE 2

Seat opens up on 209-U school board

STAFF REPORT

Lisa Holmes has resigned her seat on the Wilmington CUSD 209U Board of Education to fill a secretary's position at the Steven's Intermediate School.

The members of the board of education accepted Holmes' resignation during their regular monthly meeting on Sept. 11.

Holmes began a 4-year

term on the board this past spring following the April election, but was recently hired to move back into the school setting. A 1990 graduate of WHS, Holmes spent almost 20 years working in the front office at

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