

Ritchie in its heyday,
Summer 1882



Wilmington readies
for the Bulldogs



\$1.00

Vol. 48, Issue 41
1 section • 14 pages
Not over 75% advertising
www.freepressadvocate.com

FREE PRESS ADVOCATE .COM

WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER (815) 476-7966

Officers treated on scene after fire rescue

STAFF REPORT

Two Wilmington police officers were treated for smoke inhalation after responding to a weekend fire at an apartment complex on First Street.

The incident happened in the early morning hours of Saturday, Oct. 8.

The Wilmington Police Department and the Wilmington Fire Protection District responded to a

structure fire at a multi-unit apartment complex in the 300 block of N. First Street. While en route to the scene, dispatch advised of heavy smoke emitting from an apartment and the fire originated from a bedroom.

According to a release from the WPD, Officers Curtis Knippen and Eric Runions were first on scene.

"Displaying exceptional and brave action, risking life or bodily injury in performance of duty, [the

officers] ran inside of the burning building and began evacuating tenants from adjacent apartments," the release stated. "None of the tenants sustained any life-threatening injuries as a direct result of the gallant efforts of both officers."

Officers Knippen and Runions were each treated from smoke inhalation and subsequently released at the scene.

While conducting fire suppression duties, Wilmington Fire

Protection District personnel were alerted to an occupant still inside their apartment.

Forced entry was made into the second-floor apartment window and the occupant was rescued via ladder after the tenant's normal means of egress from the apartment were cut off by heat and smoke conditions as a result of the fire.

In a joint statement, Fire Chief Tim Zlomie and Police Chief Joseph Mitchell stated that "our strong part-

nership of collaboration and training led to a response that ensured no casualties were the result of the fire."

Residents displaced by the fire were temporarily relocated to the ESDA building for shelter and assisted by the Red Cross.

The cause of the fire is under investigation by the Wilmington Fire Protection District.

Record attendance for Autumn Festival of Crafts



Photos by Eric Fisher

THE AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS organized by the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce attracted over 1,700 visitors Sunday to the North Island Park in Wilmington. That's nearly one-third more than last year during the second annual event. In addition to 48 vendors there was pumpkin decorating for kids, food trucks, and games for youth as the weather made for a perfect event. At right, Cylee Fuller Ragan holds what Ike Widner said could be the winning button in the Wilmington Chamber Fall Festival split the pot button drawing held Sunday on the North Island Park. Winner of button #257 claimed the prize money. Ragan and Widner volunteered under the Chamber tent during the second annual event.



Historical landmark ordinance forwarded to full City Council

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Wilmington City Council will consider a new ordinance to allow for local historic landmark designations, following a few tweaks to the original draft of the ordinance at the request of the city's Planning and Zoning Board.

Commissioners from the zoning board first reviewed a draft copy of the proposed ordinance in September. The ordinance would allow the city to designate properties, sites, structures, statues or other items in the city as historical landmarks.

The planning and zoning board continued the public hearing from September to the Oct. 6 meeting, asking for a few clarifications in the text. Namely, the participation of the property owner prior to any designation being made.

The ordinance sets forth several steps for the designation of local historic landmarks.

Per the proposal, any person, group, group of persons, association, the commission, or the city council may institute a request for a historic landmark designation for any structure or site in the city which may have historic significance.

Designation would first go before the Planning and

Zoning Board, which would provide notice to the property owner, and give them the opportunity to be heard at a public hearing.

The board will recommend approval or denial of designation as a public landmark, but the final decision will be left to the City Council.

One change added to the proposal since it was first introduced last month is that historic landmark designation shall not be made if the designation is opposed by the property owner.

"There was much lively discussion at our last planning and zoning meeting, and there were requests for amendments to the draft ordinance," city administrator Jeannine Smith said. "The biggest concern was... that the designation of a historic landmark would not be made unless it is approved by the property owner. That was something the commission felt unanimously about."

While the city has identified several properties in town that could be considered as historical landmarks, including the Sinclair Dinosaur, the Mar, the Eagle Hotel, and the islands, it was an issue regarding the Gemini Giant that gave members of the commission pause.

While the Gemini Giant and the Launching Pad are

SEE LANDMARK, PAGE 2

Liquor license ordinance amended for additional full bar sales

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington has made an amendment to its code of ordinances that regulate liquor licenses, in order to make a change for the liquor license at Fox's Pizza.

The City Council approved the change during its Oct. 4 regular meeting.

"They want to go from beer and wine to a full bar," Mayor Ben Dietz explained regarding the change for the local pizzeria.

The ordinance amends the provisions of city code that impose restrictions on the number of liquor licenses that may be issued in the city.

Wilmington's code of ordinances allows a maximum number of licenses available for its various classifications of those liquor licenses. That means that when a new establishment wants a liquor license, or an existing business wants a change, the full council needs to approve a change in the restrictions on the number of licenses available before that license can be altered.

The city currently has 14 classes of liquor licenses avail-

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

Diamond Mine Disaster monument shines once again

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

On an unseasonably warm February day nearly 140 years ago, as the winter snowfall was melting quickly, a group of miners headed off for their daily routine inside the Diamond No. 2 Coal Mine.

But after the men

descended into the mineshaft on Feb. 16, 1883, disaster struck, as standing water from the melted snow swept into the mineshaft, quickly flooding the mine and trapping and killing 74 of the 185 miners who went to work that day.

After the tragedy, only 28 bodies were recovered, with the remaining victims left to

rest in the mine forever.

In 1898, a monument was erected to remember the men who perished in the disaster. And in 1926, the Braidwood Homecoming Committee dedicated a plaque to those victims at the site.

Now, 96 years since those names were first displayed at the memorial along Route 113

in Diamond, the plaque has been refreshed so those victims can continue to be remembered.

Braidwood resident Adam Beaty operates The Memorial Guardian, a cleaning, restoration and preserva-

SEE MINE, PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID 10/12/22-10/18/22

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

SIGN UP AND SAVE BIG WITH BERKOT'S LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM!
JOIN TODAY AT BERKOTFOODS.COM!

Berkot's Loyalty Rewards

SAVE \$2 PER LB WITH LOYALTY!

USDA CHOICE USDA Choice Semi-Boneless New York Strip Steaks (\$6.99/lb w/out loyalty) **\$4.99 PER LB with Loyalty**

SAVE \$2 PER LB WITH LOYALTY!

Raw, Peeled & Deveined Shrimp (\$5.99/lb w/out loyalty) **\$3.99 PER LB with Loyalty**

SAVE MONEY with loyalty

Landmark

local tourist attractions, members of the commission said that they were uneasy with the city identifying either as historical landmarks and subject to certain rules without the permission of the property owner.

"I think it makes sense so that we can work with [the property owner], and then we move it forward to the City Council for them to make the final call," commissioner Ivana Longest said, adding that while talk around the ordinance has centered around the Gemini Giant, she wants to see it used for preservation throughout the city.

"I think it's important... to have this designation as well for our entire community so that... it can open up other avenues," Longest added.

Per the proposed ordinance, the historic landmark designation "shall not be made if the designation is opposed by the property owners."

If the ordinance is passed, the city can then petition to the state to become a Certified Community. That designation would lead to the establishment of a special committee regarding historical preservation, and could potentially open up the possibilities for the city to apply for state and federal grant funds for preservation projects.

Should the full Council approve the ordinance, findings for designation of a

landmark structure and/or site will include the following criteria:

- Its character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the city, county, state, or the United States
- Its location as a site of a significant historic event
- Its identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture or development of the city, county, state or the United States
- Its exemplification of the cultural, economic, social or historic heritage of the city, county, state or the United States
- Its portrayal of the environment of a group in an era of history characterized by the distinctive architectural style
- Its embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type
- Its identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city, county, state or the United States
- Its embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation
- Its relationship to other distinctive areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on a historic, cultural or architectural motif
- Its unique location or singular physical characteristic representing an established or familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community or the city or county
- Its archaeological significance to

the community, city, county, state and the United States

- Its vernacular culture (utilitarian purpose without consideration of aesthetic value)
- Its economic and functional potential

The ordinance will make it unlawful for any person to construct, move, alter, change, make addition to, make any improvement to, add structures or buildings on a lot or tract with a designated historical landmark, demolish or remove the exterior or any aspect of the exterior of any designated historic landmark, unless the city has previously authorized such work.

Changing the color of a designated landmark will also be prohibited.

Per the ordinance, changes to those properties and structures outside of routine maintenance must also be presented to the zoning board for recommendation to the full council.

For those changes to be approved, the ordinance notes that said work should:

- Highlight or positively enhance any exterior architectural feature
 - Will not detract from those characteristics and qualities which deem the structure or site a landmark
 - Work will have a positive effect on the use of the landmark
 - Work is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation
- The full City Council is expected to vote on the ordinance later this month.

Mine

tion service for cemetery headstones and monuments. Beaty and his father spent about two hours earlier this month performing work to help the plaque and the monument shine once again.

"The monument underwent a thorough cleaning from top to bottom," Beaty explained. "The concrete steps were cleaned using a biological cleaner with no hazardous chemicals, non-abrasive brushes, distilled water, and good old fashioned elbow grease. All the labor was manual. The granite portions was cleaned and polished, and the bronze plaque was carefully cleaned to return the original bronze shine which also returned the legibility of the victims names."

Beaty said the frequency of cleaning of a monument like the Diamond Mine Disaster monument depends on several varying factors, including climate and weather conditions. He said a cleaning like the one performed this month should happen on a as needed basis, but regular maintenance annually with biological cleaners should keep an already clean monument looking good for many years.

After more than a century, it's hard for residents to reflect on a tragedy as cataclysmic as the Diamond Mine Disaster. Beaty hopes keeping the monument in tip top shape can help people remember those victims.

"In a time where more and more history is being erased, I firmly believe it's extremely important to keep this monument and monuments like it vibrant and view-



Courtesy photos

BEFORE AND AFTER — After a through scrubbing, the commemorative plaque recognizing the 74 miners who perished in the Diamond Mine Disaster is legible once again. Braidwood resident Adam Beaty volunteered to clean and restore the plaque and monument earlier this month.



BEFORE AND AFTER — After a through scrubbing, the commemorative plaque recognizing the 74 miners who perished in the Diamond Mine Disaster is legible once again. Braidwood resident Adam Beaty volunteered to clean and restore the plaque and monument earlier this month.

able," Beaty said. "Without perpetual care and the people to notice when that care is needed, nature will erase our history for us. It is just as important that we visit these monuments and learn the purpose behind them. So often we take what we have for granted without realizing and/or respecting the men, women, and, in this monument's purpose, the children who came before us and made our communities possible."

Beaty volunteered his services for the cleaning and restoration project, in hopes that folks both local and traveling through would notice the monument and stop to reflect on the terrible disaster that happened here 140 years ago.

"I volunteered for this project because I am an avid historian and I believe a bright clean monument will attract the eyes of passers-by and garner more visitors and, thereby, interest in its purpose," he said. "I thank the Mayor of Diamond for this treasured opportunity, and I look forward to assisting Diamond and any surrounding community that would like to have their memorials cleaned. It's truly a work of passion and something I highly value."

Beaty's work can be found on Facebook by searching The Memorial Guardian.

Council

able, which are applied separately to full bar sales, beer and wine only bar sales, package liquor, restaurants, non-for-profit licenses good for 24 hours, special events, and wine tasting, among other available licenses.

The move increases the number of available Class D licenses that are issued to restaurants for full bar sales to a total of five.

In other business before the City Council on Oct. 4:

- The Wilmington Police Department has added another officer to its roster.
- Mayor Ben Dietz officially swore in Hunter Imhof as the newest member of the WPD.

Heavy recruitment for new officers over the past month has led to 33 applicants signed up to take the probationary police officer exam.

- The council continued a motion to approve the hire of a new finance director until the next meeting. While approval of a new hire was on the agenda, city administrator Jeannine Smith noted that

personnel discussion needed to continue in executive session prior to full approval.

Police Chief Joe Mitchell noted that a new code enforcement officer is expected to be hired this month.

The council approved a request from the chief to seek out a new code enforcement officer back in June. The officer will serve in a part time role dedicated to non-criminal quality of life issues and complaints generated from residents and businesses.

The code enforcement officer will focus on compliance, versus writing up tickets for fines and fees.

The Council approved the accounting reports as presented.

Included in those reports is payment of bills across all departments totaling \$204,124. Those payments include \$30,000 to New Era Spreading for lime removal and sludge disposal at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$83,847 in consulting fees for development at the Elion Logistics Park, \$1,374 for new tires on maintenance vehicles, and \$1,960 for new lettering on the city's ESDA truck.

The next meeting of the Wilmington City Council is Oct. 18.

Braidwood man killed in single vehicle wreck

STAFF REPORT

The Braidwood Police Department is investigating a car crash that took the life of a Braidwood man on Tuesday.

Will County Coroner Laurie Summers' office reported the death of Benas Ruzga, 30, at 10:05 a.m. on Oct. 11.

According to the release, Ruzga was involved in a single motor vehicle wreck in the 31000 block of SE Frontage Road in Wilmington Township.

An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The incident is being investigated by the Braidwood Police Department and the Illinois State Police.

A final cause and manner will be determined on a later date pending autopsy, toxicological, and law enforcement results.

CONTACT US AT
news@fpnusa.com or call 815-476-7966
WITH YOUR STORY IDEAS

Interested in the stock market? We can explain.

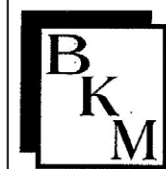


Dean A. Shepherd, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
311 W Baltimore St
Wilmington, IL 60481
815-476-6856

Member SIPC
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

PERSONAL INJURY



Block, Klukas & Manzella & Shell, P.C.

Attorneys at Law

Michael D. Block • Elizabeth A. Klukas • Thomas J. Manzella
Bryan L. Shell • Aaron B. Morrow • Kyler W. Juckins

"Local lawyers with big city results"

Free Initial Consultation • No Fee Unless Successful

815-726-9999

19 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432 • Across from the Courthouse

WORKERS COMPENSATION

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, and The Coal City Courier.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courier
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2022 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G.W. Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G.W. Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

Attorney Berardi files Aronowski estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of ERVIN ARONOWSKI, Deceased. Case No. 2022PR460

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Ervin Aronowski of Homer Glen, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued as Independent Executor on August 24, 2022 to Lynda Wolfe whose address is 13328 W. 167th Street, Homer Glen, IL 60491; whose attorney is Berardi and Associates, LLC, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 13, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

SUSAN A. KETCHELLEDGE
Independent Administrator of the Estate of DAVID ANTHONY KETCHELLEDGE,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, September 28, Oct. 5 and 12, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Ketchledge 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 DAVID ANTHONY KETCHELLEDGE, Deceased; No. 2022PR500

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DAVID ANTHONY KETCHELLEDGE, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 3, 2022, to Susan A. Ketchledge, whose address is 1219 Park Drive, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 13, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

SUSAN A. KETCHELLEDGE
Independent Administrator of the Estate of DAVID ANTHONY KETCHELLEDGE,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 19 and 26, 2022.

Attorney Meents files Austin estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SUSAN ADELE AUSTIN, Deceased; No. 2022PR558

CLAIM NOTICE

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 6, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

JOHN L. BALOY
Independent Executor of the Estate of SUSAN ADELE AUSTIN, Deceased, by
Frank J. Meents, counsel for the Estate

Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and 12, 2022.

Attorney Anderson files Stevenson estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARY STEVENSON, Deceased; Case No. 2022 PR 559

CLAIM NOTICE

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the March 21, 2023 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Sec.18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Edward T. Anderson
For the Estate of Mary Stevenson, Deceased
By: Edward T. Anderson
Bretz, Flynn & Associates, P.C.,
58 N. Chicago Street 2nd Floor
Joliet, IL 60432
815-740-1545

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



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

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

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

Prosperity brought problems for Ritchie

When the Chicago & Strawn Railroad came through Wesley Township in 1880, the small village known as Wesley consisted of a few buildings, a general store and a few homes. Route 102, then known as Kankakee Road, was the main drag. After the building of the depot a small growth spurt happened that those rural Wesleyites were not prepared for.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

But with activity came hazards that did not before exist in that little community. On May 19, 1882 we read in the Wilmington Advocate, "An extensive railway smash-up occurred at Ritchie Station, on the Wabash road, on Wednesday morning at 5:20.

From what we can learn two freight trains were going south. The conductor of the head one, for some reason, thought the morning express going north was late, and tried to make the next station before meeting the express, which latter had 300 passengers aboard. In this idea he was mistaken; the express came on time, and all brakes were at once put on the freight train. But on came the second freight, under high speed, and dashed into the caboose of the former with all sorts of havoc.

It ploughed under the caboose and set it on fire, while the timbers of a bin box car, next behind the engine, protruded through the tender, and car after car, laden with merchandise and lumber in both trains, were frightfully wrecked in a twinkling. In all more than 40 cars were disabled."

And a week later another, more personal tragedy, "Albert, son of John Houghton, aged about 15 years, residing in Wesley, was instantly killed by the cars near Ritchie on Sunday afternoon at about 6 o'clock.

It is said that he tried to jump upon a moving freight



A PHOTO OF Ritchie at it's peak. The building on the left is now the home of a cycle club. Note the very early automobile along with a horse drawn wagon.

train, and losing his footing was drawn under the train, one-half of which passed over him, mangling his remains almost beyond recognition."

Another new problem was traffic jams. Since there was only one road leading from Wilmington to Kankakee, all traffic had to halt at the tracks.

We read in the August 11, 1882, Wilmington Advocate, "Some of our subscribers residing at Ritchie station think it high time for the highway commissioners to see that the railroad officials pay some degree of respect to the rights of citizens at the railroad cross-

ing in Ritchie.

It is alleged that trains are often allowed to obstruct the crossing for half an hour at a time, much to the annoyance of teamsters. If remonstrance is made to the trainmen the answer is only profanity and abuse. We are told that ten minutes is the outside limit of time allowed by law for the obstruction of any highway by railroad trains."

One month later, "A freight train ran off the track on Tuesday night and delayed teams for fully an hour before they could cross the track."

This problem was finally

solved later in the year when the bridge over Forked Creek and what is now Rt. 102 was built. In the spring of 1883 it was remarked in the Wilmington Advocate, "When Chas. Redman built the trestle-work over Forked Creek, it was surmised by many that it would not stand a year.

Since it was built two trains have been derailed, running over the bridge, and last Saturday, in the collision, six cars went off on the bridge without injuring it in any way. It was built to stay."

That very same bridge still exists over the highway and

Forked Creek just north of the Ritchie Methodist Church and is part of the Wauponsie Glacial Trail.

The question remains, why did Ritchie Station never become a village of its own? I think the answer is that it takes more than a railroad station to build a village. Other types of businesses never relocated there, and Wesleyites still had to go into Wilmington or Kankakee for most of their purchases.

So Ritchie remains the small little hamlet next to the tracks, a reminder of 19th century life.

What students are wearing at WHS

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

What are high school students wearing to school these days? Are they dressing up, wearing sweats or staying in the middle ground of cute but comfy?

Looking around WHS you see a mix. There are those kids who show up looking like they just got out of bed and there are other kids who you can tell put effort into look their best. Then there's the group who put effort in but only enough to look decent.

Guys and girls are in two different ball games when it comes to what they wear. Yet there are some things the two different genders have in common. That thing is comfy clothes. Some kids come in wearing sweatpants or pj pants and a sweatshirt. These kids are the ones who just want to be comfy, they don't care. They would rather be in bed sleeping. This is the majority of the guys.

Seldom will you will see a guy who comes to school dressing nice. This

only happens if they have a basketball game or during photo day. Ever look at those school photos? It's easy to pick out those individuals who don't care about what they are wearing.

On the flip side, some girls love to dress up. What is dressing up in high school though? For everyone it's different. For some it's jeans and a nice shirt. For others it may be a skirt or dress. Perfume is an essential on all days though, no matter whether you are dressing nice or comfy.

One universal clothing item for all girls are leggings. They go with just about everything. They are for the most part universally loved. You want to be comfy? Leggings. You want to look cute? Put on a nice shirt with legging and you got cute and comfy.

The different styles you see worn in the hallways at WHS are vastly different and always changing. The most important part is that they are comfy and confident.

WHS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate feature members of the Class of 2023. Featured this week are Grace Orr and Savannah Ortiz who completed our Senior Profile questions.

Grace Orr
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? College
What's one thing most people don't know about you? I've had three pigs

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

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

One thing you refuse to eat? Shrimp

A sport or club that made an impact in you and why? Showcats/choir, it felt nice to



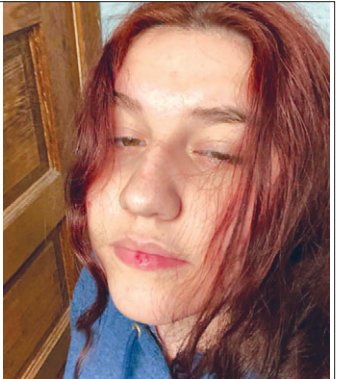
GRACE ORR

have people like me around.
Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Harry Styles

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

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

Teacher shoutout?



SAVANAH ORTIZ

Millerrrrrrr!
What advice would you give to underclassmen? It only gets worse.

Savanah Ortiz
What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Passing my classes.

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

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

One thing you refuse to eat? Deviled eggs

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Sebastian Stan because I love Bucky.

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

If you could create a class, what would it be? A class that teaches us how the real world works.

Teacher shoutout? Ms. Mosier

A sport or club that made an impact on you? My art club because I, and the group, made a big piece of art for a friend.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Just try to be yourself!

209U Lunch menu

Mon., Oct. 17: pizza, corn, mandarin oranges in gel and choice of milk

Tues., Oct. 18: BBQ rib on bun, celery sticks/PB, Baked Lays, pears and choice of milk

Wed., Oct. 19: hot ham and cheese on bun, au gratin potatoes, scooby snacks, strawberry cup and choice of milk

Thurs., Oct. 20: cheese tortellini, green beans, garlic bread, peach cup and choice of milk

Fri., Oct. 21: biscuits and gravy, yogurt, hash brown, banana and choice of milk

Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

Questions about Medicare?



Let us be your resource!

Call our knowledgeable staff to discuss your healthcare choices.

OAK KNOLL
— Insurance + Tax —
STRATEGIES
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

CRAIG LONG
Call: **(815) 476-2105**
craig@oakknollinsurance.com

The life and legacy of Alfred Hitchcock

Join the Wilmington Public Library District for a presentation by historical presenter, Jim Gibbons on the life of Alfred Hitchcock and his great influence on the history of filmmaking. It will be held today, Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. at the library. There is no fee for this program, but registration is requested. To register, stop by the library or call 815-476-2834. The return Friday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. for a showing of Hitchcock's 1963 film "The Birds."

OAK KNOLL
— Financial —
STRATEGIES

Are you aware:
One unfortunate incident on your property can devastate your savings. We can help. Ask how an umbrella insurance policy helps manage risk.

205 South Water Street,
Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-2105

Stephen Francis
CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™
steve.francis@raymondjames.com

www.oakknollfinancial.com

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

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, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

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

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or 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. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Messed up world

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

Seeking justice

COAL CITY—Have you or a loved one been bamboozled and deceived using Cryptoagio services or working with its owner? You are not alone as hundreds of thousands of dollars have been mis-used, misrepresented, or spent for personal use. Justice will be served!

Cruelty never ends

BRAIDWOOD—Remember Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old who fatally shot two men during 2020 protests, wounded another with an AR-15 style and was acquitted on all counts? The man wounded by Rittenhouse, who shall remain nameless, suffered two years of death threats and recently sought safety for his family by filing a secret petition to legally change his name. But the justice system failed him once again when his attempt to change his name was exposed mysteriously, courtesy of right-wingers. This is MAGA and its unrelenting, ugly evil when the guilty are not held accountable and innocent bystanders are hounded mercilessly.

Just vote no

BRAIDWOOD—I have yet to find the logic behind approving the Amendment 1 on the ballot on Nov. 8. The Chicago Tribune said not to approve it and Illinois Policy Institute is claiming it will cost Illinois taxpayers over \$2,100 over the next four years. So why would lawmakers even put it on the ballot? It wasn't a change made by the public, it was drafted by lawmakers in Springfield. I'm all for worker's rights but this doesn't make sense because we already have federal laws guaranteeing worker's rights. I don't think they have done a good enough job explaining why it's needed and I think that the people in Springfield who want his passed can't be trusted. Therefore, I am voting no. We can't afford another tax increase to pay for state worker pensions.

Attend so you know

WILMINGTON—In the last couple of months there has been changes made on the board of the Wilmington area Historical society and they are not positive changes by any means. People who are now on the board and are in charge are not abiding by the wishes of the members. They're doing what they want to

do and they do not have the museum and the interest of the museum at heart. Members need to start attending meetings so we can vote and make positive changes because things are getting very bad.

Not once

WILMINGTON—Hey road commissioner, what's the deal? Here we are, middle of October, and portions of Cottage Road in Wilmington Township haven't been mowed once.

Bring it back

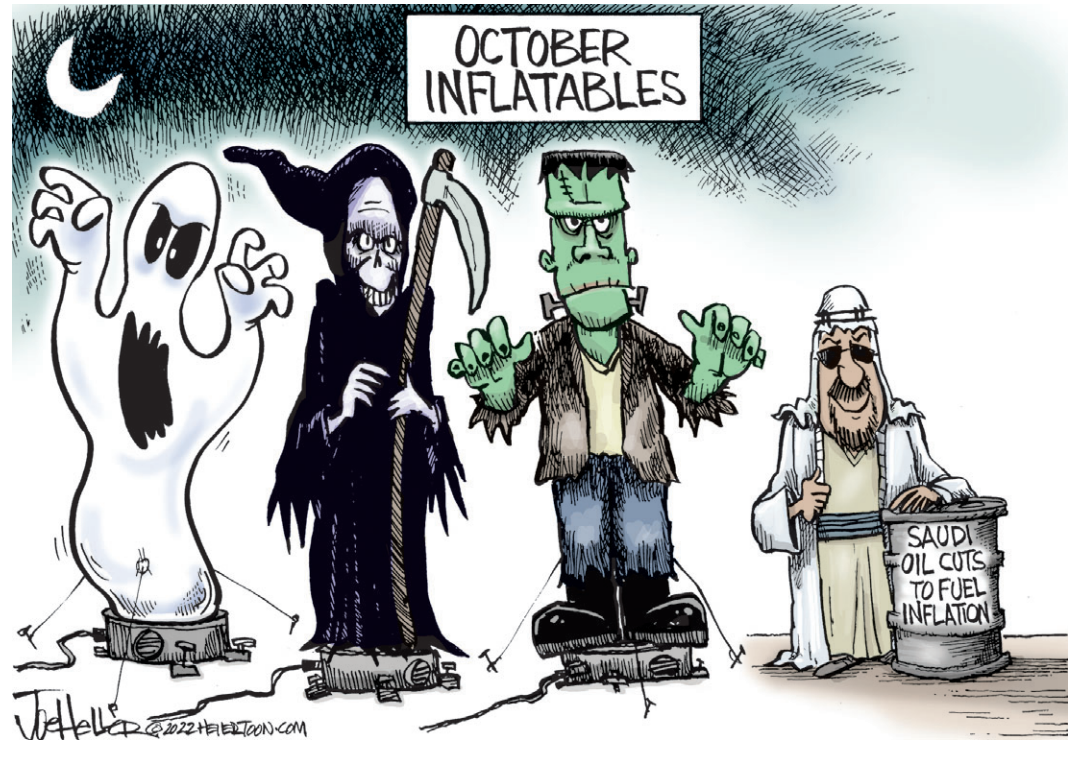
WILMINGTON—Since when has burning been approved in the city limits. I stepped outside to let the cat in for the night and there stood my neighbor burning piles of leaves in the dark. Meanwhile, I raked and bagged all my leaves to obey the law. Seems to me if burning is going to happen again, the city should bring back the leaf vac truck. It was a great service for us old timers and the community. I'd like to see my tax dollars put to use in bringing the leaf vac back.

Just a sham

DIAMOND—Climate change disclosures. Have you heard the expression 97% of climate change is real, man-made and dangerous. Al Gore said it so, Barack Obama did too, but that doesn't make it so. Thousands of real scientist believe that humans, cattle, pigs, sheep or horses have passed enough gas whether methane, carbon dioxide or green house gases, to cause or will cause in the future any catastrophic heating or disruption of the earth's climate. The real key that controls our planet's temperature is the mighty sun. No human activity can change that. Global warming is a sham. We haven't seen any warming in 21 years. The world is actually 1.08 degrees cooler than in 1998. Global warming is dead in its tracks. NASA images of the Arctic Polar ice cap on 8/27/12 and 8/14/14 show a growth of 43-63%. Since 2002, ocean temperatures have fluctuated less than one degree Fahrenheit. Our government has spent \$22 billion, taxpayer money. That's \$41,856 every minute to stop global warming. Perhaps the most expensive and lethal sham in American history. All you tree huggers can go hug an oil well. Sharon.

Let stockholders pay

Regarding utility rate increases. Shouldn't their stock holders be asked to receive lower dividends to ease utility bills? The consumers don't receive dividends. If companies want to invest then the stock holders should bear the increases.



Just for votes

BRAIDWOOD—You may have noticed that, per their Facebook site, the city council is considering the installation of a dog park and would like public input on the matter. Isn't that interesting? The city council members are proposing a feel good project at the same time that re-election petitions can be circulated. And believe it or not, they actually want public input. Why didn't they ask for public input when they strapped us taxpayers with a \$1.8 million debt to buy real estate that they are literally giving away? Why didn't they ask for public input when they committed another \$5 million to improve the real estate with taxpayer money? Or when they voted to increase council salaries, or when they increased the administrator's salary, or when they replaced commissioners Hart, Saltzman and Cockream? Why didn't they ask for public input when they vacated a roadway so that hundreds of semi trucks can have an in-town place to park? Oh wait, we did give input on that one, but they went ahead and did what they wanted to do anyway. The list goes on ad nauseam. Don't be fooled. This has nothing to do with public input, transparency or their love of puppies. It has everything to do with re-election.

By the tracks

COAL CITY—All the plants and flowers in the cement planters on South Broadway are so beautiful. Is there any reason why the dividers by the tracks can't be done with something better? They just look like weed beds.

They turn silent

WILMINGTON—My brother and I were wondering what sort of person votes for Marjorie Taylor Greene. I realize stupid people deserve representation, but when the issue is science or technology they need to shut up and butt out.

Penny Lane

How cynical

WILMINGTON—I heard a conservative woman say she didn't care that Herschel Walker paid for an abortion and added she didn't care if he aborted baby bald eagles because Republicans need the Senate. So abortion is OK to save the Senate, but not the life of the mother.

Fall Festival fun

CUSTER PARK—The girls and I sure enjoyed the Fall Festival held on the North Island Park. Perfect weather, perfect setup and perfect event between friends. Thanks Wilmington Chamber and Steve Evans for organizing it. We'll be back next year.

Voters will decide on 'right to unionize' constitutional amendment

Opponents, backers debate the measure's warrants

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois voters will be asked in November to decide whether the right of workers to form unions and engage in collective bargaining should be enshrined in the state constitution.

The first clause of the amendment contains two sentences. The first would establish a "fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work."

The second would prohibit the state or any local unit of government from enacting "any law that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety."

The provision is intended to prevent passage of any state

or local "right to work" laws, which prohibit employers from requiring workers to be union members to keep their jobs.

The second clause states that the amendment would be controlling over another part of the constitution that spells out the powers of home rule units of local government, meaning those units of government would still be subject to the amendment.

Lawmakers approved putting the measure on the ballot during the 2021 spring session. The resolution passed both chambers with bipartisan support: 49-7 in the Senate and 80-30 in the House.

Like any constitutional issue, however, there is considerable disagreement over what those words mean and what effects they would have if the amendment is adopted.

The proposal is supported by several large labor unions, but it has drawn opposition from groups such as the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

To gather a sense of the arguments for and against the measure, the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors convened an online forum with Joe Bowen, communica-

Workers Rights, the only organized political committee campaigning on the issue. They also spoke with Mailee Smith, director of labor policy and a staff attorney with the Illinois Policy Institute, a conservative think tank that opposes the measure.

Bowen and Smith were asked at the outset what they believe the amendment would mean and the implications of adopting it.

"The workers' rights amendment will guarantee your fundamental rights in the workplace to organize and bargain collectively with your coworkers to negotiate for things like better pay, safer working conditions, and crucially, it will also protect Illinois voters from politicians who try to take away their rights in the future," Bowen said.

He said it gives Illinois workers an opportunity "to vote for themselves on Nov. 8."

"It will enshrine protections that most of us are already enjoying while extending protection to workers who don't currently have it," Bowen said.

Smith, on the other hand, asserted that the amendment would apply only to public-sector workers because private-sector workers are already covered by the National Labor

Relations Act, which would supersede any state law or state constitutional provision.

As a result, she argued that it would drive up local property taxes by giving public employee unions power to negotiate a broader range of issues, including "economic welfare," which isn't defined in the amendment or other state law.

"And it's not defined in other similar laws like the National Labor Relations Act," she said. "That could mean things like the expansion of affordable housing or positions on rent abatement could be demanded by government unions."

She also said the provision preempting right-to-work laws could have unintended consequences.

"It prohibits lawmakers, as the people's representatives, from ever enacting reforms or fixes," she said. "So if lawmakers decide down the line, 'Oh, wow, we didn't mean economic welfare to mean all of these broad subjects,' they could never go back and define what economic welfare actually is because they'd be prohibited in the amendment itself from doing that."

Bowen countered that the amendment has nothing to do with taxes but, instead, pro-

tests only the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively in the workplace.

If it were adopted, he said, it would apply uniformly statewide to all workers in both the public and private sectors. He also said it would protect workers from politicians who attempt to enact right-to-work laws, a reference to former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, who tried unsuccessfully to push such legislation through the General Assembly.

As a follow-up, the two were asked to identify what rights workers would have under the amendment that they don't already have under existing law.

Bowen said the amendment would protect existing rights and extend them to "hundreds of thousands" of workers who aren't covered under existing law. He said it's important to guarantee bargaining rights now and into the future, considering "we spend almost half of our lives in the workplace."

"Whether or not you have the ability to earn a good living, to stay safe on the job, it really impacts every part of your life," he said. "So making sure that we guarantee these protections in the Illinois Constitution is critically important."

Smith argued that elevating collective bargaining rights to the level of the constitution would put labor agreements beyond the reach of existing statutes that apply to public employee contracts.

"If a teachers union didn't want to have background checks as part of the job application process, the hiring process, they could write that into their contract," she said. "It could keep government union contracts a secret. They could actually void the (Freedom of Information Act) law that requires government union contracts to be open to the public, simply by writing that provision into the contract."

Constitutional amendments have two paths to passage in Illinois. If the measure receives 60 percent of the vote from those voting on the question, it passes. But if it fails to reach the 60 percent threshold on the question but still musters "yes" votes from more than half of those voting in the election, it would still pass.

Election Day is Nov. 8, but early voting has already begun. More information is available at local election authorities.

FRIDAY FISH FRY IS BACK!

2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Carryouts Available

Kitchen Open Wed. - Sun.

Karaoke Thursdays
7 p.m.
Open Mic starting Oct. 6

On Wednesdays
Pot Total \$57,706
Doors open 4 p.m.

Sunday Funday
Free Food & Football & Blood Mary Bar

Upcoming Cruise nights 10/13 and 10/27

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL V.F.W.

WILMINGTON VFW
POST 5422
557 W. Baltimore, Wilmington • 815-926-2651

Check Facebook for all of our activities

APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED FOR SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Must be experienced in basic software and hardware support, phone support and can teach users new technology with users having different sets of skills from beginners to experts.

Support Desk experience and previous newspaper experience beneficial.

REQUIRED SKILLS:

- Full understanding of Adobe Creative Cloud; including Adobe InDesign.
- Ability to update websites and social media accounts.
- Must be willing to learn or understand basic development skills.
- Self-motivation with confidence and discipline necessary to complete multiple projects accurately and efficiently.
- PC and Mac knowledge.
- Must be able to multi-task and have self-discipline.
- Windows Server experience helpful.

EDUCATION:

Bachelor's degree or greater in a technical related field and/or 5+ years of experience.

To apply, please send your cover letter and resume to: ipa@illinoispress.org

Moving Sale!

Saturday, Oct. 22
24932 Lorenzo Rd., Wilmington

We are opening up our shop 9 am - 4 pm to clear out 16 years of accumulation

TOOLS - SAWS - LADDERS - ROTO TILLER
CAMPING GRILL - VINTAGE SCHWINN BIKES,
ANTIQUES & SO MUCH MORE
MAKE AN OFFER...everything must go as our building is being torn down

BREEZE-AIR
We're moving to
459 Davy Ln., Wilmington

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Call (815) 476-6615

HEATING & A/C
815-476-6615

American Standard

It's Spooky Season! Grab Some Scary Good Deals At Berkot's!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!



Experience the Berkot's difference
Fresh. Friendly. Focused on you.

THEY'RE BACK!



\$5 EACH

Talerico Martin Bakery Apple Cider Donuts- 6 pk



Sales valid 10/12/22-10/18/22 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM
ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

SIGN UP AND SAVE BIG WITH BERKOT'S LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM!
JOIN TODAY AT BERKOTFOODS.COM!



SAVE \$2 PER LB WITH LOYALTY!

\$4.99 PER LB with Loyalty

USDA Choice Semi-Boneless New York Strip Steaks (\$6.99/lb w/out loyalty)



SAVE \$2 PER LB WITH LOYALTY!

\$3.99 PER LB with Loyalty

Raw, Peeled & Deveined Shrimp (\$5.99/lb w/out loyalty)



2 FOR \$16 when buying 2

Get Them Before They're Gone!

Berkot's Famous Beautiful Fall Mums Single Purchase \$8.99

It's a Berkot's Chicken Party! Stock Up & Save



\$1.49 LB

Berkot's Fresh All-Natural Bone-In Pork Butts 2pk



\$1.99 PER LB

Berkot's Farm Fresh Premium Chicken Tenders, Party Wings or Boneless Thighs- **While Supplies Last!**



\$2.99 LB

Berkot's Fresh All-Natural Boneless Pork Roast



\$1.99 EACH

Aunt Millie's Family Style Breads 22-24 oz Hillbilly Bread 20 oz



69¢ when buying 4 with \$1 digital coupon

\$4.99 EACH

Digiorno Family Size Four Cheese Pizza 33.8 oz



2 FOR \$6

Blueberries Pint



2/\$7

Hillbilly's Giant White Bread



3 FOR \$5

Tropicana Orange or Grapefruit Juice 52 oz



3 FOR \$5

Driscoll's Raspberries 6 oz

Delicious Deli Deals



\$9.99 LIMIT 3

Berkot's 8 Piece Chicken Fried, Baked or Spicy



\$5 EACH

Hot Price! Our Specialty Treat Shop Tres Leches Cake- 40.2 oz



\$13 EACH

NEW! Berkot's EXTRA LARGE St. Louis Style Ribs- 2.5 lbs

CHECK OUT BERKOT'S FALL DECOR FAVORITES



\$7.99 EACH

Gorgeous Decorative Gourds



\$6.99 EACH

Snow White Pumpkins



\$1.99 EACH

Pie Pumpkins



\$1.49 EACH

Mini White or Orange Pumpkins



\$11.99 EACH

Coors Banquet, Coors Light, Miller 64, MGD or Miller Lite 18 pk 12 oz btls



\$1.99 PER LB

NEW CROP! Michigan Honeycrisp Apples



2 FOR \$1

Yellow or Orange Peppers

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

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

warrencollisioncenteril.com



✓ **Finest quality warranted collision repair**
 ✓ **Rentals available**
 ✓ **Certified technicians**
 ✓ **All insurance accepted**
 ✓ **Completed in a timely fashion**

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

Take the chill off with hot buttered rum

We are now over a week in to fall 2022, perhaps you have the Halloween and/or fall decorations up at your house. Before you know it, Thanksgiving will be here, followed by weeks of Christmas functions.

You may have your grandmothers Christmas cookie recipe and mom's pumpkin pie recipe, but do you have a Hot Buttered Rum recipe? Seriously, you need a good Hot Buttered Rum recipe.

One reason that many of us shy away from Hot Buttered Rum is that many of the

recipes online are too labor intensive and are simply overkill in terms of ingredients.

At the end of the day, the only ingredients that need to be in a Hot Buttered Rum are rum, butter, sugar, and your choice of a few familiar holiday spices.

Hot Buttered Rum is not nearly as popular as it was a generation ago. Visit any thrift store in America and you will find a selection of old mugs from the 60's and 70's with the words "Hot Buttered Rum" printed on the side.

The fascination with this drink goes back further than that. In fact, this love affair began over 200 years ago in the Colonial US. The ingredients in Hot Buttered Rum are representative of the trade routes of the time, all coming together in a delicious warming drink.



One place that Hot Buttered Rum has remained popular is New Orleans. Mardi Gras is held during a season that can resemble what most of know as winter, and some years it will be rainy, windy, and even downright cold.

Every bar and restaurant in New Orleans will have their own take on Hot Buttered Rum on the menu for the patrons that come in out of the cold.

It may not be the first drink that you think of when you think of New Orleans, but if you find yourself there in the fall or winter, order a Hot Buttered Rum. You will be pleasantly surprised.

We will start with the butter. Use a "soft" butter, preferably real butter. Real butter melts into the drink leaving a warm, rich texture. Sometimes margarine and other altered butter substitutes leave an odd taste when melted, and will not give the consistency that you need.

The ideal sugar in Hot Buttered Rum is brown sugar, or demerara sugar. Cane sugar can be used, but it lacks the depth and the complexity of darker sugars.

The right sugar will melt into the butter leaving you with a perfect butterscotch/caramel flavor. A good rule of thumb for Hot Buttered Rum is to use "baking" spices as opposed to sugar from a packet that is meant for tea or coffee.

Speaking of baking spices, this one calls for both cinnamon and nutmeg. Don't skimp on either one, especially the nutmeg. After all, nutmeg is one of those spices that "tastes like Christmas" and also hap-

pens to pair well with aged rum.

Vanilla extract is extremely potent, start with a few drops and work your way up from there. The vanilla notes should complement the other spices, not overpower them.

Allspice is also potent, so go easy. Don't skip the allspice though, I promise you will miss it if it's not there.

Last but not least, the rum. Any dark rum will work in the Hot Buttered Rum, but some will work better than others. Dark Jamaican rum is best suited for Hot Buttered Rum, look for Appleton Estate, Myer's Original Dark, or Coruba.

Aged demerara rums will also work, such as El Dorado 12 Year, or Pusser's Navy Rum which is a blend of demerara and Jamaican rums.

Steer clear of light rum, as well as high octane over-proof rums in this one.

Keep the preparation simple. Start with a warm mug, add the butter and spices. Mix or muddle the spices into the butter, it's even ok to partially melt the butter at this point.

Once the spices and butter are mixed, add the rum. Give it a quick stir, then top with hot (but not boiling) water.

Hot Buttered Rum is built and served in a preheated tempered mug.

Combine in mug:
 1 small slice soft butter
 1 teaspoon brown sugar
 1 dash ground cinnamon
 1 dash ground nutmeg
 1 dash ground allspice
 Vanilla extract to taste (start with 2-3 drops)
 Muddle spices and butter in mug
 Add 2 oz. dark rum
 Add 5 oz. hot water
 Stir and serve
 Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Something to smile about



\$500 OFF
 implants/dentures

New patient visit
50% off

COAL CITY DENTAL

Our priority is to provide comfortable, quality dental care!

- Dentures • Implants • Extractions • Nitrous Oxide/Sedation Options
- Evening Availability • Whitening/Cosmetic Procedures
- Work with most Insurances and more

Phone: 815.634.4999

Coal City Dental, Still Catering To The "Dental Coward" After All These Years!

645 E. Division St. (Rte. 113), Coal City | www.CoalCityDental.com

Fioritto's

Antenna & Satellite



Up to 90 Channels
FREE
 with local antenna

- HD Antennas
- Direct TV
- Dish



Locally Owned • Veteran
(815) 474-1365
 Fully Insured

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

SISTEK RENTALS

We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT**
 Outdoor Power Equipment




815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE

Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
 Ed Bonnavier
 Coal City • 634-4691

SHORKEY PAINTING

Est. 1989
(815) 546-1321
 Interior/Exterior

JOHNKE TREE SERVICE

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

- Power line clearance certified
- Free Estimates
- 20 years experience

Veterans, Military & Senior Discount
Fully Bonded & Insured
815-791-5146



FARMERS INSURANCE

MELODIE J. LUCKETT

326 E. Baltimore St.
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Office 815-476-5242
 Cell 815-671-1356
mluckett@farmersagent.com



Agent, Notary
 Auto • Home
 Life • Commercial

AJ's Promotional Products and Apparel

Adidas® Koozies®
 Oakley® Bic® Pens
 Champion® Sharpie®




EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net
 WEB: ajspromotional.dcpromosite.com

Janet Fisher-Schatz
815-263-5990



PROFESSIONAL PRO REAL ESTATE

JUDY SUNDINE
 BROKER

Direct: (815) 405-6758
 815-476-7916

FAX: 815-476-7566
 Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net

506 S. WATER ST.,
 WILMINGTON, IL 60481



VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP.

Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services

FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

- Shingle/Flat Roofs
- Gutters
- Siding
- Fascia/Soffit
- Insurance Claims

Licensed Insured Bonded

IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
www.vrcc.us



LIFTED
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
 CONCRETE RAISING

Spray Foam Insulation

- garages
- pole buildings
- attics
- basements
- commercial
- industrial

Concrete Raising

- driveways
- sidewalks
- patios
- stairs
- and more!

Wilmington • 815-200-6880



Riverfront Lanes

402 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2600

- Birthday parties
- Fundraisers
- Corporate parties
- Child & adult leagues

www.riverfrontlanes.com

PROTECT-YOUR-DECK

DECKS • FENCES • HOUSES

DECK BUILDER & FENCE REPAIR
 MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

VINYL SIDING & CONCRETE
 POWER WASHING

18 years in business
 Licensed, Insured & Bonded

BASEMENT & CRAWL SPACE SOLUTIONS

**WATERPROOFING
 FOUNDATION REPAIR
 INSULATING
 ENCAPSULATION
 SUMP PUMPS
 DRAINAGE SYSTEMS
 GUTTER GUARDS**

(815) 715-6050 DryToday.net
 Braidwood, IL

McPherson Masonry

- Brick
- Block & Stone
- Tuck-Pointing

25 yrs. experience
Workmanship
Guaranteed!
815-791-4577

FULL COLOR

- Banners -
- Yard Signs -
- Post Cards -
- Brochures -

Customized to your liking.
 Competitive prices.

THE FREE PRESS
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

This space could be yours!
Call (815) 476-7966

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS
 from the Free Press Newspapers
 Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

M & B Roofing

QUALITY ROOFING

Licensed • Insured • Bonded
 Lic. # 104.018831

FREE ESTIMATES
 Office: 815-935-9949

Mini Storage

CLEMENTINE'S
 CLOSETS

515 Davy Lane,
 Wilmington

Affordable
 Clean, Secure
 Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required
815-530-0200



Landscape Supply

- Driveway stone
- Pulverized topsoil
- Pool & play sand
- Hardwood mulch
- Decorative stone
- Bobcat Service

We Deliver!
www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

Close-up hawk wins September photo contest

A crystal clear closeup of a red-tailed hawk netted Shorewood resident Joe Viola a win in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Viola's photo won the month of September after judges selected the top five photos from submissions and members of the public chose it as the best shot of the month. Viola snapped the photo at Hammel Woods preserve in Shorewood.

"I was pulling into the back lot by the river and saw the hawk swoop down and grab a rabbit alongside the road," he said. "I wasn't able to get my camera out the window fast enough to get a shot of it on the ground and it took off and flew into a nearby tree. I parked the truck and was able to get out and get close enough to watch and get some amazing shots of it."

The four other finalists were: Sally Knudson of Channahon for a photo of a



Courtesy photo by: Joe Viola

SHOREWOOD RESIDENT Joe Viola won September's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest with this shot of a red-tailed hawk at Hammel Woods. The contest continues with monthly winners through December.

green heron with its neck outstretched at McKinley Woods.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird hovering near a blazing star in bloom at Hidden Oaks Preserve.

Les Stevens of Joliet for a photo of the mist at Hadley Valley preserve.

Joe Viola for waddling wood ducks at Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve.

The contest continues through December with monthly winners and overall winners will be picked in January via Facebook voting. Prizes, funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County, range from \$75 gift cards for monthly winners to \$500 for first place in the overall contest.

For contest rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org. To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account, Flickr.com/WillCo Forests.

Garden Club to meet

Have an interest in gardening? Then consider joining the Wilmington Garden Club.

The club's next regular meeting will be 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St.

Meetings are open to all visitors.

A "TAKE SOME OF THE WORRY OUT OF LIFE" POLICY.

With rewards for safe behavior that protects what matters most, rather than penalties for what doesn't go quiet right. And with the support you need, every step of the way. For your car. Your home. For your unique life. **Dream fearlessly with American Family Insurance. Contact me today.**

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
©2020 017720 - 1/20 - 14732207

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B,
Shorewood, IL 60404
teammgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

Demand for beef, pork expected to grow

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Jeff Simmons, president and CEO of Elanco Animal Health, believes plant-based meat will have its place in the market for years to come.

But it certainly doesn't appear to be a major threat to the livestock industry at the checkout aisle.

Simmons projects worldwide demand for animal protein will continue to grow. And, he believes the livestock industry is poised to help address some of the world's top challenges, including hunger.

"The three big issues right now are food insecurity, a global health crisis and climate," Simmons said during the Agri-Pulse Ag Outlook Forum in Kansas City on Sept. 26. "Animals are connected to all three. I believe they're the missing piece to some of the world's biggest problems right now."

About 60% of consumers around the world aren't getting

enough calories, leading to food insecurity, or they're getting the wrong calories, which is contributing to health issues, according to Simmons.

Boosting animal protein output addresses both those issues by reducing food insecurity and increasing the availability of healthy protein choices.

"Animal protein is one of the hottest food segments the last three years, with 50% growth the last 10 years," Simmons said. "You can't disconnect consumer choice, calories or the climate."

Sales of plant-based meat, conversely, could stay flat through 2022 and remain about 1% of the total protein market through 2027, according to Simmons.

Top consumer preferences when choosing their protein include taste, cost and nutrition, he noted.

"Consumers are starting to vote (at the food checkout lane)," Simmons said. "Meat is on demand."

Erin Borrer, vice president

of economic analysis for the U.S. Meat Export Federation, noted U.S. beef and pork exports reached a record \$18.7 billion in 2021 and could push \$20 billion this year.

"Beef exports have surpassed \$1 billion six of the last seven months. It really has been demand driven," Borrer said. "We have lots of opportunities."

The U.S. could see even stronger demand for red meat as the world's top exporter of pork, the European Union, is projected to reduce output this year by nearly 5% due to disease outbreaks in its herd and policy to reduce animal numbers on farms.

"It's critical to have a diverse export base," said Borrer, who noted U.S. farmers must be proactive to maintain their premier animal health status. "That's part of what continues to offer us opportunities as we look ahead."

Simmons also views climate challenges as an opportunity for the livestock industry.

"With a carbon market, it increases opportunities for ag," he said. "Climate-neutral cattle farms are achievable by 2030."

But to get there, he said farmers must do more than tell their story.

"We need action plans on farms," he said. "Climate-neutral farming can happen. I see us changing the game."

This story was distributed

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

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry

- New patients
- Emergency visits welcome

All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaquest

267 S. Broadway, Coal City
Call (815) 634-8844

First United Methodist to host annual pork dinner

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

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

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

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

When was your last mammogram?



There's no question mammography helps reduce breast cancer deaths by detecting cancer early when it's most treatable and long before it can be felt.

For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American College of Radiology recommends an annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

Mammography really does save lives.

Offering three-dimensional mammography (digital breast tomosynthesis) in Channahon, Diamond-Coal City, and Morris!

Call 815-942-4105 to schedule your appointment.
Self-referral without a physician's order is accepted.

MORRIS HOSPITAL
& HEALTHCARE CENTERS
morrishospital.org



Tom Tesdal
Ambassador
ttesdal@grundy.bank
(815) 942-0130

Chris Breyman
Vice President
Commercial & Agricultural Lending
cbreyman@grundy.bank
Morris (815) 942-0130
Wilmington (815) 476-7460
NMLS #665409

Pete Brummel
Senior Vice President
Commercial Lending
pbrummel@grundy.bank
(815) 942-0130
NMLS #665275

GRUNDY BANK



OBITUARIES

Virgil Clayton Flener

BRAIDWOOD—Virgil Clayton Flener, 71, of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

Born Sept. 21, 1951 in New Albany, IN, he was the son of Delmer Clayton and Irene Grace (nee Owen) Flener. He was a retired Veteran of the United States Navy, serving during Desert Shield. Virgil retired from Exelon Corporation after many years of employment. After retirement he enjoyed driving around in his Mustang, fishing, and riding his bicycle.



of Indiana; one sister, Carol Kinser, of Corydon, IN and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorial visitation for Virgil was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood. Inurnment immediately followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Heart Association would be appreciated.

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

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

Kenneth Nelson

JOLIET—Kenneth Wayne Nelson, 82, of Joliet and formerly of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.



Born Dec. 9, 1939 in Joliet, Kenneth Wayne was the son of Wayne and Irma (Tenn) Nelson. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1958. Ken attended Quincy University on a baseball scholarship before transferring to Lewis University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Ken taught math at Assumption Parochial School in Coal City, before returning to Wilmington to work in the family business. It was in 1967, that Ken, along with his father, transitioned their business which originated with milk, a chicken hatchery, bottled gas delivery, a Maytag dealership and a Royal Blue grocer into Nelson's Furniture. This new offering in addition to carrying furniture held a Zenith TV dealership, Sherwin Williams Paint and carpeting. Today Nelson's Furniture continues to be owned and operated by the family going into the fourth generation, a legacy in which Ken was very proud.

Ken loved baseball, was a fan of the Chicago Cubs, and continued to play baseball and softball into his later years on the Merchants Team. He was an avid card player and throughout the years could be found playing cards at The Corner on most afternoons. Ken enjoyed to golf, and took pleasure in traveling out West, particularly to Las Vegas, Flagstaff and Jackson Hole, which were some of his favorite destinations.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie (nee VanGangler), who he married July 19, 1984; two sons, Steve (Tina) Nelson and Mark Nelson, both of Wilmington; two grandsons, Ryan (Annie) Nelson, of Channahon and Aaron

(Sami) Nelson, of Manhattan; two great-granddaughters, Ryanne and Taylee; two sisters, Sis Rodgers, of Avondale, AZ and Barbara Hansen, of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dennis (Cecilia) Rowan, of Mundelein, IL; Sherrie Wheat, of Plainfield; Lorrie Harvey, of Escondido, CA and Al (Toni) VanGangler, of Plainfield; many niece, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and his best friend of many years, John Nunley, as well as his faithful canine companion, Snickers.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Irma Nelson; two daughters, Julie and Diane, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Emanuel and Evelyn VanGangler.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow Friday morning, Oct. 14, 2022 at 11 a.m. in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding and Deacon Jay Plese assisting.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ken's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org, which was an organization special to Ken's heart.

Family and friends are encouraged to visit www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guest book, upload photographs and share Ken's memorial page online through social media.

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

Doyle Daugherty

STREATOR—Doyle Ray Daugherty, 73, of Streator, formerly of Wilmington and Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at his residence.



Born Nov. 30, 1948 in Shreveport, LA, Doyle was a son of Oliver Daugherty and Katie (Owens) Ferguson. He was raised in Shreveport until relocating to Lockport, IL. Doyle then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving honorably from 1969 to 1971. On Dec. 19, 1970, he married Aliene Louise Porterfield at the White Chapel in Las Vegas, NV.

Doyle worked at US Steel in Joliet for many years, and retired from Case International Harvester as a millwright. He was also an entrepreneur who owned and operated Continental Amusements from 1982 to 1995, during which time he owned The Mar Theater in Wilmington. Doyle was a member of the A.F. & A.M. Lodges in both Joliet and Wilmington, and was also a past member of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Doyle had many hobbies, including jukeboxes, playing pinball, and movies. He loved visiting Disney World with his family and going for rides on his Honda Goldwing motorcycle,

but Doyle was happiest when he was with the love of his life and "Baby," Aliene.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Aliene, and their two children, Bridget "Mouthie" and Adam (Jessica); five grandchildren: Jacob (Brittany), Zakary (Alex), Scott II, Aidan, and Kennedy; two great-grandchildren, Bentley and Delanie; as well as one sister and brother-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Doyle was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother and step-father, two brothers, one sister, one nephew, and his mother-in-law.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 11 a.m. until the time of Masonic Funeral Rites at 1 p.m. Burial with full military honors will immediately follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

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

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

Leslee Nelson

SOUTH WILMINGTON—Leslee Ann Nelson (nee Pomatto), 76, of South Wilmington, passed away peacefully with her family by her side, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022 at her home.



Born March 4, 1946 in Joliet, she was the daughter of Francis "Bud" Secondo and Cele Lorraine (nee Cinotto) Pomatto. She graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1964. She was a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City. Leslee was a dental assistant for most of her life. She and her husband, Dr. James A. Nelson, operated a dental office in Coal City for many years. After Jim's retirement she worked for Dr. Kevin Gallagher's dental office in Plainfield, where she eventually retired.

Christmas was Leslee's most favorite holiday. She always enjoyed crafting homemade Christmas gifts and holiday baking, but most of all she cherished the time spent with her grandchildren making G-Shaft candy.

Surviving are her husband, Dr. James A. Nelson, who were together 42 years and mar-

ried for 29 of those years; two daughters, Nicole (John) Corneglio and Marti (David) Bafia, both of South Wilmington; three grandchildren: Joey Corneglio, Gavin and Marissa Bafia; brother-in-law, Richard (the late Linda) Nelson, of Oregon; and dear friends, Kathy Brown and JoAnn Burns, along with many other close friends.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A Memorial service was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood. Inurnment will be private in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name directed to Lightways Hospice, Parkinson's Foundation, or the American Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

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

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

Morris Hospital updates visitor, mask guidelines

Morris Hospital has made another step toward returning to pre-COVID visiting guidelines. Effective as of Oct. 7, hospitalized patients may have up to two visitors at a time, age 12 or older, during 8 a.m.-7 p.m. visiting hours. Prior to this most recent update, visitors were restricted to age 18 or older.

Under the updated visiting guidelines, COVID-19 positive patients are now permitted to have one designated visitor for the duration of their stay.

Patients coming to the hospital for outpatient surgery, endoscopy, cath lab and other procedures are permitted up to two support persons.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) updated recommendations for healthcare providers,

Morris Hospital has also updated its mask policy. At this time, universal masking will only be required inside Morris Hospital and all Morris Hospital patient care facilities, including physician offices, when the Grundy County "Community Transmission" level is high. When the Grundy County Community Transmission level is substantial, moderate, or low, masks will be optional.

As Community Transmission levels are updated weekly by the CDC, signs will be posted at the entrance to each Morris Hospital facility indicating whether masks are optional or required based on current community transmission levels.

Officials at Morris Hospital emphasize that the CDC's Community

"Transmission" level is not the same as Community "Risk Level" and that it is possible for a community to be at a low or moderate "risk" level but a high "transmission" level, in which case masks would be required. Morris Hospital's masking requirement could change weekly depending on the current transmission level.

As has always been the hospital's visiting policy, anyone currently showing signs of illness should not visit or accompany a patient.

Current visitor guidelines are posted at all times on the hospital website under morrishospital.org/visitors. With the approaching flu season, it is recommended to check the hospital website for current visiting guidelines before visiting a patient in the hospital.

Morris Hospital's Rhythm of Our Youth returns high schools

Morris Hospital will be offering its free Rhythm of Our Youth cardiac screening at several area high schools this fall, including Coal City High School on Oct. 27. The goal is to identify high school students who may be at risk for sudden cardiac death by screening those who may have undiagnosed cardiac abnormalities.

Rhythm of Our Youth first launched in 2016 as a result of funding provided by generous donors to the Morris Hospital Foundation. Since then, over 8,000 area high school students have been screened through the program.

On the screening day, a team of specially trained volunteers from Morris Hospital perform electrocardiogram (ECG) screenings free of charge to students who have

received parental permission to participate. An electrocardiogram is a non-invasive, painless test that measures the electrical activity of the heart and detects certain heart abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death.

Screenings are typically held during PE class or study hall, depending on student schedules. The test takes about three minutes to complete.

Based on results of the screenings, about three percent of students are referred to their physician for additional follow-up. Typically, less than one percent are found to have a medical problem that requires cardiac intervention. Results are sent home to the student's parents and are not shared with the school.

Parents who wish to have

their child screened should complete an electronic consent form prior to the screening day by going to www.morrishospital.org/rhythmofouryouth.

Reed-Custer and Wilmington high schools are on the rotation for the 2023-2024 school year.

Sudden cardiac death claims more than 2,000 lives of children and adolescents in the United States each year. Most victims of sudden cardiac death have had underlying heart conditions that could have been detected through a simple ECG.

For more information or to volunteer at a Rhythm of Our Youth screening event, go to www.morrishospital.org/rhythmofouryouth.



CURBSIDE CARE

Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Baby Hygiene Items

Every second Thursday of the month

January 13	July 14
February 10	August 11
March 10	September 15*
April 14	October 13
May 12	November 10
June 9	December 15*

CALL FOR PICK UP TIME



pregnancyresourcecenter

Excellent Care.

Compassionate Support.

Honest Information.

410 N. Broadway Street -Coal City
(815-709-0920)

OUR SERVICES

FREE & Confidential

Material Assistance

Pregnancy Test

Limited Ultrasound

Options Counseling

Pregnancy & Parenting Education

Pregnancy Loss Support

Post Abortion Support

Adoption Support

STI/STD Information

Illinois near the top for best health care

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

A new report on the best and worst states for health care gives favorable reviews for Illinois.

The financial website MoneyGeek analyzed a wide array of statistics, from health outcomes, to health access and cost to determine how states rank in terms of health care.

MoneyGeek also consulted health industry experts to understand some of the potential choices states are making to affect their local health care systems for better or worse.

The report ranked Illinois as the 11th best state for health care with a score of 80.8.

"Illinois ranked 17th for outcomes, 21st for costs and 16th for access," researcher Doug Milnz said.

Illinois recently dispersed \$49 million in federal funding for health care programs and initiatives around the state. Officials said the money will be used in a wide range of programs that aim to keep Illinoisans healthy.

The report said the top three states for health care were Hawaii (99), Iowa (95.4), and Colorado (91.6).

States that fare worse on

MoneyGeek's health care rankings tend to have higher costs for less access and higher rates of medical conditions like diabetes and obesity. The worst states for health care are concentrated regionally, with 8 of the 10 clustered in the South and Southeast.

The report said West Virginia has the worst health care in the nation. Though West Virginia ranks No. 6 for accessibility, it has the worst health outcomes in the country and the highest average private health insurance premiums in the U.S. at \$8,546, with 48% of its population on public health care.

The good and bad of coffee

BY OSF HEALTHCARE

Did you know that 62% of Americans drink coffee every single day? The strong, fragrant brew is a favorite among young and old, and is enjoyed for both its flavor and caffeine boost.

However, in addition to the caffeine buzz, coffee also contains good nutrition and may provide other health benefits.

Coffee contains several vitamins, minerals and other nutrients, including Riboflavin and Niacin, B vitamins that are important for energy and other functions in the body.

It also contains Magnesium, a mineral with many roles, such as helping the heart and nerves to work properly and building bones. Potassium, which is important for the muscles, nerves and kidneys is also present as well as antioxidants called

polyphenols which stop harmful chemical reactions in the body.

In addition to its nutrition content, some studies have found that coffee may protect the liver and may reduce the risk for heart disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, gallstones and cancer.

Coffee does contain a large amount of caffeine. That may cause problems for some, including anxiety, irregular heartbeat and difficulty sleeping.

The dietary guidelines for Americans recommend 400 milligrams of caffeine or less per day, which is equal to three to five cups of coffee.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women should limit coffee to two cups or 200 milligrams of caffeine per day because of possible risks to the baby.

In addition, children and teens, those with reflux, uncontrolled high blood pressure or problems with sleeping

should avoid or limit it.

It may also be wise to avoid or limit drinking unfiltered coffee (like French press) and eating whole coffee beans because they contain a compound that has been connected with higher triglyceride and cholesterol levels.

While coffee may have health benefits, specialty coffee drinks can be significant sources of extra calories, saturated fat and added sugar. You may be surprised by the calories and sugar found in just one drink. A French vanilla latte from Dunkin' with whole milk: 330 calories, 5 grams (g) saturated fat and 31 grams added sugars. A frozen hazelnut swirl: 680 calories, 6 grams saturated fat and 119 grams added sugars.

At Starbucks (Grande drinks) a white chocolate mocha: 430 calories, 13 grams saturated fat and 53 grams sugars or a caramel frappuccino: 380 calories, 10 grams sat-

urated fat and 54 grams sugars.

While drinks like the ones above can be enjoyed as a special treat, it is a good idea to choose them less often. Instead, try a latte, cappuccino or macchiato with skim or almond milk (70-130 calories per medium cup).

Ask for added cocoa or cinnamon in your drink to give the flavor a boost.

Ask for sugar-free syrup if you want a shot of sweetness in your drink or request one pump of regular syrup instead of two or three pumps.

Order coffee black and add your own sugar packets. One packet of sugar equals 4 grams of sugar.

CC United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArldle Road in Coal City, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood can contact Karen Hart

at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or you may register online at www.versiti.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID and eat a good meal before donating. Please consider giving blood - one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

INSURANCE

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years"

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond

(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

Price at the pump rises

Will gas prices rise or fall this week? Your guess is as good as any as the local price per gallon, which was falling, was triggered by world events.

Average gas prices increased 25.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.40/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices are 38.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 95.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Braidwood area stations averaged \$4.03/g Monday, according to Gasbuddy.com, while the highest price in the area was \$4.49/g at a Wilmington station on Lorenzo Road. Coal City area stations were \$4.17/g as of Monday morning while in Morris they were \$4.19 and in Joliet jumping to \$4.49.

"With OPEC+ deciding to cut oil production by two million barrels a day, we've seen oil prices surge 20%, which is the primary factor in the national average rising for the third straight week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.48/g Monday while the most expensive was \$9.99/g, a difference of \$6.51/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 13.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.92/g. The national average stands 67.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Some of the refinery snags that have caused prices to surge in the West and Great Lakes appear to be improving, with prices in those two regions likely to inch down, even with OPEC's decision, as the drop in wholesale prices has offset the rise due to the production cut. But where gas prices didn't jump because of refinery issues, they will rise a total of 10-30 cents due to oil's rise, and some areas are certainly seeing the jump already," DeHaan said.

"For now, I don't expect much improvement in prices for most of the country, with California and the Great Lakes as the exception, with down-drafts likely in the days and weeks ahead."



Molly is looking for a home

MEET MOLLY, she is approximately 2-years-old and is a lab mix. She is house trained and great on a leash. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, microchip, heartworm test and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoption@outlook.com

Scotty McCreery to perform at the Rialto

Country singer Scotty McCreery has been booked for a Jan. 28 appearance at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, on Friday, January 27 at 8 P.M. Tickets go on sale Friday, October 14 at 10 AM.

Tickets went on sale for the 8 p.m. performance. Scotty McCreery's current album "Same Truck" contains his No. 1 RIAA gold-certified singles "You Time" and "Damn Strait," and his current single "It Matters to Her."

McCreery co-wrote 10 of the 12 songs on "Same Truck." An expanded edition, Same Truck: The Deluxe Album, will be released on Nov. 18, with six additional new songs.

He achieved new heights by earning three back-to-back No. 1 hits from his last album "Seasons Change," which debuted at No. 1 on the

Billboard Country Album chart: the RIAA Double Platinum-certified "Five More Minutes," the RIAA Platinum-certified "This Is It," which stayed at the top of the charts for two weeks, and RIAA Gold-certified "In Between."

McCreery won the 10th season of "American Idol" in 2011; was named the ACM New Artist of the Year in 2011; won the CMT Music Award for Breakthrough Video of the Year and more.

The North Carolina native released his first book, Go Big or Go Home: The Journey Toward the Dream, in 2016. His song "Five More Minutes" inspired a popular movie of the same name which aired on the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Network during November-December 2021.

Surf Broadband Solutions

Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!



(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Refreshments served inside!

ANNIVERSARY SALE & Celebration

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 15 & 16 • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*** 20% OFF ALL MERCHANDISE and FABRIC** (*Some exclusions apply)

2 DAY OUTDOOR POP UP MARKET 9am-2pm

Gourmet Food Vendors & Handcrafted Items

HUGE assortment of Door Prizes

Food Truck (both days)

Alpine Coffee Truck (Sunday)

Wine Tasting

Countryside Village Gifts

1540 N. Division St., Braidwood (right off of Rte. 113 & Frontage Rd.)

815-458-2191 • countrysidevillagegifts.com

Family Medicine

Welcoming New Patients!



Raymond Maceren, MD
Family Medicine

Primary Care Services for newborn to adult including but not limited to:

- Annual Wellness exams
- Preventative Care
- Health Screenings
- Immunizations
- Sick Visits
- Same Day Appointments Available

Primary Care – Wilmington

105 S. First Street | Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-5210

More Doctors. More Choices.

Find yours @ (855) 404-DOCS or myRiversideDocs.com.



The use of air conditioners takes a toll

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that as the planet warms, it will be the huge demand for and use of air conditioning that will push us all over the edge of cataclysmic warming?
— Joseph Still, New York, NY

As innocuous as it may seem, the common household air conditioner is actually a significant contributor to climate change!

According to researchers from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), almost four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of air conditioning use alone.

Even more worrisome, that number is expected to grow. AC usage, especially in countries like India, China and Indonesia, has been increasing steadily as average yearly income increases.

In an analysis by the International Energy Agency, it was found that AC use would likely triple by 2050.

AC usage is of course problematic, but it is also unavoidable, so what can we do? For starters, there are definitely improvements that could be made with regard to the engineering of AC units. Interestingly enough, the technology is quite archaic—in fact, it is nearly the same as it was 100 years ago.

Many air conditioners use a vapor compression cycle to cool the air inside your home. It is a system that requires refrigerants—chemical compounds like chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons—to accomplish the cooling effect. However, most of these refrigerants actually destroy the ozone layer.

Thankfully, more modern air conditioners avoid the use chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, opting for less destructive refrigerant alternatives. There are dozens available that do not harm the ozone layer; however, they are still considered greenhouse gasses.

Despite these improvements, modern air



conditioners will still need a lot of re-engineering if we hope to ever make them carbon neutral. They are very inefficient, not just use, but in their production and transportation, too.

According to the NREL and Xerox PARC study, of the 1,950 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) released into the atmosphere as a result of

AC use every year, only 531 million tons are associated with actually cooling the air; 599 million tons of CO2 are associated with the dehumidification process, and 820 million tons are due solely to leakage during production and transportation.

Fortunately, there are a few worthwhile prototypes being tested today that may finally change the AC game for good.

The startup Transaera has been testing what they call metal organic fibers (MOF's) a type of manufactured, highly porous material, that is capable of passively pulling moisture from the air.

Since almost half the energy usage of a traditional AC unit is spent on dehumidification, passive dehumidification would translate into huge energy savings, and therefore, huge carbon savings as well.

Another startup known as Blue Frontier has been working on an AC unit that uses liquid desiccants (drying agents) to passively dehumidify the air that passes through it. In addition, the machine only uses refrigerants to regulate a heat pump that maintains the salt concentration of the desiccants.

This vital change in design separates contact between the air passing through the machine and the refrigerant itself, thereby preventing refrigerant leakage. The end result is an AC unit that contributes 85-87 percent less carbon emissions than traditional AC units!

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Barges getting stuck

The unusually low water level in the Mississippi River is causing barges to get stuck in mud and sand, disrupting river travel for watercraft.

A lack of rainfall this past summer has left the river approaching record low levels in some areas from Illinois south to Louisiana. The U.S. Coast Guard reports at least eight groundings of barges in the past week alone.

Officials said it is bad timing during harvest when corn and soybeans need to be transported south.

Spaghetti dinner planned for Saturday

The St. Rose Knights of Columbus will hold its annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the St. Rose School gym, 620 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Spaghetti with meat

sauce, garlic bread, desserts, coffee and lemonade will be served. Carry-outs will be available.

Cost is a free-will offering to help the Knights with community service projects.

Elwood Church to host fundraiser dinner

Elwood Community Church will be hosting a Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will be held at 101 N. Chicago Street, in Elwood.

Pot roast and veggies, coleslaw, beets, and assorted

desserts will be served. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (under 12) Carry out available. There will be a silent auction during the dinner so be sure to place a bid.



IMAGINE your community without a local NEWSPAPER

A scary thought. No more timely articles about local politics or high school sports. No more trusted coverage about local businesses and community events. No more local entertainment news. Plus, all the other relevant information that your local newspaper delivers.

Your local newspaper needs your support. In print... subscribe to it, read it, pass it along. In digital formats... download it, comment on it, forward it. Own a local business? Advertise. It's the best investment you can make – for your business and your community.

Subscribe for home delivery or 24/7 access with an electronic subscription and **SAVE 25%** over the newsstand price. Call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315.

HANSEN'S

WINDOW COVERINGS & FURNITURE UPHOLSTERY

FREE in home measuring & selection

Keep the sun at bay with **GREAT PRICING** on Energy Saving Window Coverings.

Serving Will, Cook, Grundy & Kaneke Counties For Over 20 Years

Come visit us at our Bradley & Mokena Showrooms!

200 North Washington • Bradley (815) 935-0010
19827 South LaGrange Rd. • Mokena (708) 479-6600

HunterDouglas

Frankfort (815) 469-6610
New Lenox (815) 485-2058
Orland Park (708) 403-1110
Joliet (815) 722-0011

www.HansensWindowCoverings.com

First United Methodist Church

PORK ROAST DINNER

Saturday, Oct. 22
401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

YUM! YUM!

Roast pork, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, oriental slaw and desserts.

- Carry-outs will be available -
The community is invited to attend.

Cost: Free-will offering to benefit local charities
Our Caring Closet will hold a **SILENT AUCTION** at this event

We have homegrown pumpkins!



APPLES

ALWAYS CALL for available apple varieties and days open. Thanks!

Route 53 and New River Rd. - Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 5PM
QUALITY

Closed Mondays **815-476-7514**

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk.- \$15; 2 wks.- \$19;
3 wks.- \$22; 4 wks.- \$25
\$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

The Braidwood Journal - The Coal City Courant - The Free Press Advocate

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including dry-wall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc39-46

Chicago Crew-We install high performance epoxy floors. Commercial, residential, basements, garages. We have a full line of decorative options. Call 815-634-0150 for free estimate. ca 38b-41b

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
Clementine's Closets
815-530-0200
- No Deposit - Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819

READING REQUIRED

FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS TO SUBSCRIBE
CALL 476-7966 OR 634-0315

DUPLEX FOR RENT

Diamond, 1570 Patmore, 2 BR, 1 BA, decent kitchen w/ all appliances, 1 car garage, repainted and new floors. No pets. \$1,200/mo. Everything brand new! Call 815-941-4832. cc3942

FOR RENT

Retail/Shop for Lease, formerly "Big Z's". 101 East Chicago St. Call 815-693-6030 for details. ca40-43

LOST & FOUND

Found on South Island in Wilmington at the big pavilion, bean bags. 815-325-1133 to identify color and claim.

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Gas Fireplace Repair
40 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you.

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big.

INSULATION. Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

A Thousand Words Photography

385 N. Second Ave. Coal City
Mandy Eaton
815-791-2913

80 Acres +/- Farmland AUCTION McLean County

NOVEMBER 2ND 10AM
Evergreen FS Bloomington, IL

80 Acres +/- Farmland
Located between Heyworth & Bloomington. Prime cropland in 1 Tract with a 141.3 soil PI, -95% tillable & optimal fertility. See firstmidag.com for farm & bidding details.

Mark Smith, Broker in Bloomington
309-665-0053 - msmith@firstmid.com

David Klein, Auctioneer - dklein@firstmid.com
Call 800-532-5263

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819

WE ♥ OUR READERS

GARAGE SALES

WILMINGTON

740 JoAnn Drive, Wilmington, Thursday, Friday & Saturday, October 13, 14 & 15, 9am-3pm. Huge sale, Multi family, furniture, jewelry, craft supplies and much, much more. cc41

Check out these great sales!

GARAGE SALES

BRAIDWOOD

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

MISCELLANEOUS

36" Dethatcher rack for lawn tractor \$40, GoGo Elite Traveler 3 wheel with basket \$300, XL dog crate with wheels on the bottom, like new \$50. Prefer text 815-347-1971. ca41-43

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

HELP WANTED

Help with training dogs full or part time. Wilmington area. Call 630-399-4982 before 6 p.m. ch40-42

HELP WANTED

Polk-A-Dot Drive In now hiring day staff. Work while your kids are in school. Stop by for an application. Braidwood. ch38-41

FIREWOOD

Cherry BBQ firewood \$159. Dry, seasoned, oak firewood \$139 plus delivery. Quick, friendly service. 815-260-0108. cc37-48

IN PERSON AND ONLINE

The Don Wey Trust

COORDINATOR POSITION OPENING

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community (WCHC) is accepting applications for a full-time Coordinator to implement grant-related strategies to reduce underage drinking and youth misuse of opioids and prescription drugs. Requires 2 years of experience in a prevention-related field, with special focus on communications and youth-related work. Bachelor's degree is preferred, but not required. The ideal candidate will be comfortable in working with middle and high school youth in classroom and community settings. Strong communications (oral and written) and computer skills will also be important for grant-related projects that include organizing meetings and assemblies, developing messages and signage, working on campaigns, in-person presentations and webinars, and collaborating with local stakeholders to reduce substance use/mental health disorders among youth. Salary starts at \$35,000, with a flexible schedule (some nights and weekends). Benefits include paid holidays and vacation. Start date: November 14, 2022. Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to: WCHC, 1095 S. Water St., Suite F, Wilmington IL 60481; info@wilmington-coalition.org For more info about the Wilmington coalition, please visit our website, https://www.wilmington-coalition.org or call 815-476-1660.

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

Hall Rental

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

FOR SALE

Tiny Treasure Chest



21 CENTURY 21

Coleman-Hornsby

Locally Owned
Nationally Known

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com

Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker
1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

NEW LISTING

BRAIDWOOD \$279,900
This 4 BR, 2 BA ranch home is ready for you to move right in and make it your own. Lorrie & Owen Toler. 715-5959. CU1021

NEW LISTING

MAZON \$147,000
2 BR, 1.5 BA roomy home. Large corner lot. 24x24 det. grg. 12x12 shed. 27 ft. above ground pool. Crawl. Della 258-6467. HL411

NEW LISTING

DWIGHT \$9,000
Build your dream home, just under 1/4 acre, level, cleared, utilities/water/sewer to site. Rod Baudino 674-2583. DF305

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

(815) 942-9190
SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT **C21.COM**
Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS)
Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices.

MAZON

\$429,000
3 BR, 2 full & 2 half BA. Brick home w/ geothermal heating and cooling for low utility bills. Text Shawn 815-474-6670. WM12

MORRIS

\$398,000
Beautiful home in the country w/ an attached one BR apt, 4 car grg & a 2 car grg on an approx. 2.5 acre lot. Text Shawn 815-474-6670.

MORRIS

\$359,900
Charming American 4 square, 3 BR, 2 BA home. Den, eat-in kit, liv. rm, fam. rm. Horses allowed. Call Betty 815-325-7081. PR455

COAL CITY

\$334,900
Better than new, this 3 BR, 2.5 BA home w/ full bsmt is the one you've been waiting for. Lorrie Toler 815-715-5959. SB909

DWIGHT

\$199,500
Your next home, 10 years new, open flr plan, 3 BR, 2.5 BA, OS 2.5 car grg, cvd porch, deck. Rod Baudino 815-674-2583. DW307

MAZON

\$155,000
2-unit has newer roof, well maintained. Easy to rent property in a highly visible location just off of Rt. 47. Shawn 474-6670. CM303

VERONA

\$110,000
2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. 1 gr. rooms/yard. Extra 50x150 lot. Call Della 258-6467. AO432

COAL CITY

\$39,900
Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PP62

RESIDENTIAL LOTS

Including Wooded and Waterfront

Need printing?

We'll put our award-winning graphic arts department to work for you to typeset and print practically anything.

Specializing in full color business cards

- business cards
- banners
- business forms
- dinner tickets
- posters
- fliers
- letterhead
- raffle tickets
- resumes
- full color copies
- envelopes
- yard signs and more

We'll take care of your printing needs from start to finish.

Sure you can order printing online but it's not always cheaper when you add in those hidden art charges and shipping.

Get a local quote first!

FREE PRESS NEWSPAPERS

111 S. Water St., Wilmington
Ph. 815-476-7966

Website to keep public informed on I-80

The Illinois Department of Transportation has launched a new website, I80will.org, to provide the public with the latest information on the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of Interstate 80 through Will County.

"Our commitment to fixing the I-80 corridor involves one of the most complex stretches of interstate in the entire country," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. The new website, I80will.org, will provide the public the latest information on how the project is progressing and what they can do to detour around it.

The website includes updates on construction impacts on the public, reports, newsletters and answers to frequently asked questions, construction schedule information and timeline for each

portion of the project, photo and video galleries to view construction progress and more.

As one of the country's three coast-to-coast interstates, I-80 through Joliet and Will County carries approximately 80,000 vehicles a day, about 25% of which are trucks.

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

Once the eastbound improvements are completed later this year, similar improvements will begin in the westbound direction.

Calling out Gov. Pritzker on SAFE-T Act

"If we didn't pass something, we wouldn't have gotten anything from law enforcement. We wouldn't have gotten a serious conversation," claimed Rep. La Shawn Ford (D-Chicago) recently about why the SAFE-T Act was originally written and passed the way it was.

Rep. Ford was speaking about the cash bail provisions within the SAFE-T Act during a public event in suburban Forest Park, according to the Forest Park Review.

Lots of folks on the other side of the negotiations were taking a hard "No" position, so a decision was essentially made to jam the bill through in order to eventually force the other side to the bargaining table.

The cash bail provision is the most discussed aspect of the law. But the original legislation also prevented police

officers from using their body cam footage to write reports. The provision wasn't designed to be permanent, but was specifically inserted to make the other side adopt a good faith position at the bargaining table. It worked and the provision was removed in a subsequent trailer bill.

The difference between these two topics, of course, is that the end of cash bail has caused big public relations headaches for the Democratic Party in the lead-up to the general election, as state's attorneys, sheriffs, police chiefs and others have denounced the law in a way that has put the majority party on the defensive. But, the Democrats have such large supermajorities with a new and more favorable legislative district map that they apparently believed they could assume the risk.

Rep. La Ford and others have said privately and publicly that some components of the law will have to be changed. But they are sticking with the overall concepts. And with less than three months before the elimination of cash bail and other provisions of the law take effect, maybe the gambit will work. But it hasn't come without political trouble for people like Gov. JB Pritzker.

I saw Gov. Pritzker at an



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

event not long after he refused to answer a question from my associate Isabel Miller about what specific changes he would like to make to the SAFE-T Act. I warned him that, since he agreed the law needed to be changed, Isabel's question wasn't going away.

Well, the governor dodged the same question again and again during and after last week's televised gubernatorial debate, saying only that he wants unspecified "clarifications" to the law.

The governor likely didn't want to insult the Black Caucus or have any sort of negative impact on the trailer bill discussions by publicly negotiating against his own side. He probably also didn't want to cave into pressure from disingenuous actors and instead wanted to tough it out through the election and then deal with the issue in the post-election veto session.

Even so, campaigns ought to be about the exchange of ideas and the governor's refusal to engage deserves to be called out.

Besides, this shouldn't be that difficult. For example, some are making wild claims about the law's trespassing language. Hinsdale's Village President Tom Cauley recently said, according to the Hinsdale Patch, "I guarantee you that we're going to find ourselves with people just camped out in parks, and we cannot ask them to leave. They may be in your backyard or in your shed living there."

Nonsense.

The Illinois Supreme Court's Implementation Task Force has officially advised law enforcement that they "do have discretion to remove the person from the location of the alleged criminal activity, and then cite and release the person from another location." Repeated refusals to comply could then easily be interpreted as being a threat, which would allow an arrest.

It just seems to me that tightening up the law's language to fully reflect the task force's guidance and resulting inference about arrests would be a no-brainer response to the question about changes he wants to make.

The list of forcible felonies which trigger provisions to hold people without bail could and should also be expanded, which even some proponents are saying behind the scenes.

And so, not long after I challenged Pritzker in my subscriber newsletter to step up, he did finally tell reporters on Friday that he thought former prosecutor state Sen. Scott Bennett's (D-Champaign) proposed changes were worth a look, but stopped short of endorsing any specifics in the Downstate Democrat's bill.

Baby steps, I guess.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - 1 DAY ONLY

WE OFFER
EXTRA DISCOUNTS FOR
 MILITARY, FIRST RESPONDERS,
 HEALTHCARE WORKERS, &
 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



SAME AS CASH
0% FINANCING
 LOW/NO CREDIT NEEDED
 OPTIONS AVAILABLE

WILMINGTON MS/HS BANDS MATTRESS SALE

HELP OUR MUSIC PROGRAMS & SAVE \$\$ ON A NEW MATTRESS.

Over 30 name brand mattresses with factory warranties!
 Adjustable bases, pillows, protectors, sheets & frames available.
 S.A.C. & NO CREDIT Financing, OR Credit Cards, Cash, Checks.
 Delivery & Disposal/Recycle of old mattress available.
INTRODUCING THE "NO COMPROMISE" INTELLIBED!
 Licensed Dealer of Beautyrest "Be More Awake!"
 We Carry "The Number Bed" by Instant Comfort







**IF YOU HAVE A MATTRESS TO REPLACE
NOW IS THE TIME TO BUY & SUPPORT THE KIDS!**

- ✓ All sizes available
- ✓ 25+ styles on display
- ✓ Brand new with full factory warranties
- ✓ Delivery and haul away available
- ✓ All forms of payment accepted
- ✓ Financing Available: 0% Up To 24 months

For more info: Text wilmington to 815-364-8539
#beds4wilmington
chris.paulk@csbeds.com

SAT. OCT. 15

10AM-5PM

WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**BRING THIS FLYER IN FOR:
BUY 1 PILLOW, GET 2ND 1/2 OFF - BUY MATTRESS & POWER BASE, GET 2 PILLOWS - \$100 OFF PREMIUM MATTRESS**

Special Assistant for Gymshoe Art®

Introducing Special Assistant Layla





Hello, I am Layla, and I am five years old. I have accepted a special assistant position with Gymshoe Art®. Every week, I am responsible for conducting a review of the submitted artwork for weekly publishing. I look forward to seeing your submitted artwork. Thank you, Special Assistant Layla.



drive up, drop off, do good

DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 - 8AM TO 1 PM



Kuzma Care Cottage

635 S. Main St., Wilmington

www.kuzmacarecottage.org

WILDCAT SPORTS



Photo by Zadie Sims

PASSING THE BALL to her teammates is Jaylee Mills Playing against Streator at home on Tuesday.



Photo by Zadie Sims

DIVING FOR THE BALL is Olivia Hansen playing at home against Streator on Tuesday.

Lady 'Cats were five points away from a perfect week

The varsity Lady Wildcats came close to having a perfect week last week until Beecher got in the way on Thursday.

They lost to the Bobcats at home at both the varsity and junior varsity levels in three games.

JV lost 19-25, 25-13, 24-26. Defense was key in keeping the games close with Skylar Rossow, Rachel Smith, and Reese Van Duyne all having 9 digs each. Right behind them were Nikki Quigley with 8 and Alea Del Angel with 7 digs.

Both Quigley and Camdyn Cieskiwicz had 7 assists each as they shared the setting spot with Cieskiwicz adding 4 digs and 2 aces and Quigley having 3 aces.

Varsity lost 25-16, 19-25, 22-25. Again defense was key with Bella Reyes having 14 digs and Lexi Lairomatis having 13 to keep the games close. Jaylee Mills led offensively with 6 kills to go along with her 5 blocks, 5 digs and an ace. Olivia Hansen also added 9 digs, 3 aces, and 2 kills.

The Lady Cats swept the Streator Bulldogs in Tuesday night's volleyball action. Varsity won 25-11, 19-25, 25-14. Junior setter, Clara Smith, led her team to victory with 9 assists, 8 digs, 6 aces, and 2 kills.

Jaylee Mills led the front attack with 7 kills and 4 blocks while also digging up 4 balls, 2 aces, and 2 assists out of the back row. Lexi Lairomatis led defensively with 12 digs, 3 assists and 2 aces.

JV won 25-23, 25-20. Defense was key for the JV victory with Skylar Rossow having 12 digs and Cole Drown right behind her with 10. Rossow added 3 kills from the front row with

Reese Van Duyne having 4 kills and 3 aces. Camdyn Cieskiwicz led her team with 9 assists and 6 aces.

Freshmen won 25-19, 25-21. Collectively, they had 25 kills for the two matches with Peyton Buza, Melia Hincerick, and Molly Southall all having 6 towards that amazing offense.

The Lady Cats faced the Lady Irish from Seneca on Monday's night volleyball action taking two out of three matches.

Varsity won in 2: 27-25, 25-18. Senior setter, Grace Burkey, had another great game with 10 assists, 14 digs, and 2 aces. Junior setter, Clara Smith, shared the setting with Burkey getting 12 assists and 6 digs of her own.

Offensively, Bella Reyes continued her strong presence at the net with 10 kills, 2 blocks and 4 aces from the serving line. Emma Grace Strong was close behind her with 6 kills from the right side and 2 digs.

JV lost in 3:15-25, 25-19, 22-25. Doing their best to keep it close offensively was Skylar Rossow, Rachel Smith, and Reese Van Duyne each putting up 5 kills. Rossow added 9 digs and an ace as well. Cole Drown was unstoppable in the backrow with 25 digs and 3 aces.

Freshmen won in 2: 25-18, 25-21. Ella Hansen led the way with 5 kills with Peyton Buza adding 4 and Molly Southall and Melia Hincerick both with 3. Aubrey Strong had 2 aces and a kill.

Wilmington travels to Lisle Thursday before competing in the Bradley Invite on Saturday. Their final home game of the season will be Tuesday against Peotone.



Photo by Zadie Sims

THE WILDCATS celebrate a point and an overall victory against Streator on Tuesday night.



Photo by Zadie Sims

GOING UP for the ball at the net during junior varsity action at Reed-Custer is Alea Delangel.

Two Interstate Eight schools want to join ICE Conference

BY ANN GILL
STAFF EDITOR

Two Interstate Eight Conference schools looking to join the the Illinois Central Eight Conference are being turned away.

Coal City athletic director Dan Hutchings reported to the Unit 1 Board of Education that discussions were taking place with other ICE Conference schools to consider the addition of Plano and Sandwich high schools.

The ICE Conference was established in 2018 with its first season of competition held during the 2019-2020 school year. ICE is comprised of Coal City, Reed-Custer, Wilmington, Peotone, Herscher, Manteno, Streator and Lisle.

Back in 1979 the three local schools were among the founding members of the Interstate Eight, as was Plano and a few others. Sandwich joined the conference not long after its establishment.

When Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington left the Interstate Eight after 40 years, Plano and Sandwich stayed on and the name stayed with them and the new member districts—and last season those districts joined with the Kishwaukee River Conference for football only partnership that divided the teams into two groups.

Now it looks like Sandwich and Plano are looking to move out of their long standing conference, but it won't be with the ICE.

Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer informed the Board that the ICE Conference principals met and decided not to expand conference membership, "so it's a no go," he said.

Hutchings reported the addition of two schools would allow for a closed football conference and eliminate the difficulty in scheduling non-conference games, and it would strengthen the wrestling and track programs, "by adding quality schools with good programs."

The reasons why the principals turned down the requests from Plano and Sandwich were not disclosed.

Interesting to note is that Sandwich did not field a varsity football team this season due to low participation. In fact there were just 12 players—six juniors and six seniors—interested taking the field for the Indians.

Paying in cash will cost you more during the playoffs

Cash isn't always king when it comes to future attendance at IHSA state series sporting events.

The IHSA Board approved a recommendation to change ticket prices for those paying in cash vs. using the GoFan ticketing app on their phone.

That means football playoff rounds that require GoFan, the cost of cash tickets will be one dollar more than the cost of the digital GoFan ticket.

This will also apply if a host school chooses to use GoFan in a State Series round when GoFan it is not required.

"A cash ticket option will always exist in some capacity for IHSA postseason events because we respect that there are portions of the audience that may not have access to a smart phone or a digital payment option," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson.

"However, as we continue to broaden the usage of digital ticketing across IHSA Sectional events and beyond, we have also heard frustrations from host administrators regarding fans with the ability to pay digitally who choose not to. This creates issues for host schools

in event management, staffing, and financial reporting that can impact a school's ability to run a successful event. Thus, we wanted to create an incentive for fans who are able to use the digital ticketing option to do so."

In other action the Board approved a recommendation to discontinue the Three-Point Showdown contest as a part of the IHSA Girls & Boys Basketball State Series.

Anderson commented that the showdown enjoyed a great run, but changes in the State Series dates and format last year created challenges conducting it at multiple levels of the State Series.

"As a result, we recommended discontinuing it for the time being so we can focus on how we make these pivotal postseason contests the best experience possible for the student-athletes, coaches, and fans."

The Board approved a recommendation to approve the experimental use of the shot clock during girls and boys basketball games for regular-season tournaments and shootouts this school year.

All tournaments seeking to use the shot clock for regular-season tournaments and shootouts must apply for approval from the IHSA. Information regarding the

approval process will be distributed to member schools in mid-September.

IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said:

"The IHSA's survey of administrators and coaches last year made it very clear that our membership wasn't ready to implement the shot clock in basketball at this juncture. Our priority now shifts to gathering feedback and data on the impact that the shot clock creates on game play, game management, and school finances. We look forward to working with our schools to pilot usage of the shot clock in some tournaments and shootouts this winter."

A BIG Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who came out & enjoyed themselves for the 2nd annual Chamber of Commerce Autumn Festival of Crafts. It turned out to be a picture perfect day. The weather was beautiful along with good food, great band, nice craft vendors & the kids had a blast with the pumpkin decorating, face painting & games.

Also to our sponsors who made this possible: D'Orazio Ford, Grundy Bank, Riverside Healthcare, Whitmore Ace Hardware, the Free Press Newspapers, Davy Industrial Park, Wee-Sip Liquors, Country Financial (Bob Bolser), Oak Knoll Financial Strategies, Wilmington Rotary Club & Baskerville Funeral Home. Also I would like to thank the Mayor & City of Wilmington, James Gretencord & Public works department, Kirstin Van Duyne & Wilmington Park District, Alderman Kevin Kirwin, Ike Widner, Chris Quirk, Wilmington Garden Club & Todd Friddle - Wilm Fire Dept.

Also thank you to my wife Betty for all her support & hard work she put into this with me. Also Debbie Rutherford, Jason Hendron and Eric Fisher. Also committee members: Betty Evans, Stefanie Mickelson, Jackie Danalewich, Dee Yehling, Kathy McGann, Judy Wunderlich, Harriet Cross, David Quigley, Mariann Quirk & Cylee Fuller Ragan.

Steve Evans, Chamber President

See more
game photos at
freepressphotos.
smugmug.com

PROVEN!

We offer businesses
a proven way to reach
audiences. With over
30,800 readers in
print and on the web,
we get proven
RESULTS
Call 476-7966





Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

THE WILMINGTON DEFENSE was smothering again, holding Lisle to just 6 points on Friday. Making a stop are Cade McCubbin (11), Joe Allgood (64) and Reid Juster (10).



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

ONE MORE STEP and Wilmington running back Brendan Moran will reach the end zone on Friday at Lisle when he scored the first touchdown of the game.

Streator's offense will test Wildcat secondary

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

His receivers often break off their routes."

The Wildcats will make the one hour bus ride to Streator's Doug Dieken Stadium for a matchup with the Bulldogs (2-5) Friday.

"They present a lot of different challenges for us so we'll definitely need to have a good week of practice."

Streator has done what no other team has done so far this season, and that is to score more than one touchdown against Reed-Custer.

The Wildcats should have Colin James back this week though, which will be a boost to their offense. Streater gave up 304 rushing yards to R-C and 528 yards overall.

They are coming off a 73-14 loss to Reed-Custer but were able to score twice while gaining 358 yards of total offense, including a 99-yard touchdown pass to their speedy wide receiver Aneefy Ford.

"Streater at home always plays well. It's a very good facility there," said Reents.

"I'm very impressed with their quarterback Christian Benning. He's a very good athlete, both run and pass," said Wildcat coach Jeff Reents.

The Bulldogs are 0-3 at home this season but are averaging 28 points per game there.

"The one thing he does is scramble and make plays longer so you really have to cover guys for long periods of time."

With Friday's 39-6 win over Lisle, Wilmington clinched their 26th consecutive playoff appearance.

Benning was responsible for 345 of Streater's 358 yards last week, with 273 coming through the air.

"A lot of credit goes to a lot of different people. We talked about last Friday being a t-shirt game and if we won that, we'd get our 26 year t-shirt."

"We have a big challenge of keeping him in the pocket."

"It's a credit to all the kids who have played during the streak and a big credit to all the coaches. I'm very thankful for all of them."

Wilmington is 6-1 overall with that lone loss to Reed-Custer.

Wildcat depth too much for Lisle

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

It had all the makings of a trap game. Second time facing Lisle. One of their top wingbacks Colin James unavailable due to a concussion.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

SIDE-STEPPING to follow a block by Matt Swisher is Wilmington running back Drew Walsh who scored a two-yard touchdown.

But the Wilmington football team (6-1) did what they usually do, controlled the line of scrimmage and showcased their depth to secure a 39-6 win Friday at Benedictine University in Lisle.

"We had different kids come in and help with the running back spot," said head coach Jeff Reents.

"I thought Brendan Moran filled in well at that spot and Jake Castle and sophomore Hunter Osipavicius also helped with that."

Moran, a 6'1", 191 lb junior, got the start at wingback and made the most of it with five carries for 33 yards on the Wildcats opening drive, capped by a 12 yard touchdown run to make it 6-0 with 5:06 left in the first.

Moran provided a different look out of the backfield with a good four inches and 30 pounds over the elusive James. He finished with a team-leading 48 yards on 12 carries.

"Offensive line-wise, our kids were able to control the line of scrimmage."

Special teams made an impact at the 7:17 mark of the second quarter as a bad snap led to a blocked punt that Cade McCubbin ran in for a touchdown.

Just before the half ended, senior quarterback Ryder Meents (4-for-7 for 89 yards) hooked up with his favorite target junior Reid Juster who skied for a 20 yard touchdown reception to make it 18-0 at the half.

"I thought Meents threw some nice balls and Juster did a great job. We had to have different kids step up with our injuries and Juster was one of them," said Reents.

"It was a big play to make the guys relax at half-time and they played even better in the second half."

Juster was a bit banged up on the play and was held out of the second half for precau-

tionary reasons. He was effective when in there though, with four receptions for 89 yards.

"We saw him Saturday and he looked good. We were fortunate to have a bit of a lead at half-time so we just played on the safe side with him."

Wilmington had more passing yards than rushing yards at the intermission, a rare occurrence for them.

They added to their lead with a 49 yard drive to open the second half. Meents ran it in from a yard out, 24-0 'Cats.

Osipavicius got in on the scoring with a nine yard touchdown run with 2:19 left in the third. Matthew Swisher's two-point conversion run was good to put the score at 32-0.

Drew Walsh added a two yard td run with 3:59 left for a 39-0 advantage.

"We were able to get everyone in the game which is another thing we were happy about. A lot of our kids got good experience."

Lisle finally got on the board against Wilmington 58 seconds later as quarterback

Tyler Anderson found Tony Dewald for a 19 yard touchdown catch.

With the injury to Juster who also serves as the Wildcat kicker, they turned to senior tight end/defensive back Joel Greenidge in the second half and he delivered, handling the kickoff duties, connecting on an extra point, recording a 45 yard kickoff return and playing some defensive back.

"He has been one of our best special teams kids all year and with Juster going out, we needed to look for another kicker," said Reents.

"Greenidge was kicking okay in practice and this was the first time we had him do it in a game. He was a man of all trades and I'm really happy for him."

Overall, the Wildcats out-gained the Lions 289-124, with 180 yards coming on the ground. In the two meetings this season, they outscored them 68-6.

"Defensively I was really happy. We put them in a lot of second and third and long situations. I thought our defensive line really played well. I

was very pleased with all three phases of the game."

Wilmington rushed 48 times Friday with nine kids carrying the ball. Kyle Farrell who was banged up last week had 10 carries for 38 yards.

Castle had 36 yards on six rushes and Walsh recorded seven carries for 22 yards.

Brandon Stahulak (11) and Meents (five) both rushed the ball three times with Osipavicius (11) and Swisher (eight) recording two carries apiece.

Lead blocker Hunter Hayes also carried the ball once for a yard. Defensively, Moran led the charge with 5.5 tackles. Joey Allgood had four stops and McCubbin and Ryan Nelson both made 2.5 tackles.

Greenidge, Swisher and Stahulak all recorded two stops while Juster and Meents both made 1.5 tackles.

Zach Willis, Hayes, Joey Cortese, Jake Wandless, Colin Tatera, Kaleb Skole, Kade Hopwood and Kyle Farrell were all in on a tackle.

The Wildcats wrap up their three-game road trip Friday in Streater.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK Hunter Osipavicius was called up to the varsity offense with a couple of starters out due to injury. Osipavicius had two carries for 11 yards including one for a touchdown.

F/S Wildcats roll the Lions

Wilmington fresh-soph running back Hunter Osipavicius set the tone for Friday's game at Lisle by returning the opening kickoff 74 yards for a touchdown.

with three gains for 37 yards and a touchdown and Floyd McKendrick with 37 yards in four tries.

The big play sparked the young Wildcats to a commanding 47-0 victory, their fourth shutout in seven games, as 10 different players ran the ball. Lisle simply didn't know who to zero in on as Wilmington improved to 7-0 overall.

Other rushers included Joey Van Duyn with two carries for 29 yards, quarterback Rink with two touchdown runs for a total of 9 yards, Kettman with one run for 27, Walter Gross - 1 for 16, Billy Moore - 1 for 9 and Evan Romano - 1 for 6 yards.

The Wildcat special teams stepped up with a 78-yard punt return by Lucas Rink while Ryan Kettman was accurate with PAT kicks finishing 5-for-6.

Billy Moore had an impressive night on defense with five tackles. Kettman was in on four stops while Declan Proffitt contributed three tackles. Finishing with two tackles each were Spencer Parrish, Zach Ohlund, Rink and Crichton.

Rushing leaders for Wilmington included Kurtis Brassard who had three carries for 55 yards including a touchdown, and Osipavicius 40 yards and a touchdown in three attempts, Matthew Crichton

The Wildcats travel to Streater (who lost 34-22 to Reed-Custer) Friday before returning home Oct. 21 for the final game of the season against Manteno.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WILDCAT JUNIOR Reid Juster leaps to catch the ball on Friday against Lisle. Juster had four receptions for 89 yards during a 39-6 Wilmington victory.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

I'LL FOLLOW YOU! Wilmington running back Jake Castle (3) steps in behind quarterback Ryder Meents (12) during one of his six carries Friday night at Lisle.