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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2022 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966

Break-in at Wine Cafe damages video gaming terminals

WPD tracking down 'viable leads'

STAFF REPORT

The Wilmington Police Department is investigating a break-in at the Wine Cafe over the weekend. The incident was reported to police early on Saturday, Oct. 1. The break-in took place overnight, with the burglars spending several hours inside the establishment. "The exterior had been compro-

mised and entry was gained through a side wall," Police Chief Joe Mitchell said. "We are running down some leads and we will be working with the Will County State's Attorney's office on the investigation." Mitchell said that security cameras inside the Wine Cafe showed an individual wearing a light colored hoodie inside the business. The burglar broke into the businesses' video gaming machines during their time inside the cafe. Those machines were rendered no longer usable, and will be replaced by the business. The break-in is one of several

that have recently been reported to the WPD. To help owners protect their businesses, Mitchell has organized a special meeting for this week. "We'll be having a meeting with all business owners in town," the chief added, noting that local owners are invited to participate in the meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6, at City Hall at noon. "We want to give tips to help with prevention measures and what to look out for," the chief continued. "We're going to give them a heads up on how to better harden their loca-

tions." In the meantime, business owners are advised to utilize the following steps to help prevent crime in and around their establishments:
 • Leave lights on overnight to make it easier for police officers to see into buildings while on patrol.
 • Check that any cameras and security alarms are functioning correctly, and consider adding them if you do not have any.
 • If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to the police department. Mitchell added that while it is an

active investigation, the department is tracking some "viable leads" to a suspect or suspects. "We are on this, we'll do everything we can to bring these people to justice," he said. "We take it seriously and we take it personally." Anyone with information can contact the Wilmington Police Department at 476-2813. Crime prevention tips can also be found on the department's website, www.wilmington-police.com.

Facade improvement grant approved for Route 66 Bar and Grill

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

A Wilmington business hoping to utilize the city's facade improvement grant for some upkeep and projects was turned away when time for fund disbursement came. But, that initial rejection was reversed, after the owner and the city came together to find a solution. On Sept. 20, the members of the Wilmington City Council approved disbursement of funds for Route 66 Bar and Grill. The establishment first applied for the funds back in February, and was approved for matching funds up to \$5,000 for renovations consisting sign removal, tuckpointing, new doors and windows, and paneling. However, in early September, the council opted not to disburse those funds, noting that the completed work was different than what was submitted with their grant application. The business was permitted to resubmit their application. The renovations at the Baltimore Street business are expected to cost \$21,700, with the business seeking the full \$5,000 in matching grant funds. Renovations include

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

Down, but not out Wilmington loses to Comets, but ready to bounce back



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

FALLING COMET — Wilmington defenders Cade McCubbin (11), Joey Allgood and Kyle Farrell pull down Reed-Custer's Josh Bohac during Friday's contest in Braidwood. The Wildcats lost 50-5, but while the loss may have been a disappointment, it can hardly crush that Wildcat spirit. Wilmington travels to Lisle this week to take on the Lions for the second time this season. Read the wrap-up of Friday's matchup, and a preview of this week's game, on page 14 of this edition.

Wilmington 209-U set to replace HVAC at SIS

BY MARNEY SIMON EDITOR

Wilmington School District 209-U is one step closer to finally getting a fix for its broken A/C at Stevens Intermediate School. In September, the board of education approved plans to move ahead with Precision Controls, a company the district has worked with before on other operations and maintenance projects, to fix the HVAC at SIS. "The project itself is basically a full replacement of the heating and air conditioning

system at Stevens Intermediate, which is approximately 30 years old, that entire system," Superintendent Dr. Matt Swick said. "So, what started this process was when our chiller died in May of 2021. A year ago in May, the chiller system died, and to get through the warm summer months and August and September, we rented a chiller system. That's what initiated the project, and in combination with some federal dollars we were getting through the ESSER grants and

SEE SIS, PAGE 2

More vendors, larger food selection on hand for Sunday's craft festival

STAFF REPORT

The vendor count is over 45 and growing for the second annual Autumn Festival of Crafts planned for Sunday on the North Island park by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. Chamber president Steve Evans said this year's event will feature more food trucks and a larger selection of juried craft vendors. "Right now the weather looks perfect, we've got more crafters who have done skilled work and the food

selection will be the best yet," Evans said. "We're fortunate to have more sponsors this year which means we're able to put on a bigger event which we think people are really going to enjoy." The festival will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with live music from River Trio from

SEE FEST, PAGE 2



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SIS

knowing our system was 30 years old, so instead of waiting for the boiler to die—we could have just replaced the chiller—but we worked through the whole process and we think there's wisdom in replacing the entire thing at one time."

Efforts to address the broken system first began back in February, when the board approved an amendment to the SIS life safety plan, which would address the heating and cooling system and give the district the ability to plan for the costs associated with the new system.

The district then moved forward in the spring with plans to issue Life Safety Bonds to help cover the costs of the replacement.

"Between the ESSER dollars and the Life Safety Bonds... that should cover the majority of the cost of the project," Assistant Superintendent Kevin Feeny said, adding that the estimated cost of the project is around \$5 million.

ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds are federally

allocated dollars given to schools as part of the CARES Act, which provided money to states to help schools pay for mitigations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The district will be able to utilize approximately \$1.6 million in ESSER funds toward the project.

Last spring, the board approved the issuance of \$3.3 million in school fire prevention and safety bonds. State statutes allow a school district to issue fire prevention and safety bonds for fire prevention, safety, energy conservation, accessibility, school security, and specified repair purposes.

The funds can be assigned "to make such alteration or reconstruction or to purchase and install such permanent, fixed equipment so

ordered or determined as necessary" according to the statute. The bonds would mature in 20 years.

Bond proceeds would be deposited and accounted for separately within the Fire Prevention and Safety Fund.

"And, we will finally have air conditioning in the gymnasium and the kitchen which has been lacking since that building has been around," Feeny noted.

Swick said as far as the new system is concerned, it's likely to be a project that will serve the district for another three decades, at least.

"The new technology is good, and there will be energy savings and so on, but no one can truly predict longevity," Swick said. "But, we've heard from our architects and different engineers involved, the 30

year life span that has been in place [for these types of systems] has been solid, it's been a good life span. We would anticipate at least that much moving forward, if not more, with the new system. We will definitely have more modernized, more efficient, a more cost effective system in place."

The administration noted that while the bulk of the work would be expected to take place next summer while students are on break, some smaller scale projects could be on tap over the course of the current school year to help get everything in place.

"Our hope is for the entire project to be done and completed during the summer of 2023, for students to start the new 23-24 school year with a brand new HVAC system in place," Swick said.

Council

removal of wood, installation of doors and windows, and replacement veneer.

The city's facade grant fund is a matching grant for up to \$5,000 for facade improvements. The funds are available to businesses in Wilmington's central business zone, as well as those along Water Street and Route 53 in the general business zone.

Over the past year, the City Council has approved several for the grant, however, the grant award is not disbursed until the work is completed.

Businesses can only receive funds once every five years.

In other business before the full City Council on Sept. 20:

• The council approved a salary increase for Deputy Chief Adam Zink, after his

salary discrepancies for union versus non-union members of the department were brought to the council earlier in September.

Zink's salary was increased to \$107,000 annually to adjust for the lack of annual payment of sick time buy back over 960 hours, no payment for service longevity, and the most recent salary study for Deputy Chiefs of Police in comparable departments in Will County.

• The council approved the accounting reports, including bill payments across all accounts of \$547,965. Those payments included \$8,580 for the purchase of new firearms for the police department, \$20,927 in monthly charges for WESCOM dispatching services, \$5,000 for tree removal at the water plant, and \$372,366 to Brieser Construction for capital projects.

Fest

Morris from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the food vendors will be the famed Bennett-Curtis House food truck from Grant Park, Holy Smok BBQ from Joliet, the Wilmington Lions Club food trailer, Brew Head Espresso, cheesecake table and more.

Be sure to buy a festival button for \$3 with a lucky split-the-pot winner drawn at the end of the day. Last year's winner took home over \$600.

There will be activities for kids including pumpkin decorating and games.

Admission is free and it will be held rain or shine.

"So far there's no rain in the forecast and they're calling for a cool, crisp day, perfect to get out and walk through the craft booths," Evans said.

Anyone needing handicapped park can drive up to the gate at the north island and they will be directed to a parking spot.

Sponsors for this year's event include D'Orazio Ford, Riverside Health Care, Grundy Bank, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Oak Knoll Financial Strategies, Davy Industrial Park, Wee Sip Liquors, the Free Press Newspapers, Baskerville Funeral Home and Country Financial - Bob Bolser.

Elwood Fire Protection District to hold hearing on tentative budget

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held on the Tentative Budget of the ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT in the County of Will and State of Illinois for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023, at the Elwood Fire Station located at 309 W. Mississippi Street, Elwood, Illinois on November 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

The Tentative Budget for the ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for said calendar year ending December 31, 2023 is now posted on the bulletin board of the said ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT station in said fire protection district and is conveniently available for public inspection.

Dated October 5, 2022
ELWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

Nominating packets available for April election

STAFF REPORT

Interested in public service?

Now is the time to get involved.

While the next election takes place in November, choosing representatives for your local boards and commissions takes place on April 4, 2023.

Nominating packets for the Consolidated Election are now available at with those government bodies.

The following positions will be on the ballot in April for the City of Wilmington:

- City Clerk – 2 year unexpired term
- First Ward Alderman – 4 year full term
- Second Ward Alderman – 4 year full term
- Third Ward Alderman – 4 year full term
- Fourth Ward Alderman – 4 year full term

Petition packets can be picked up at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall, 1165 S. Water Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Petitions must be filed between Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 2022 at the City Clerk's Office.

Maestre 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 Magdalena Maestre To Maggie Maestre, CASE NO.: 2022MR000303

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Magdalena Maestre, adult, shall appear in the Will County Circuit Court, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, at 9:00 a.m., on Oct. 13, 2022, Courtroom A236, and then and there present a petition requesting that her name Magdalena Maestre be changed to Maggie Maestre.
Magdalena Maestre, Petitioner
Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law
Attorney No.: 6305463
14919 Founders Crossing,
Homer Glen, IL 60491.
(708) 942-8030
Email: mark@berardilawoffice.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 28, and Oct. 5, 2022.

Coroner provides information on new 'candy like' drug

Grundy County Coroner John W. Callahan is sharing a warning by the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] concerning a new 'candy-like' rainbow fentanyl drug.
"While we have not seen this candy-like drug here in Grundy County, there is an increase in the use of fentanyl overall. It is usually in the form of cutting or adding to other drugs for multiple reasons. Of course, the main reason is the addiction this fentanyl causes and that is why the drug cartel has come up with the candy-like to target the younger population,"

Callahan said.
According to the coroner, if you find this type of drug or the appearance of candy, call your local law enforcement agency.

Individuals should not handle the substance without gloves as fentanyl can be absorbed through the skin. Latex gloves will help, but they should not be used if handling this drug for any length of time. The coroner's office wears a more protective nitrile glove that prevents absorption.

D'Orazio Ford files mechanics lien on 2016 transit van

PUBLIC NOTICE

MECHANICS LIEN FORM Pursuant to 770 ILCS 50/3, notice is hereby given that a sale will be held October 21st at 8:00 a.m. at D'Orazio Ford, 1135 South Water Street, Wilmington, Illinois 60481 to satisfy a lien on the following vehicle under the laws of the State of Illinois against such vehicle for labor, services, skill or material expended upon or storage, which continues to accrue, furnished for such vehicle at the request of the following designated persons, unless such vehicle is redeemed within thirty days of this notice (2016 FORD TRANSIT VAN), VIN # 1FTYR2DGXGKA25143 Name of Owner: AAA Comfort, 34311 S Rivals Rd, Wilmington, IL
Name: D'Orazio Ford (Lien Amount) \$ 10,738.23 October 21st, 2022 Payment must be made in cash and cash Only.
Published in The Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 28 and Oct. 5, 2022.

Attorney Anderson files Stevenson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY STEVENSON, Deceased: Case No. 2022 PR 559

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Mary Stevenson. Letters of Office were issued to David Stevenson as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Edward T. Anderson of Bretz, Flynn & Associates, P.C., 58 N. Chicago Street, 2nd Floor, Joliet, Illinois 60432.

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 March 21, 2023 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Sec. 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.
Edward T. Anderson
For the Estate of Mary Stevenson, Deceased
By: Edward T. Anderson
Bretz, Flynn & Associates, P.C.,
58 N. Chicago Street 2nd Floor
Joliet, IL 60432
815-740-1545

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday Oct. 5, 12 and 19, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Vongsauodom 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 PHATTANA VONGSAOUDOM, Deceased; No. 2022PR399

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of PHATTANA VONGSAOUDOM, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator was issued on September 16, 2022, to Andy Keoyoth, whose address is 120 Fayette Court, Minooka, Illinois 60447; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 29, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

ANDY KEOYOTHY
Independent Administrator of the Estate of Phattana Vongsauodom, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 28 and Oct. 5, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Austin 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 SUSAN ADELE AUSTIN, Deceased; No. 2022PR558

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of SUSAN ADELE AUSTIN, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on September 22, 2022, to John L. Baloy, whose address is 20920 45th Street Bristol, Wisconsin 53104; whose attorney is Fisher Meents LLC 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 6, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalsaid.org.

JOHN L. BALOY
Independent Executor of the Estate of SUSAN ADELE AUSTIN, Deceased, by
Frank J. Meents, counsel for the Estate
Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

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Eric D. Fisher, Publisher. Date: Sept. 28, 2022
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

October 1922, nothing much doing in and around Wilmington

There really wasn't much going on 100 years ago. You might say it was a slow news month. But that doesn't mean the newspapers did not find things to write about. So, climb into the w a y b a c k



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

machine, seat belts optional, and set the controls for October 1922.

One of the first things you will notice is the new "look" of the Wilmington Advocate. The ads were more finely printed, and a bit more sophisticated. Case in point, the ad from Hermes-Smith Cash Store.

It depicts a smartly dressed man talking to a woman reading the paper. A precursor to the song of the 21st century, "Every girl's crazy 'bout a sharp dressed man."

During the second week the best gawking place could be had at the river watching the old iron bridge come down. "The work of wrecking the bridge was begun ten days ago and the first span fell last Friday evening.

The bridge was built in 1883 and was considered a very handsome and up to date structure. A large iron plate on the bridge bore the names of the three road commissioners of Wilmington Township at the time the bridge was erected - M. L. Kelley, S. E. Trott and J. R. Babcock."

For real entertainment though, the movie theater at the Wilmington Opera House was showing the "million-dollar picture," the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse." "The promos read, "More than 125,000 tons of masonry, steel, lumber, furniture and shrubbery were used in the massive settings.

A collection of art treasures from galleries, valued beyond price, were used in the interior settings. Remember the show starts promptly at 8 o'clock as the picture contains nine reels."

During the third week this warning was printed, "Petty thieving is becoming a common occurrence in

Wilmington and numerous cases have been reported. Rugs have been taken from lines where they were placed to air, door mats have been taken and last Saturday a handbag was stolen.

Homes on Kankakee Street have been visited more frequently than other parts of the city and it behooves people to keep a watchful eye."

In Florence a freak accident injured Clifford Blogg on the Younker farm. "He was engaged in flowing with a tractor when the cap on the gasoline tank flew off hitting the fly wheel and in rebounding struck him in the face cutting across the right eyeball and also two deep gashes in his forehead."

And speaking of strange, we read this, "Discovery of gold deposits on the farm of Bradford Green, six miles west of Joliet, was made public by J. V. Freeman, local chemist, who is owner of the mineral and chemical rights on the property, which comprises about 70 acres.

In five test pits already dug the assays show from \$3 to \$33 of gold per net ton of concentrates." I have not ever read of a

succeeding gold rush to Joliet, so perhaps he kept it all for himself.

In the final week Carl Markert announced that he was moving to Pontiac. Carl was born in Wilmington to the family that owned Markert Brewery.

For many years he kept a jewelry store on Water street that was known for the large clock hanging in front of the store. "C. L. Markert has taken over the Pontiac agency for Buick automobiles and will assume the management in the near future. He is an up to date, progressive man always identified with matters pertaining to community advancement."

And lastly, we notice another detailed ad for Wrigley's gum, giving the health benefits from chewing it. I notice from this ad that gum used to come in small squares wrapped individually, not in flat sticks as we know it today. And we also notice that the price was 5 cents for ten pieces.

As I said, nothing much was going on 100 years ago, it was a slow news month.



A PHOTO OF the 1883 bridge that was being demolished .

WHS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features WHS seniors. Featured this week are Kaitlyn Odonnell and Joel Greenidge who completed our Senior Profile questions.

Kaitlyn O'Donnell

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Business and cosmetology

What's one thing most people don't know about you? I hate reading

What every day activity could you win an Olympic medal at? Arguing

Your favorite thing to eat on the school menu? Mini-corn dogs and nachos

One thing you refuse to eat? Any vegetable that is orange

A sport or club that made an impact in you and why? Basketball and softball, they both allowed me to open up and be myself. The coaches



KAITLYN O'DONNELL

honestly have the biggest part of that because they let us trust them to where we will succeed more with less stress.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Chris Hemsworth because he is super hot.

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

If you could create a class, what would it be? Nap



JOEL GREENIDGE

Teacher shoutout? Mr. Dillon

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Don't stress too much about the tests. You have a huge one junior year.

Joel Greenidge

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I want to play football after high school

but if that doesn't work out I will go into the trades.

What's one thing most people don't know about you? I am not that bad at drawing, I just don't really try.

What every day activity could you win an Olympic medal at? Forgetting things

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Juice Wrld, his music is good.

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

If you could create a class what would it be? Basic life skills

Teacher shoutout? Mr. Farrell

A sport or club that made an impact on you? Football, good way to let out anger and help with focus and concentration.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Don't do drugs and don't steal from people.

WHS names students of the month



WHS SENIORS Casey Van Duyne and Myleana Petty were among eight students selected at Wilmington High School as Students of the Month for August. The staff and faculty nominate two students each month who go out of their way to be friendly or often are scene doing random acts of kindness.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH representing the junior class are Ean Couch and Grace Sanders.



WHS SOPHOMORE Rylee Lehnert and Ava Coplea are the Students of the Month for August.



WHS FRESHMAN Brianna Janovsky and Hunter Lewis were named Students of the Month for August.

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Front page worthy

DIAMOND— I salute The Coal City Courant and Editor Ann Gill for the front page importance of the press conference conducted by Grundy County Sheriff Ken Briley, Grundy County States Attorney Jason Helland and State Senator Sue Rezin. The SAFE-T-Act: Safety, Accountability, Fairness, Equity-Today Act. This legislation abolishes cash bail, expands detainees rights both of which protect criminals/crime at the expense of the tax payers and the police who protect them. It also requires police to wear body cameras. Thank you.

Only a little bit

DIAMOND—It's not the Covid- it's a little bit of cruelty- a little bit of discrimination- a little bit of masking children- a little bit of closing schools- a little bit of being forced to stay home bound- a little bit of closed small businesses- a little bit of closed churches- a little bit of vaccination- a little bit more vaccinations- a little bit more Covid protections- a little bit more mandates- a little bit vaccination I.D.s- a little bit unvaccinated losing jobs- a little bit new Covid extensions- a little bit of criminal law adjustment- a little bit of no felony trespass- a little bit of misdemeanor trespass- a little bit of no custody- a little bit hand cuffing police- a little bit less safety at home- a little bit no cash bail- a little bit hand cuffing states attorney's- a little bit free and easy crime- a little bit of patriot protest- a little bit of investigating patriots- a little bit of supervision- a little bit of control- a little bit less freedom- a little bit less America. Just one little bit at a time.

Prisoners received \$\$\$

DIAMOND—Your taxes went to inmates. According to information provided by America Outlook there was around 163,000 serving life sentences who were given Covid stimulus checks. According to a letter from IRS representative Don Bacon, Republican from Nevada, the number of \$1.3 billion includes economic impact payments but does not include recovery rebate credits which are another kind of Covid assistance. Inmates received their money for the stimulus package in the form of checks, direct payments or debit cards. Thanks to President Biden, more than one million prisoners received Covid stimulus checks. Maybe he can send his 87,000 new IRS agents to retrieve those rather than go after hard working taxpayers, Sharon.

Changing of the guard

WILMINGTON— In the upcoming months there are two positions at the Wilmington Area Historical Society that will need to be address. For years the museum sat vacant not giving the citizen of Wilmington a chance to visit. Then a group of volunteers came together to form a Board. During that time many projects were done to the building and saving the artifacts. Today, there is concern on who might be brought on to the Board. The museum needs a healthily board to move forward into the future so our children can be proud of what their forefathers have accomplished. To all the past and present members, please come to the museum and see what is going on inside the walls. Take pride in this building and the contents it holds. This museum lies in the hands of the Wilmington community. Don't let others destroy its beauty. Common knowledge is to preserve and protect. We can't allow other hands to destroy it long history.

Election petitions

BRAIDWOOD—This is regarding the Soundoff in last week's paper entitled "Without Notice." The writer noted that most taxing bodies published notice that prospective candidates can pick up and circulate nominating petitions beginning Sept. 20, but Braidwood has failed to do so. I made the same observation. Several weeks ago I saw such notices by the Braidwood and Godley Park Districts, Wilmington, Coal City and even Carbon Hill. But nothing from Braidwood. The writer asked why and seemed to hint that it may be due to the clerk's lack of training. That may be, but I think it goes much deeper than that. I think the City Administrator and his four yes men are absolutely terrified of a fair contested election. The administrator has asked for more than his present six figure salary and benefits. The budget for administration has been bloated to accomplish those ends. They have literally given away millions of dollars to private businesses that we taxpayers will have to pay for with interest. They have given away city real estate. They have given away public roads and rights of way to private individuals and or entities. They have responded to citizens reasonable requests for information with "file a FOIA." There is so much more but space limits me. Suffice it to say that the incumbents have plen-

ty of reasons to be worried about the next election. I'm sure they figure that by failing to give notice of the election they can limit, if not outright prevent, any opposition. All they had to do was delay past the filing deadline. That is exactly how this administration operates. They hoped to just waltz back into office without anyone knowing that they can be challenged. But now the public does know. And we can't let that happen.

All done by Pritzker

DIAMOND— This is to reply to the Democrat who is replying to "back to the farm." I want to thank you so much Mr. Democrat for telling us Governor Rauner was kept from bankrupting the state and I thank you so much for that. That way everybody knows that the bottoming out of our state, including the SAFE-T-Act, was all done by Governor Pritzker. I'm sure with your thanks and gratitude. That's all.

A great ride

WILMINGTON—We went to the football game Friday night in Braidwood. Getting a ride to our bleachers was much appreciated as we are 75. Then I realized I forgot my wallet and the man driving the golf cart told me not to go back home. He would take care of the concession stand for us. Many thanks to our driver, Reed-Custer Principal Tim Ricketts.

Tom and Carolyn

Covering it up

WILMINGTON—Since March 2022, all along our southern borders, 22,500 "unaccompanied" children without adults crossed into the U.S. and are now being held in government facilities. Strange when President Trump was in office the news media accused his handling of the children in cages. Today with president Biden the media covers it up. Medicaid pays their health bills. Schooling is another issue. When is President Biden ever going to visit the borders to see for himself? Never. Claiming there is no problem. Hundreds of children have drowned crossing the rivers.

Is greed good?

WILMINGTON—Remember when Main Street was thriving and prosperous all across America? It was because everyday workers made the middle class strong due to good wages. Sometimes membership in a union made it possible, sometimes it was the respect company owners had for the people working for them. But it was Wall Street fat cats and big shots like Trump promoting the concept that 'greed is good' which created the obscenely wealthy and the rest of us. In the past 50 years, the Republican Party is notorious for protecting the super-rich while the Democrats are known to look out for the average American. And that's a fact. Irene

Price jump Joe

SHADOW LAKES—Monday Joe Biden yelled at the oil companies, telling them lower the price of gas at the pump and do it now, Wednesday the price of gas went up 50 cents. Come on man. Did you really think the oil companies would help you out in an election year after you said you want to put them out of business? Eddie

Throwing a lifeline

COAL CITY—Remember when President Reagan said the nine most terrifying words were, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help?" Do the people of Florida feel that way? Hurricane victims need help from charity and any sympathetic soul because the government can't keep up. The truth is that President Reagan was a hypocrite with a cold heart because he was more than willing to help the rich. When I worked at a government research laboratory during the 1980s, Reagan froze the wages of the less educated, less compensated workers like me, but the well educated, well paid and well heeled were given raises as usual. And today the Republican Party is worse than ever making the rich richer and everyone else poorer.

Taylor S.

Price gouging?

WILMINGTON—President Biden told gas station owners last week to stop price gouging. He must have been traveling through Wilmington when he made that comment.

Five years ago

BRAIDWOOD—As Putin violates the sovereignty of nations as perhaps we haven't seen since WWII, the renewal of bonds within NATO and Europe are more important than ever. President Biden's foreign policy skills did us a great service by healing the wounds inflicted by former President Trump against the unity of western democracies five years ago. If Trump were president now, we can only imagine the



increasingly desperate situation for Ukraine. Would Trump take the side of his buddy, Putin? Fortunately Ukraine is able to join a strengthened NATO now which would be impossible if Trump had destroyed NATO like he wanted to in 2017. R. K.

Messed up world

SHADOW LAKES—I think we can all agree the world is messed up right now but the Woke White House thinks changing the name of two battleships and the Atlanta Braves is the answer. Come on man, how is this woke agenda going to pay our bills? Eddie

Only in California

BRAIDWOOD—Well it's been done. Gov. Newsome of California just signed the bill that allows killing of a baby up to 28 days after birth. Who is next? The elderly when they reach a certain age? Remember this when he runs for president in 2024.

Council decisions

WILMINGTON—A local restaurant is asking the city council to give up two city parking spots to allow them to put in a drive through window. About four years ago citizens asked the city about no handicapped access to this local restaurant. Nothing has been done about this question. Now they want the city to take care of this dilemma. Take care of past issues before creating another please.

Weak, stupid or both?

Trump on complimenting Ginni Thomas on her 4+ hours of talking to the Jan. 6 committee about voting fraud said "She didn't wilt under pressure like so many others that are weak people and stupid people. She said what she thought, she said what she believed in." You mean like the 440 times you plead the 5th in your recent deposition in New York, Donald? Weak, stupid, or both? Since you bragged about being the most transparent president in history, why don't you offer to sit with the Jan. 6 committee like Ginni did and tell them your side?

Great support

COAL CITY—What a great turnout we had for the Homecoming Parade on Friday. Nice to see everyone support our schools.

Pot meet kettle

WILMINGTON—Every time I turn on Fox they complain about crime and what they call Democrat-run cities but they choose to ignore the fact that eight of the 10 states with the highest crime rate are run by Republicans. Pot meet kettle. At least Florida's crimes will go down when Trump goes to prison.

Yes, I'm terrified

WILMINGTON—I never thought I would agree with Mr. Hill about anything but here we are. Yes, I am terrified of another Trump presidency because it will signal the end of Democracy. I think Trump will disband the FBI and DOJ and replace them with Proud Boys and oath keepers and other fascists. To quote REM, "It's the end of the world as we know it." Penny Lane

Dead over 100 years

WILMINGTON—The Right are trying to smear President Biden. They say that is proof of senility but I remember Trump did a shout out to Frederick Douglas who he said was doing good work in the present tense and he had been dead over 100 years. Is that senility or

See everyone thrive

WILMINGTON—I would like to congratulate Fox's Pizza on the opening of their new building. I know it was a long time coming and a very long process to get everything done. But it's a nice addition to Wilmington and I'm very happy they finally got the building up and operating. I will enjoy going in there with my friends and having something to eat and drink and watching the games. Wilmington is a wonderful town. And with Covid the past couple of years, I know it hasn't been easy. Some of you have chosen to close one day during the week and that's your choice as a businessperson. You have to do what's right for you but I hope soon everyone can be open as many days of the week as they want, that they are always busy and have employees working and not having to scramble and beg people to work for them because this is a wonderful town and I want to see everyone thrive and survive instead of closing like what has been going on in Chicago and other towns. I wish all the businesses in town the best and I'm really happy Linda and I moved here 21 years ago. This is the best town I have lived in.

Sherri Michaels

The parking lot

WILMINGTON—Maybe they will do a bad job on the new parking lot. Then it can match the street.

Stupid spending

WILMINGTON—While watching the Hurricane Ian disaster on television, the thought came to mind as hundreds, maybe thousands, on the packed highways attempted to get out before it hit. What would that be like if all those cars were electric cars and one or more stalled for a needed recharge? Every recharge takes 45 minutes. The billionaires pushing electric cars are completely insane. Hurricane costs us more than \$40 billion plus and will take years in repairs. President Biden needs to stop the stupid spending.

A socialist Democracy

WILMINGTON—A small book called "The governor you do not know, what every Illinoisan should know," by Dennis Bryne, former opinion columnist for The Chicago Sun Times, Chicago Tribune and Chicago Daily news came in the mail. It's a compelling report you will want to read and share with family, friends and neighbors before casting your vote in our upcoming statewide election. It's a small quick read and excellent. Our governor has finally found an industry that wants to come to Illinois- abortions along with marijuana businesses. As a billionaire it's "his way or the highway" It's not the old Democrat Party, it's an Illinois socialist Democracy.

Rough times ahead

On Sept. 28, Florida experienced a 500-year disaster with Hurricane Ian. It will take years to clean up and rebuild with \$40 billion of our federal dollars to help. The stock market in two years has lost \$7 trillion. President Biden's policies and spending has lost the entire economy. Gas will skyrocket again and winter is coming. Food prices will skyrocket more all in the name of green energy. Insane. The next two years with recession and high inflation it's going to be rough times.

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Spaghetti Dinner at New Hope Church Oct. 8

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, from 4-7 p.m. at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City. Cost is \$8 per dinner and will be dine in or drive thru pickup. Proceeds will go towards the Help Raise the Roof fund at the church.

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Bringing back the Boulevardier

The annual list of the bestselling cocktails in the world published by Drinks International serves as one of the best barometers of the latest trends in mixology.

It's always interesting to see which cocktail holds the coveted #1 position, which was awarded to the Negroni in 2022. Also making a move up this year from the 18th spot to #12 is a classic whiskey cocktail with a loyal following. Let's see if we can get the Boulevardier into the top 10 for 2023!

Ah, the Boulevardier. This drink is about to hit the century mark and the casual imbibers are rarely aware of its existence.

The Boulevardier spent the first 50 years of life in the shadow of its more popular cousin, the Negroni. The last 50 years have been spent in the shadow of the most popular cocktail in the world, the Old Fashioned.

Equal parts of bourbon, Campari, and sweet vermouth are a perfectly balanced trio of sharply different flavor notes that build one of the most curiously delicious cocktails in all of mixology.

On paper, the Boulevardier is similar to a Negroni. In the glass, it is nothing of the kind. The use of bourbon as opposed to gin gives the drink its own identity, one that I believe achieves a better balance of flavor notes than the Negroni.

The Boulevardier gets little to no love at neighborhood bars, even though whiskey cocktails as a category have

come roaring back in recent years. The best Boulevardier is typically found where the best Negroni is found, which tends to be finer steakhouses.

The Negroni and Boulevardier are right at home on steakhouse menus for a couple of reasons. First and foremost, the drink is a phenomenal aperitif and is a perfect starter for a multi-course meal in a fine restaurant.

In addition to being a perfect aperitif for a steak dinner, the Boulevardier and Negroni shine in the steakhouse because the bars in finer establishments stock high quality ingredients behind the bar, and the clientele is willing to pay for quality.

On that note, the quality of ingredients absolutely matters as there are only three ingredients. You can't say that you have given the Boulevardier a fair shake if you have not tried the drink with quality ingredients.

Starting with the bourbon, use a quality bourbon, something north of the \$20 price point. My favorites for the Boulevardier are Booker's, Woodford Reserve, Four Roses, and Old Forester Signature. If you prefer rye to bourbon, use your favorite rye.

Campari is your best bet for the Boulevardier and the Negroni. There are other Italian bitters on the market,



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

but Campari is widely available and the most balanced from a flavor standpoint.

Some of the Italian bitters can get very, very bitter. Don't take my word for it, Campari is the gold standard Italian bitter liqueur and can be found behind nearly every commercial bar on the planet.

I use Noilly Prat sweet vermouth in every cocktail that calls for sweet vermouth, but that doesn't mean that there are not some amazing vermouth options out there.

If you can find it, Cocchi vermouth di Torino is simply amazing and I highly recommend it in the Boulevardier.

As is the case with most drinks using vermouth, there is a variant. In this case, the variant is called the Old Pal which calls for dry vermouth in place of sweet vermouth.

Remember, vermouth is a fortified wine and will begin to spoil upon opening. Keep refrigerated after opening, discard after one week.

The Boulevardier is 1/3 vermouth, and as a rule of thumb cocktails with a significant pour of vermouth are stirred as opposed to shaken.

When vermouth cocktails are shaken (especially sweet vermouth cocktails) a frothy film is left on top of the drink and the drink will be cloudy when it hits the glass.

When properly stirred, the

Boulevardier will hit the glass a dark, rich, burgundy/amber in color. It truly is a remarkable presentation in a nicer rocks glass.

Because the Boulevardier uses three alcoholic ingredients, it will benefit from dilution. Similar to the Manhattan and the Martini, the Boulevardier achieves the ideal dilution by adding ice to the mixing glass.

Proper dilution occurs between 15-20 seconds of stirring with ice, you will develop a taste for the ideal amount of dilution once you have had the opportunity to taste a few of these.

If you are fan of whiskey cocktails there is a good chance that you will like this one. It could be the best whiskey cocktail you have never had, and you may discover that you are a fan of the Negroni as well.

Speaking of the Negroni, might as well pick up a bottle of gin and make one. You already have the other two ingredients.

The Boulevardier is built in a mixing glass and served in a chilled rocks glass.

Combine in mixing glass:
1 oz. bourbon
1 oz. Campari
1 oz. sweet vermouth

Stir with ice, then strain into chilled rocks glass (optional large ice sphere in glass)

Garnish with orange twist and a cherry

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Commentary

Social media may be fun, but we need newspapers

BY AL CROSS

I love social media. They keep me in touch with dozens of friends, whom I might otherwise have contact with just every few years, or every few decades.

They let me share articles that I think bring greater understanding of a subject, usually with a comment of my own, and enjoy similar sharing by others.

They let me share my own writing, reaching a wider audience than I did when I worked for newspapers, and be part of national, even international, conversations.

I hate social media. They have become the default sources of information for most Americans, and major sources of misinformation, even disinformation that polarizes the country and drives us into media echo chambers.

They have added to the confusion between fact and opinion, and to our natural desire for information that confirms what we believe, rather than information that may challenge those beliefs.

They have led Americans to spend more time online in virtual communities instead of the geographic communities where we live, pay taxes and elect local leaders.

My love-hate relationship with social media stems mainly from the fact that I am a journalist who believes that freedom

of information is essential to our democratic republic, and who has done most of my journalism for newspapers which are the main fact finders in our society.

Newspapers are finding it more difficult to perform that essential function, mainly because much of their audience and more of their advertisers now prefer social media.

Newspapers have as many readers as they ever did, but the audience is mainly online, and reached through social media posts that bring them no income.

There's a bill in Congress to address that, called the Journalism Preservation Act, but what news media also need is more citizens who appreciate and support their work.

Newspapers are not only the main fact finders for citizens; they are institutions that speak truth to power and hold it accountable.

That's why our founders put the First Amendment into the Constitution, to guarantee freedom of speech, press, petition, assembly and religion.

Freedom of the press demands certain responsibilities of those who exercise it. Too many citizens don't realize that journalists have a set of generally agreed upon ethics, and that journalism is a collective enterprise, with editors and other colleagues who help each other deliver a fair report.

My favorite description of how journalism is supposed to be practiced is in

The Elements of Journalism," a book by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel. They list 10 elements; here are the first five, which are the most fundamental:

1. Journalism's first obligation is to the truth.
2. Its first loyalty is to citizens.
3. Its essence is a discipline of verification.
4. Its practitioners must maintain an independence from those they cover.
5. It must serve as an independent monitor of power.

The element I quote most often these days is No. 3, about the discipline of verification. It means that we tell readers how we know something, or we attribute it to someone.

Social media have no discipline and no verification. And they're mainly about opinion, not facts.

Journalism, especially in newspapers, is mainly about facts, not opinion.

Opinions are the heartbeat of a democracy, but they should be based on facts. And for the facts, we need newspapers.

Al Cross is professor of journalism and director of the Institute for Rural Journalism at the University of Kentucky. He was a weekly newspaper editor and political writer for the Louisville Courier Journal and president of the Society of Professional Journalists. He shares his commentary during National Newspaper Week.

Receive emergency alerts by text

Area residents who would like to receive emergency alerts from the Grundy County Emergency Management Agency can sign up at www.nixle.com and type in your zip code.

Emergency alerts include weather, traffic, criminal activities and more in the Grundy area. You can also text your zip code to 888777 to opt in for emergency notifications.

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Gas prices jump 22¢

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 22.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.14/g, according to GasBuddy.com.

In Braidwood the price on Monday varied as much as 40¢ per gallon from stations across the street from each other. In Wilmington the ranged from a low of \$3.78/g (Mohsen station) to a high of \$4.29. In Coal City the price averaged \$3.99/g.

"With gas prices continuing to surge on the West Coast and Great Lakes, the national average saw its second straight weekly rise. But at the same time, areas of the Northeast and Gulf Coast have continued to see declines as the nation experiences sharp differences in trends between regions," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Prices in Illinois are 2.0 cents per gallon

higher than a month ago and stand 81.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 2.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.86 per gallon.

"Some West Coast states saw prices rise 35 to 55 cents per gallon in the last week as refinery issues continued to impact gasoline supply, which fell to its lowest level in a decade in the region, causing prices to skyrocket. While I'm hopeful there will eventually be relief, prices could go a bit higher before cooling off. In addition, OPEC could decide to cut oil production by a million barrels as the global economy slows down, potentially creating a catalyst that could push gas prices up further."

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.34/g while the most expensive was \$5.87/g.

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Good news on pelican



File photo by Eric Fisher

REMEMBER THAT American White pelican that was rescued from the ice-covered mill race in Wilmington back in January of this year? The injured bird was captured by Dawn Keller of the Flint Creek Wildlife Rehab Center in Barrington, IL. Keller has been nursing it back to full health over the past nine months and recently it was determined that its wing was strong enough for it to be returned to the wild. Keller released the bird Sept. 23 with hopes that it will head south with a flock of migrating pelican. While it's a rare occasion when pelicans pass through northeast Illinois, it has become a more common sight. Typically they migrated west of the Mississippi River to Texas and gulf coast states but have been spotted along the Illinois and Kankakee Rivers.



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Midewin to survey visitors

In an ongoing effort to learn more about how visitors are experiencing the prairie, USDA Forest Service employees will be conducting National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) surveys at trailheads and in the Welcome Center at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington.

Surveys will begin next week and will continue until September 30, 2023. Participation in the surveys is voluntary.

Information gathered through the surveys will be utilized as a reference for prairie planning as well as for local community tourism planning.

The information provides

land managers with an estimate of how many people recreate on America's National Prairie, what activities they engage in while they are here, and how satisfied people are with their visit.

The survey gathers basic visitor information. Surveys are voluntary and all responses are confidential; names are not included. Interviews last about 10 minutes.

Questions asked include: where you recreated on the prairie, how many people traveled with you, how long you were on the prairie, what other recreation sites or trails you visited while on the prairie, and how satisfied you are with the facilities and services provided.

About a third of the visitors will be asked to complete a confidential survey on recreation spending during their trip.

"While participation in the surveys is optional, we welcome everyone's involvement," said USDA FS Trails Technician Sam Williamson.

"We would appreciate it if visitors would take a few minutes to share their thoughts, which will be helpful in planning the best possible experiences in the future."

The survey schedule for October 2022 is as follows:

- October 7, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Explosives Road Trailhead
- October 14, 12 to 6 p.m. - Iron Bridge Trailhead
- October 17, 12 to 6 p.m. - Hoff Road Trailhead
- October 18, 12 to 6 p.m. - Midewin Welcome Center Trailhead (Route 53 Trail)
- October 22, 12 to 6 p.m. - Iron Bridge Trailhead
- October 28, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Explosives Road Trailhead

Employees conducting the surveys will wear orange vests and be near a sign that says "Traffic Survey Ahead."

Additional information about the National Visitor Use Monitoring program can be found at <https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/>.

For more information about Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, visit: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/midewin/home>.



Courtesy photo by Trevor Edmonson

COLLEEN AND TREVOR Edmonson enjoy the trails by bicycle at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

I-80 extended weekend lane closures continue

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that bridge deck patching and repairs to Interstate 80 between Raynor Avenue and Gardner Street, in Joliet, will require lane closures over multiple extended weekends. This is the fifth of eight planned weekend closures along the corridor.

Starting at 10 p.m. Thursday, lane closures will take place on eastbound I-80, between Wheeler Avenue and Chicago Street (U.S.52/Illinois 53). At least one eastbound I-80 lane will remain open at all times and westbound I-80 will not be impacted.

Eastbound I-80 motorists traveling through the region should consider alternative routes to avoid the area. Local streets are unable to accommodate heavy or wide trucks, so other interstate routes are encouraged. The ramp and all lanes are anticipated to reopen by 5 a.m. Monday, Oct. 10.

Additionally, the eastbound I-80 ramp to Richards Street is closed for reconstruction, with an anticipated reopening in late fall. The posted detour directs traffic to exit Briggs Street and re-enter westbound I-80 to access the Richards Street exit.

The work consists of resurfacing and pavement striping to keep the pavement in acceptable condition until the larger corridor project can begin. By scheduling the work over multiple weekends this fall, the unplanned, emergency closures that have occurred with increasing frequency in recent years can be minimized.

I-80 through Joliet and Will County carries approxi-

mately 80,000 vehicles a day, about 25% of which are trucks.

Advance work on I-80 started last year with a \$41.7 million project to replace the bridges over Hickory Creek, Richards Street and Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad, and westbound over Richards Street, in Joliet, Rockdale and New Lenox, while widening eastbound I-80 from Gardner Street to

Rowell Avenue. Once the eastbound improvements are completed later this year, similar improvements will begin in the westbound direction. Interchanges are planned to be rebuilt or improved at Interstate 55, Illinois 7, Center Street, Chicago Street, Richards Street and Briggs Street, with a new flyover ramp linking southbound I-55 to eastbound I-80.

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OBITUARIES

Freda Dzuris

COAL CITY—Freda Dzuris, 94, a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away at her residence on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022.

Born Nov. 29, 1927 in Maroa, IL, she was a daughter of Fred and Edna (Schultz) Thomas. Freda was raised and educated in Maroa and graduated Valedictorian. After being introduced by a friend, Freda married John Dzuris on June 11, 1949. Together they cherished 70 years until John's passing on Oct. 7, 2020. Freda attended Illinois State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. Freda taught Kindergarten at Coal City Elementary until her retirement after 25 years.

She and John loved to travel having visited Switzerland, Hawaii, Bahamas and Alaska. During the winter months Freda and John would enjoy the warm sun in Florida after relishing the fall in Door County. She volunteered at the Coal City Library for 20 years after retiring. Freda enjoyed numerous activities with Ranch Girls, exercising, bowling and many trips to Chicago. She was a charter member of Evening Star for over 72 years. Freda was an active member with the Women's Golf league and also enjoyed playing with her husband, John. Anyone who knew Freda would say she was sweet and generous with a kind, gentle and grateful soul that never changed.

Survivors include two daughters, Lauri Dzuris (Alan Long), of Aurora and Carol (Rick)



Swearingen, of Mahomet; grandchildren: Fana Dzuris Long, of Aurora; Matthew Swearingen, of Peoria and Kate (Andy) Nelson, of Champaign, and three great-grandchildren: Madilyn Swearingen, Ivy and Otto Nelson.

Freda was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John; two brothers, Hubert and Glen, and two sisters, Kathryn and Bernadine.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Freda's wishes.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArde Rd., in Coal City on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 from 1 p.m. until time of memorial services at 2 p.m.. Pastor Jay Regennitter will officiate. Graveside services will take place at a later date in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Freda will be laid to rest with her husband, John.

Preferred memorials in Freda's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Research Foundation, Coal City Library or Coal City United Methodist Church.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, upload photos and share Freda's memorial page via social media.

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

Peter Kodat

MORRIS—Peter "Pete" Lawrence Kodat, lifelong farmer in Grundy County and past Goose Lake Township Supervisor, Illinois, passed away Friday, Sept. 30, 2022 at Lightways Hospice Care in Joliet.

Born Aug. 19, 1948 to Leonard Kodat and Mary Walsh Kodat, Pete was the youngest of five children. He lived his entire life on the farm lands of Grundy County. Agriculture held his interest more than anything else at school, so following graduation from Coal City High School in 1966, Pete began farming in Goose Lake Township and continued to farm throughout his life. Upon the opening of Dresden Station, Pete worked nights at Dresden Nuclear Power Station for 11 years. This job allowed him to buy his first piece of heavy equipment and some land, build his home, and expand his career to become Kodat Farms.

Local history held Pete's attention; he listened to elders and contemporaries alike, committing their stories to memory. He studied local maps and read everything from ledgers to government documents to personal memoirs. Pete's respect for the land, its history, and its



people was made evident with his own writing and publication of "Goose Lake Township Centennial 1897-1997."

Pete is survived by his wife, Ana B. Koval; his son, Steven (Jill) Kodat; his grandchildren, Cory (Andrea) and Jessika (Chase McGarvey) Kodat; two great-granddaughters, Blair and Cameran Kodat and three siblings: George (Rita) Kodat, Judy (Rich) Martin and Philip (Karin) Kodat.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Thomas Kodat.

Per Pete's request, no services will occur at this time. Aqua cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials may be directed to Lightways Hospice Care facility, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or Carbon Hill Museum, 875 N. Second Street, Carbon Hill, IL 60416.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Leda Marie Frew

NAPLES, FL—Leda Marie Frew, 81, of Naples, FL and Chicago, passed away Sept. 30, 2022.

She was born in Chicago on Nov. 7, 1940. Leda worked as a beautician, as well as served as a Certified Fingerprint Tech with the Chicago Police Department.

She was the wife of the late William F. Frew; mother of Sally (William D.) Robinett, of Chicago and Susan Frew Tanner, of Naples, FL; grandmother to: Daniel (Amanda) Robinett, Breanna (Joshua) Maldonad and Cassey (Tyler) Ingram; great-grandmother of Payton, Kennedy and Luna Robinett, Magnolia Maldonad and Everly Ingram; daughter of the late Roy and Cecelia (Lemuix) Blouin; sister to Patricia (Don) Fowell, of Wisconsin and the late, Roy (Joanne) Blouin and aunt to several nieces and

nephews, including her Goddaughter, Jennifer Foyt.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Monday, Oct. 10, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 12 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 2 p.m. Father Sebastian Gargol from St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington will preside.

Burial will follow in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, where she will be laid to rest with her late husband.

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

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

Jacoby John Kramp

LITTLETON, CO— Jacoby John Kramp, 13, of Littleton, CO, passed away Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022, at Denver Hospice Center after a 10 month battle with brain cancer. He was born June 10, 2009, to Scott and Kara (Feil) Kramp.

He is survived by his parents, three sisters: Darby, Shelby and Aubrey; maternal grandparents, Gary and Sherry Feil; paternal grandmother, Diane Kramp; several aunts and uncles: Marann Feil, Derek and Deena Feil, Cory and Tarynn Williams, Darren and Lora Fitzpatrick and Mike and Johanna Chorba; cousins: Maysie, Jayden, Brycen and Ryker Feil, Alex, Davin, Darcy Fitzpatrick and Ethan and Alex Chorba.

He was preceded in death by his paternal



grandfather, John Kramp.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a Celebration of Life was held on Sept. 23, 2022 at the Double Angel Baseball Complex in Parker, CO.

Game Day, Inc. leases the Angel Complex and offers baseball year round. Game Day was one of Jacoby's "happy places" where he got to hang out with his friends and play baseball with his "Blaze" teammates. In his memory, Game Day baseball has retired his jersey, #44, to the center field fence. doubleangel.org

Donations in Jacoby's name can be made to Make A Wish Foundation or Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. His parents have donated his brain to science.

Roycann "Rocky" Williams

COAL CITY, Roycann "Rocky" L. Williams, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022, at the age of 59. She was born April 7, 1963, the daughter of Royce Smith and Patricia Swisher.

Rocky was born in Joliet. She was a graduate of GSW High School, class of 1982. She was employed with Allstate Insurance in Lemont in Data Processing for over 20 years. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and helping her husband Greg on the farm. She enjoyed spending her free time gardening and taking care of her two puppies, Scout and Emma.

Rocky is survived by her loving husband Greg; her sons Patrick (Carrie) Wren of Chicago and Chad Williams of Dwight; daughters Katie (Bert) McLuckie and Nicole (Kenny) Mack; grandsons Kane and Mack McLuckie, K.C., Lane, Liam, Jack, Owen and Colten Williams; granddaughter Grace Mack; her parents Pat and Bob Swisher of Braceville and Judy and Royce Smith of Sebring FL. Also surviving are her brothers Rob (Dy) Swisher of Braceville and Roy



Swisher of Carmi, IL, several nieces and nephews; sister in law Gayla Smith; her special friends Anita and Ruthie.

She is preceded by her grandparents Burt and Annebelle Parkinson and Royce and Mary Smith; special friend Tracey Mulvey her brother Richard Smith and sisters Kathy Smith Young, Jerri Lynn Swisher and Vicki Beasley.

A visitation for Rocky will be held Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at the UC Davis-Callahan Funeral Home in Morris. A celebration of Rocky's life will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, at 10:00 am, officiated by Pastor Jan Chandler. Rocky will be laid to rest at Wheeler Cemetery in Mazon.

An online guestbook has been created for the family, where you may sign the guestbook, share memories and photographs. You may visit our website at www.ucdaviscallahan.com. Arrangements have been entrusted with the U. C. Davis-Callahan Funeral Home located at 301 West Washington Street, Morris.

FDA advises of listeria in soft cheese products

The FDA, along with the CDC and state and local partners, is investigating a multi-state outbreak of listeria infections linked to brie and camembert soft cheese products manufactured by Old Europe Cheese, Inc. of Benton Harbor, MI and sold at retailers under multiple labels and brands, including Reny Picot.

Based on epidemiological information provided by CDC, of the five patients with information available, four [80%] report eating brie or camembert cheese prior to illness.

FDA initiated an inspection at the Old Europe Cheese, Inc. facility in Michigan, which included sample collection and analysis. Analysis of envi-

ronmental samples collected at the facility showed the presence of listeria monocytogenes.

Old Europe Cheese, Inc., has voluntarily recalled multiple brands of brie and camembert cheeses. The firm has also halted production and distribution of their brie and camembert products from the Michigan facility and is working with FDA on corrective actions.

FDA's investigation is ongoing to determine if additional products and potentially contaminated.

Consumers, restaurants and retailers should throw away cheese with best buy dates ranging from Sept. 28,

2022 to Dec. 14, 2022, and all flavors and quantities.

A full list of recalled products and stores that potentially sold these products is available on the FDA website as well as the company website at oldeuropecheese.com.

Listeria is most likely to sicken pregnant people and their newborns, adults aged 65 and older, and people with weakened immune systems. Other people can be infected with listeria, but rarely become seriously ill.

People may experience headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance and convulsions, in addition to fever and muscle aches.

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FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT of Will County officials cut the ribbon Sept. 24 for new interior exhibits at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon. From left are Lynn Kurczewski, director of visitor services; Executive Director Ralph Schultz; Forest Preserve Commissioners Julie Berkowicz and Jackie Traynere; and Forest Preserve Board President Joe VanDuyne.

Four Rivers exhibit open for exploration

Visitors can now explore the newly opened exhibit space at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon to learn about mussels, river fish and the birds that flock to McKinley Woods preserve.

The "Four Rivers at the Confluence" wing of the visitor center features a 2,000-gallon fish tank stocked with catfish, black crappie, smallmouth bass, bluegill and walleye; a "Mussel Masquerade" exhibit that explains the species' interesting reproductive techniques; and an exterior, oversized bird feeder/ birdbath combination.

The Four Rivers site is unique because it sits where the Des Plaines, DuPage and Kankakee rivers join to form the Illinois River, which flows into the Mississippi River. Many of the new exhibits interpret this unique mixture of rivers, birds and preserved open space.

During a ribbon-cutting held Sept. 24, Forest Preserve District of Will County Board President Joe VanDuyne said he was proud to have Four Rivers in his district and that he knows visitors will appreciate

the improvements to the site as well as the hard work staff put in to make sure the public has enjoyable experiences.

"I've been out here quite a few times and every time I show up, the staff is super friendly, and the property is completely spotless," she said.

Forest Preserve Commissioner Julie Berkowicz said she is very impressed with the many programs and services the Forest Preserve District offers to the community. "Staff is incredible," she said.

"They're dedicated and motivated to get out and educate our youth and our families, which is so important today, and we see the need is increasing."

Commissioner Jackie Traynere said her grandson loves hands-on exhibits and she can't wait to bring him to visit Four Rivers. "We are very blessed that we live in a District where the Forest Preserve keeps expanding," she said.

"And we are lucky that our taxpayers continue to support not only expansion, but also maintenance and upkeep."

Explore what's new indoors!

Other new Four Rivers exhibits include a scale that tells you how much weight you would need to gain to migrate south for the winter, a bird board that lets visitors know what birds they can expect to see in the preserve on any given day, and an aerial map on the floor that shows the Four Rivers site and the surrounding McKinley Woods preserve.

Facility supervisor Jerome Gabriel said he was excited to have all the new exhibits in place. "It's a nice addition to this side of the county and especially to the Channahon area. I think people are going to be able to learn a lot about the region through it."

Ralph Schultz, the Forest Preserve's executive director, noted that the Four Rivers improvements were funded by a \$750,000 Illinois State Museum Grant and the Forest Preserve's Capital Improvement Program. Also, The Nature Foundation of Will County and J-Power Jackson Generation contributed to the new All-Persons Trail, which opened on the exterior of the building earlier this year.

And Easterseals Joliet Region collaborated with the District to help make the exhibits more accessible.

Four Rivers is located at 25055 W. Walnut Lane. The visitor center is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. The building is closed on Mondays. McKinley Woods preserve is open daily, 8 a.m. to sunset.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

First United Methodist to host annual pork dinner

The First United Methodist Church will be hosting its annual roast pork dinner on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

It will be held at the church on 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington. The meal will

include roast pork, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, oriental slaw and desserts.

A free will offering can be made to benefit local charities and a silent auction will take place for The Caring Closet of Wilmington.

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Illinois pumpkin harvest shows supplies on target to meet demand

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Pumpkin harvest ramped up a little early this year in some parts of the state as growers responded to the threat of late-season rains and the first frost this fall. Rains late in the season can cause fruit rot in pumpkins while the arrival of the

first frost generally reduces the quality of commercial pumpkins grown for the processing market, according to David Uhlman, a farmer from Tremont.

Uhlman grew commercial pumpkins under contract for Nestle/Libby's this season. This year marks his 44th crop year and it's the 42nd season he's grown processing pumpkins for the Libby's plant in Morton.

"It's a field-to-consumer crop. I appreciate being in a market such as that," Uhlman said. "It's been a very good crop rotation for me and diversification of crops and markets."

Uhlman planted his processing pumpkins a touch later than he would have liked this season - the third week of May - but Libby's already completed harvest on his farm by Sept. 19.

"Germination went well and quite frankly with the drier season we had we were pretty excited about pumpkins. They had less disease pressure and we had enough rain that the herbicides worked well," Uhlman said.

"They (Libby's) harvested mine a little earlier this year because of some fruit rot in the fields because of some late rains," he noted. "In my area there's quite a bit of noticeable fruit rot, so they tried to be as

timely as possible (with pumpkin harvest) this year."

Libby's typically contracts 6,000 to 7,000 acres of commercial pumpkins near its canning plant in Morton each year. Yield averages increased to around 27 tons per acre in recent years but could be down a touch this year to around 25 tons, Uhlman said.

Uhlman discussed the harvest of commercial pumpkins on his farm this season.

"I spoke with the harvesting crew and they're noticing no record-breaking yields this year," he said. "But they are pretty comfortable there's enough acres contracted to be able to meet the demand of the market."

Libby's typically produces more than three-quarters of the commercial pumpkins canned in the U.S. at its central Illinois facility, earning Morton the longstanding, unofficial title of "Pumpkin Capital of the World."

Ornamental pumpkin yields variable

While the commercial pumpkin harvest appears adequate, yields of ornamental pumpkins have been quite variable around the state due to wild weather fluctuations this season.

John Ackerman grew 160 varieties of pumpkins in every color and size this season on his farm near Morton. He

started growing commercial pumpkins for Libby's in 1983 and opened his farm up to the public to sell ornamental pumpkins in 1999.

"The pumpkin crop is really good this year. It was really dry in this part of Tazewell County. They responded well to those conditions," Ackerman said. "But I've had people call me from other parts of the state looking for pumpkins. There's some disaster crops (caused by heavy rains and flash flood events).

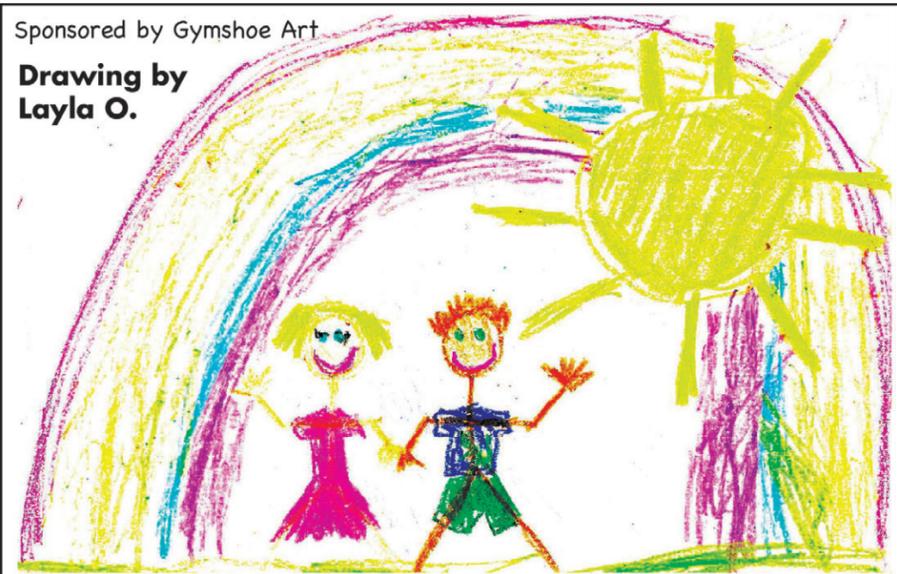
"Pumpkins are a fickle plant. The vines are along the ground, so when it's too wet there's a much greater chance they'll get a disease or fungus," he said. "The timing of rain also makes quite a difference with pumpkins. Sometimes you have a good crop but then it rains and once in a while it triggers the pumpkin plant to abort fruit."

Ackerman is in the thick of fall pumpkin sales on his farm. It's open during the season from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

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.

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Drawing by Layla O.



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COMMERCIAL PUMPKINS ARE harvested for canning purposes near the Nestle/Libby's plant in Morton. Pumpkin yields in the area are around average this season, according to David Uhlman, a grower from Tremont.



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Large moving sale. 135 N. Cook St., Braidwood. Sat., Oct. 8 & Sun., Oct. 9 and Sat., Oct. 15, 8am-3pm. Make an offer. Lots of wooden furniture, kitchenware, bedroom set, desks, TV stands, clothes, lots of Christmas, tools, big stuff. Rain or shine! ca40-41

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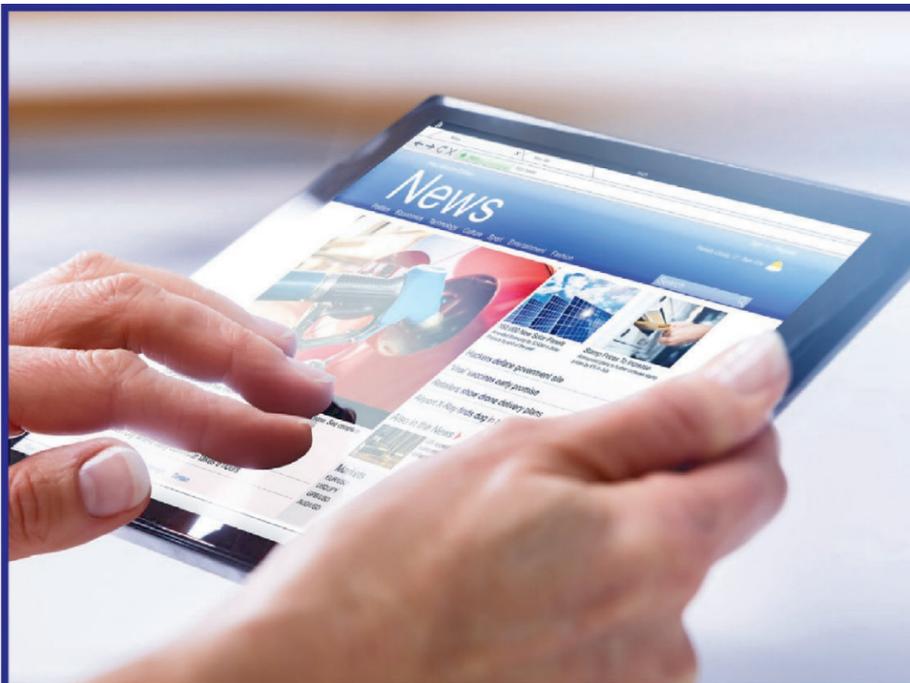
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Millions being spent in race for Illinois Supreme Court

The labor union and trial lawyer-backed All for Justice independent expenditure committee has so far reported raising \$3.5 million, with, I'm told, at least another \$5 million in pledges. The committee's sole purpose is to back the two Democratic candidates running for the Illinois Supreme Court, Appellate Justice Mary K. O'Brien and Judge Elizabeth Rochford. And its spending is finally beginning.

A press release claimed, "an initial [advertising] buy of \$3 million," with "plans to spend millions more informing residents of the 2nd and 3rd districts of these extremists on the ballot."

The ad features a woman emphasizing that just "one seat" on the Illinois Supreme Court could imperil or preserve abortion rights.

"Mark Curran and Michael Burke want to ban abortion in Illinois, even in cases of rape and incest. Women put in jail for making their own medical decisions? That's not what I want for my kids. That's not what I want for anyone. Mark Curran and Michael Burke are too extreme and they don't belong on the Illinois Supreme Court."

The ad will almost surely face legal opposition. The Illinois Republican Party made a big deal last week about a similar TV ad aired by Supreme Court Justice Burke's Democratic opponent, Appellate Justice O'Brien.

The ILGOP demanded that O'Brien take down the ad, which claims, "Mike Burke says he agreed with the decision to overturn Roe. He's supported by the extreme groups that want to ban all abortion for Illinois women."

Burke is backed by anti-abortion groups. The first sentence in that excerpt, however, is hotly disputed by the Republican Party, which claims Justice Burke, "has not expressed any opinion on that issue or any issue that may

come before the Illinois Supreme Court."

Justice O'Brien's campaign, however, pointed to Burke's attendance at an important Illinois Right to Life banquet. Burke said this year that, like the U.S. Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn Roe v. Wade, he too is a constitutional "originalist," meaning he refers back to the original drafting of the Constitution rather than subsequent court rulings when making a decision. He also noted that abortion is "not an enumerated right" in either the Illinois or the U.S. constitutions.

It's very difficult to legally force a TV station to take down a candidate's advertisement. But, as we've seen in the past few weeks with Dan Proff's People Who Play by the Rules PAC ads for Darren Bailey, it's not nearly as difficult to force an independent expenditure committee to prove the truthfulness of what it's saying in its ads or see them yanked.

Time will tell if the new All for Justice ad stays up.

Meanwhile, the opposition research is starting to come out on Curran. My associate Isabel Miller posted some of it on CapitolFax.com last week, but expect more to emerge on topics like Curran's comments about the Jan. 6th attempted insurrection (the police officer who shot Ashli Babbitt should resign, he said) and on gay rights (Curran said at a rally opposing a same-sex marriage bill that the law would "result in the loss of liberty for those opposed to same sex marriage").

And, of course, there's abortion. Curran has attended anti-abortion rallies, donated some of his own campaign funds last year to Illinois Citizens for Life and praised

Donald Trump for appointing Supreme Court justices who overturned Roe v. Wade, among other things. Curran is also the former long-time sheriff of Lake County, which is fully in the 2nd Supreme Court District, and he may still have some residual name recognition from his 2020 race for U.S. Senate, which Curran lost to Dick Durbin 55-39.

Money-wise, the Supreme Court races started about even in July, as far as the candidates were concerned. But that has changed considerably in the past month or so.

Democratic Justice O'Brien has since reported raising almost \$1.6 million to Justice Burke's \$13,000.

Democratic Judge Rochford has reported raising \$742K to the Republican Curran's \$137K, much of it from his family.

The Ken Griffin-funded Citizens for Judicial Fairness independent expenditure committee had more than \$5.5 million in the bank at last check. It is not expected to help Curran, but is expected to jump in for Justice Burke. The Firewall Project, which is raising money to back Republicans for the Supreme Court and Greg Hart for DuPage County Board Chair, has reported raising \$440K in the past few weeks.

But the Democrat-affiliated All for Justice IE committee is hoping to have a budget of as much as \$8-10 million by election day. So stay tuned.

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



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Lyle Lovett, John Hiatt to perform at Rialto

The latest booking for the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet will be Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt on Thursday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m.

A singer, composer and actor, Lyle Lovett has broadened the definition of American music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel and blues in a convention-defying manner.

Lovett's live performances show not only the breadth of this Texas legend's deep talents, but also the diversity of his influences, making him one of the most compelling and captivating musicians in popular music. His works, rich and eclectic, are some of the

most beloved of any artist working today.

A master lyricist and satirical storyteller, John Hiatt delivers songs filled with tales of redemption, relationships and surrendering on his own terms. Hiatt's finest album is 1987's Bring the Family; other catalog highlights include the pop and rock of 1983's Riding with the King, the rough-hewn blues-rock of 2008' Same Old Man and 2021's Leftover Feelings.

His lyrics and melodies have graced more than 20 studio albums, have been recorded by Bob Dylan, Emmylou Harris, B.B. King, Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt and scores of others.

Tickets are available at ticketmaster.com.

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WILDCAT SPORTS

WHS to host 2022 Volley for a Cure Tuesday

The Wilmington volleyball team will host Reed-Custer for the annual Volley for a Cure game on Tuesday, Oct. 11, with doors opening at 4 p.m. to raise funds for Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute.

The event will be held at WHS, 209 Wildcat Ct, Wilmington. Games will begin at 5 p.m. for the freshmen team, 6 p.m. for the JV team.

Honoree presentation will begin at approximately 6:45 p.m., with a guest appearance of the On Broadway Dance Company, performing a special tribute to Megan Bugg. The varsity game will begin at the conclusion of the performance.

The event will include silent auction items (hand-painted pumpkin door hangers created by volleyball program), raffle baskets, Chicago Blackhawks specialty raffle basket (\$5/chance), event t-shirts and coozie sales.

Raffle tickets will sell for \$1 each, 6 tickets for \$5, or 26

tickets for \$20. Raffle basket winners will be posted at the conclusion of the varsity game, and prizes may be collected at that time.

"We have organized the Volley for a Cure and Real Men Wear Pink events to raise money for Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute because cancer does not discriminate when it comes to age. We want to focus our fundraising efforts this year in memory of our friend Megan Bugg, who courageously battled cancer for a large portion of her life," said Megan Van Duyne, event coordinator.

"Our goal isn't to merely raise a certain number of dollars, but to help Megan's message continue to spread that only 4% of all money raised for cancer goes towards Children's Cancer research, and that children deserve more. The Wilmington Lady Cats volleyball program wants to play a role in changing that, and we can only do it with your help!"

"We would love to see our

stands packed with pink at our Volley for a Cure event on Oct. 11th, and the Real Men Wear Pink co-ed Softball Tournament at the North Island on Oct. 15th, in support of our efforts to make a real difference in the fight against childhood cancer."

Involvement with the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute began with the Citizen Scientist Project for Rhabdomyosarcoma Cures (Citizen-Scientist - Megan Bugg).

Megan was a beautiful young lady that lived in Coal City, and she had been a booming voice for those that had not been heard.

Bugg fought stage 4 alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma cancer. During her personal battle she went through numerous relapses, over 130 weeks of chemotherapy and countless radiation treatments.

Through her experiences she became a passionate advocate for childhood cancers. Her personal goal was to make sure no more kids have to experience what she had gone through.

Rhabdomyosarcoma and soft tissue sarcomas are among the five greatest causes of death from childhood cancer



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

SERVING UP a hot one for the Wilmington varsity is junior outside hitter Paige Eighner.

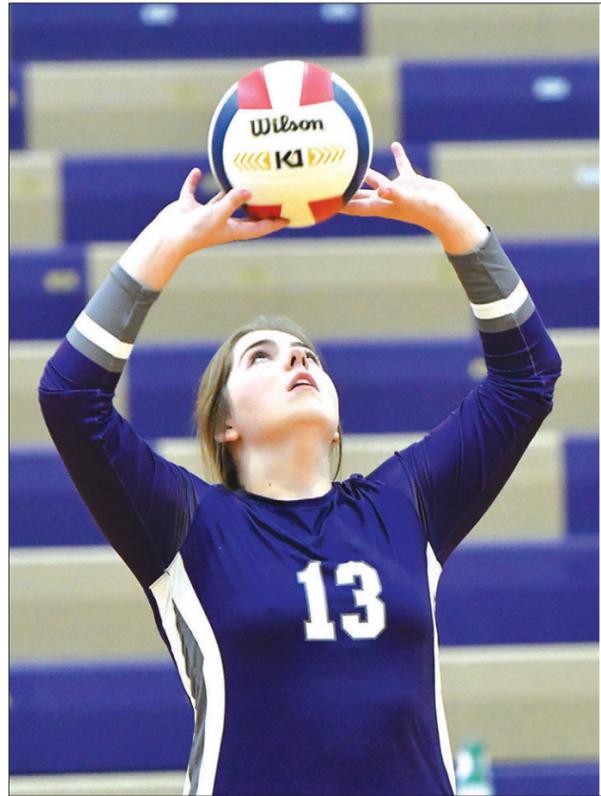


Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

IN CONTROL of the ball while setting it for a back side hitter is Lady Cat Clara Smith.

Lady 'Cats can't get past Coal City

The Lady Cats faced the Lady Coalers for the third time this season and came up short once again losing 25-21, 25-27, 16-25.

Defense was key to win the first and to keep the second game close. Libero Lexi Liaromatis had a whopping 25 digs! Bella Reyes added another 14 digs to go along with her 8 kills, 2 blocks and 2 aces.

Lady 'Cat setter Grace Burkey had a great game too with 12 assists, 12 digs, and an ace.

The JV won a close one, 26-24, 25-17. Skylar Rosso led her team with 6 kills, 7 digs and 2 aces. Right behind her were Reese Van Duyne and Rachel Smith with 5 and 3 kills, respectively. Smith also added 6 aces and 4 digs. Cole Drown had another stellar game with 13 digs and 2 aces.

Hosting Manteno

The Lady Cats faced the Lady Panthers in Tuesday night volleyball action only taking the freshmen game as a win.

They won 25-15, 19-25, 26-24. Melia Hincerick led Wilmington with 8 kills while Molly Southall added another 5. Alyssa Chiappetta had 2 blocks.

The JV Lady 'Cats lost 17-25, 25-27. Cole Drown had a stellar night defensively with 21 digs. At the net, Reese Van Duyne led with 5 kills to go along with her 6 digs.

Varsity lost 19-25, 13-25, 22-25. Bella Reyes handled the net with 11 kills. Jaylee Mills not only had 5 kills and 3 blocks at the net, but she added 7 digs and 3 aces to her back row play. Lexi Liaromatis returned to play with 8 digs and 2 aces.

Tournament talk

On Saturday, Sept. 24, all three levels participated in volleyball tournaments. Varsity was playing in Manteno, JV was in Minooka while the freshmen squad made an impressive run at Plano.

Varsity took 7th out of 8 only taking a match from Crete-Monee. They lost to Coal City, Sherrad, and Timothy Christian.

Jaylee Mills was selected to the All-Tournament Team. She led the Cats with 14 kills, 4 aces, 4 blocks and 3 digs. Bella Reyes was close behind with 13 kills and 17 digs.

JV went 1-4. Skylar Rossow had 15 kills, 36 digs, and 2 blocks for the day. Rachel Smith was right behind her with 14 kills, 13 aces, 5 blocks and 8 digs. Libero Cole Drown had 52 digs for the day.

Freshmen went 2-3 for the day, taking the championship in the consolation bracket. Peyton Buza and Melia Hincerick were key from the serving line with 16 and 15 aces respectively. Ella Hansen had 7 kills for the day with Molly Southall adding another 4.

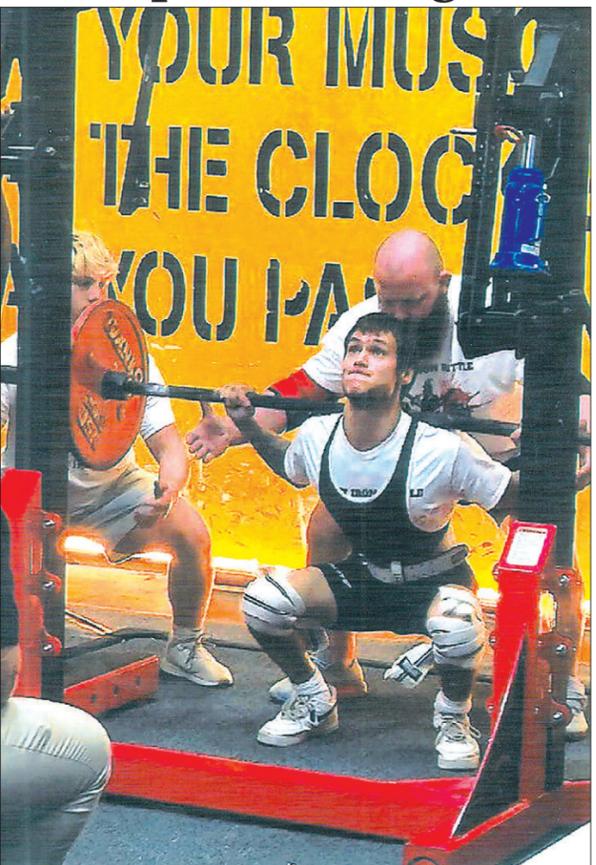
Wilmington hosts Beecher on Thursday and Reed-Custer on Tuesday.

Freshmen Lady Cats place in tourney



WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL'S freshmen volleyball team won the championship in the consolation bracket of the Plano Invitational on Sept. 24. Players include (from left) Peyton Buza, Julie Enriquez, Molly Southall, Lexi Strohm, Melia Hincerick, Ella Hansen, Taylor Steancic, Aubrey Strong, Grace Gougis and Alyssa Chiappetta.

Wilmington man takes 1st in powerlifting



JOHNATHON WIDNER of Wilmington won his weight class during an Amateur American Powerlifting Federation meet held Saturday in Joliet. The 25-year-old squat 220 lbs, had a 209 bench and 330 deadlift to win the 148-pound class. It was his first time competing in the Joliet Iron Battle with encouragement from his father Tim who is a former powerlifter.

James leads WHS golfers at regional

Sophomore golfer Shawn James shot an 92 to lead Wilmington during last week's regional tournament held at Grant Park.

James would have needed a score of 88 or lower to advance to the sectionals. The lowest score of the tournament was a 77 shot by Trey Boecker of Grant Park.

Other Wilmington golfers at regional included Aaron Burkey with an 109, Caius Drown with 118 and Joey Lewsader, 138.

The Wildcats finished 12 out of the 13 teams with a 457 score. Overall winners were Beecher with a 325, followed by Montini Catholic (353) and Chicago Christian (354).

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Thank You

It was a sunny beautiful day for the 23rd Annual Golf Outing of the Foundation for Excellence. The event was held Saturday, September 17th, 2022 at the Creek Golf Course in Morris, IL. The foundation hosted 144 golfers on 36 teams with a shotgun start.

The Foundation wishes to extend a BIG heartfelt THANK YOU to the generous golfers and the following businesses, organizations, and individuals whose support helped The Foundation reach it's goal: Arnie Bauer, A J Signs, Austin Tyler Construction, Baskerville Funeral Home, Begler's Auto, Birdie's Cafe, Bob Bolser Country Financial, Breiser Construction, Kathleen Brockett, Charities Aid America, City of Wilmington, Concrete By Mancuso, Clennon Electric, Consolidated Pipe & Supply, Cross Country Mortgage, District 209U, D'Orazio Ford, Don and Nancy Duffy, Elens and Maichin Roofing, First Trust, Fisher Meents LLC, Frances Gable, TJ Hansen Country Financial, Healy Bender Patton & Been, General Mills / Ryder, Lisa Holmes, Illinois Central Bus Barn, Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins, Ryan Knight, Ben Kreitz, Heidi Kreitz, Mike & Jane Matlock, Rose Malone, Kent Moon, Nelly's, Oak Knoll Financial Strategies, Oak Orthopedics- A Division of IBJI, O' Dekirk, Allred, and Assoc. LLC, Old National Bank, Pro Real Estate, Bob & Jacquelyn Rink, Mae Rink, Stan & Sandy Roeder, Route 66 Old School Brewing, Bill Rowland, Rustic, John and Janet Seibert, Symerton Tap, Stifel, Stumm Insurance, The Creek, The Free Press Newspapers, The Flower Loft, Tuffy's Lounge, Warren's Collision, Wee Sip Liquors, Whitmore's Ace Hardware, William and Rita Francis, Wilmington Moose Lodge, and WHS Athletics Boosters.

In addition, we could not have had the success we did without the help of Foundation Directors, former Directors, and volunteers who helped organize or worked at the golf outing, contributing largely to it's success. Sheena Brecklin, Tina Brownlee, Emily Bushue, Josh Cragg, Tim Cragg, Kathy Daniels, Chrissy Enz, Kevin Feeny, Bill Francis, Steve Francis, Lisa Holmes, Emma Kreitz, Heidi Kreitz, Robyn Krug, Melissa Mancuso, Jacqueline Mann, Judi Mann, Pat Mann, Amy McDonald, Steve Nutt, Maggie Ragain, Megan Rhodes, Stan Roeder, Katrina Skoryi, Beth Smith, Caroline Smith, Clara Smith, Cecilia Storbeck and Elizabeth Strong, Emma Strong, and Matt Swick.

Finally and foremost, The Foundation extends a profound THANK YOU to the people of Wilmington for your generosity and continued support of our Scholarship program. Your belief in the Students, Administration and School Board of Wilmington continues to support The Foundation. A special thank you goes out to Marty Hetelle and the staff at The Creek Golf Course. Please accept our sincere apology if we have inadvertently omitted any of our generous sponsors or hard working volunteers.

NOTE: The 24th Annual Golf Outing is tentatively set on Saturday, September 16th, 2023.



Comets threw everything at the 'Cats for 50-5 victory

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

After 14 years the ACE trophy will have a new home.

The trophy, established in 1999 by Whitmore Ace Hardware, is awarded each year to the winner of the rival football game between Reed-Custer and Wilmington. For all but two of the past 23 years it has stayed with the Wildcats, including 14 straight.

That was until Friday night when Reed-Custer broke that streak with a 50-5 victory over the Class 2A defending state champions. The Wildcats hadn't lost in 24 consecutive games, tying a school record.

"We've been waiting for this moment for a long time," said Reed-Custer coach Gavin Johnston after his team was handed the trophy. "To be honest with you, I've been nervous all week."

Emotions were charged up on both sides of the field leading up to the opening kickoff. The Wildcats did little after receiving the ball and was forced to punt.

The Comets were flagged with double penalties—sideline interference and unsportsmanlike conduct—and were faced with third-and-long from their own 38 when R-C quarterback Jack McPherson passed to Lucas Foote who streaked 62 yards for the first score. With a two-point conversion pass to Foote, the score was 8-0.

The Wildcats got the ensuing kickoff on the Comets' 29 and got as close as the 23 before putting their trust in Reid Juster for a field goal. He sailed it 40 yards through the uprights to put the 'Cats on the board 8-3.

It took just five plays before the hosts were back in pay dirt. McPherson ran a 44-yarder, stopped just shy of the goal. Jace Christian punched it in and an extra-point run by Foote put the Comets up 16-3.

"We wanted to establish ourselves early and we did that tonight," McPherson commented. "It's definitely a game we had circled on our schedule. We worked a lot towards it during the summer and since the start of the season. We prepared for it and all that preparation definitely showed tonight."

But a Reed-Custer miscue on the next series gave the 'Cats renewed hope. McPherson was in the shotgun in his own end zone when



STRETCH ARM STRONG - Reed-Custer's Josh Bohac doesn't let go of Wilmington running back Colins James during Friday's game in Braidwood.

the hike went over his head. Wildcat Ryan Nelson recovered it for a safety making the score 16-5.

Try as hard as they could, Wilmington was unable to move the ball on the next series, forcing them to punt.

"A lot of credit goes to Reed-Custer," commented WHS coach Jeff Reents. "We knew going in they were a very good football team and when you don't play well against a great team the outcome is what we faced Friday night. Hats off to Reed-Custer as we knew going into the game that if we gave their offense too many chances they would score on us. They've got too many weapons."

Reed-Custer ruled the rest of the way, scoring two touchdowns in the second quarter—15-yard pass from McPherson to Christian and a Foote 1-yard run—to go up 30-5 at the half.

"Coming out and being able to get them down like we did was key for us," Johnston said. "We didn't have any one hero here tonight,

everyone contributed. That's how it's been in all our games so far, everyone contributes, everyone plays a role, we value that and it makes for a great team."

The second half brought a touchdown run by McPherson for four yards, a 21-yard TD dash by Josh Bohac and a pounding 21-yard scoring effort by Nick Cieslak.

"We tried early on to do some different things," explained R-C offensive coordinator Nick Klein. "There were some looks that we saw on film that we thought we could take advantage of and we wanted to keep them off balance. They're fast, they're physical, they're downhill. So we had to do some things to back them off of and fast early in the game."

Klein credited Foote, Bohac, Christian and McPherson for anchoring the offense.

"Brandon Moorman played outstanding offensively. He kind of does the dirty work for us. He's kind of overlooked a lot, but he's a heck of a player," praised Klein.

The Comets amassed 533 yards of total offense: 357 rushing and 176 passing. They were led by Foote with 82 yards in five attempts, Bohac four rushes for 66 yards, Christian eight carries for 59 yards, McPherson nine gains for 58 yards, Cieslak five for 53, Rex Pfeifer five runs for 53 yards, Moorman one for four yards and a three-yard run for Connor Esparza.

McPherson was 7-for-10 in passing for 117 yards, two touchdowns and one interception. Foote threw the ball once for a 59-yard pass.

Moorman (88 yards) and Foote (72 yards) had three catches each. Christian had his 15-yard TD grab while Bohac caught one pass for one yard.

Wilmington, which had possession of the ball five minutes more than RCHS, was held to 101 yards of total offense, all on the ground. They fumbled the ball away twice and had four first downs all game (the Comets had 22).

Wildcat leading running back Colin James was held to 59 yards in 16 attempts. Kyle Farrell contributed 30 yards in 13 tries while Brandon Stahulak gained five yards in two rushes. Drew Walsh, Brendan Moran, Hunter Hayes and quarterback Ryder Meents all had short gains.

Moran was busy on defense with two solo tackles and nine assists. Nelson had another big game, in for nine stops, while Cade McCubbin, Joey Allgood and James made five tackles each. Kade Hopwood, Zach Willis and Juster were credited with three tackles each.

Other Wilmington defenders included Drew Walsh, Kaleb Skole, Austin Olsen, Peter Rampa, Jake Wandless, Joel Greenidge, Jake Castle, Matthew Swisher, Austin Izzi, Keegan Thomas, Farrell and Meents.

"Obviously the big play got us and then we couldn't move the ball offensively" said Reents. "We're going to learn from the loss and try to get back on track here. We still have got a lot of positives in front of us, I feel, but no doubt about it that we did not play well against a very good Reed-Custer team. They're probably the best Reed-Custer team I've ever gone against. And so when you're playing a team like that, you've got to play great football. We didn't do that," Reents concluded.

The Wildcats travel to Lisle on Friday to play the Lions for the second time this season. The first time, which was a conference game, Wilmington won 29-0.



HUSTLING TO THE OUTSIDE in hopes of getting past Braidwood defender Gavin Bruciak is Wilmington running back Colin James.



RUNNING IN A touchdown for the fresh-soph Wildcats during Friday's win over Reed-Custer is Walter Gross.

F/S 'Cats remain perfect

The Wilmington fresh-soph football team scored their most points in a game yet, beating Reed-Custer, 57-17, on Friday.

The Wildcats trailed 7-6 after the hosting Comets turned their first possession into a 48-yard touchdown pass to Landen Robinson 7:24 in the first quarter.

But that would be as close as Reed-Custer would get as the Wildcat defense buckled down and the offense ran away with their six-straight victory.

Credit Joey Van Duyne for getting Wilmington on track as he made it 14-7 with an 11-yard touchdown run followed by a two-point conversion. Van Duyne would finish with 90 yards in four carries.

The 'Cats got terrific ball placement for their next possession and three plays later quarterback Lucas Rink punched it in and they never looked back. Rink would end up scoring three touchdowns on three carries for nine yards and a 60-yard punt return for a score while throwing one pass for 31 yards.

In all, Wilmington had seven players run the ball, led by Hunter Osipavicius with 109 yards in seven attempts including two touchdowns.

Walter Gross contributed four rushes for 30 yards and one touchdown. Kurtis Brassard gained 16 yards in four carries to go along with his 31-yard reception while Ryan Kettman ran the ball three times for 59 yards. Matthew Crichton had one run for seven yards.

Wildcat place kicker Reid Waldon was 5-for-6 in point-after kicks while Ryan Kettman booted one PAT too.

Rink hustled on defense with seven tackles and one interception. Linebacker Zach Ohlund was in on six stops while Billy Moore was valuable with five tackles.

Logan Van Duyne, Joey Van Duyne and Kettman finished with three tackles each.

The JV 'Cats travel to Lisle for a non-conference contest on Friday. The 'Cats hosted the Lions during week two and shut them down 54-0.

Wildcats look to bounce back against familiar foe

BY JIM SHELDON

SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

It's not a situation the Wilmington football team is very familiar with, a 45-point loss to rival Reed-Custer, a game in which they were held to just five points.

They will look to turn the page against a team they have already faced this season, the Lisle Lions (3-3).

"I'm never a big fan of playing anybody twice. We've got to look at what changes they made from the second game of the season until now," said Wildcat coach Jeff Reents.

"In watching the film, I can see they have made a lot of changes. We know the personnel as far as who's playing where, but beyond that, we need to make sure we get down all the changes they have made."

This meeting will be a non-conference clash at Benedictine University in Lisle.

Wilmington shut out the Lions 29-0 in Week 2. They finished with 244 yards of offense, 181 rushing. Colin James had three touchdowns, including a 35-yard

receiving TD.

The two teams both had an opponent drop them in Week 2 and were in need of a game so they decided to play each other instead of having an open week.

Lisle is coming off a 36-26 win over Herscher and it's no secret that they like to run the ball much like Wilmington, but Reents expects them to pass as well which will test his defense.

"Like every week, we look at what we need to work on and pass defense is definitely something we will work on this week."

The Wildcats' 50-5 loss to Reed-Custer was their worst loss in 24 years since a 54-9 loss to Kaneland in the 1998 playoffs. This is not a team that is used to losing.

"I hope the kids have a bad taste in their mouth. I know the coaches do. But one thing I love about the game of football is it forces you to get back going," said Reents.

"No matter if you win or lose, you have to turn the page and that's what we're doing right now."

"Maybe the kids felt some of the pressure of the

winning streak, but as a coaching staff, we really preach 1-0 every week and we'll take that same philosophy this week."

The 'Cats may have new faces on offense this week as starters Colin James and Kyle Farrell were both banged up during the Reed-Custer game.

"We're not sure right now what changes will be made. Sure, it was a physical game at Braidwood and, like all physical games, we've got some kids who are sore. We've got to look into exactly who will be missing come Friday, a decision that may not be made until just before game time," Reents said.

"It's going to be a fast game. We've got to make our offensive possessions count and we've got to be three-and-out on defense," Reents said. "The biggest thing we can't do is think that we're just going to show up and win like the first time we played Lisle. We have a history of not playing the greatest up there. So we've got to be focused one this one game, get us back to winning, and go from there."

Photo by Eric Fisher

Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

Photo by Eric Fisher

GAINING GROUND for the fresh-soph Wildcats during Friday's victory at Reed-Custer is Joe Van Duyne.