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WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Wilmington Public Library returns to regular hours

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

There's no end yet in sight for the novel coronavirus. But after months of altered operations, the Wilmington Public Library has finally been able to reopen for its regular hours.

The library officially went back to regular hours on Monday, Oct. 5.

That said, there are still mitigation efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 mandated at the library, including capacity limits, a mask requirement, social distancing, and Plexiglas between patrons and employees. The library also conducts regular cleaning and sanitizing proce-

dures during the day in one hour intervals or as needed after an area, such as computers or the restrooms, have been used.

In addition, the library utilized a UVC sanitizer that allows books and materials to be cleaned in 30 seconds, rather than the seven day quarantine requirement for materials left standing alone.

"Originally, we had a covid case, and we closed the building to quarantine the entire building," Library Director Maria Meachum said. "At the time, we were told it was 72 hours, now we're told seven days. But, we closed for the 72 hours, everybody went and had a test, and we just

decided that this is going to get crazy if everybody who has contact with one person has to go get a test every time somebody has as a scare."

Meachum noted that employees have had family members who either contracted COVID-19 or had come in close contact with someone positive, causing a cycle on needing tests.

"So, we decided to switch to team scheduling," she said, which involves putting the library's part time workers on teams where they are only exposed to the same people on each shift. Full time workers who are employed for more than 16-hours per week were assigned to work from home.

"You always worked with the

same people. So, everybody who is working here is working with only a select few people, and that's been great," Meachum said.

As time went on, after the mandatory shut down had passed, Meachum said the library was ready to make a slow but safe return to normal operations.

Meachum did say that the library will keep a close eye on the metrics for Will County and Wilmington, and alter its hours again if needed.

Meachum did recognize that extending hours won't necessarily bring back all the library's regular patrons, at least not at first.

"People have adjusted their lives

to reduced hours everywhere. And a lot of libraries are still on reduced hours," she noted.

The library has also opened up its new smart locker facility, which allows patrons to check out their materials online, then pick them up 24-hours a day inside the small building just outside the library's front entrance.

"The smart lockers have launched, and they're being very well received," she said. "They're secure with a camera... It's lit 24 hours, it's temperature controlled, it's very nice,

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2

Keeping it clean in Dist. 209-U



Courtesy photo

THANKFUL FOR ALL YOU DO! Students at L.J. Stevens Intermediate School helped celebrate Custodian's Day on Friday, Oct. 2, with some of their favorite faces from around the halls. Since the COVID-19 pandemic and the return to school, the Wilmington School District 209-U has instituted several mandates from its reopening plan, including an increase in enhanced school and district-wide cleaning and disinfection. Custodian Bonnie Peters (left) and Director of Facilities Jim Habing (right) received thank you gifts from students, presented by Second Grade students Esrah Parra-Munoz and Mason Strohm.

Davy Lane water bills produce more questions for some

Commercial property owners say billing issues remain

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington made public several water bills for addresses on Davy Lane last month, hoping to quell some of the rumors regarding water and sewer services in the industrial park and who is and isn't paying their fair share.

But a review of those documents has shown a few inconsistencies, and questions from at least a few local property owners.

The ongoing issue of water loss in Wilmington

caught the attention of a Coal City woman, Nicole Kasalko, who operates her dog grooming business out of a warehouse storefront on Davy Lane.

Kasalko has been to city meetings several times, asking for clarification on water billing issues. Kasalko contends that Davy Lane businesses are not receiving water bills, or not being properly billed, and that may account for some of the city's water losses.

In September, the city supplied a total of 34 utility billing documents for properties on Davy Lane for public inspection during a regular meeting of the City Council.

While account activity was listed, it was only listed for the most recent billing cycle —

SEE BILLS, PAGE 2

Petitions available for April 2021 election

STAFF REPORT

Petition packets are now available for those looking to run for public office in the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election.

Candidates have until mid-December to collect the signatures necessary to get their names on the ballot. The number of signatures obtained from registered voters within the district, community or township they are seeking to represent is based on the number of votes cast in the prior consolidated election.

By state statute, those running for school board must pick up their packets through the county clerk.

Petition packets can now be found on the Will County Clerk website, at www.thewill-countyclerk.com for individuals wishing to run for local School Boards in the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election.

Candidates may download copies of their petitions

and prepare them for circulation, or they can be picked up at the clerk's office at 302 N. Chicago Street in Joliet.

At Wilmington School District 209-U, four seats are up for election. The terms of board members Tim Cragg, Peggy Kunz, Erin Moran, and Stephanie Southall are all expiring.

Other local races include four seats available on the Reed-Custer School District board of education, as well as four board seats in the Elwood Community Consolidated School District.

The Will County Regional Office of Education has two trustee seats available.

Joliet Junior College also has two trustees on the April ballot.

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 2

Bobcats caught on Forest Preserve game camera

Forest Preserve District of Will County game cameras recently captured some rare and exciting photos of bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking through a small open area in Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township.

The cameras, which are triggered by motion, are used in the preserves to document animal numbers and movements. The information obtained by the cameras helps guide the Forest Preserve District's land management strategies.

Photos of bobcats in the

preserves are rare, said Becky Blankenship, the Forest Preserve's wildlife biologist. So, capturing photos of the creatures was noteworthy because it happens only every couple of years, she said.

"The cameras are set up to take a three-photo burst when they detect motion," she explained. "Then they have a 10-15 second delay before taking another burst if there is still movement in front of the camera."

Blankenship said the photos recorded what appears to be a mother and at least two kittens. Females can

reach sexual maturity a year after birth, so the mother is at least a year old, and the kittens were likely born this spring, she said.

Bobcats, which are twice the size of a common house cat, have been detected in the Forest Preserve's Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve, Evans-Judge Preserve, Sugar Creek Preserve and now Kankakee Sands Preserve. Blankenship said bobcats are typically only active at twilight or just before sunrise and they are well camouflaged and avoid people, so that is why they are a rare

sight.

"I have only seen a wild bobcat once, and the black-and-white photos do not do them justice," she said.

According to the <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/wildlife/Pages/Bobcat.aspx> Illinois Department of Natural Resources habitat changes and overharvesting of bobcats caused populations to decline severely enough to be listed as threatened in Illinois from 1977-1999. Since then, bobcat populations have responded

SEE BOBCAT, PAGE 2

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Library

there are windows on 50% of the building... We've been really happy with that, and we've had a lot of people using it."

The lockers are activated either by a five digit code sent to the patron via text, or by QR code, or utilizing an app from Smiota, the company that produced the lockers.

The facility itself cost around \$39,000 for construction, plus \$15,000 for the lockers themselves.

Meachum said the building was built with mostly local labor, and much of the services were donated.

"It's been a real Wilmington effort to build it," Meachum said.

She added that the library hopes to recollect some of those funds through CARES Act funding. Will County has allocated more than \$33 million of its overall CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds to local public districts. Libraries in Will County have a total allocation amount of \$15,000 each. Meachum expects a second round of relief funds to become available after funding gains congressional approval.

For those looking to connect, the library is also getting set to launch a new app, which is being supported and developed by the PrairieCat catalog, which connects Wilmington Library to 125 other libraries across northern Illinois.

"It will allow users to have access to their account. Their library card can be put on their phone, a digital library card," Meachum said. "They'll be able to search

the catalog, they can pay their fines, they can view their checkouts."

Patrons can also sign up for a library through the app.

"It will have all the different libraries information, our digital collections," she added. "We're very excited."

The PrairieCat/Wilmington Public Library mobile app, set to go live within the next two weeks, will be available on both the App Store and Google Play.

For Meachum, she said she's just happy to welcome some library regulars back to the building.

Library hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

The Wilmington Public Library is located at 201 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington.

Bills

July 16 through Aug. 15.

The bills showed multiple properties with identical bills of \$64.87, which included \$35.91 sewer base fee, \$8.98 water base fee, water billing of \$8.25, and sewer billing of \$8.80.

Actual usage was not included on the majority of bills.

After a report on the issue was published in the Sept. 23 edition of the *Free Press Advocate*, some commercial business owners in Wilmington contacted the newspaper complaining that their water bills don't match up with the bills coming out of Davy Lane.

Two building owners who contacted the newspaper with their bills called into question two bills, one for 507 Davy Lane, the other for 467 Davy Lane.

The bill for 507 Davy Lane had a handwritten note on it, stating that four "base fees" were associated with the account. For 467 Davy Lane, a handwritten note indicated there are 12 base fees associated with that account.

After digging deeper, it appears the base fees were specifically only referring to water base fees, not sewer.

The total billing for 507 Davy Lane, which includes four units and one storage unit, was \$103.25.

For 467 Davy Lane, which includes 12 units and two storage units, was \$163.65.

The properties for both of those bills are listed as owned by Grewal Illinois Investments, LLC, which purchased the properties over the summer.

But, one property owner who owns a three-unit commercial building in Wilmington, sent copies of his bills to the newspaper. His most recent bill showed he was charged a sewer base fee of \$107.73, which means he was charged sewer base fees for all three of his units, unlike those Davy Lane properties that were charged just one fee for sewer base fee multiple units.

That owner, who asked that his name be withheld, was also charged water base fees of \$26.94, the base fee for all three units combined, and his total monthly bill was \$154.65.

Another property owner cried foul at the low cost of billing at so many of the units.

"That's less than my last bill (\$190.84) for my two unit apartment that I own and occupy with family," she told the newspaper via email. "I've been paying double [of what Davy Lane properties pay] for close to 19 years, so this frustrates me to no end."

Other confusion was brought about by the bills themselves. Several properties listed on the Will County assessor's office website did not appear on the list of bills

provided by the city.

A look at those missing properties showed the following:

- 407 Davy Lane — This property appears to be a home at the foot of Davy Lane and Widows Drive, not inside the industrial park.

- 515 Davy Lane — This property houses a storage facility.

- 744, 746, and 748 Davy Lane — While these properties have individual addresses, they are vacant.

- 450 Davy Lane — The *Free Press Advocate* was unable to find information on this property, which appears to hold a single pole barn style building. The property, whose owner is listed as Carl F. Lindee, III of Wilmington, has an assessed value of \$14,229 for the land and \$19,836 for the building.

Five other property numbers were not specifically listed in the bills: 562, 564, 566, 568, and 570 Davy Lane did not have individual bills.

However, billing for those addresses is at least partially reflected for the bill at 560 Davy Lane, which is owned by Joseph Hough of Manhattan.

The total current billing at 560 Davy Lane was \$300.32, which included sewer base fees for six units, but water base fees for only five units.

Kasalko was expected to bring the issue up to the City Council again this week.

A water loss report issued by the city over the summer showed that in 2019,

Wilmington lost almost 50% of the total water it sent out. From January through June of 2020, the city lost between 40-54% of its water each month.

In April, the city paid \$10,750 to M.E. Simpson Company, Inc., of Indiana, for an updated water survey to look for leaks along 50 miles of the supply system, the first such survey conducted in nine years.

That survey found 24 leaks throughout the system. Two leaks were main line leaks, four were service line leaks, one was a valve packing leak, 16 were hydrant leaks, and the last was classified as "other."

According to the report, M.E. Simpson estimated the city was losing 70,560 gallons per day.

Earlier this year, Alderman Ben Dietz also brought up for discussion Davy Lane properties. Dietz said he had been told that up to 25 Davy Lane properties had not been receiving full water bills, if at all.

Editor's note — Following our first story, and as we were attempting to gather information on our own, several residents called or emailed their own tips for us to follow on this story. We appreciate and thank those people. We encourage folks to dig in themselves or contact us when it comes to taking a closer look at the activity of all government.

Bobcat

present, Blankenship explained.

"The most common animals caught on camera are deer, squirrels, a variety of birds and raccoons," she said.

It's important to know what kinds of animals live in a preserve to better manage the environment to help them, she added.

"The history of the bobcat in Illinois shows us the importance of managing habitat for the species that depend on it," Blankenship said. "Knowing what species occupy our preserves helps guide our habitat management practices."

so well to protection and habitat management that a very restricted hunting and trapping season has been in place since 2016. (Hunting is not allowed in the Forest Preserve District of Will County preserves.) IDNR estimates that there may be up to 5,000 bobcats in Illinois now, and their numbers are still on the rise.

The Forest Preserve District uses game cameras to observe species without needing to be



Courtesy Photo by Forest Preserve District of Will County

A FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT of Will County game camera photographed bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking in a small open area at Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township recently. The Forest District's game cameras have detected bobcats in only three other preserves in recent years.

Braidwood City Hall closes after positive COVID test

BY JENNIFER GLASSCOCK STAFF WRITER

Last Wednesday, Minut Mart, at 105 N. Front St., was also closed in Braidwood temporarily for cleaning after an employee tested positive for COVID-19.

BRAIDWOOD — One positive COVID-19 test at Braidwood City Hall led to the building's closure for several hours on Friday as the building was disinfected.

City administrator Tony Altieri reported that on Thursday, a staff member was feeling ill. To be safe, that staff member and all other employees who were in contact with the individual who was taken COVID-19 tests.

On Friday, the employee feeling ill tested received a positive COVID-19 test result and all other employees tested negative.

Altieri also said that one person tested positive for COVID-19 at the Braidwood Police Department.

According to statistics released by the Illinois Department of Public Health, as of Tuesday, there have been 94 cases in the 60408 (Braidwood) zip code out of a total of 1,731 tests.

In the neighboring 60481 zip code there have been 178 cases out of 4,073 tests.

In Illinois, there have been a total of 305,011 confirmed cases of COVID-19 out of 5.97 million tests performed. There have been 8,836 deaths.

As of the latest numbers released Oct. 2, the seven-day rolling average for test positivity in Region 7 (Will and Kankakee counties) is 5.6%.

Elections

Packets for races involving municipalities, park districts, library districts, community college districts, and fire protection districts must be obtained through that district's office.

In Wilmington, there are four aldermanic seats and the mayor's seat up for election in April. The terms of Mayor Roy Strong, Ward 1 Alderman, John Persic, Ward 2 Alderman Floyd Combes, Ward 3 Alderman Lisa Butler, and Ward 4 Alderman Frank Studer expire in 2021.

The City Clerk, currently filled as an appointed position, is also on the ballot.

The terms are all for four years.

Packets can be picked up at Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water Street, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Other municipalities with seats open include Elwood (village president and three trustees) and Symerton (three trustees).

On the township level, all positions, including supervisor, clerk, assessor, highway commissioner, collector, and four trustees, are available in Custer Township, Florence Township, Reed Township, Wesley Township, and Wilmington Township.

The Wilmington Park District has two seats expiring in 2021.

The terms of commissioners Dave Melhorn and Kevin Pteck are expiring in the spring.

Petition packets are currently available at the District office at 315 N. Water Street.

Other park district races will include two open seats with the Braidwood Park District, and one seat with the Godley Park District.

Wilmington Public Library District

will have four trustee seats on the ballot. The seats of Pamela Clennon, Rebecca Quigley, Carrie Rezabek, and Mary Smith expire in 2021.

Packets can be picked up at the library at 201 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington.

Other local library districts with seats available in the April 2021 election include Fossil Ridge Public Library District in Braidwood (two trustees) and the Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District (four trustees).

The Fire Protection Districts of Wilmington, Elwood, Essex, and Custer Township are all appointed positions. The Braidwood Fire Protection District will have one trustee seat on the ballot.

The filing period for all candidates is Dec. 14-21, 2020. The last day for filing an objection is Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020. For those opting to declare their intent to run as a write-in candidate must notify the election authority by Feb. 4, 2021.

A ride for our nuclear reactors

On Saturday, September 26th, 2020, more than 100 bikes took to the roads of Grundy, Will, and LaSalle counties to show their support for Illinois' nuclear plants.

Over 175 attendees representing retired and current nuclear plant employees, labor unions associated with the plants, and concerned community members participated in The Ride For Our Reactors to fight for the continued operation of the generating stations

that reliably power Illinois. The 65-mile journey took them near Braidwood, Dresden and LaSalle nuclear plants.

The event was planned after the announcement that two of the state's six nuclear stations, Byron and Dresden, will be shut down decades early.

Nuclear power accounts for over half of Illinois' electricity generation and nearly all of its clean electricity. If Byron and Dresden are closed, they

will be replaced by natural gas, costing ratepayers an additional \$480 million annually, according to a recent report from Brattle.

Not only is this a major setback for the climate and clean air, but a devastating blow to the towns and communities that rely on them. Nuclear plants are economic engines that provide permanent, high-wage, high-skilled jobs for generations, and the loss of these plants will result in a net job loss for Illinois.

State Senator Sue Rezin from Morris, who represents the Dresden, Braidwood, and LaSalle generating stations, expressed her dedication to keeping the plants running.

Speaking to the laborers and nuclear employees in the crowd, she reaffirmed, "I want you working at the plants in my backyard!" Senator Rezin stressed the importance of nuclear to achieving the state's clean energy goals, as well as to the local communities.

"Dresden nuclear power plant pays \$24 million to our tax economy to fund our schools, to fund our libraries, to fund our townships, to fund Grundy county." She concluded her remarks with a call to action: "I am telling you, as I'm standing here today, that this is no joke. This is serious...Call your state senators and call your state representatives. And tell them to support keeping your nuclear power plants open."

The ride began at Fat Daddy's in Seneca. Motorcyclists hit the road at noon, riding to Grippers II, Mustachio's, Stumble Inn and EJ Karz before returning to Fat Daddy's at 4 p.m. for a hog roast and live performance from Split Rock.

The event raised \$1,700 in proceeds that will be distributed to local food banks, as well as Mothers For Nuclear Chicago for continued advocacy efforts in the state.

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Village of Symerton annual treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE				
ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF SYMERTON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING 04/30/2020				
REVENUE SUMMARY:				
Property Tax:	\$1,660	Road and Bridge:	\$1,433	
Licenses:	\$500	Interest Income:	\$25	
Bldg. Permits:	\$650	Motor Fuel Tax:	\$2,970	
State Income Tax:	\$12,432	Garbage Billing:	\$8,894	
Replacement Tax:	\$6,950	AT&T Franchise:	\$1,381	
Sales Tax:	\$100,908	Park Income:	\$8,123	
Total Revenue:	\$145,926			
EXPENDITURES SUMMARY:				
Administration Fees:	\$12,226	Waste Removal:	\$9,035	
Street Lighting:	\$3,463	Dues:	\$294	
Maintenance:	\$47,986	General Insurance:	\$5,004	
Legal Services:	\$10,797	Publishing:	\$1,597	
Com. Rel.:	\$3,341	Park:	\$11,445	
Office Supply:	\$1,970	Communication Services:	\$2,153	
Accounting Services:	\$192	Emergency Fund:	\$9,500	
Total Expenditures:	\$119,003			
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE:	\$115,525	SPECIAL SERVICE	DEBIT PROJECT	CAPITAL PROJECT
REVENUES:	\$145,926			
EXPENDITURES:	\$119,004			
ENDING FUND BAL:	\$142,447			

Subscribed and Sworn on this 29th day of September 2020.
I, Brandi Geiss, Clerk of the Village of Symerton, Will County, Illinois do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020.
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, October 7, 2020.

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News and Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Over 100 years of help, the Will County Farm Bureau



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Just as teachers, mechanics, computer programmers, etc. have to go back to school to update their education using modern techniques and equipment, so does the farmer. Assisting the farmer in this for over 100 years is the Will County Farm Bureau. Let's see how they did it.

On Feb. 23, 1917 we read in the *Wilmington Advocate*, "Two hundred and five members, pledged to pay \$10 (\$200 today) each for a period of 3 years, have been enrolled for the Will County Farm Bureau, and the organization is planning to renew its activities in behalf of the farming interests in this community. The annual election of officers will be held tomorrow (Saturday) Feb. 24 in the assembly rooms of the Association of Commerce."

At that time the world was involved in a great war, and soon the U. S. would join the fight. Many had already done so. We read in August, "Farmers in this vicinity are complaining of a scarcity of farm hands to assist them in harvesting their crops and during threshing. Several farmers have been in town the past few days looking for men and offering as high as \$6 (\$120) per day."

So what did the Farm Bureau do to help the farmer? Sometime it was suggesting alternate crops. We read in October of 1917, "A few of our

farmers in this vicinity the past season raised a small amount of broom corn as an experiment. Frank P. Heck of south of town planted half an acre and harvested a 1/2 ton of broom corn which he sold to W. A. Pawling Wednesday for \$65 (\$1,320) - at the rate of \$130 acre. Carl Johnson, residing south of town, also planted half an acre and George Nail planted four acres."

Another advantage of being a Farm Bureau member was its buying plan. Farmers purchased materials at wholesale prices from them. We read, "It was brought out in the monthly report that soil fertilizers are being used extensively by Will County farmers. One car of limestone and eleven car loads of raw rock phosphate, a total of nearly 500 tons, have been received through the bureau. This amount probably was used to fertilize as many as 600 acres in the way it is usually applied."

During WWI rationing and food shortages had taught the population the importance of agriculture and investing in finding new ways of growing crops and new machines to harvest them. After the war, a new interest in agriculture developed; helped partly by the still on-going food shortage in Europe. By the 1920s agriculture was in the news.

In 1921 Wilmington, Wesley and Florence township unit, only formed the year before, started the Will County Shipping Association. We read, "The purpose of the association shall be to obtain reasonable prices and to secure the best possible results in the marketing of livestock."

"The shipment of stock shall be for members only and the delivery of such stock shall be to the local manager. When the stock is accepted by him, it shall bind the shipper to the

rules and by-laws of the association. All who desire to ship stock in this association shall report to the manager the kind, number and approximate weight of this stock.

"When a sufficient amount has been reported to make a full car load, the manager shall make arrangements for the car and notify each party having stock listed and state the time such stock is to be delivered.

"Any person belonging to the Will County Farm Bureau and desiring to make use of this shipper's association, shall be entitled to membership. All members of the association must abide by its by-laws."

And of course, the Farm Bureau had a children's unit as well. Similar to 4-H, children learned about becoming a farm by raising their own livestock, growing their own crops and learning new techniques. They would hopefully provide the world with even more food from our farms.

All work and no play was not their motto. Each year the Bureau held a picnic at Dellwood Park in Lockport. In 1921 over 10,000 people attended. In 1922 the plans were described like this; "The greased pig catch is all set for this year and nine or ten roosters will be turned loose for the boys under 21 years of age to catch. Besides these stunts there will be races and other contests and a base ball game. The horseshoe pitching contest this year is going to be another feature. The program committee has secured fancy horseshoes for the first three who win. The first and second pitchers each will receive a set of gold-plated horseshoes and the third contestant will receive a pair of silver-plated horseshoes."

Who said farmers have no fun?



MARY LUTHER FROM Wilmington is on the far left with her first place Jersey cow. The image is from the 1922 Farm Bureau report.



MEMBERS OF THE Farm Bureau look over the results of growing sweet clover as an alternate crop to hay.

WHS announces September students of the month



WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL is thrilled to release the September students of the month. The faculty and staff decide two students from each grade level who performed random acts of extra kindness or stepped up to help in a big way. Seniors chosen are Matt Sanchez and Jack Lappe.



WHS JUNIORS named students of the month during September are Jacob MacKenzie and Drake Imhof.

Todd Fox
1964-2010

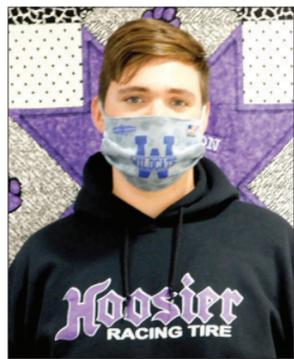
Terry Fox
1967-2001

In the arms of Angels. Forever in my heart.
Dad

FROM THE SOPHOMORE class at Wilmington High School are Sal Lozano (right) and Chloe Proffitt (bottom right) who were named Students of the Month. Teachers are thankful to have students in the school in order to witness their random acts of kindness.



WHS FRESHMEN Yael Rodriguez and Keegan Buza were selected as WHS students of the month for September.



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Join Oak Knoll in supporting families less fortunate!

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between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2020

Bring your vaccine receipt from any source, your doctor's office or pharmacy, before Jan. 4 to the Oak Knoll office at 205 South Water Street in Wilmington, (Masks required).

Oak Knoll Insurance Strategies will then donate \$5 to each of these organizations...Our Caring Closet, Kuzma Cottage, and Christian Help Association...per vaccination. That's \$15 per shot.

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SOUND-OFF

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Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

My choice

WILMINGTON—Wilmington business owners: If you do not enforce a mask wearing policy with your employees or customers, I will not patronize your business now or ever! That's my freedom of choice!

Biden's loophole

WILMINGTON—Biden is a tax loophole hypocrite. The Wall Street Journal article reported Joe Biden and his wife exploiting tax loophole to avoid paying \$500,000 in taxes for two years of income. This wasn't reported in the left-wing media. Joe Biden says the rich don't pay enough, and they get too many tax breaks. Now that Joe Biden has gotten his tax breaks, he wants to take them away from everyone else. Biden made \$13 million in profits in his S-Corporation and avoided paying his fair share of taxes. Biden avoided paying his fair share of taxes by paying himself a small reasonable salary, less than 6 percent of millions of profit he actually made. So if he cares about Medicare and Social Security so much, maybe he should pay-up \$500K. When Biden's money was passed through an S corporation, he didn't pay Social Security or Medicare taxes on it. Biden is using the loophole that Obama and Biden administration could have changed. Even Obama opposed this tax code. And for the all the Trump haters, it is the same legal tax code that Trump can legally use. Trump is not committing tax evasion, and it most certainly is a legal tax strategy. But Biden doesn't think Trump should use it and cheat the IRS out of taxes. Biden is the man who said that paying more in taxes was a patriotic act. I am not rich, but I can't stand politicians that tell us they are an average guy. Bidens used the S Corp to save big on taxes! Joe made over \$13 million dollars in the 2 years after he left office. To add more insult to business owners, Biden wants more IRS audits for the rest of us. Don't vote for Joe, he is a fair and has no problem avoiding paying his fair share of taxes.

Disgusting debate

ELWOOD—I'm a kindergarten teacher and let me tell you that even my students behave better than Trump and Biden did during the debate. Time to vote in the Green party candidate.

For town's best interest

BRAIDWOOD—Greetings. I would like to start off with acknowledging all the attention I have been getting lately, that's good you are paying attention. To fire back at some lingering questions and subject matter from the last couple weeks of Sound-offs, I am really unsure of why people keep assuming someone is leading me in the direction of the wrongdoings I have been pointing out. I saw some issues, I filed the proper paperwork by FOIA, noticed the problems, wrote a speech to point out the problems. You know, using facts, real evidence, but then again, Mark Twain did once say, "No amount of evidence would ever persuade an idiot." Next, I know it may seem completely hard to believe, but I do, in fact, pay taxes to the great city of Braidwood, therefore, I am absolutely entitled to my voice being heard. How would you feel if I told you that you too have that same ability? I know, it's shocking. So no strings attached to any of us. Crazy, just lunacy. Can we also chat about the amount of time I have been a resident of the town, though completely irrelevant, some people insist on it being a thing. I plan on being here for at least 20 more years so I want nothing more than to help better the town, that literally requires zero seniority on residency. Not only is that just a silly statement, but it is playing into that small town good ol' boy's club that needs to just go away. Eventually that club is going to die out, and I don't want to see the town die with that club, do you? On to another issue. Just because I kind of "attacked" two city commissioners, that doesn't mean I'm done holding each and every one of those commissioners, along with the mayor, accountable. Each and every one of you people complaining about me should use that energy to do what I'm doing...holding these elected officials accountable. If my issue started with water, you bet I would be after the water commissioner and all his gang. As for the people who think my speech was lengthy, well that is because it was. I was nervous and was taking way too long to spit out my words. It's not easy getting up in front of people and holding them to their job. I do apologize for my nervousness, but at least I have the guts to go in person and ask why they are not doing what they are suppose to be doing. Next subject I'd like to address: an ordinance for a three minute commentary. While this is true, there is an exception, the mayor has the final say. That is for everyone, not just me, but it is in the ordinance for everyone to verify. There has been plenty of others who were up there longer than three minutes, so if you attack me, you must attack everyone who has gone and who will go longer than me. Likewise, talking out of public comment; there is a particular man, who is known to get all feisty in the back every other meeting, out of public comment. Let me reiterate, I wasn't the first and I bet I won't be the last. Finally, I would like to restate what I have

said online and now here for all to read too, Wayne Saltzman and Fay Smith, with dissimilar grounds, should resign as commissioners. Kind Regards, Nicole Shores

Out of respect

WILMINGTON—This is in response to the comment on Marney's opinion piece regarding masks. Sadly, we are in the middle of a public health crisis, a pandemic that has taken over 200,000 American lives and a million worldwide. To suggest that people who are wearing masks won something from whining is an absolutely horrible response. Nothing was won. Wearing a mask to keep the spread of this highly contagious virus low is the least you can do in order to be a decent human being. It is not about control, it is not about politics, it is about respecting your friends and neighbors. It reduces the number of cases and the spread, which in turn allows people to begin to go out more and patronize businesses so more businesses do not have to close, so we can recover this economy. My patience is running thin, it is running thin with people like you who act like petulant children kicking and screaming because you have to do the slightest act to help your fellow man and community in this time of crisis.

Act now on climate change

BRAIDWOOD—Right-wingers are the ones who are careless, irresponsible and selfish especially toward generations to come. Have you noticed how Republicans claim that they are the ones behaving responsibly and they criticize other people for being careless and irresponsible such as those on food stamps? They constantly criticize others for "free stuff" when in fact the corporations like Amazon and the super wealthy are getting more of a hand-out, obvious by our \$23 trillion national debt, than anybody else by getting tax breaks. They are mortgaging tomorrow by their dirty and wasteful methods today. If we do the right thing to slow down or stop the climate crisis we would save trillions in the future and that would be smart. Being progressive and bold regarding the climate crisis would be conservative. But instead of applying science to guarantee ecosystems to thrive, right-wing world leaders such as President Trump and Brazil's President Bolsonaro care only about getting rich while the world burns and drowns.

Making waves

BRAIDWOOD—To the young lady in Braidwood who has been stirring up so many problems lately, just remember those who start trouble in small towns stand out amongst the rest and not in a good way. You're doing a very good job at earning yourself a reputation. Keep in mind that making waves in normally calm waters will get you splashed with the muck you churn up.

Open up Illinois

WILMINGTON—Time to open up the state! Our small businesses and unemployed workers cannot survive an extended shut down. The Democrats will destroy our state. If Biden is elected he will do a national lock down. Even Dr. Fauci is not recommending another lock down. JB has been manipulating the positive covid numbers to scare us. Our positivity rate is actually really low. Each day 400 - 700 covid positive numbers is from long-term care facilities. That's anywhere to 40-50% of all covid tests in a small segment of vulnerable population. Every one living outside of nursing homes is actually really low. I email the governor's office every week asking him to open the state fully. JB is causing panic and financial hardship in this state on purpose. Mostly because he cannot stand Trump. JB needs to start listening to the economist instead of scientist that are so narrow minded and cannot agree on how disease spreads, how long it lives on surfaces, effectiveness of mask, what it means to slow the spread. We've done it all and it's just time to open up bars and restaurants, schools, businesses and offices. People need to get back to work and their lives. The CDC posted survival rates and numbers speak for themselves. It's time to stop the oppressive governor. Indiana and Florida are now fully open. No one wants to get covid so wash your hands, don't touch your face and wear a mask, stay home if you feel sick. It's what you should do during cold and flu season. That's just common sense. I would encourage everyone to go to CDC not CNN and read these numbers for yourself. The CDC is also now estimating that only 65% of those who contract the COVID-19 virus actually wind up with any symptoms. That means 30% of those who feel fine and tests positive will never have any symptoms that would cause severe illness or death. If you don't want to do the research, here are the numbers. COVID-19 SURVIVAL RATES (per CDC): Ages 0-19 - 99.997%; Ages 20-49 - 99.98%; Ages 50-69 - 99.5%; and Ages 70 - 94.6%. Please email the governor because Fauci's claim that COVID-19 is "10 times more lethal" than the flu was total junk science. Here are Fauci's own words, "The overall clinical consequences of Covid-19 may ultimately be more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%". Email the governor and let's move on and open the state.

more akin to those of a severe seasonal influenza (which has a case fatality rate of approximately 0.1%". Email the governor and let's move on and open the state.

Based on speculation

WILMINGTON—The New York Times article on Trump's taxes to a desperate attempt by left wing media that is the personal cheerleader from the Democrat party. The NY Times does not have access to Trumps tax returns. Remember, Trump has repeatedly said he will release his returns when his IRS audit is complete. There are definitely no personal tax returns for 2018 or 2019 either out in the public record. The NY Times has taken various tax data to



piece together what they believe Trump might have paid. The Times was able to verify portions of tax data available in public records. Tax data is not a legally filed tax return! The Times used portions of his 1985-1994 tax returns. Really? That's how desperate they are to get Biden elected. What they fail to print is that Trump has paid personally tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the Feds. Everyone that earns a paycheck pays payroll taxes, state income taxes, Social Security, Medicare and of course state and local property taxes. So lots of taxes. Take a look at your paycheck stub and look how much you pay in federal taxes. What Trump's accountants do is use the perfectly legal US tax code. If the Democrats in Congress (that included Biden who was in office for 44 years), NY Times, CNN, CNBC don't like the tax code, then they should vote people in that will change the tax code. I guess they only want the tax codes changed for Trump. Does anyone know what you owe to the IRS until your year-end taxes are complete? Then what does your accountant usually do? They ask you if you have any other potential deductions to reduce your tax liability (charities, donations, mileage that are probably bogus). We all want to use legal tax codes to send less money to IRS. Even our own governor pulled out toilets to avoid paying \$320,000 to our very broke state. Even JBP found a way to pay less taxes. All Democrats want to do is raise taxes because they can't manage the money we work hard for and send them every year. And if businesses and business owners don't pay taxes, then why does the state and local leaders want more businesses and cry when businesses decide to move out of our high tax state? That article shows how pathetically desperate the Democrat party is.

Davy Lane billings

WILMINGTON— Thank you Nicole Kasalko for having the courage to confront Wilmington city officials regarding water usage on Davy Lane. If the city feels the billing that was provided at the City Hall meeting was accurate, then there is a serious problem. The taxpayers foot the bill for the audit to find leaks, but where is the audit for "The number of users connected to the system, including units of service" and "The number of non-metered users" per mmunicipal code 52.03? According to the "Will County GIS Data Viewer" there are a total of 59 units on Davy Lane. Per the billing provide by the City Hall, 17 units are not being charged for the \$35.91 sewer base fee. 6 units had no billing info at all. And, 18 all had the exact same billing? Where are the fines, liens, and water on fees? Makes one wonder if all the commercial buildings in town with multiple units are getting charged accurately?

Pure chaos

CUSTER PARK—Did we learn something from the first presidential debate? Yes, watching President Trump's behavior, we learned that kindergarten teachers are definitely underpaid. The debate was not a debate at all but pure chaos caused by the childish Trump shouting uncontrollably over the moderator. Trump neither followed the rules which his campaign agreed to nor did he look into the camera to tell the American people why he deserves a second term. For future debates, the moderator should have a kill switch on Trump's microphone to silence him because Trump's display of unhinged rage was painful to hear and an embarrassment to democracy. Included in the shameful shouting was Trump's encouragement to the racially violent Proud Boys to "stand back, stand by". Within minutes, the Proud Boys immediately adopted Trump's words as their logo thereby answering Biden's question that Trump identifies with these dangerous racist agitators. Trump is such a bully, the debate commission is changing the rules to stop him.

Painful to watch

WILMINGTON—There are several White House staffers who recently resigned in disgust due to President Trump's callous indifference to the 200,000 Americans killed by the pandemic but also due to his inability to bring people together to accomplish good things for the country. They stated that Trump's performance at the first presidential debate is how he conducts business as president. They say the west wing of the White House is a pit of vipers with Trump setting the vicious tone similar to the bullying, the name-calling and the belligerence Americans witnessed for 90 minutes on television. Watching the debate was painful. It's difficult to imagine that people have to work in such an environment every day. Kate L.

Thanks for nothing

WILMINGTON— In response to Kathy Kelly. Good luck expecting the city to help with your problem. I went to the city about a sump pump. My neighbor put in draining into my garage. No permit. I had the same public works man, building inspector, code enforcer officer

all said "illegally put in". About six months in a closed council meeting the vote decided it was my problem to get a lawyer. It's now going on two years and she's still being an idiot. So thanks city council for nothing. From Wilmington, Shirley, thank you.

Proper protest attire

WILMINGTON—I have watched daily videos from Seattle and Portland of what some call "peaceful" protests. No Covid masks; instead gas masks, helmets, body armor, baseball bats, rocks, frozen water bottles, cans of tuna, and the favorite: fireworks. It's really sad. It's anarchy and tyranny by the mob. Protest for the sake of protest. This is not representative of America and I urge you to vote!

Climate change

SHADOW LAKES—Explain this all you climate change aficionados. As the rainforests in South America are cut down, what is the mantra? Climate change, climate change! Every year the forests on the west coast burn. Did you see the pictures of the forest fighters hacking their way through the under bush to control the fires. Let's get back to the forest! Don't you think with the smoke circling the earth is healthy? I am sure that the smoke is loaded with all types of cancer causing agents, caused by the burning homes. Isn't the loss of all the forests going to have an affect on climate change? You hear nothing! Always, Margot Lane

The debate

SHADOW LAKES—A few notes on the debate. When the question came about "The New Green Deal" Did you notice Joe mumbled "no", then he mumbled "yes." He mumbled something about a few buildings, or something, and then subject was dropped. Go online and look up the green deal. It is more than a few buildings. See what AOC plan for this is. Also go to the Joe Biden website and see what he does support. Here is a website to go to all about the wind farms, you will see what this costs you. <https://townhall.com/columnists/dugganflanakin/2020/09/25/wind-turbines-generate-mountains-of-waste-n2576862...always, Margot Lane>

Simpleton

Have you noticed how President Trump criticizes Biden for getting old? Have you noticed how Trump constantly brags about how intelligent he himself is? These are indications that Trump is self-conscious about his shortcomings by projecting them onto others. Trump had a poor record of academic achievement throughout his life and he frequently makes mistakes when speaking, like when he recently said "herd mentality" rather than "herd immunity". In fact, during the debate Trump burst into a rage about how smart he is. But most people aren't buying it, including Republican opponents who have answered him back by giving him a taste of what he deserves. The Lincoln Project produced an ad immediately after the debate showing footage of the multitude of mistakes made by Trump caught on camera throughout his presidency. I myself will never forget how Trump was such a simpleton as to believe that the ingestion of bleach was a possible solution for the coronavirus. Ralph D.

Weather changes

WILMINGTON—First it was global warming now it's climate change and it is apparent that Irene does not know how to use a dictionary because if she did she would know the word climate means weather and the word weather means climate. If you listen to the people that want you to donate to global warming or climate change they're using your money for their benefit. If you don't believe that, take a look at Al Gore's bank book. Now you have to learn how to use a dictionary or thesaurus and then read some physics books so you can learn something instead of listening to polls that change with the wind.

Violating their oath

COAL CITY—Under the State of Illinois Constitution, it states under Article 1, section 2, that no person should be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law nor be denied equal protection of the laws. There is nowhere in any law book or legal document in the entire USA that gives any government employee the legal right to refuse to utilize all means available to protect every American citizen from any type of criminal activity in the state of Illinois or the entire USA. The penalty for refusing to comply with the state and federal law is prosecution of any government employee including any politician that refuses to aid the American citizens under the laws of the USA. How long are the politicians going to allowed to violate their oath of office without being prosecuted? Could this be a form of treason against the American citizens by the politicians?

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Asking for respect is hardly playing the victim

After my second column regarding mask wearing, we received a handful of Sound-off submissions.

I was anticipating that not everyone would agree with me, but this one caught my attention:



SIMON SAYS...
Marney Simon

"Yes, we respect your right to wear a mask. You could also put a bag over your head and we would respect your right to wear it. Our respect grows thin when you wave your pre-existing condition victim flag. Over half the country has some comorbidity pre-existing, but most don't use it as an excuse to bash their fellow citizens. Even with that, for your age group, stats show a 99 percent chance of recovery if you get sick with Covid. The mask believing group should be gracious winners, all of their whining and complaining has made the mask a state and local ordinance. They can pat themselves on the back for the 5,000 restaurants and food services that have closed in Illinois and won't be back. So give it a rest, you got your way. A truly fair newspaper would print the following info. CDC Data Sources "While coronavirus is obviously concerning and a very real threat to some people, name the elderly and immunocompromised, these data show that the risk for the rest of the population is quite low." Infection fatality rate estimates by age: 5-9 years-0.0016%, 10-19 years-0.00032%, 20-49 years-0.00092%, 50-64 years-0.14%, 65 years and over-5.6%, all ages-0.64%. Source: <https://osf.io/wdbpel/>

Much of this really does not deserve a response, particularly the appalling notion that people with preexisting conditions are playing victims.

By saying that your respect "grows thin" you seem to be implying that you were on board with staying a respectful six feet away from me until I told you that I am high risk, which now makes you not want to respect my space.

This is how a toddler

responds to stimuli they don't like.

Since this whole thing started, the emphasis has been on protecting those who are at high risk, yet apparently, these people now annoy you and you wish to disrespect them. This selfish lack of care for others is repugnant.

Even more repugnant is the idea that I should be a gracious winner. Apparently, this is a game to you.

An ongoing pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 of my fellow Americans and infected more than 7 million — including President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump — is not a win for anyone.

What I would like to focus on, however, is your ending.

First, that you equate an opinion piece as regular news which should be "fair and balanced" shows you do not have a grasp of editorial writing versus journalism.

That we printed my editorial — specifically an opinion piece written in first person and clearly labeled as my own point of view — does not somehow equate to a lack of fairness. What was written was my opinion that people without masks should not approach other people. I am not certain what death rates have to do with it. I don't know why 1 million dead worldwide is viewed as insignificant.

While I am sure your death rate statistics seemed like a gotcha moment of some kind, pandemics are not pandemics because of how many people they kill. They are pandemics because of how many people they affect across the globe.

At no point did I suggest that people should wear their masks because of how deadly the virus is. I asked people to wear their masks due to how contagious the virus is.

I tried your source, and was told "site not available."

So, I instead tried Nebraska Medicine. As you may remember, some of the very first cruise ship victims of the virus were transported to

Nebraska Medicine in Omaha. Nebraska Medicine has the premiere isolation and infectious disease research facility in the country — you may recall they also took care of the handful of Ebola victims we had in the United States in 2014.

According to Nebraska Medicine:

"COVID-19 can damage organs like the lungs, brain and heart for an unknown amount of time. Recovered patients have reported "long-hauler" effects in these areas:

- Brain: headaches, fatigue, insomnia, vertigo and "brain fog"

- Lungs: lung scarring, shortness of breath, chest pain and cough

- Heart and blood: blood clots, heart arrhythmia, diabetes and hypertension

Even younger patients with COVID-19 can experience lasting effects. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 5 weren't back to normal two weeks after testing positive.

Since COVID-19 is a new disease, we're still learning that long-term effects are likely. With so many unknowns, it's best to stay safe and avoid catching it in the first place."

These are my bigger concerns, not death rates.

But, if you want to focus on death rates, I'll turn your attention to another pandemic: Varicella. AKA the chicken pox.

Pre-vaccine, the death rate for chicken pox was .001%. It was so uncommon that it nearly always was only fatal the very old or the very ill. I myself am part of the population that contracted it at a neighborhood "chicken pox party."

As it turns out, the virus stays with you.

Decades later, chicken pox can produce shingles. Long term effects of shingles can include postherpetic neuralgia (long term pain, itching and burning), blindness, and Ramsay Hunt Syndrome, which can cause dizziness, hearing loss, and loss of ability to move parts of your face.

I am uncertain why people are so blasé about COVID-19 simply because it likely won't kill you, when we know

Census to continue data collection

A federal judge in California has blocked the Trump administration's effort to end early the door-to-door head counting for the 2020 U.S. Census. President Donald Trump had ordered that the census count end Sept. 30, but barring any reversal of the decision by a higher court, the head count will continue through Oct. 31.

On Oct. 2, the U.S. Census Bureau reported a message went out to census takers that day informing them data collection operations would continue through the end of the month.

As of Monday, 99.8% of Illinois households had been counted. In Grundy County 76.3% of households self-responded, up from 74.7% in 2010, and 78.3% of Will County households self-responded, also an increase from 2010 that found 76.9% sending in their data.

Locally, 66.1% of Braidwood households self-responded to the 2020 Census as did 76.3% of Carbon Hill, 78.9% of Coal City, 74.6% of Diamond and 68.7% of Wilmington households.

Anyone who has not yet completed the census to do so online at my2020census.gov.

-Capitol News Illinois contributed to this report



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Circle jam at Godley Park Dist. set for Oct. 10

There will be a circle jam on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the rec hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone includ-

ing musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are held on the second Saturday of each month from January to November, and are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more.

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OBITUARIES

Joan Meyer

WILMINGTON—Joan Meyer, 81, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020 at her home surrounded by family.

Born Sept. 21, 1939 in Joliet, IL, Joan Margaret was the daughter of Michael Peter and Margaret Susan (Berscheid) Korst. She was raised in Joliet; attended St. Mary Carmelite Grade School; graduated from St. Francis Academy with the class of 1957, and went on to attend Joliet Beauty Academy. On May 10, 1958, Joan married Bernard Meyer in St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Joliet by Bernie's uncle, Reverend Bernard E. Burns, and together they raised their family and were happily married for the following 62 1/2 years.

Joan worked as a hairdresser and owned and operated her own salon for 32 years. She was a member of St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and enjoyed being active with the Inwood Fitness Water Aerobics for many years. Joan loved to travel with the love of her life, Bernie, and together they made many memorable trips to Florida, Shipshewana, Brown County and the Smokey Mountains to name a few places. Deeply loved by her family, Joan will be remembered as a devoted wife and a loving mother and grandmother, who cherished her family. There is no doubt that she will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Survivors include her beloved husband, Bernie; three loving daughters: Natalie (Ray) Sugg, of Lockport; Corinne (Glenn) Rodighiero, of Shorewood and Tracy (Tom) Schejbal, of Limestone; dear grandchildren: Eric (Andrea)



Sugg, of Lostant; Scott (Wendy) Sugg, of Plainfield; Caitlyn Rodighiero, of Shorewood; Nicole Rodighiero, of Key West, FL; Crystal Sugg, of Temecula, CA and Lauren Schejbal, Lucas Schejbal, Lindsey Schejbal, Logan Schejbal and Landon Schejbal, all of Limestone and cherished great-grandchildren: Payton, Liam, Evie, Jameson, Laila, Serina, Olivia and Maddie, as well as her faithful companion, Lulu.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents.

The family received friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020. A private Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 in Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Reverend Sebastian Gargol and Reverend Charles Wheeler concelebrated.

Following Mass, Joan was laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Joan's memory to St. Jude Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431

Family and friends may sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Joan's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Joan-Meyer

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

Robert Shear

COAL CITY—Robert L. Shear, 84, of Coal City, went to his heavenly home on Sept. 26, 2020 at home with his family by his side.

Born April 12, 1936 in Wilmington, he was the son of John William and Anna Marie (nee Henke) Shear. Robert was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and a great friend to all. He was a member of the Christian Life Assembly and was a long-time resident and business owner in Coal City.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Jean (nee Hakey) Shear, who he married Dec. 18, 1954 in Morris; one son, Robert (Elaine) Shear Jr.; three daughters: Bonnie (Dan Goodman) Ryder, Karen (Mike) Cairns and Brenda (John)



Zierman; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, John and William Shear and one sister, Norma Reynolds.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorial services for Robert will be held at the Christian Life Assembly in Diamond, Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at 7 p.m. with a visitation one hour preceding services.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory is entrusted with the arrangements.

Karen M. Prombo

Karen Marie Prombo, 60, of Morris, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 at her home.

Born March 10, 1960 at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, IL, Karen Marie was the daughter of Harry and JoAnn (Potts) Wysocki. She was raised by her grandmother, Regina Potts and was educated in Roseland, Park Forest and Crete-Monee, where she graduated from Crete-Monee High School with the class of 1978. On Oct. 10, 1986, Karen married Edward Prombo in Matteson, IL. Karen was employed for Orthopedic Associates in Munster, IN for 20 years. She was an active member at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, where she served as a Eucharistic Minister. Karen took pleasure in planting flowers and landscaping her shrubs. In addition she enjoyed crafting, going to the zoo, and was an avid White Sox fan.

Survivors include her husband 32 years, Edward; son, Phillip Prombo, of Chicago; sister, Terri Wysocki, of Matteson; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Linda (Robert) Pogliano, of Coal City; Roseann (James) Tibbott, of Morris; Gloria (Jeff) Hodge, of New Lenox; Michael (Beth) Prombo, of Palatine; Steven Prombo, of Chicago; William (Terri Kay) Prombo, of Morris and Christopher (Robin) Prombo, of Waterloo and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as



her special Uncle Bob and Aunt Jan.

She was preceded in death by her parents and dear grandmother, Regina Potts.

Per Karen's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial visitation was held Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home in Morris from 9-11:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial followed at 12 p.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

A private family inurnment will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Karen's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, 60450.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Karen's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Karen-Prombo

Cremation services and memorial arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

Rita Styck-McWherter

HERSCHER—Rita Styck-McWherter, 75, of Herscher, IL, formerly of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, Oct. 4, 2020 at home.

Born Sept. 25, 1945 in Kankakee, IL to the late Clayton Clarence and Margaret Mary (nee Larkin) Rynearson. Rita retired at the age of 62 from Plant Services contracted with Exxon Mobil. She loved to bird watch and was a member of the National Bird Watchers Association. She also enjoyed horticulture and exhibited that through the many plants she grew. Rita enjoyed crafting and boating with her late husband, Mac, and most importantly loved spending time with family.

She married Henry (Wanda) Styck July 31, 1965 in Kankakee and together they had two children, Tina (Don) Fleischauer of Herscher and Henry "J.R." (the late Cindy) Styck, Jr. of Dwight, IL; seven grandchildren, Holly (Robbie) Wilke, Dustin and Cassie Fleischauer, Jason, Brandy, Brittany and Jamie Stanton; four great-grandchildren, Emma, Sofia, and Nevaeh



Stanton, and Robert Donald Wilke; one sister, Sue (the late John) Fiessinger of Kevil, KY; and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death was her husband, William "Mac" McWherter (8-22-2018), whom she married September 5, 2005; brothers, James (Marcie), Kevin (the late Robyn) and Terry Rynearson; one sister, Sandra Dee Dickerson; and one sister-in-law, Kathy Rynearson.

Visitation for Rita will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Thursday, Oct. 8, from 4-7 p.m. with the funeral service beginning at 7 p.m. All attendees will be required to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing standards.

Cremation rites will be accorded following services. Inurnment will be in Custer Township Cemetery. For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood, 815-458-2336

Sound-off, continued from page 4

Always raising taxes

SHADOW LAKES—Calling about the sound-off in this week's paper called "A bargain" by Renee K. I don't really think she quite understands how Democrats work taxes. Democrats in my time have never lowered taxes, period. The majority of them are very wealthy, they have a very high income. So why would they want to tax themselves? You have to be blind not to see this and I hope you read the commentary on page 11 of the newspaper by Brad Weisenstein. I think he can obviously explain it better than I can, so if you have this week's paper go and read the commentary on page 11. Dan Hill.

Avoided paying

WILMINGTON—Biden's tax platform includes getting high-income Americans to pay more in taxes and eliminating write-offs used by the rich. Biden did just that in his recent tax returns. Biden and his wife avoided paying \$500,000 in payroll taxes, Medicare and Social Security taxes. The Biden's used a tax loophole to allow them to bypass the 3.8 percent self-employment tax on \$15 million in income. If Biden is going to "talk the talk" about the rich paying their fair share and the immorality of tax loopholes that benefit the wealthy, it might be more effective if Biden also "walked the walk." Biden could help save Medicare and Social Security if he paid his fair share.

Dam people

WILMINGTON—Great picture of the two people clearly trespassing at the dam site. Put up barricades, fencing, signs in whatever language you want. It will do no good. Bottom line is you can't fix stupid.

Destroying the ACA

CUSTER PARK—To Jim of "Unaffordable." Do you realize you get a tax deduction proportionate to your income if you have Obamacare insurance? If still too expensive, buy private insurance. Either way the Obamacare law (ACA) forces all health insurance companies do the right thing by making them cover preexisting conditions. Also, the ACA forces insurance companies to pay your costs without limiting the lifetime dollar amount. These two features improved private insurance for consumers making the ACA revolutionary. Have you forgotten what it was like before the ACA? For people with preexisting conditions, health insurance was unaffordable and in general everyone worried about exceeding the lifetime limit of what their insurance would pay. Some people had good health insurance through their jobs but they were the lucky ones. Yes, the ACA relieved these problems of the American health insurance nightmare. But since becoming president, Trump is destroying the ACA out of spite thereby making health insurance more expensive. Trump hates Obama's legacy more than he cares about what is good for the people. Gary W.

Job well done

WILMINGTON—To Ken Ewensen and Wilmington Public Works employees: your professional work replacing the sidewalk on Fulton Street is greatly appreciated.

Vote no on tax

COAL CITY—Don't believe a word they say about this so called "fair tax." Voting yes for the graduated income tax change is giving JB Pritzker and Mike Madigan to okay to raise taxes anytime they want. Do you really think these two can be trusted not raise taxes on the middle class. After all the COVID spending, loss of businesses and the killing of Illinois' economy, Madigan and JB will target the middle class within the first year. The only ones who won't be affected are those on welfare. You pay more taxes, they get more free services...how fair is that?

Layoffs coming

WILMINGTON—It's sad that massive layoffs are coming from Disney, Allstate and the airlines. But Republican Senate Leader McConnell doesn't care about economic suffering caused by layoffs and is not moved to pass legislation for helping people who are stricken by the pandemic. That's the Senate's job and that's McConnell's job but McConnell refuses to do it. Nevertheless the Senate is in such a hurry to confirm the new Supreme Court justice, someone eager to eliminate health insurance for tens of millions and remove preexisting condition coverage for half our population, it can't do it fast enough. This reveals the nature of the Republican Party. It's despicable and

you might be one of its victims. Irene D.

The pandemic

COAL CITY—For those who still think President Trump has done a good job fighting COVID-19, consider that Japan has had a total of 1,578 deaths whereas our death toll is 210,000. This means the U.S. death toll as a percentage of total population is 50 times that of Japan's death toll as a percentage of total population. It's another statistic which verifies that our country has the worst performance in the world controlling the pandemic. Kurt K.

Thief strikes again

COAL CITY—I replaced my Trump sign and it was stolen again. I hope they are also stealing the Biden signs too. I bet not....so again they are trying to steal the election in one way or another. I have the right to my opinion and you have the right to yours. This is called freedom of speech which is at stake in this election as you can see from the actions going on here. Sorry to say this will not change my mind... only cement it and ignite my activism. What are you trying to prove?

City boy

BRAIDWOOD—It's obvious that President Trump is a city boy who wasn't listening during biology class. Trump's suggestion to sweep millions of acres of forest floor is laughable. I have family out west and they are Republicans who believe that we shouldn't even fight the fires but let everything burn. Perhaps because they are evangelicals, they don't believe in getting off their duff to obey God's command of stewardship toward the earth. The bottom line is that the debris on the forest floor is beneficial to the forests. As a matter of fact, sweeping the forest floors would make matters worse by removing protective mulch that protects pine trees from the ravages of drought. Furthermore, the cost of sweeping millions of acres would be put to better use by spending the money mitigating the climate crisis which causes the forest fires in the first place. Let's face it. We must do something eventually and the sooner we start the cheaper and more effective it will be. Right now we are committing suicide. Ann S.

Fact checking

CUSTER PARK—Checking the facts about what was said at the first presidential debate leads to the following conclusions: manufacturing jobs increased by half a million under Trump but some of the increase has been lost since the pandemic; regarding violent crime, it decreased about 16 percent under President Obama and is about the same under President Trump; prescription drug prices are increasing under Trump; the forests burning in the west are 60 percent under federal control so Trump is to blame for the problem and should not be blaming the states for bad forest management; according to epidemiologists more than 100,000 lives would have been saved from the pandemic if shutdowns in March across the states would have been a week earlier. Last but not least, Trump's childish temper tantrums show he must shout and scream because his powers of reasoning are lacking. We see this all the time with children, adolescents and adults who are desperate. A. Weidner

Vote to survive

BRAIDWOOD—Contrary to what the fake news media says, President Trump showed tremendous leadership regarding Covid-19 pandemic. He cut off travel from China in January while the Democrats were trying to impeach him. He warned of the dangers of the coronavirus in his Feb. 4 State of the Union Address. He took swift action to supply states with medical equipment. He displayed calm and steady transparency during his daily press conferences. He was simultaneously accused of failing to use his authority and exceeding it. In a blink of the eye, church services were banned, gun shops closed, freedom of movement criminalized. At the same time, violent Antifa/ Black Lives Matter Marxists have been allowed to riot in our streets without consequence. This should serve as a dire warning of how fast our freedoms can be taken away and those freedoms will be taken away if the Democrats win in November. They will move quickly to destroy Medicare with Medicare for All, severely restrict our religious liberty and free speech, confiscate firearms from law-abiding Americans, destroy our economy with taxes and their "Green New Deal," stack the Supreme Court, punish churches and pastors who oppose same sex mar-

riage and abortion. Even more alarming they will permanently cement their hold on power by making it impossible for any conservative to ever again win the presidency by abolishing the Electoral College, allowing millions of illegal aliens to vote, and eliminating all voter ID requirements. That's why the 2020 elections are a battle for the very survival of America as we know it.

It's everyone's right

COAL CITY—Dan Hill, of course looters and thieves should be arrested and punished. But not all protesters loot and steal. In fact there are more peaceful protesters than bad guys. And sometimes it is the White Supremacist groups who cause trouble to blacken the protesters' image. It's a Constitutional right to protest. You and others are trying to tie them all together because you don't like what they are protesting about. However as a proud vet who fought for the same Constitution the protesters are using, and curbing them would be un-Constitutional, you should defend their rights to protest. And right now the big stealers, traitors, self-serving crime guys, like Roger Stone, Manafort, Bannon, Cohen, Flynn, and others, who get off, get convicted but get short sentences for their crimes, or like Roger Stone who has so much dope on Trump he gets pardoned after admitting his guilt are the big problem. I bet the looters who are caught will get more time and never see a pardon. M

Made my day

COAL CITY—The Sound-off letter "Unfit for Office" about President Trump's obsession with personal vanity made my day. Furthermore, General Kelly, General McMaster and Rex Tillerson have attested that Trump was never mentally fit for office in the first place. Trump has a lot of nerve criticizing Biden for what Trump himself is guilty. It's called projection and Trump does it on a regular basis.

Joe shows compassion

BRAIDWOOD—Thank you Joe Biden for showing kindness and compassion to a man who doesn't seem to even understand those words. We join you in hoping President Trump recovers quickly and also all his minions who have also contracted the virus. Kudos for pulling negative ads. You really should just learn his quotes, but you are better than that.

Such a shame

WILMINGTON—It's such a shame what the VFW has done to one of its members. They can't pay their bills nor attract more customers but they can bar one of their own for something allegedly what some of themselves are always doing. I have been to their queen event and many women stand there with open arms to get a hug from this person. Don't you think you should pay more attention to your business? One of your own bartenders/employee contracted Covid and you closed for one day where others have to close for 14 days and be quarantined. Sounds like you think you are above the law. This man is one of the most selfless people I have ever met. He always puts the VFW and the people/other members before himself. I have seen him at every event and every gathering for the VFW including being a part of the honor guard. And on countless other occasions I have seen him doing the yardwork for the VFW for free. He has always been a huge help during vent and also planning. He has always been good to me and my family. I know the VFW just lost me and my family ever coming into their establishment again. We will find somewhere else to go.

God bless him

WILMINGTON—I don't understand how the VFW can ban a veteran, a gentleman vet at that, who always has respect for women of all ages from 6 months to 100 years old. I have known him for many years and I am a veteran's wife, 74 years old and cannot say enough good and kind things about this man. God bless him and all the veterans at the VFW Post 5422 except the ones at the top who did this to him.

Disgraceful display

BRAIDWOOD—It's difficult to believe that any American could have watched our president's disgraceful display on Tuesday night and still defend him, but they do. He lies, cheats and is a bully. But some still defend him. Even his more and more prominent and thoughtful Republicans have denounced him and his behavior and have announced they are going to vote for Joe Biden.

Unwind with a La Floridita Daiquiri

The essence of the classic Cuban Daiquiri is rum, sugar, lime juice. For over 100 years this proven combination has helped to beat the heat on those hot, humid summer days at Havana's La Floridita.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Despite the fact that the classic three-ingredient version of the Daiquiri is the "correct" version, the house Daiquiri at La Floridita adds a little something extra, and get this: it is served frozen.

Yes, cocktail snobs, the house cocktail at the birthplace of the Daiquiri is served frozen. Who knew? The bar staff at La Floridita will make your Daiquiri however you would like it, but their house special is the "La Floridita No. 4," as listed on the menu since 1935.

Other than the crushed ice, what's the difference? The La Floridita splits the "sweet" component between granulated sugar and maraschino cherry liqueur. The result is a subtle bittersweet cherry note in a cocktail that is neither too sweet, nor is it too sour. The combination of the reduced sugar and maraschino liqueur brings balance to a drink that has always been too sour for some, too sweet for others.

Legend has it that Hemingway himself had a hand in inventing the La Floridita. Hemingway loved rum, especially during the time that he spent in Havana. As much as he loved Cuban rum, many of the Cuban cocktails were too sweet. Hemingway was not a fan of sugary drinks, and even before he was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes he disliked sweets.

He asked a bartender at La Floridita for a Daiquiri, but his instructions were to "double the rum, and cut the sugar." He was on to something, but the drink lacked balance, so a few drops of maraschino liqueur were added. Now, it was per-

fect. How perfect? According to the legend, Hemingway once drank 17 of them in one day. Quite the barroom feat.

Of course, the Hemingway legend surrounding this drink could be just that, legend. Nothing more. Very few of these anecdotes can be proven, but one

thing is for sure: Hemingway is at La Floridita right now. Seriously, there is a life-sized bronze statue of the man himself at his favorite spot near the end of the bar.

However the La Floridita Daiquiri came to be, I'm glad that it did because it is an amazing cocktail. I realize that this drink is not "the" Daiquiri, but a delicious spin-off that has more depth than the original. The La Floridita pairs with meals, especially Cuban cuisine. Also, the drink is an excellent compliment to a fine Cuban cigar.

You may be thinking that this sounds wonderful, but how am I going to make this drink without Cuban rum? Unless you have a bottle of Havana Club 3 Year in your home bar, you will have to find a rum to substitute for the Cuban stuff. The rum that is closest to light Cuban rum in flavor profile is Flor de Cana Extra Dry. If you are unable to track down a bottle of Flor de Cana, the standard Bacardi Light Puerto Rican Rum or Cruzan light rum will also get the job done.

When it comes to maraschino liqueur, Luxardo is going to be the most widely available option, and also your best option. Luxardo Maraschino is a high-quality French liqueur that is adored by chefs and mixologists the world over. If you are unable to locate the big green bottle of Luxardo, Maraska and Stock are also quality maraschino liqueur brands that perform well in mixed drinks.

Fresh lime juice is always



best. Limes can be juiced ahead of time if you are expecting company, but remember to shake your lime juice prior to pouring.

On that note, the portions listed in the recipe below are for a single drink. Floridita preparation is a process, and in the interest of time you may want to batch your drinks to prepare three or four at a time. The La Floridita staff typically prepares four at a time, so they would start with 2 oz. lime juice, and 4 teaspoons of granulated sugar, then take it from there.

The classic Floridita preparation calls for the lime and granulated sugar to be added first. Once the lime and sugar are added, give your blender a quick pulse. This will dissolve the sugar, if you are using granulated sugar.

Next, add 1 1/2 cups of crushed ice (per drink), and the maraschino liqueur. Blend the ingredients on high, pouring in the rum slowly as the drink is blending. Be careful here, measure out your rum before you pour unless you have a very keen eye for the pour. If you have tended bar in a past life, you've got this.

As far as glassware, the Floridita is served in "Martini" glasses, but the pictures and video that I have seen from the bar lead me to believe that these are served in oversized cocktail glasses. In other words, your standard Martini glass may not hold this drink, perhaps a larger Coupe glass

would be a better fit.

This is a great "first" rum cocktail if you are new to rum, or are looking to move beyond rum and Coke. I have never been to Havana, but if I ever make it down that way I plan on pulling up a barstool next to Ernest at La Floridita. I'm not above taking a picture with him, either.

The classic La Floridita Daiquiri is built in a blender and served in a chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

Combine in blender:
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
1 tsp. granulated sugar
Pulse blender to dissolve sugar, then add:

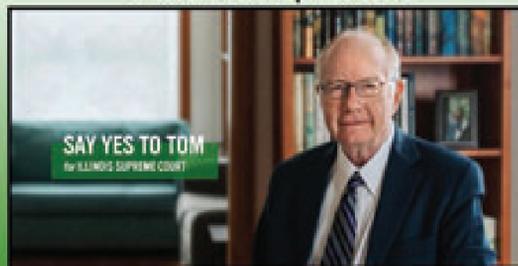
1 tsp. maraschino liqueur
1 1/2 cups crushed ice
Blend on high
Add 2 oz. light rum while blending

Pour into chilled cocktail glass, garnish with lime wheel
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Gernenz graduates from UW

Amy Gernenz, of Mazon, was among the summer graduates at UW Oshkosh College of Letters and Science where she received an associate of arts and science degree.

Please join me in supporting Justice Tom Kilbride for retention to the Illinois Supreme Court. Tom is a fair judge, a kind man, independent and a leader on the Supreme Court!



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Due to Covid 19 restrictions, safety precautions and also a lack of some raw materials, furniture plants aren't operating at full capacity. This has caused a delay in getting our furniture delivered in a timely manner. We are working with our suppliers trying to expedite our orders and will continue to do so. This has been a trying time for us here at Nelsons and we really appreciate our customers' patience and understanding. We thank you for your business and look forward to assisting you with your furniture needs.

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Courage Under Fire

WE SALUTE OUR FIREFIGHTERS

DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10



Courtesy Photo

JUMPING INTO ACTION — The Custer Fire Protection District was among multiple departments working on saving a victim at an accident scene.

Custer Fire to pass out free smoke detectors

STAFF REPORT

In honor of Fire Prevention Week, the Custer Fire Protection District will be driving through Custer township on Sunday, Oct. 11 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. passing out fire safety literature and fire hats for the kids.

They also have a number of free smoke detectors available. Any Custer Park resident in need of a smoke detector should call 815-458-9326 and leave a message.

"Smoke detectors are the most important thing you can have in the house," said Bob Hussey, trustee of

the Custer Fire Protection District.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 38% of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present. The risk of dying is cut in half in homes with working smoke alarms.

Those who can't physically install their smoke detectors should let the Custer Fire Protection District know and assistance will be given.

The smoke detectors were made through a generous donation by Wilmington and Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware

stores. Volunteers from the fire department approached the Wilmington Whitmore Ace Hardware to seek out a discount for smoke detectors. The store then went above and beyond and donated 36 smoke detectors to the fire department. Braidwood Whitmore Ace Hardware matched that donation.

When you hear them driving by on Sunday, come out and say hello.

Because of traffic concerns along Route 113, residents can also stop by the station and pick up a literature packet in the box next to the front door.



FOUR MEMBERS OF the Braidwood Fire Protection District were recently promoted. Pictured (from left) are Assistant Chief Christopher Jude, Captain Jacob Bolatto, Lieutenant Michael Tenerelli and Engineer Felicia Ehringer.

Braidwood Fire Protection District

Personnel

63 employees; 3 Trustees, 1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 1 Assistant Fire Chief, 5 Officers (1 Chief Engineer, 1 Safety Officer, 3 Captains and 1 Lieutenant), 1 EMS Coordinator, 1 EMS Educator, 31 - Paramedics, 23 - EMTs, 55 - Certified Firefighters through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 2 Interns, 3 Cadets and 1 Administrative Assistant

Apparatus

Fire Engines/Pumper/ Tankers: 2411 (1996 Alexis Engine,) 2412 (2002 Alexis/Spartan Pumper Tanker), 2413 (2018

Alexis/Spartan Metrostar Chassis), 2416 (1997 E-One Heavy Rescue Squad), 2419 (2004 Smeal/Spartan Chassis)

Ambulances: 2012 Ford F-450, Advanced Life Support Ambulance, 2020 Demers/Ford F550 Ambulance,

Other: 1996 Ford/Alexis Brush Truck, 1992 Ford Road Rescue, 2020 First Responder Boat A16S and boat trailer, 2003 Ford F-350, 2011 Ford F-450, 2011 Alexis Tactical Rescue Trailer, Williams Fire & Hazard Control Foam Trailer, Chief's Buggy (2018 Chevy Tahoe), Operations Officer Buggy (2012 Ford Expedition), Command Vehicle (2015 Yukon XL)

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Courage Under Fire

WE SALUTE OUR FIREFIGHTERS

DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OCTOBER 4 - 10

Coal City Fire on the right path

The Coal City Fire Protection District is on track to log over 2,000 calls in 2020.

As of Oct. 4, the first day of Fire Prevention Week, the department had responded to 1,553 calls for service—a combination of fire and emergency medical services (EMS).

The district has experienced a steady increase in calls year-over-year and the volume of calls between 2018 and 2019 increased by 13%.

On average the department is responding to 173 calls per month, compared to 154 last year, and based on those numbers it looks like 2020 will end with a 12% increase in service calls.

The department is comprised of 46 members led by fire chief James Seerup who is assisted by deputy chief Karl Wexelberg, both were sworn in to their new positions Aug. 20.

Seerup, who joined the department in 1998, assumed full-time duties this week. He said he wants the department to be one others look to and one that the public has the utmost confidence in.

“We will continuously upgrade our equipment and continue on a path that brings us the highest level of our training,” Seerup said.

On the topic of new equipment, Lt. Nick Doerfler, who serves as the department’s EMS coordinator, reports in the past year two Lucas CPR devices were purchased and brought on-line in the front line ambulances.

“These units assist in performing perfect CPR allowing our members to focus on other life-saving measures at the time that a person’s heart stops beating,” Doerfler said.

As the department enters the final quarter of what has been a demanding year given the on-going pandemic, and the resulting protocols that came with serving the community’s health and safety needs, the department appears to be on a new path.

And, the chief says its the right path.

“We are looking forward to working together for a successful future,” Seerup said.



COAL CITY FIRE Protection District firefighters participated in a multi-company training exercise at the Braidwood Fire Protection District’s training tower on Oct. 1. Firefighters participated in a number of scenarios including ladder placement and extinguishment.



Courtesy photo

THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION District opened up Station 2 for operations on Monday, Aug. 10. The new facility will serve the Elion Logistics center, as well as parts of the district west of I-55.

Wilmington Fire connects with the community

BY MARNEY SIMON
STAFF EDITOR

Fire Prevention Week looked different for the members of the Wilmington Fire Protection District this year, who normally would be in the thick of high school football games and interacting with students from Wilmington School District 209-U.

Fire Chief Tim Zlomie oversees 11 full time workers, including two full time chiefs and nine fire-medics., as well as an administrator as well as around 26 other part timers.

“We always try to be out in our community,” Zlomie said. “This year is so different [due to COVID-19].... So, that will be something our guys miss, going out doing and getting the interaction with the kids. We’ve never closed, obviously, with COVID-19, so, anytime people have questions or needs, we always want them to feel free to contact us and use our services, no mater what.”

The district has three ambulances, and is currently out to bid for a new engine, which is expected to take about a year to complete.

One new addition for the district is its

new station, as plans to open the doors to a second location finally come to fruition in 2020.

In August, the district opened the doors on its second fire house, Station 2, located at 29745 Elion Boulevard, near Lorenzo Road and I-55 inside the Elion Logistics Park.

An engine and ambulance will be assigned to Station 2 with staffing of between two and three Firefighter Paramedics and Firefighter EMTs.

Station 2 will serve the logistics center, but is also strategically placed for quick response to I-55 and the western residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Wilmington, such as O’Brien’s Subdivision, Phelan Acres and Cottage Road, as well as anywhere in town that needs to be addressed.

The district hopes to have an open house at the new site next spring.

Zlomie said that despite the pandemic, it’s business as usual for the department.

“We’re here to serve our community, no matter what that means,” Zlomie said. “Even if it’s as simple as helping someone up or down, we’ll do that. We gladly do that.”



Keep leashes and collars near the door. If you need to leave your home in an emergency, keep your pet gear handy and close to a safe exit. If your pets are not microchipped, be sure they have identification on their collars in case they become lost during a home evacuation.

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Solar storms and their impacts on Earth

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Dear EarthTalk:
Are there any environmental or health risks associated with the solar storms that have been hitting the Earth recently?
— Betsy R., Suwanee, GA



Courtesy Photo by Keith Williams, FlickrCC

WHILE SOLAR STORMS may be harmful to our communications technologies, they are also behind the amazing galactic light show visible from some northern latitudes in winter called the Aurora Borealis.

Solar storms have been in the news lately, but the truth is these naturally occurring solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs) from the Sun happen all the time — or at least a few hundred times a year from what we can tell here on Earth. They are caused by large-scale magnetic eruptions from the Sun that send particles into the atmosphere at high speeds. But luckily for us, the only threats these solar storms pose within the Earth's atmosphere are to our technology.

them to fail, and bathe high-flying airplanes with radiation.

According to the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), harmful radiation from these flares can't pass through Earth's atmosphere to physically affect humans on the ground; however, when intense enough, they can disturb the atmosphere in the layer where GPS and communications signals travel. Both CMEs and solar flares, if powerful enough, have this disrupting effect.

Besides disrupting navigation and telecommunications systems, solar storms can also cause electricity blackouts down below on Earth. One example happened in Quebec on March 13, 1989. A particularly strong CME caused a power failure that stretched across Quebec and parts of the Northeastern U.S., blacking out the region for nine hours and affecting six million people in the process.

"When a CME strikes Earth's atmosphere, it causes a temporary disturbance of the Earth's magnetic field," reports Deborah Byrd, editor of the EarthSky.org website. "The charged particles can slam into our atmosphere, disrupt satellites in orbit and even cause

The technological effects of solar storms can be worrisome, but scientists can track and predict these storms in order to mediate their potential negative impacts on a region. Additionally, one positive result of solar storms in places that lie at higher lati-

tudes is the appearance of the radiant Aurora borealis (also known as the Northern Lights) during these phenomena.

While there have been plenty of solar storms lately, this year actually marks a low-point for such activity — a so-called Solar Minimum — in the solar cycle. The Space Weather Prediction Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the next peak of solar activity will be in July of 2025.

Amateur astronomers interested in tracking solar storms should check out SpaceWeatherLive.com, a nonprofit, all-volunteer project out of Belgium which coordinates information from several websites on a range of topics including astronomy, space, aurora and related subjects.

One of the site's cool features is a free glimpse into the last three days of solar storm activity hitting the Earth's atmosphere.

If you would like to become more involved in the process of tracking solar storms, the Solar Stormwatch II project led by University of Reading in England looks for volunteers to help record data. Volunteers can virtually aid the project by observing CME data and imagery on the project's website and recording/outlining what they see.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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Gas dips in Illinois

Illinois gas prices have fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 3.4 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 45.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.89/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The lowest price in the state Monday was \$1.89/g while the highest was \$2.79/g, a difference of 90.0 cents per gallon. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.17/g Monday. The national average is down 4.3 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 49.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. "It's been a fairly quiet

week for gas prices yet again, but with oil tanking last week, there's a possibility motorists may see a renewed downward direction in average prices in the days or weeks ahead," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "However, according to Pay with GasBuddy data, gasoline demand inexplicably rose last week to the highest level since August, breaking with conventional wisdom that fall demand is typically weak. While we have no direct reasoning for the rebound, five of seven days last week saw much above the prior week's gasoline demand, in fact, Friday saw the highest gasoline demand since Labor Day. If demand continues to somehow defy such conventional trends, we may see an end to the possibility of future declines."

Madigan won't testify before Investigating Committee

BY CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

House Speaker Michael Madigan said Friday, Sept. 25, he will not voluntarily testify before the House Special Investigating Committee that is probing his role in a bribery scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison.

In a two-and-a-half-page letter to the committee, Madigan called the committee "a political stunt" being orchestrated by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, and said the ongoing federal criminal investigation, "is more important than Mr. Durkin's political theatrics."

"For the record, I am not exercising my Fifth Amendment rights by not appearing before the committee," Madigan wrote. "As I have said before, I have done nothing wrong."

Madigan, a Chicago Democrat and the longest serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history, was implicated in the bribery scheme in July when officials with ComEd entered a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office in which they admitted that over a period of years, they awarded jobs and contracts to close associates of Madigan in order to curry his favor for legislation that benefited the company.

Madigan has not been charged, and the deferred prosecution agreement did

not explicitly state that he had personally requested the favors or had direct knowledge of them at the time. He is referred to only as "Public Official A," although the agreement makes clear the public official is the speaker of the Illinois House.

Republicans have filed a charge under House rules accusing him of "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust." During the committee's first meeting Sept. 10, GOP members introduced a list of witnesses they wanted to testify voluntarily. The list included Madigan along with several past and current employees of ComEd.

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Unemployment claims increase 13% in a week

There were 29,390 initial unemployment claims for the week ending Sept. 26, which was an increase of 3,414, or 13%, from the week prior, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security. New claims were more than four times higher than the same period a year ago.

Nationally, there were 837,000 initial claims for the same period, a decrease of 36,000 from the week prior.

Continued claims in Illinois decreased by 6% from the week prior, to 502,314, a decrease of more than 34,000 as COVID-19 and associated economic restrictions continue to wreak havoc on the job market.

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Nearly \$700 raised for local food pantries



A GOLF CART parade on Sept. 12 in Shadow Lakes raised \$690 in cash and over \$2,000 worth of non-perishable food items for local food pantries. Other golf carts were decorated with the themes of dinosaurs, Rick and Morty, an ice cream truck, American themed and more. Pictured: Greg Machak in front of his winning pirate ship themed golf cart with Braidwood Police Chief Todd Lyons.

Elks offer free children's orthopedic assessment

The Joliet Elks 296 in cooperation with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation will sponsor a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The clinic is from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and is by appointment only.

To make an appointment call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. There are no charges for any services at this clinic.

The Elks will hold the clinic at Hinsdale Orthopedic, 951 Essington Road in Joliet. Dr. Bradley Dworsky will be the clinician in charge.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

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Community calendar of events

To submit your event here, visit www.freepressnewspapers.com

Thursday, October 8

- 8 to 11:45 a.m., Community Care Center, 112 S. Center St., Braidwood, food pantry open on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Tuesdays from 8 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m., Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., open Monday through Friday
- 9 a.m. to noon, Our Caring Closet, 205 N. First St., Wilmington, open every Tuesday and Thursday, one member of each family allowed, patrons must wear a face mask, social distance, answer health questionnaire, and no children allowed unless otherwise approved
- 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Coal City Food Pantry, Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City, open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m., for questions call 815-216-3288
- 5 to 7 p.m., Will County electronics recycling, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7 p.m., Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District meeting, 104 W. Main St., Braidwood

Saturday, October 10

- 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Haunted Lolli Land Drive-Thru Toy Drive, First Christian Church, 455 W. Southmore Road, Morris, to benefit Grundy County Heroes & Helpers, admission: new unwrapped toys or \$20 per person, reservation required at wendy@gchhinc.org, closed from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Area Historical Society Museum open, 111 N. Center St., each Saturday
- 5 to 8:30 p.m., Godley Circle Jam, Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St., Godley

Sunday, October 11

- 6 to 7:30 p.m., NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group meeting, online on zoom, register at www.namiwillgrundy.org/online-support-groups, each Sunday

Monday, October 12

- 4:30 p.m., Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition meeting, virtual meeting on Zoom, find information on Coalition Facebook page, second Monday of each month

Tuesday, October 13

- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Police & ESDA Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St, second Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, 141 W. Main St., second and fourth Tuesday of each month
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Ordinance & Licensing Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., second Tuesday of each month

Wednesday, October 14

- 7:45 A.M., TOPS 1024 meeting, Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St., Wilmington,
- 5:30 p.m., Wilmington Buildings, Grounds, Parks, Health & Safety Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 6 p.m., Wilmington Water, Sewer, Streets & Alleys Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
- 7:30 p.m., Wilmington School District 209U Board of Education meeting, Wilmington High School, 209 Wildcat Court

Thursday, October 15

- 6:30 p.m., Wilmington Township Board of Trustees meeting, Wilmington Township Office, 120 N. Main St., Wilmington

Friday, October 16

- 4 to 5 p.m., Top Fuel Saloon Food Pantry, 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood, held on the first and third Friday of each month

Tuesday, October 20

- 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
- 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.

Wednesday, October 21

- 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
- 6 p.m., Custer Fire Protection District Board meeting, Camelot Education cafeteria, 35445 S. Washington St., Custer Park, third Wednesday of each month
- 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer School District Administration Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

IL paying down credit card debt

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

With the economy showing signs of life despite the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinoisans were among the leaders nationally in paying down credit card debt.

According to the personal finance website WalletHub, Illinois ranked fifth in the nation in paying down debt in the second quarter of this year. Analyst Jill Gonzalez says the pandemic and the tumultuous

job market forced people to take a hard look at the finances.

"I think that job security was top of mind, so even if they did not lose their job and lucky enough to hold onto to them, I think they were spending as if they were unsure of the future," Gonzalez said.

WalletHub's quarterly credit card studies are based on analysis of the latest data on consumers' finances available from TransUnion as well as the Federal Reserve and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

According to the study, the average household in Illinois owes \$8,339 in credit card debt, following a \$491 decrease in the second quarter. Nationally, U.S. consumers paid down \$58.1 billion in credit card debt. That followed a record first-quarter pay down of \$60 billion. As a result, WalletHub now projects that U.S. consumers will end the year with a slight reduction in credit card debt for the first time since the end of the Great Recession in 2009.

Gonzalez said spending in the fourth quarter of the year will increase, but will fall far short of last year's numbers.

"I think we are already expecting about a 40 percent drop than usual," Gonzalez said. "I think we will see the spending pick up in the fourth quarter, but hopefully we see the paydown continue as well."

California, Texas and Florida ranked first, second

and third, respectively, for the most credit card debt pay-down in the country, while the bottom three were Vermont, Wyoming and North Dakota.

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ESTATE SALES

21407 W. County Road, Wilmington. Fri., Oct. 9th & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-3pm. Baby items, home decor, furniture, toys, bikes, grill, yard tools, work shop misc. cc41ab

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Free - 5 black/tiger striped kittens, 3 female, 2 male, 6-7 weeks old and litter trained. Call or text 815-474-7908. fr40b-42a

GARAGE SALE

1003 N. Joliet St., Wilmington, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 9am-2pm, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-?, Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-?, Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-1pm. Six family sale - new born, XL men's & women's clothing, girls & boys clothing, Halloween outfits, towels and blankets. Lots of stuff. It is cheap. fr41b

155 W. Walnut, Coal City, Wed., Oct. 7th from 3pm-6:30pm, Thurs., Oct. 8th from 10am-3pm and Fri., Oct. 9th from 10am-2pm. Girl's juniors clothing, antiques & primitive decor, home & outdoor decor, Christmas, Fox racing boots & gear. Barnwood cabinet & other unique items, roll top desk, love seat, oak TV trays, go-cart frames. ck41ab

GARAGE SALE

145 South Kenard St., Braidwood, Thurs., & Fri., Oct. 8th & 9th from 9am-4pm. You've been asking for it and now it's here! Seller works at The Buckle! Women's small through XL & maternity clothing, Under armor & Nike boys clothing, new Halloween costumes, household items new IB, toys, crib and changing table, power wheel, and lots more! cc41ab

985 Maple St., Wilmington, Sat., Oct. 10th and Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-2pm. Kids toys, TONS of girls clothes sizes 8-14/16, Women's clothing, women's plus size clothing, all seasons and in good condition-smoke free home. cc41b

180 S. Railroad St., Braidwood, Thursday through Sunday, October 15, 16, 17, & 18 from 8am-5pm. Tools, lots of misc. Too much to list. cc41a-42b

388 E. Main St., Braidwood, Fri., Oct. 9th from 9am-5pm & Sat., Oct. 10th from 9am-1pm. Best junk ever! Local old bottles, geodes, crystals, primitives, tools, antiques, old fishing lures, jewelry, love seat, crocks, fall, canopies, costumes, blankets, kitchen, everything you might need. Mask up. ca41ab

The last sale of the year! Fri., Oct. 9th, Sat., Oct. 10th & Sun., Oct. 11th from 9am-2pm. Located at Bay Hill Marina, 6555 North Will Road, Wilmington. Interstate 55 to Lorenzo Rd, head west to County Line/Will Road and turn right, follow that until it ends and we're on the left. If you're coming from Rt 47 take Pine Bluff Rd to County Line/Will Rd and turn left, go to the end of the road and we're on the left! We have something for everyone. Tools, parts, furniture, girl's canopy bedroom set, generators, boats, cars, 6 table and chair sets & lots more, too much to list! cc41ab

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Joliet Optometric Practice seeks experienced candidate. High School Diploma or equivalent; minimum 3 years optometric/optical experience. Availability to work most Saturdays and some evenings. Good attendance record is a must. Great interpersonal and customer service skills. Multi task, answer phones to schedule patients and answer general questions. Willingness and flexibility to learn and adapt in a variety of situations. Eagerly assist others to increase office efficiency. Check eligibility for vision and eye health insurances. Provide the most appropriate selections for the patient. Ability to sell premium lenses, glasses and contact lenses. Skilled to fit, adjust, dispense, and inspect glasses before dispensing. Knowledge of inventory and product availability. Desire to help promotion and growth of the business. Compensation negotiable based on skill level and experience. Excellent opportunity for challenge to build the practice, and as a result, your income. Possible advancement to management position. Competitive wages. Resumes only with email addresses. Respond: adforhelpwanted@yahoo.com

Experienced carpenter needed. Must have motivation and transportation. Pay based on knowledge & capability. Call 815-634-4136. cc38a-41b

Full-time, experienced Stylist wanted. Chair rental. Elwood, IL. Email inquiries/resume to Haircode@att.net. cc41b-45a

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OTTAWA Plaintiff, -v- JESSICA J. ALLEN A/K/A JESSICA ALLEN et al Defendant 2020CH30 NOTICE OF SALE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 18, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 9:00 AM on November 4, 2020, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street front door entrance, MORRIS, IL, 60450, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Commonly known as 1320 W PRAIRIE ROAD, MAZON, IL 60444 Property Index No. 08-29-400-002 The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGA-

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Madigan's stronghold isn't what it used to be

It's well known that the Illinois House Republicans (along with pretty much all Illinois Republicans) are using House Speaker Michael Madigan's bad reputation to bludgeon their Democratic opponents.

Madigan has been enormously unpopular in Illinois, and it's probably worse now because he's been in the news so much during the long federal investigation into ComEd and the company's resulting deferred prosecution agreement with the US Attorney in Chicago.

A special House investigating committee has been impaneled to take testimony about the federal probe and consider whether to discipline Madigan for "conduct unbecoming a legislator," which is helping to keep him in the news.

And add the more recent news about Democratic Rep. Stephanie Kifowit's announcement last week that she will run against Madigan for speaker in January and it's been a complete media circus for the longtime pol.

Kifowit has not yet identified any allies and isn't exactly an odds-on favorite to defeat Madigan. She's votes more

conservative than many in the House Democratic caucus. She was the only House "Present" vote on the minimum wage increase bill and she hired a public relations person who is raising money for the Republican opponent of Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, putting her at odds with her party, the Black Caucus and labor unions which fund the Democrats.

But the mere fact that she stood up and announced her bid is an indication of how Madigan's political strength is not what it used to be.

Anyway, the last time the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute polled Speaker Madigan's job approval rating was last year. It found 71 percent disapproved of the way Madigan did his job while only 20 percent approved - a 51-point difference.

Those results weren't all that different from the same poll's question on whether Illinoisans supported a new state tax on retirement income.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

73 percent opposed it while 23 percent supported - a 50-point margin.

Normally, opposition to a retirement income tax is an easy lay-up for Illinois legislators in both parties. Just score some no-brainer points with the folks back home and move on to the next question.

But some brainiacs always want to start a "discussion," and it often blows up in their faces.

This time, it's blowing up in others' faces.

"One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income," Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat, told the Daily Herald back in June. "And, I think that's something that's worth discussion."

Frerichs' quote has opened the door to House Republican attack mailers in numerous districts against Democrats who voted "Yes" on the graduated income tax last year and also against Democratic House candidates in general.

"Mary Edly-Allen supports the tax hike amendment," one recent GOP mailer exclaimed about the freshman Democratic state Representative from Libertyville. "Her Springfield pals admit the amendment would open the door to a brand-new tax on retirement income. That means your pension, your 401(k) plan, and your retirement plan would be taxed and sent straight to Springfield."

The mailers are being sent to other districts (Metro East and southern Illinois, for example) where the tax is also

not polling great. But, said one House Republican source of the tax issue, "We're talking about that everywhere."

The mailers have the added benefit of ginning up opposition to Gov. JB Pritzker's "Fair Tax" constitutional amendment, which House Republican Leader Jim Durkin has vowed to defeat. So, it's a twofer.

"Politician Janet Yang Rohr wants to tax your retirement income," another Republican mailer warns about Rep. Grant Wehrli's (R-Naperville) Democratic opponent.

"Yang Rohr is backing the graduated income tax. This plan would not only raise taxes on the middle class, but also on retirees. The State Treasurer has admitted this is a tax on retirees. There's no question that ordinary people will suffer. Protect your retirement. Vote 'No' on Janet Yang Rohr."

To be fair, if Treasurer Frerichs hadn't said what he said, the Republicans would've found another way to make the same argument. But Frerichs did make it easier.

And Gov. Pritzker can't really complain about taking somebody's mention of a graduated tax on retirement income and twisting it into an attack on all retirement income taxation because he did the very same thing in the 2018 Democratic primary. His top two Democratic opponents, Chris Kennedy and Daniel Biss, both tentatively supported a tax on upper-income retirees, but Pritzker distorted that into TV ads claiming the two wanted to tax all retirement income.

Karma can be problematic.

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

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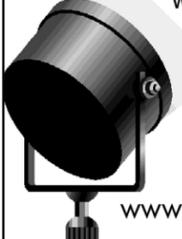
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WHS seniors of the week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate intends to feature two or three seniors from the Class of 2021. The first set of seniors are Kaitlynn Lynn, Gabrielle Mathus, and Kinsey Roth.

Kaitlynn Lynn

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan to go to school at the University of Iowa. I am still undecided on whether I want to pursue nursing or teaching.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Cheer and dressage (horse riding)

What is one thing most people don't know about you? Many people don't know that I own a lot of farm animals like chickens, a horse, turkeys, a pig, and a goat.

During the home quarantine I did a lot of... Eating

What is your favorite thing to eat? Tacos for sure

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Mrs. Barnes because she truly is the best teacher I've ever had and I am going to miss her the most when I graduate. Also Mr. Miller because he's one of the most relatable teachers and I feel like he really cares for his students.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Abe Lincoln, he has been and always will be my favorite president. He seems like he was a very good man and I would just like to talk to him once.

If you could create a class,



KAITLYNN LYNN

what would it be? I would create a class where students could learn how to do taxes, how to build credit, how to cook, and other simple things like that.

Funniest memory from high school? When the boys get to become cheerleaders during homecoming week, I will never forget that. Definitely my favorite time of the year.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Soak it all up. High school flies by, and before you know it, you'll be a senior and you'll want to go back. Live in the moment and do your homework.

Gabrielle Mathus

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan on pursuing forensic science and criminology after high school.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? I'm really good at writing and I love doing anything creative.

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I can prop up my legs on my elbows and walk around like



GABRIELLE MATHUS

that, so I guess being a Cirque du Soleil performer is a good back up career.

During the home quarantine I did a lot of... cooking during weird hours of the night.

What is your favorite thing to eat? A steak bowl at Chipotle with hot sauce.

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... teachers Beth Mosier and Jessica Carey, and all of the custodians!

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Ruth Bader Ginsburg or John Mulaney. They are both big role models for me and I think the conversations would be amazing. However, I would also be down to meet Harry Styles.

If you could create a class, what would it be? A life skills class to prepare students for things like college applications or how to create a resume.

Funniest memory from high school? Pretty much all of the memories from the musical or speech over the years.

What advice would you



KINSEY ROTH

give to underclassmen? Take APUSH, study, and join clubs!

Kinsey Roth

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? College for four years

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Binge watching Grey's Anatomy

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I really like to watch baseball and Kris Bryant.

During the home quarantine I did a lot of... Sleeping in.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Anything from New China Restaurant.

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... teacher Chad Farrell!

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Kris Bryant because he is hot.

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

Funniest memory from high school? Racing back to school after outdoor ed

What advice would you give to underclassman? Have fun, it goes by fast.

Students asked not to use service road

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

The service road connecting Wilmington High School, Wilmington Middle School and Stevens Intermediate School is off limits to all bikers and walkers.

The service road is used for buses, cafeteria services, and ground and maintenance crew to travel between the schools.

"We need that road to get our buses over there in the quickest and safest manner possible," commented WHS Principal Scott Maupin.

Kids walking or riding bikes on the service road creates a safety issue and

slows the buses down on their way to pick up the middle school students.

Maupin suggests that students walk along Ridge Street to get from school to school instead of on the service road.

The possibility of a sidewalk being put in along the service road has not been discussed, but Maupin likes the idea. "Not a bad idea, maybe in the future," he commented.

Students have been reminded not to use the service road every day on the school's announcements, and it has been posted on Facebook.

"For the most part, kids are cooperating," said Maupin.



THE BLACKTOP ROAD cutting behind Wilmington Middle School and Steven's Intermediate School to the high school is now off limits for walkers and bikers between the schools. For safety's sake, students are asked to take a different route so buses can use the service road.

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The Braidwood Journal (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....	1,166
The Coal City Courant (by mail, electronic subscription and newsstands).....	1,904
The Prairie Shopper (by mail to these communities: Braidwood, Custer Park, Coal City, Carbon Hill, Diamond, Elwood, Essex, Mazon, Morris rural routes (Goose Lake), Ritchie, Symerton & Wilmington).....	14,504
Total	19,503

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Eric D. Fisher, Publisher. Date: Sept. 30, 2020
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Lunch menus this week

- Mon., Oct. 12:** Columbus Day, No School
 - Tues., Oct. 13:** Mini chicken tacos, corn, Rice Krispie Treat, apple slices and peanut butter, choice of milk
 - Wed., Oct. 14:** Chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese, baby carrots, apricots, choice of milk
 - Thu., Oct. 15:** Chicken Alfredo, romaine salad, roll and butter, peaches in Jell-O, choice of milk
 - Fri., Oct. 16:** BBQ rib on bun, celery sticks, cheddar sun chips, mixed fruit, choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

Attorney Lynch files Schulte 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 GLEN W. SCHULTE, Deceased; No. 20 P 727

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Glen W. Schulte. Letters of Office were issued to Gregory S. Schulte whose address is 26442 Melissa Drive, Channahon, Illinois 60410, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Glen W. Schulte, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Day 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 BONNIE DAY, Deceased; No. 20 P 723

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Bonnie Day. Letters of Office were issued to Amelia L. Johnson whose address is 20 Abbeywood Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Bonnie Day, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Voss 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 BERNICE A. VOSS, Deceased; No. 20P598

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Bernice A. Voss. Letters of Office were issued to Dianna L. Anderson whose address is 21964 South River Road, Shorewood, Illinois, 60404 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 23rd day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Bernice A. Voss, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 23, 30 and October 7, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Newcomb 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 STEVE E. NEWCOMB, Deceased; No. 20 P 721

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Steve E. Newcomb. Letters of Office were issued to Gary R. Newcomb, whose address is 2730 Flora Hills Drive, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 63701, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Steve E. Newcomb, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Spotofora 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 JACK SPOTOFORA, JR, Deceased; No. 20P724

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Jack Spotofora, Jr. Letters of Office were issued to Candice Setina whose address is 1506 Catherine Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Jack Spotofora, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, October 7, October 14 and 21, 2020.

Scholz files for dissolution of marriage

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY
In the matter of the Dissolution of Marriage of Tracy L. Scholz, petitioner vs. David C. Scholz, respondent. Case No. 20 D 1235

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, DAVID C. SCHOLZ, Respondent, that this case has been commenced in this court by the Petitioner against you for dissolution of marriage and other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the clerk of this court, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, on or before November 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

Andrea Lynn Chasteen
Will County Circuit Clerk

Attorney Robert O' Dekirk #6284353
O'Dekirk, Allred & Associates, LLC
58 E. Clinton Street, 5th Floor
Joliet, IL 60432

PH: 815-740-1700
FAX: 815-723-5686
Email: info@odekirkllaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, September 23, 30 and October 7, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Stonitsch 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 DIANE L. STONITSCH, Deceased; No. 20 P 728

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Diane L. Stonitsch. Letters of Office were issued to Rita Saxon, whose address is 425 Apollo Drive, Joliet, Illinois, 60435, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Diane L. Stonitsch, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Lett files petition for adoption

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS,
COUNTY OF WILL,
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
No. 2020 AD 57

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF: PAUL LETT AND NICOLE LETT

ADOPTIVE Parents,
TO ADOPT DOROTHY LEANNE TINA LETT A Minor

Case No. 2020 AD 57

ADOPTION NOTICE
To: All Whom It May Concern

Take notice that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Will County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named DOROTHY LEANNE TINA LETT, born June 25, 2020. Now, therefore, unless all whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Room 2, located at the River Valley Justice Center, 3200 McDonough Street, in the City of Joliet, Illinois, on or before the 19th day of October, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

McSwain, Nage & Giese, P.C.
Attorney for Petitioners
400 S. Knoll Street, Suite AB
Wheaton, Illinois 60187
(607)407-1200
service@mngfamilylaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, September 23, 30 and October 7, 2020.

The keepers of school records

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

Records are not only hard to achieve, they can be hard to find

Fifteen weeks ago, the Free Press Newspapers published the first "For The Record" story which turned into a series reporting on record holders among athletes at Wilmington, Reed-Custer and Coal City high schools.

We quickly gained an appreciation for coaches and athletic directors who have kept these records current.

You can't just do a Google search for say "Reed-Custer high school records" and have them at your fingertips. Same, for example, for Wilmington High School soccer or Coal City volleyball.

Oftentimes it took a lot of digging.

We credit the Wilmington Catbackers Football Club for keeping football stats up-to-date, at least for the past 28 years. We also thank the Coal City football program for keeping individual stats current and available.

The Reed-Custer football records is where we ran into a problem. There have been five different coaches over the past 10 years and somewhere along the line the record books were lost.

"Those were kept by the head coaches and passed along," said Reed-Custer Athletic Director Chuck Anderson. But there came a coaching change at some point when that didn't happen.

"What I've been trying to do since I've been here each season is have the coaches keep track of them and if there are any changes, let me know so I can keep track of them," Anderson said.

While the coaches gather the stats throughout the season, in the end it's the athletic directors who become the keepers of the records.

"There wasn't like a set file I could go to gather the information. I did some digging and gathering when I came here and tried to contact former coaches, and see what they had."

He said the school has benefited in other sports when there were tenured coaches.

"With baseball, for instance, when Jerry Cougill was here, it was continuity so he had all that stuff," Anderson commented. "It's different than other situations when you have seven or eight coaches in one sport. Usually when somebody leaves the district, trying to get that information is hard. That was one of the first things I did when I took over was try to find some of that stuff."

He learned how valuable it is to keep good records too. Like in 2015 when they were inputting information on the Illinois High School Association's website to see if the boys basketball team set a record for three-point shots.

"I usually update the records on IHSA," said Anderson. "When we booked a barrage for national three point makes back in the mid 2015s, we had to do a lot of digging and the coaches brought that to me and said, 'hey, I think we broke a record here' so we had to dig, contact the National Federation and then when I found out we were stacked with IHSA, I sent it to the IHSA."

Coal City Athletic Director Dan Hutchings deals with the similar problems with keeping records but the Coalers do it the same way. They check with the coaches at the end of the season.

"It can be challenging to keep the records," said Hutchings. "But it should be up to each and every coach and they can pass it onto the coach that succeeds them."

With coaches using different technology for stat taking, it can be hard to keep track of the records.

"It's hard to do that because every coach has a different platform and it's not like we have the time to go back and do those stats from 1980s. We kind of have an idea who is like an 1,000-point scorer in basketball. Those are nice things to have but it's hard to do."

At Wilmington, Wilmington AD Brian Goff tries to keep up with records but sometimes the turnover of coaches in some sports pres-

Write in your WHS football Dream Team players

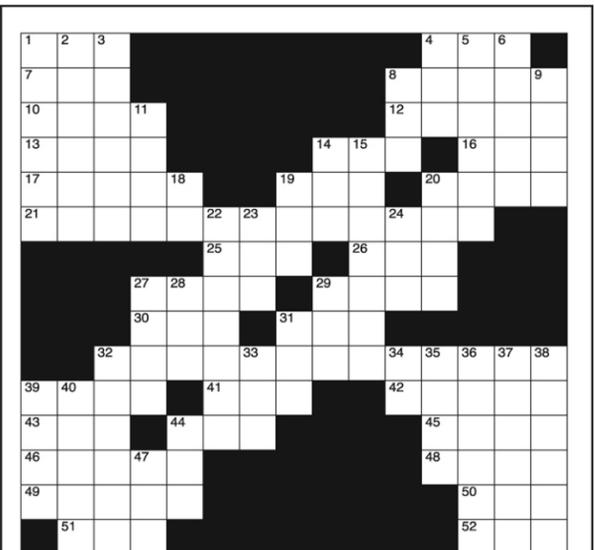
	First pick	Second pick		First pick	Second pick
Quarterback	_____	_____	Defensive End	_____	_____
Running back	_____	_____	Defensive End	_____	_____
Fullback	_____	_____	Defensive Tackle	_____	_____
Wide Receiver	_____	_____	Defensive Tackle	_____	_____
Wide Receiver	_____	_____	Nose Tackle	_____	_____
Tight End	_____	_____	Middle Linebacker	_____	_____
Tight End	_____	_____	Outside Linebacker	_____	_____
Center	_____	_____	Outside Linebacker	_____	_____
Guard	_____	_____	Cornerback	_____	_____
Tackle	_____	_____	Cornerback	_____	_____
Tackle	_____	_____	Free Safety	_____	_____
Guard	_____	_____	Strong Safety	_____	_____
Kick Returner	_____	_____	Kicker	_____	_____
Coach	_____	_____	Punter	_____	_____

Once complete email to sports@fpnusa.com or mail to 111 S. Water St, Wilmington, IL 60481 or 271 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL 60416



File Photo by Eric Fisher

THE WILMINGTON FOOTBALL team comes out of the woods during a home game introduction in 2018. The For the Record series has inspired us to seek out Dream Team nominations of past and present Wildcat football players.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. They look out for kids
- 4. Play
- 7. Water (French)
- 8. Prayer leader
- 10. Small constellation
- 12. ___ Carta: influential royal charter
- 13. Pressure unit
- 14. Extrasensory perception
- 16. A symbol of "Aloha"
- 17. Portion of the small intestine
- 19. Psychedelic amphetamine
- 20. Very long period of time
- 21. British overseas territory
- 25. Cereal grain
- 26. Car mechanics group
- 27. Wish harm upon
- 29. At a specific prior time
- 30. Peyton's younger brother
- 31. UK firefighters' union
- 32. Carroll O'Connor's screen partner
- 39. Popular show honoring musicians
- 41. Basics
- 42. Honk
- 43. Trent Reznor's band
- 44. Patti Hearst's captors
- 45. Long-legged wading bird
- 46. Specialized biological grouping
- 48. A coin goes in it
- 49. Of the wind
- 50. One-time measure of length
- 51. A very large body of water
- 52. River in NE Scotland

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Boston hoopster
- 2. A type of bribe
- 3. SE England county
- 4. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 5. "Hotel California" rockers
- 6. Italian province
- 8. Mischievous child
- 9. Popular street name
- 11. Boxing promoter Bob
- 14. Snakelike fish
- 15. Break into pieces
- 18. The Bay State
- 19. Time zone
- 20. Port city in Yemen
- 22. In name only
- 23. 007's creator
- 24. No (Scottish)
- 27. Baseball's Gordon and rock's Snider are two
- 28. Pie ___ mode
- 29. Don't know when yet
- 31. Supervises interstate commerce
- 32. Make a ringing metallic sound
- 33. Helps little firms
- 34. Pound
- 35. Lilly and Manning are two
- 36. Put on the back burner
- 37. Baltimore ballplayer
- 38. Cuddle
- 39. Poker stake
- 40. Drinks to celebrate a birth (Spanish)
- 44. Pouch
- 47. Not around

ents challenges.

"We try to get the numbers right with the coaches but with the changes of coaches, that becomes an issue," said Goff. "Some of these coaches kept it on pen and paper, and others on floppy discs so those were hard to find."

For overall season records the IHSA.org website is a great source. Team information on the site is updated by athletic directors and coaches. It includes season records broken down for each team, playoff appearances, placings for each season and more. With the exception of state record holders, individual school record holders are not available.

Strides in digitizing individual stats have been made with web-based sports sites like Gamechanger, Max Preps and Illinois Matmen. They tally up player stats from game results but again, the problem is not all coaches utilize these services.

Another problem for athletic directors is records aren't always inclusive of the early years. For example Wilmington football dates back 73 seasons, Coal City 42 and Reed-Cuser 41, so there are some gaps. The question becomes do you post what you have?

One thing learned is that fans have a strong interest in current records. The feedback we got from publishing the series was terrific with comments from past players, teachers and parents.

When we came up short on RCHS football stats it was encouraging to know a couple of moms in the Touchdown Club were combing through back copies of the Braidwood Journal hoping to gather stats from games dating back to 1980. The task is a big under-

taking.

To pull together the most recent years for Comet football we relied upon Maxpreps which has the seasons from 2016-17 to current. IHSA got us team records but we wanted more so we went the old-fashioned route, past newspapers.

We went through the last 17 years of football stories in our archives, pulling passing stats, rushing stats, receiving stats and sometimes even defensive stats when they were accurate.

After compiling every game from every year, we focused on the five best rushers, the five best passers, the five best receivers and some return men. We even compiled all-purpose yards which used a mention of all four of those components of the game (rushing, receiving, passing, return yards).

It took us countless hours and 15 weeks to complete the For the Record series and it was worth it during a time when real sports was sidelined during the coronavirus.

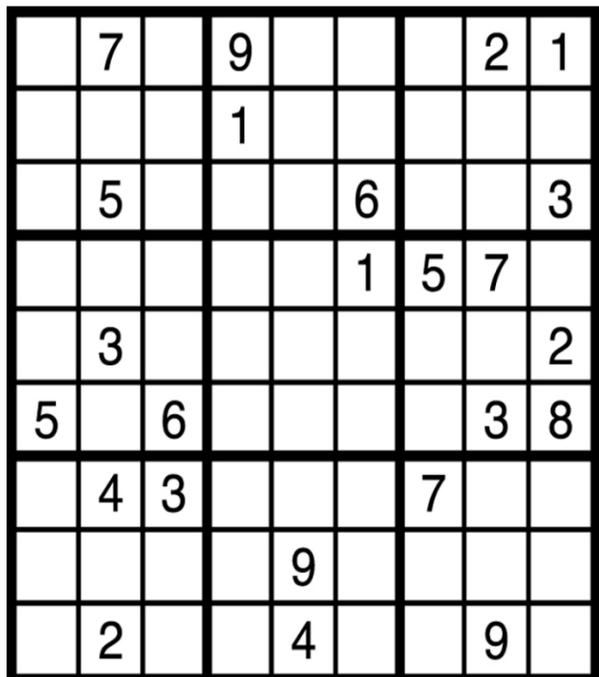
Now, we need a new project.

In the spirit of the NFL football season and fantasy football, we got to thinking it would be great if there was a fantasy football team or "dream team" for each high school sports teams.

The first sport up is football.

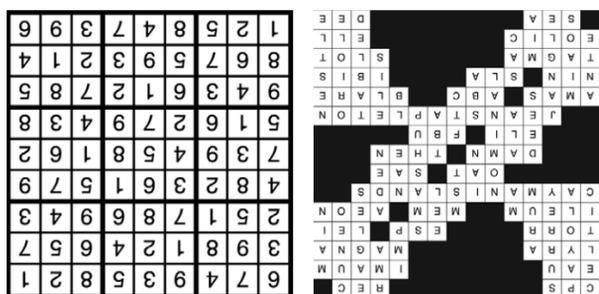
Below you will find a chart with offensive and defensive positions with lines to fill in the blanks. Complete it, cut it out and send it back into us at 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

The responses will be utilized for a final summary of dream teams.



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

This week's puzzle answers



For the Record: Best Lady 'Cat basketball players

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington girls basketball program has been

around for 43 years ever since coach Don Roach led the inaugural team to a 6-10 season. Since then, they've had one regional championship

(1979-80, 20-6) and currently have 193 victories. And there have been years of talented players who left their mark in the forms of school records.

This week, The Free Press Advocate thumbs through the record books to reveal the top scorers, best rebounders and more.

The top scorer in a season was 2009 graduate Tara Spell, who turned it on during her senior year with 432 points.

Spell finished her career at WHS with 1,498 points, averaging almost 20 points per game that year.

Spell scored 12 points to set the new record with 28 seconds remaining in a game against Coal City.

Second on the list is Jessoni Plese, who had the previous record for career points with 1,403 when she broke Jenny DeZee's points record on January 5, 2005. Plese scored 25 to top the record and added another 236 points throughout the remainder of the season to set a new mark.

During Plese's senior season, the sure-footed point guard averaged 17 points per game when the Lady 'Cats had a 15-11 record, falling to Bishop McNamara in the regional championship game.

She currently has the second most points in a season, with 411.

DeZee is third all-time on the scoring list, when she reached 1,166 points during the 1999-2000 season.

Claire Rink, a 2020 graduate, scored 248 points during her senior year to finish with 741 career points.

A 2020 graduate Chloe Sanford scored 725 points while at Wilmington. Sanford banked in 365 points during the 2019-20 season. That's currently the third best mark in Lady 'Cat history.

Kacie Helfrich, a 2005 graduate, is fourth best in a season, scoring 307 points in her senior year.

Second chance points

Spell also holds the record for the most career rebounds, pulling down 1,117 from 2006-09.

There was a report that the closest during the 1980's was Jori Spolarich, who collected 225 rebounds so that just speaks to how amazing Spell's record was and still is.

Spell reached 1,100 rebounds in the same Feb. 3 game against the Lady Coalers and no one has come close since.

Spell pulled down over 300



File Photo

WILMINGTON'S Tara Spell is the all-time leader in rebounds, grabbing over 1,000 boards from 2006-09.



File Photo

FORMER LADY 'CAT Kaitlin Nolan holds the record for three-point shots made during a single season.

boards during her senior season. That currently stands as the best.

Rink recorded 608 boards during her four seasons at WHS for second best on the list. Rink collected 201 during her senior year to go over 600 rebounds.

Sanford is third with 559 career rebounds during her four seasons. Sanford recorded 250 rebounds during the 2019-20 season which is currently the second most in a season.

A 2005 graduate, Megan Flatt has the third most rebounds in a season, collecting 230 during 2004-05. Flatt collected 382 rebounds during her final two seasons.

Helfrich collected 228, good for fourth on the list while Rink pulled down 201 to round out the top five.

Quick hands

Which Lady 'Cat was known best for her quick hands on defense?

Plese set the standard for most steals in a season with 80 during the 2004-05 season.

Rink is second on the list with 70 steals in 2018. Rink also had 61 steals during her sophomore season.

Spell picked up 55 steals during 2006-07 while Liz Alberico finished her Lady 'Cat career with 91 steals. That's

good for third all-time. Rink has the all-time mark for thievery.

Behind her was Spell, who stole 92 during her Lady 'Cat career.

Three-point queen

The best three-point shooter in Wilmington girls basketball history is Kaitlin Nolan, who made 87 during the 2008-09 season. Nolan would knock down two to three treys in a game.

Behind her was Plese, who drilled 43 long range shots during her senior season.

Erin Murphy rounds out the top three-long range shooters as she knocked down 21 threes during 2007-08.

Best at blocking

The best overall blocker in Lady 'Cat history is Karleigh Cherveney, who swatted away 95 during her time on varsity.

It wasn't uncommon for Cherveney to get five blocks a game. In fact, three was her average.

Spell ranks second with 81 blocked shots. She would have games with two blocks and then a game with 11 blocks like she did in 2006.

Rounding out the list for most blocks was Sanford, who collected 46 during her time as a Lady 'Cat.

Reed-Custer, Wilmington, Coal City vie in golf regionals

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington and Reed-Custer golf teams competed the same regional yesterday while Coal City was paired up against bigger schools as the Illinois High School Association adjusted the golf playoffs due to the coronavirus.

Only the top four individuals and top two teams advance to the sectional this year. Under normal conditions the top three teams and the

top 10 golfers advance.

The Wildcats and Comets compete Tuesday in the Grant Park Regional with Beecher, Crete (Illinois Lutheran), Donovan, Grant Park, Momence, Ottawa (Marquette), Peotone, Seneca and St. Anne.

The Coalers traveled to Lisle (Benet Academy) against Darien (Hinsdale South), Joliet Catholic Academy, Lemont, Lisle Benet, Manteno and New Lenox (Providence Catholic).

Results from both meets were unavailable as of press time.



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