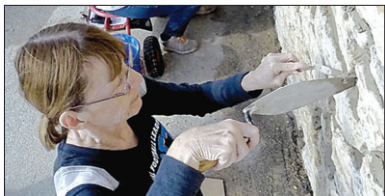


Sealing up history in Wilmington



Wildcat golfers fall short at regional



\$1.00

Vol. 46, Issue 42
1 section • 16 pages
Not over 75% advertising
www.freepressadvocate.com

FREE PRESS ADVOCATE .COM

WILMINGTON, IL | WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Young enthusiasm takes ownership of Bellettini Foods

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

You have to admire the entrepreneurial spirit of Maria and Kevin Valle.

The siblings, at age 21 and 18 years, respectively, along with their aunt Ana Sarmiento, are the new owners of Bellettini Foods in Wilmington.

Valle's Produce Market Corporation purchased the Wilmington grocery Oct. 1, determined to give the area an improved shopping experience.

"We're really excited to become the owners of Bellettini Foods. We intend to keep the same name and same employees, and look forward to expanding the produce section and bring in more items," Maria commented.

Valle's Produce Market originated in Berwyn, IL. Jesus Valle, their father and Michael Valle, their uncle, opened the first store 10 years ago.

"They always wanted to own a small business and they were offered the opportunity so they said let's do it," Maria said. "Right away our family got involved, focusing on buy-

ing top quality produce and quality meat and our customers recognized that."

Soon they added a second location in Berwyn including a taqueria featuring authentic Mexican cooking, and two years ago, opened a third store on West Jefferson Street in Joliet.

In late May the Joliet store suffered extensive damage during a night of street violence. But the neighborhood showed its support with a GoFundMe campaign that raised nearly \$30,000. Family and friends rebuilt the store and it quickly reopened.

Their Wilmington store will be their fourth and largest location.

"We will have some buying power with four stores. We'll hand-pick the produce from the Chicago Market as we've done the past 10 years. And over time we intend to improve the meat selection while offering better prices," Maria said.

Bellettini Foods will still carry national brand items as well as the cheaper "Essentials" line-up supplied by the Kirby Foods warehouse.

There will be opportunity to add more imported products too.

"Over time subtle changes will be made," Maria commented. "One thing that won't change is that we'll be a family-owned store just like before."

Previous owner Kirk Bellettini said he is grateful for the employees and customers who patronized the store the past 33 years.

The Bellettini family purchased what was Baron's Foods in 1987, and at one time operated four Bellettini Foods stores — the first was located in Coal City. Kirk was a third-generation independent grocer who wound up the owner of the Seneca and Wilmington stores after his father retired.

He sold the Seneca store in 2011 to focus on Wilmington as one of the last independent operations in the region.

"I'm proud we gave Wilmington a second independent store all these years. That's almost a rarity any more, two supermarkets in a town this size. But good

SEE BELLETTINI'S, PAGE 2



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE NEW OWNERS of Bellettini Foods in Wilmington are from Valle's Produce Market Corporation which includes (from left) aunt Anna Sarmiento and brother/sister Kevin Valle and Maria Valle. They took off their masks for a quick photo last week inside the expanded produce section.

Building a better Children's Memorial Park



Photos by Marney Simon

REPURPOSED WITH A PURPOSE — Members of the Community Foundation for Wilmington Parks, Recreation and Improvement were up early on Saturday, Oct. 10, to install some "new to us" equipment at Children's Memorial Park in Northcrest. The playground equipment was donated to the Wilmington Park District by the Alsip Park District back in April. The Community Foundation partnered with the park district, Kuypers Brothers Concrete, Builders Concrete and Ramcorp to dismantle and bring the equipment to the city. The volunteers placed one of two playsets in the park over the weekend. The equipment is designed for children ages 2-5. The foundation will still add an additional layer of mulch to the site. "Thank you to those who have supported our fundraisers and made donations to our cause, none of this would be possible without those who are trying to make our community a better place!" the foundation posted to its Facebook page.



City offers second water bill incentive program

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington has rolled out its second incentive program, aimed at encouraging folks to eat and drink local.

On Oct. 6, the City Council approved the program, which will provide a \$50 rebate on residential water bills for those who spend at least \$250 at local bars and restaurants during the month of October.

This is the second time the city has offered a water bill rebate incentive.

Like the first one, this incentive program is an effort to boost local businesses and help them generate additional revenue to help offset losses from state mandated efforts to

combat the spread of COVID-19.

But, this program differs slightly from the last incentive program.

Over the summer, residents who spent \$300 during the months of June and July at local businesses that were affected by the pandemic shutdown were given the \$50 water bill credit.

This time, the time frame is shortened — just the month of October — and only applies to bars and restaurants, the businesses that were affected by the mitigation efforts put in place in Will and Kankakee counties from Aug. 26 through Sept. 16.

"Those were the businesses that were affected by the

SEE INCENTIVE, PAGE 2

Mayor responds to criticism over video

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Wilmington Mayor Roy Strong found himself on the receiving end of criticism after a video surfaced on YouTube, showing him using foul language at a group of people along the bridge over the Mill Race.

After the video made its way around social media, the mayor decided to address the issue head on during the Oct. 6 meeting of the full City Council.

The undated video was posted to social media in September. In it, a group who

calls themselves "Outdoors Weekly" are seen magnet fishing off of the bridge on Baltimore Street, over the Mill Race. Magnet fishing involves dropping a heavy magnet into the water to pull out junk or litter.

The group of three to four men, hailing from North Carolina, travel across the country on magnet fishing

SEE VIDEO, PAGE 2



BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE!
10/14-10/20/20

Check Out Our Entire Weekly Ad @ berkotfoods.com

Berkot's Farm Fresh, Boneless, Skinless Chicken Thighs Family Pack

88¢ per pound

LIMIT 8 PKGS

Coca-Cola or Pepsi Family

6 pk - 16.9 oz btls

4/\$9

Affy Tapples 3 pk

2/\$4

Incentive

mitigations," city administrator Joie Ziller said.

Those mitigations went into effect after the region's positivity rate for COVID-19 went above 8%. The mitigations were removed after the region achieved a rate under 6.5% for three consecutive days.

During that period, bars and restaurants were forced to close down their indoor seating, and meetings and gatherings were reduced to 25% of venue capacity.

But while the program is designed to encourage resi-

dents to get out and patronize local businesses, some reactions have been mixed.

"The comments I got were, too little," said Mayor Roy Strong. "I think it's lost its incentive."

When news of the plan was posted to the *Free Press Advocate* social media pages, the reactions of local readers were less than enthusiastic.

"I pay a Wilmington water bill. I can't afford to eat out," said one reader.

"Not trying to be ignorant, but I will just keep the money to pay on my already 200 dollar a month bill," another added.

Other commenters noted that their monthly water bills

are so high, the \$50 credit is hardly worth it.

"If we don't spend \$250 we would have the money to pay our water bill this is kind of ridiculous," said one commenter.

"Drop these ridiculous water prices. How's that for an incentive," added another.

A total of 52 residents participated in the last incentive program, according to the city.

Council members noted that if 100 people were to participate, it would cost the city \$5,000 in water billing. But the city officials also noted that the city collects about 3.5% in local taxes, so collecting those taxes while residents were spending more could help off-

set any costs to the city.

Purchases must be made at "any local eatery and/or drinkery within the city limits," according to the city's newsletter. Purchases must be made between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, 2020.

Residents can apply via email at utilitybilling@wilmington-il.com, by mail, or by dropping off an application at City Hall, 1165 S. Water St. in Wilmington.

"I hope we get 25 or 30 [participants]," said Strong. "They have to go out there and buy that, they already did it once, so, they'll get something back."

Video

adventures, finding everything from guns to motorcycles in their efforts to, as they claim on the videos, "just clean up some trash" from waterways.

In the video, Mayor Strong approaches the group, who were all wearing video cameras, identifies himself, and questions them about what they are doing during an expletive-laced exchange.

"I'm the mayor of Wilmington, who the [expletive] are you," he asks. "You want me to call the [expletive] cops?"

The group continues to record, stating that there are no signs indicating that they shouldn't be on the bridge.

"You know you [expletive] people are filming in [expletive] this river, and we've got three lawsuits because of guys like you," Strong continues. "I don't want you standing up on that [expletive] bridge... It's kind of common sense, you don't stand on top of a [expletive] bridge. Are you that dumb?"

Shortly after the mayor drives away, an officer from the Wilmington Police Department responds to the scene, noting that she was just checking on the welfare of the magnet fishermen. The fishermen were not held and left Wilmington shortly after the incident.

Last week, the mayor addressed the

issue, noting that while his language may have been a little salty, he was justifiably angry due to multiple drownings in the river over the years that have left the city fighting lawsuits.

"The bad part about that bridge, they probably should have come to the city and said, 'we're going to be doing this,' you know, they didn't get a permit that they were going to be over on the bridge doing something like that," Strong said, adding that he spotted the fishermen while driving and stopped to confront them.

"We had no idea, and I was turning down the street and they were up on top of the wall, two of them. And the guy was looking back, and I don't know what they're doing. I don't know if they're bungee jumping, the guy had a black rope tied around him and I didn't know what it was. And they're throwing stuff. And I thought, what in the heck are these guys doing? So, I turned around and went back over there and of course, I'm mad," he said, adding that he had been deposed on the city's latest drowning lawsuit just days prior to when the video was made.

Strong also noted some important context that was not fully seen in the video — the fishermen were standing on top of the concrete railing of the bridge itself.

"They don't show those guys standing up on the bridge," Strong said. "I'm

thinking, we're going to have a lawsuit, they're going to fall off... The guy said, there should be a sign. Well... if that [concrete railing] was meant to walk on, there would be a railing on it. I think it's understood, don't walk on the wall."

A brief pan of the camera shows the shadows of two of the magnet fishermen standing on the railing of the Mill Race bridge.

Strong said when it comes to the river, problems the city faces tend to come from folks who aren't from Wilmington.

"Most of our problems have come from out of town people. Almost all of the time. And most people who come to Wilmington assimilate pretty good," Strong said. "Out of town people seem to cause our problems."

The mayor also addressed his language and anger as seen on the video.

"You've got to understand, no one has walked in my shoes, I haven't walked in their shoes. We all have different lives and different upbringing and things in your life affect you different. I had four years in the Marine Corps, and it affected me, it still affects me, of course," Strong said, noting that his reaction and foul language were ultimately a throwback to his time in the military.

The *Free Press Advocate* was unable to make contact with the magnet fishermen for comment.

City shows little interest in taking sides in dispute

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

A Wilmington woman who says the city is to blame for flooding on her property is getting few results from complaining to the city.

And, Kathy Kelly said she might be ready to just give up on her two-year fight to get some answers.

Kelly has been to various meetings of the city council and its committees over the summer, seeking help with a property issue. She said the neighbor who butts up to her Park Drive home put in concrete with drainage tiles pointing to her property in April of 2018.

That move, she said, has

flooded her property every time it rains for the past two years.

In September, members of the city council said they'd take a look at her property and discuss it at the next meeting. Mayor Roy Strong did not get a chance to visit, citing other commitments.

The issue was not included on the Oct. 6 agenda, but once again Kelly attended looking for help.

Kelly said she wants the city to place a drain tile in her yard to ease her flooding, since they issued the permit for her neighbor's concrete.

But, city officials now say, they're not so sure about that.

City administrator Joie Ziller said the city just is not

certain about that permit process. If the neighbor placed the drainage tiles toward Kelly's yard outside of what was permitted, the dispute may be a neighbor vs. neighbor issue, not something for the city to be involved with.

"You don't have to do a full permit to do downspouts and drainage," said Ziller.

But city officials did recognize that Kelly's yard issues do seem to be caused by the neighbor's concrete.

"The tile is coming underneath the [neighbor's] concrete. I don't know where that tile is starting," said Alderman Dennis Vice. "I don't know where the origins of that tile is, and that I think needs to be addressed. It was permitted

but I don't know how it passed... It's very clear to the eye to see there are two tiles coming out of the back of the concrete of that garage, 4 to 6 inch tiles that are buried in that concrete, that are forcing water on to her property. We all saw it... Water is being forced on to the property."

City officials said they would again move the issue to the Water, Sewer, Streets and Alleys committee this week for discussion.

But, a frustrated Kelly said she likely wasn't interested in attending more meetings, and was looking at the possibility of putting in drainage tiles at her own expense.

The Water, Sewer, Streets and Alleys Committee meets today (Wednesday) at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

In other news before the full council on Oct. 6:

- The city is still awaiting word on how much of the federal CARES act funding will be headed to Wilmington.

"We submitted an application and we should be receiving something," finance director Matt Hoffman said. "It's all the equipment we purchased. We've been instructed by Will County to wait a little bit for the payroll side of things, and they're going to prepare another form for us to use."

CARES act funds were given to Will County, which is allocating them to taxing districts throughout the county.

- Mayor Roy Strong announced that Trick or Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the full council is Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Belletini's

employees, competitive prices and loyal customers made that happen. Our philosophy always was we're here to help the community any way we can and I think people appreciated that.

"But the time was right for me to retire and the Valle family has proven themselves with their other stores so I wish them the best of luck and patronage we had."

Maria and Kevin know it will take long hours and hard work to be successful. They've been logging 14-hour days since becoming owners.

"It's been frightening while at the same time exciting," Maria admitted. "The employees have been great with helping us and we just feel we can do this right with their help and from family."

Like all eager business owners, they have ideas they want to implement. The future may include the serving of more hot foods including recipes from a chef who is popular at their Berwyn location.

North Island has a date with the undead

STAFF REPORT

There's nothing malevolent about the North Island Park for 363 days of the year — until the one weekend each year that the Wilmington Lions Club turns it into a horrifyingly haunted forest brimming with the undead and decaying.

The Lions Club's two-night Spookhike, on the Haunted North Island, will take place on Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24, beginning at 7 p.m. The terrors continue until the bewitching hour — with the last ticket being sold about 10 p.m.

A rain date of Sunday, Oct. 25 from 6-8 p.m. is planned.

The Lions Club is billing it as a socially distanced outdoor event where those brave enough to pay the \$5 donation will trek into the darkness along a lighted path. Warning:

Stay on the path in order to stay safe from all that goes spooky in the night.

Parking will be available at the South Island Park. A haunted hayrack ride will transport hikers from the parking area to the North Island to partake of the ghastly goings-on.

The proceeds from the Spookhike support the Lions Club's charitable work in the community, including assisting residents who otherwise could not afford them with the purchase of hearing aids and eyeglasses, as well as maintaining a stock of equipment such as hospital beds, walkers and wheelchairs and loaning them out free of charge.

Individuals who would like to play a role in the haunting can contact the Mary Belter at 815-953-2541 or visit hauntedillinois.com

EASY TO REMEMBER
www.freepressadvocate.com

In-person or online - communication your way.



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

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR ISLAND PARK DISTRICT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Island Park District for 2020-2021 will be held on the 22nd day of October, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. at the Island Park District located at 315 N. Water St., Wilmington, Illinois.


Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may appear at the hearing, and they will be allowed to give testimony.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes as extended for 2019-2020 were \$339,642.15.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020-2021 are \$467,419.00. This represents an increase of approximately 37.62% over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes as extended for debt service for 2019-2020 was \$12,980.86.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2020-2021 is \$12,500.00. This represents a decrease of approximately 3.70% over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes as extended for 2019-2020 was \$352,623.01.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020-2021 are \$479,919.00. This represents an increase of approximately 36.10% over the previous year.

Printed by Order of the Corporate Authorities of the Island Park District, Will County, Illinois



Award Winner
ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
Serving newspapers since 1865

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: \$40 Grundy & Will counties; \$48 other Illinois counties and \$54 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free

Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, and The Coal City Courant, and an advertising shopper known as the Prairie Shopper.

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

Deadlines for the Prairie Shopper
Display Advertising: Thursday, 2 p.m.
Classified & Public Notices: Thursday, 5 p.m.

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
News and Advertising: Monday, noon

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

©2019 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

Wilmington woman Will County winner

Another election day will soon be upon us, and as we go to the polls and look around we see women on the ballot, women serving as election judges and most important of all, women coming in to vote. As you are aware, it was not always so. Today we look at the first woman in Will County to hold an elected position.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

When our founding fathers wrote the Constitution they declared that white males, over the age of 21 and inhabitants of the U. S. could vote. This, of course, left out 50 percent of the population, the female 50 percent. There is no record at the time of any women protesting this.

The same year that Illinois became a state, 1818, a small group of men and women in Seneca Falls, New York got together to discuss women's rights, in particular women's rights to votes. The press at the time derisively called them "Amazon's" and "unnatural." But this small group started a movement.

Many men quoted the Bible when it said, "let your women be silent in church," and "be in subjection." This, they said, was God's word on the subject, case closed.

In Illinois, several women, mainly transplants from the East did not think the case closed. In particular Prudence Crandall, a school teacher in Mendota. She had been forced to flee Connecticut because

she taught Negro girls in her school. Crandall worked in Illinois as an early advocate of the enfranchisement of both black and white women.

Between 1860 and 1890 Judge James Bradwell and others passed laws in which included women's right to control their own earnings, to equal guardianship of children after divorce, to control and maintain property, to share in a deceased husband's estate and to enter into any occupation or profession. This included becoming an attorney, even though women could not legally sit on Illinois juries until 1939.

In 1873 a Judge Bradwell secured the passage of a statute which allowed any woman, "married or single," who possessed the qualification required of men, to be eligible for any school office in Illinois created by law and not the constitution. Even though they couldn't vote for themselves, in November 1874 ten women were elected as County Superintendents of Schools. One of these women was Mrs. Sarah McIntosh, a resident of Wilmington.

Women's right to vote was a hot topic here in Will County. Men all over the county were speaking against it. We read of a meeting in Channahon in the Joliet Signal of December 3, 1872, "The speaker, after paying a glowing tribute to what

he called "the infinite superiority of woman in many things" and indignantly refuting those who imputed her mental inferiority, presented in a calm, dignified - yet effective - manner, the reasons which led him to consider women's suffrage as a measure in the highest undesirable. His remarks were enthusiastically received by the audience."

Nonetheless, in the fall of 1873 Mrs. McIntosh was nominated by the Democratic Party for the position of County School Superintendent. Ed Conley of the *Wilmington Advocate* wrote, "We notice that the press of Will County is agitating the "woman question" in regard to the office of County School Superintendent. It is evident that the opponents of the law making women eligible to election to that office are greatly in minority. The question is especially interesting at present; as a lady candidate, Mrs. S. McIntosh, of this city, is already in the field, and our voters will soon be called on to define their position on this question by ballot. If any lady can be elected in Will County we believe Mrs. M. can and will; if she cannot be elected none other need try."

In the official election county election returns we see that Sarah won by 537 votes. She received her greatest vote in Wilmington with 310 votes. Her smallest vote count came from the eastern and northern part of the county.

Women had broken the barrier, and in Wilmington a celebration was in order. We read, "On Thursday evening

last, a party consisting of a number of musical gentlemen whose names we disremember, came to this city to do honor to our newly elected County School Superintendent, Mrs. Sarah McIntosh. The Wilmington band, by some means, got "wind" of the affair, and turned out in force to join in the surprise. At about 8:30 the whole party, with a sprinkling of prominent citizens proceeded quietly to the residence of the lady in question who, instead of being "caught napping" had "a light in the window" for all. Instrumental and vocal music was in order, after which congratulations, three-minute speeches, etc. etc., ruled the hour, until the surprisers were agreeably surprised on being invited to an adjoining room in which a choice selection of food was found ready and waiting. We won't report the speeches or responses - we won't - we can't describe the electric effect of the campaign glees as sung by Mr. Hendricks and his talented associates. After an hours' entertainment amid the best possible feeling, the party bade their adieu, formed in procession, and marched off to the stirring notes of the "Red, White and Blue."

However, even though Sarah held elective office, she still could not vote. It would not be until August of 1920 that women won the full rights to vote in all states of the Union.

Chamber seeks Christmas elves

Elves and sponsors are needed to participate in the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and Industry Christmas Elf contest.

The contest benefits the Christian Help Association (CHA), which uses the proceeds to provide a holiday meal for the community's less fortunate families and presents for their children. The CHA will be helping approximately 350 local families this year.

Children age 5 and under, who are Wilmington residents, are eligible to be elves. They will be photographed in their holiday finery, and their pictures will be attached to donation boxes.

The boxes are placed in sponsoring businesses and shoppers are asked to donate their change, or as much as they can spare. Each penny counts as a vote for the elf pictured on the box — so each dollar is worth 100 votes. The top three vote-getters each receive Chamber gift certificates as a thank you for participating.

Elf photos will be taken on Thursday, Oct. 22. After school and evening appointments will be available.

To participate either as an elf or a sponsoring business, contact Cyndi Ragain, program organizer, right away at 815-474-7521.

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY!

Read Time Was by Sandy Vasko

EACH WEEK IN THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE

Attorney Fisher files Campus estate notice

Attorney Korst files Agazzi estate notice

Attorney Fisher files Hovi estate notice

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

PUBLIC NOTICE STATE OF ILLINOIS COUNTY OF WILL) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - PROBATE DIVISION

PUBLIC 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 Marie Agnes Hovi, Deceased. Case No.: 20 P 719.

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Marie Agnes Hovi of Mokena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 1, 2020 to Marie Ann Hovi as Independent Executor.

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, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before April 14, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, 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 representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: October 14, 2020.
Marie Ann Hovi, Independent Executor

Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law, Fisher Berardi Law Attorney No.: 6317890, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708) 942-8030 Email: mark@fisherberardilaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on October 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

PUBLIC 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 Phyllis J. Campus, Deceased. Case No.: 20 P 631.

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of Phyllis J. Campus of Wilmington, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 28, 2020 to Charles M. Campus as Independent Executor.

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, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before April 14, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, 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 representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated: October 14, 2020.
Charles M. Campus, Independent Executor

Andrew Costa, Attorney at Law, Fisher Berardi Law Attorney No.: 6317890, 14919 Founders Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708) 942-8030 Email: andrew@fisherberardilaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on October 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - PROBATE DIVISION

THE ESTATE OF FREDA JEAN AGAZZI, DECEASED.

No. 2020 P 492 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to creditors of the death of Freda Jean Agazzi of Joliet, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 16, 2020 to Mary T. Jostes, 1451 Root Street, Crest Hill, Illinois, 60403 as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Michael J. Korst, Michael J. Korst, P.C., 2720 Caton Farm Road, Joliet, Illinois, 60435.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Court.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 14, 2021, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/18-3), 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 10 days after it has been filed.

Mary T. Jostes, independent Executor

Michael J. Korst, Michael J. Korst, P.C., 2720 Caton Farm Road, Joliet, Illinois, 60435. 815-609-8080

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 21 and 28, 2020.

Sealing up area history

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

Even a worldwide pandemic can't stop people who love Wilmington's history.

For the past eight weeks dedicated members of the Wilmington Area Historical Society have been tuck-pointing one of the city's oldest buildings.

The exterior repairs will hopefully protect the treasures inside the Wilmington Area Historical museum from the elements.

"Sunlight and moisture aren't things you want inside a museum," commented WAHS officer Bill Weidling. "The mortar on this building just turns to powder when you chip at it so it's time we get this done."

The building at 114 N. Main Street was built with limestone and cement mix in 1879. After 141 years the elements have taken a toll.

WAHS president John Persic said the members decided to tuck-point the building themselves after getting a quote for \$30,000.

"As a non-profit, we don't have that kind of money to spare. So with the good weather and volunteers we've tuck-pointed almost the entire building at ground level. Soon we'll have to get out the ladders," Persic said.

The two-story structure has a strong history as a municipal building. It was the town's original firehouse, was the long-time city hall, was the town's jail cell and even rented the rear upstairs to a school teacher for a little extra income.

"It's an interesting building when you consider its history," Persic added. "It we can make it more seal-tight it will only benefit the old papers, photos and artifacts we have inside."



Photo by Eric Fisher

ONE CRACK AT a time - Volunteers work Sunday on the Wilmington Area Historical Society museum at 114 N. Main St. tuck-pointing around limestone bricks. The mortar from 141 years ago is crumbling and members have made repairs over eight weekend work days. Among the volunteers tuck-pointing the south wall are (from front) Bill Weidling, Sharri Michaels, Marcie Tafoya, Carol Hilgendorf and John Persic.

The building has 14 windows boarded up with historic scenes of Wilmington. The WAHS intends to replace a couple of faded paintings with new scenes on aluminum substrate.

The work has been slow but steady and the WAHS is determined to complete the project.

"It's funny what a \$30,000

estimate will make you do," quipped Weidling. "So far it's been kind of fun...and you can't beat the company," he said while gesturing toward a handful of volunteers.

The museum is open to the public the first Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m.

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

OAK KNOLL
= Financial =
STRATEGIES

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, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to publish these remarks the news-

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

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

To voice your opinion, please go to

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

Pritzker's tax

ELWOOD—It's a disheartening to think that Governor J.B. Pritzker best solution for solving Illinois' budget problems is to switch to a graduated tax. Instead of cutting spending and pursuing pension reform, Pritzker and the Democrats say they'll go after the rich with more taxes. Remember before you vote for or against the Constitution change, the question is should the lawmakers in Springfield be given more ability to raise taxes across all income levels. To make it sound good now, they're targeting high income taxpayers. But once the law is changed, they'll be able to go after the income of retirees, middle income workers and even low wage earners. Can Springfield be trusted? Who do you think got us into the terrible mess we're in now? Vote no for the Constitutional change and let's force them to come up with more meaningful reform.

Science was wrong

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling about global warming or as they now call it, climate change. I don't know why they changed the name, I'm sure they had a reason. During the 80s if any of you can remember scientists for all of you that believe what they all say called for another ice age for close to 10 years. I and many people increased their home insulation, 3M came out with V-Seal to seal doors and windows. Everyone was very concerned because the weather was getting colder and colder and we had a lot of snow more than I can remember since then. Yet the scientists were wrong. Science is not perfect, so I would not be so quick to claim that we are having climate change due to a lot of our emissions. Our climate on earth has been totally tropical, total ice, total water long before man had anything to do with it. But I guess those who are with the green new deal refuse to admit it. Maybe you'd like to see this country go down while other countries increase their emissions.

Dan Hill

Can't afford reparations

WILMINGTON— Before the American Revolution there were people brought here as indentured servants that were also called bond servants which were all white and not black. They were owned and kept in servitude until the time came when they paid off their debts which took years. Bond servants were treated in an inhumane manor so reparations must also be given to their ancestors. But not one member of congress will recognize these facts that there were white bond servants before black slaves that were treated in the same manor as the black slaves. To go further back, take a look at Egypt where all people were slaves to the Egyptians building the pyramids. Will their ancestors in USA receive reparations? There have been slaves in every country throughout time and there is not enough money to pay for all the reparations that are demanded.

Wear a mask

WILMINGTON—Chew on this for a bit. The right-to-lifers want to remove choice because life is sacred. And yet these are some of the same right-wingers who say a mask is their choice when that could mean the difference between life and death for innocent people who work with them, serve them as customers or merely pass within 6 feet of them. Their personal choice could inflict harm, even death, upon others, but suddenly the sanctity of life is no longer an issue for them. Let's keep this in mind during the judicial hearing for Amy Coney Barrett.

Tara D.

Something's wrong

WILMINGTON—Many sound-off letters complain about people getting free stuff and handouts from the government and describe undocumented workers as the scourge of the earth. But in general, undocumented workers pay more taxes than President Trump. When Trump paid only \$750 federal income taxes for two years and for 10 years paid nothing at all and yet gets the best medical care possible while many taxpayers get no medical attention whatsoever, something's wrong. Does the word freeloader apply here? It's more than freeloader, because it's a criminal case which will be prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney. And because Eric Trump just pleaded the Fifth Amendment, things look bad for the Trumps. Stay tuned.

Kate L.

So important

COAL CITY—It is good to be in a country of freedom with a Constitution that protects our ability to choose our path through life. This freedom is everyone's natural right. God gives our right to be free and make us responsible for our choices. Lincoln said that the USA was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that we were all created equal and he said that strength came from being right. For not much formal education the guy knew a lot. Good and bad choices bring good or bad long term results. Are we mostly right or mostly wrong? Most of us fall between both extremes. Right choices are reasonable, work well for all, and must be affordable. Wrong choices fail this test every time. To be successful we must choose right most of the time. It is usually what we know that keeps us on the right path. To detour from the right path is looking for the easy way out and is always a dead end. We can escape this wrong way with one wise choice that puts us back on track. We usually make mostly good choices while avoiding the bad ones. Honesty is right. Lies are evil and wrong. Addictive drugs, smoking, or drinking are wrong detours that cheat us out of a better life. Good paths require knowledge of what works. What does not work can sometimes cost us our life. Choosing the hard way instead of the easy way is almost always right. Being for law and order is usually better than trusting to good luck, especially in the long run. What is best for the long run is most important. It must be reasonable, affordable and be what works as intended. We will soon choose one of two very different paths as we vote. In 50 to 75 years most of us will be gone. How will the grown up kids and grandkids feel about what we must soon decide? Will they be able to even have the legal right to choose how they think? We must choose the freedom to remain a great place as

history will show the truth of our choice. Don't forget to vote as it has never been so important to care for the country. USA, USA, USA.

Pelosi holding out

SHADOW LAKES— Once again the speaker of the house Nancy Pelosi has stopped the taxpayers from receiving a stimulus check because she won't take \$600 billion off her stimulus bill proposal. So I was wondering why a millionaire would stop the taxpayers from receiving money that belongs to them when the speaker of the house lives off the taxpayers funds. So if any millionaire government employee doesn't want to help the American citizens, no one has the right to question the millionaires that leach off the taxpayers. There is one millionaire woman that seems to be power hungry and is only concerned about her mansion and her \$12 a pint ice cream, not the lives of American citizens. Vote Democrat and your lives will become waste product just like the citizens of California while the speaker of the house has her mansion.

People should know

BRAIDWOOD—When running for president in 2016 Donald Trump said "Only I can fix it" when he criticized our nation's trade deficit. But recently, in the month of August, our monthly trade deficit was the largest it has been in 14 years. And it's not just because of the pandemic. The annual deficit was also high at \$579.9 billion in 2018 and in 2019 slightly lower at \$576.9 billion. But throughout the Obama years, the deficit was consistently lower at \$400 to \$500 billion. People have a right and responsibility to know this.

Ann S.

Numbers and words

SHADOW LAKES—Let's play the numbers game. Every day they release the numbers relating to the coronavirus in the state of Illinois. Do you really believe for a moment if all the numbers were zero, the state would open up and the lock down would end? I think not. All you need is one infected person to start the process all over again. That is when the fear and terror kick in again. My favorite word used by politicians is "I have a plan." Let's look at the usage of the word phrase. The mayor of Chicago, stated in her election campaign, " I have a plan to stop the violence." Since that time she has had two or three more plans. Has the violence stopped? I think not. Why doesn't she just say it's gang warfare and we don't know what to do? Now we have Joe Biden who states, "I have a plan to handle the pandemic." What is that plan? Is he going to come to my home and hold my hand if I become infected? If you listen to the media they change the narrative every day. It seems like the country is close to the development of a vaccine for the virus. What was Senator Harris's reply? "If President Trump says its OK, I am not taking it!" Aha yes, the narrative from the left, fear and terror. Next we will have to talk about my next word, free. Gosh I love that word.

M a r g o t Lane

Typical Millennial

BRAIDWOOD— In response to "For town's best interest," the author is obviously a typical millennial with feelings of self entitlement. This person feels it's their responsibility to be the pot stirrer for the betterment of a community. Sounds like someone needs to get a hobby, a job or maybe a couple of both because they seem to have way too much free time on their hands.

Tax loopholes

COAL CITY—Responding to "Based on speculation" and "Biden's Loophole," Mary Trump, the niece of President Trump, has provided authorities with information from the Trump estate to build the case against President Trump. She and her brother's family were shut out of the family's will so she released incriminating documents. Regarding Biden's tax loophole, it's nothing new and has been discussed for years because Newt Gingrich, John Edwards and Trump used it also. The loophole is a law which should be changed. President Obama tried to change the law but was met with opposition by the Republican Party. The difference between Biden and Trump is that if Trump is convicted of the massive tax fraud which investigations have uncovered, Trump would go to jail. And that is why Trump is unhinged. Winning the presidency put him under scrutiny which uncovered his decades of illegal activity and once he steps out of the White House he is no longer free from immunity.

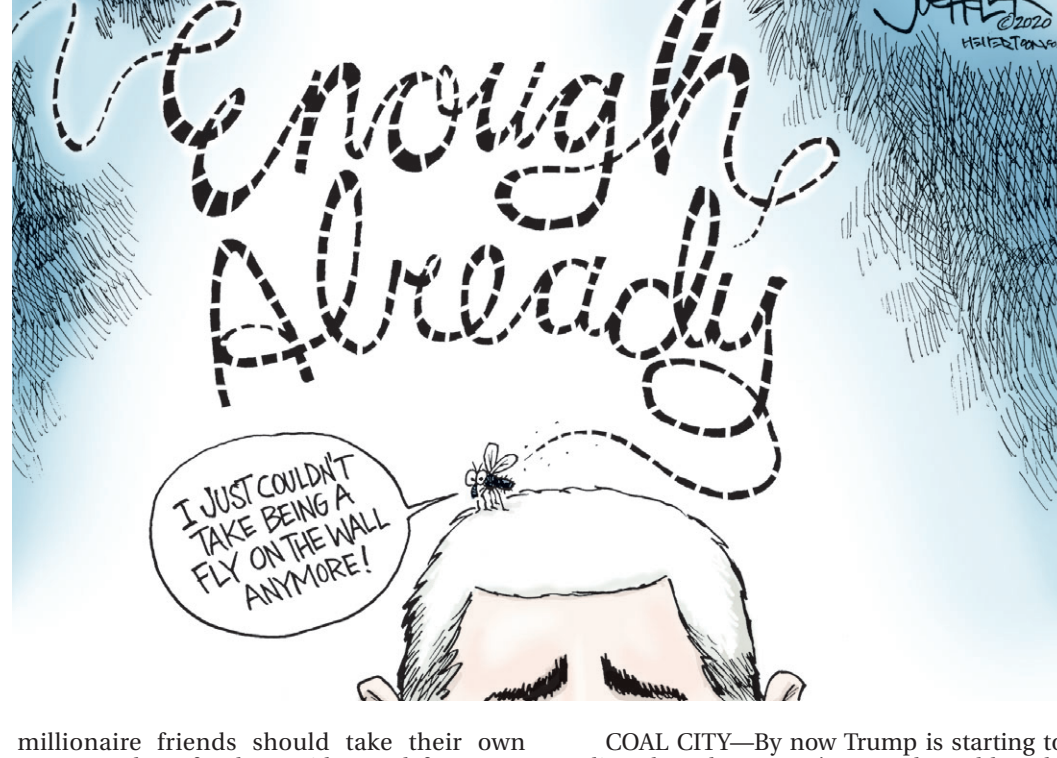
Danni R.

The buck stops here

BRAIDWOOD—In response to "Deserves more credit" and "Vote to survive," President Trump was impeached Dec. 18 so House Dems didn't interfere with Trump's COVID-19 response whatsoever. The Senate shouldn't be blamed because they acquitted Trump Feb. 5. Trump's China travel ban mistakenly accepted 8,000 Chinese from Hong Kong and Macao and failed to trace 1,600 Americans coming from China. When the virus spiked, test kit shortages prevented testing for front-line medical staff who were also forced to reuse personal protective equipment for months because Trump refused to activate the Defense Production Act. It's true Trump urged retail CEOs to offer testing but only 4 percent of retail sites actually responded. Trump's press conferences belittled respected world immunologist, Dr. Fauci, who Trump continues to contradict today. Army Lt. General Honore, who famously rescued Katrina victims, says Trump failed a unified response for states and localities. Recent reports indicate the world renowned CDC is corrupted by Trump's political interference. Truman famously said "the buck stops here" but Trump said on March 13 "I don't take responsibility at all."

A \$300 million waste

COAL CITY— If the state of Illinois is so deep in debt then how is our governor going to get the \$300 million to pay for his Covid-19 task force? Is the governor going to waste more taxpayers' money to help his friends' bank accounts instead of doing his job protecting the American citizens? So if he is going to waste the taxpayers' money then it should be used to help the taxpayers or maybe him and all his



millionaire friends should take their own money and pay for the Covid-19 task force. But don't hold your breath waiting for that to happen. Maybe we should call the governor's office and find out if he's going to raise taxes to pay for the task force that isn't needed. But what is needed is the money to be used to stop the violence in the state but don't wait for the governor or the general assembly in Springfield to do anything for the citizens in Illinois. They live off the taxpayers so their money is really the taxpayers' money that they collect and do nothing for the citizens of Illinois. Someone should explain how the Democrats help the American citizens.

Influenced by TV

SHADOW LAKES—To all of you people that enjoy bashing President Trump, if you believe that you could do a better job than he is doing why don't you run for president and see how many mistakes you make. But none of you seem to have any respect for whoever is the president. But yet you will sit on your couch watching your TV and complain about everything when none of you know exactly what is going on. But you're all experts in everything in the world. I guess you people are a jack of all trades and master of none and your intelligence level has risen quickly from thunderhead to insanity. Try reading books instead of watching polls or listening to people that have less knowledge then you have that get their information from some crackpot.

Scare tactic

WILMINGTON—Senator Harris said Trump falsely stated that if Trump wins reelection, he'll gut Social Security and Medicare. Trump did not make that statement, and his payroll tax deferral plan was not going to affect the funding for your Medicare. This statement by Biden and Harris is a lie. Biden and Harris will affect everyone's health care if elected. Politifact states that Senator Harris's statement is false. Trump is not taking away your Medicare or Social Security. The Democrats and the left wing media are scaring senior citizens into believing Trump will take away benefits.

Taking control

SHADOW LAKES—About the Covid-19. I'm not suggesting the virus is a hoax, it is real. Within four months state governments convinced citizens to stay inside and not leave their homes. Businesses went bankrupt, homes went into default and people fought forever diminishing resources from food to toilet paper. We were told violent protests with hundreds of people participating was OK. But going to church, a family funeral or sporting event was not. Six people could ride in a car to a lake but could not get into a boat together. We were warned not to wear masks then warned if you didn't it would kill people. Cash was banned and no one could give change. But using a credit card was acceptable. Good way to keep track of everything you do by the government. Several states tried to stop gun sales but the public reaction stopped it in most states. We were also told to regard those burning police vehicles, looting stores, physically beating and in some cases killing conservatives who got in their way were peaceful protesters. So tell me is this a big political game even though the virus is real and of course out of the countries that I have seen listed in print with the worse cases, worse amount of people dying, United States is third from the bottom out of 12. So I think this country did a pretty damn good job.

Dan Hill

Lifestyle changes

WILMINGTON—On Oct. 6 the CDC just added being overweight and obesity as underlying health condition for adults of any age that are at increased risk for severe illness from the Covid-19 virus. People may not realize this, but obesity alone is now a risk factor for being hospitalized or placed in the ICU as a result of COVID-19. A BMI of 30 you are at higher risk. If your BMI is 40 or over your risk of severe illness doubles and a severe can be much harder to recover from. Please protect yourself and take a walk when the weather is still nice.

Trouble in town

BRAIDWOOD— Braidwood seems to have a couple of new troublemakers in town who obviously haven't been here long enough to have a clue about what's going on in this town or the people who live here. After attending a couple of town hall meetings it's obvious that these individuals have created a personal vendetta and hatred for certain elected officials in the very short amount of time that they have lived here. These people might be taxpayers, but as taxpayers, there's the proper way to act in public and there's the improper way to act. The improper way has been displayed in abundance by these individuals.

Trump unhinged

COAL CITY—By now Trump is starting to realize that there aren't enough crabby old racists left to get him re-elected. As he becomes increasingly unhinged and his presidency descends into irrelevance the question is what will he do now? Will he send troops into the large cities to prevent people from voting? Will he order his postmaster puppet to shut down the post office so citizens can't vote by mail? Will his buddy Putin start an international incident to try to solve Trump's chances in the election? Will he order the wing nut militia to kidnap prominent Democrats? When he loses will he build a wall in the oval office to protect himself and his tax returns? Next year at this time will he be on Dancing with the Stars? Or will he get a job on Fox or just go golfing all the time? It doesn't break my heart that Trump will leave the Republican party in shambles but it's very sad that he has done the same thing to our beloved country. Mr. Putin spent millions of dollars on social media four years ago to help Trump get elected. Looking at the chaos we've all seen in the last four years he sure got his money's worth.

Keep it up

BRAIDWOOD—Don't know much about what is being said by the "newcomer" about city hall but I have to say to the person good for you. Sometimes it takes a newcomer's view to call out the good old boys. Sure, they won't like it and people will counter-attack. I know because years ago I used to go to council meetings and speak and they'll make you feel like an outcast. But stand your ground, be civil, because that will only improve the town.

Vote in person

WILMINGTON—Everyone needs to vote in person and watch their vote get counted. The Covid-19 pandemic should not keep us citizens from going to the polls to vote. The World Health Organization has finally confirmed what many experts and studies have been saying for months. The coronavirus is no more deadly or dangerous than seasonal flu. WHO confirms that the virus is nothing like as deadly as everyone predicted back in March. So mask-up, since it's the law and go vote.

Health care nightmare

CUSTER PARK—During the debate did you notice that Vice President Pence changed the subject faster than Road Runner escaping from Wile E Coyote? The moderator asked Pence about President Trump's plan for preexisting conditions. Pence refused to answer. Trump has been promising to cover preexisting conditions, but the Trumpcare health bill he produced shortly after becoming president was rejected because people lined the halls of Congress in protest. Many in wheelchairs were dragged away and arrested because they refused to give up Obamacare. Since then Trump continues to promise the coverage of preexisting conditions but has never introduced anything in black and white and never has described concrete details of any such plan. Throughout his presidency Trump continues to say over and over again that the specifics will be coming two weeks later, but two weeks later nothing ever happens. If Trump's lawsuit strikes down Obamacare in the Supreme Court, a health care nightmare will truly begin in the middle of a pandemic with all its fury.

Gloria W.

Get used to it

BRAIDWOOD—After reading numerous sound-offs regarding this allegedly "newer" resident in Braidwood who supposedly enjoys causing trouble and then reading the sound-off submitted by a person who feels that all these sound-offs are geared towards her, there's only one thing that anyone can say. If you believe the shoe fits, wear it. Maybe all of these sound-offs over the past several weeks have some validity to them. People who live in a small town are oftentimes the judge and the jury so you might as well get used to it.

College isn't free

WILMINGTON—Illinois cannot afford Joe Biden's free college tuition plan. It's another reason we need to vote for Trump. Biden's plan is a federal and state plan that will cost Illinois taxpayers \$23 billion dollars each year because the federal government is not picking up all costs of the program. Illinois is broke and when budgets are tight, public universities will cap the number of students because they cannot afford free tuition for all that want free tuition. Many countries around the world got rid of free college. Finland has free college but they ration the number of students each year. In Finland 33 percent of college applicants are rejected each year for all universities. Elite universities have that kind of selectivity rate. Plus participation in this plan would be optional. JB bulked at Trumps extra \$100 in unemployment because the state couldn't afford it. Illinois was one of the last state to approve extending extra

FAMILY

Kerulis, Schmucker united in marriage



Mr. and Mrs. John Schmucker

Amy M. Kerullis and John P. Schmucker, of Estero, FL were united in marriage on Oct. 3, 2020. Parents of the bride are John F. and Mary A. Kerulis, of Wilmington. Parents of the groom are J. Patrick and Kathleen F. Schmucker, of Wilmington.

The ceremony was held at 1 p.m. in Saint Rose Church. Organist/vocalist was Tom Labanauskas. The bride wore a ballgown satin dress with a lace top designed by Justin Alexander from Wolsfelt's Bridal. Her bouquet was created by Donna Figora, of Shorewood.

Maid of honor was Jackie Goulding and matron of honor was Mallory Vancura. Bridesmaids were Kali Nordeen, Megan Kerulis, Madison Lathum, Mary Gallagher, Tara Spell, Kelly Holem, Yana Gavalick, Karleigh Cherveney and Leanne Torte. They wore burnt orange floor-length chiffon dresses with eucalyptus and white rose bouquets. Flower girl was Maggie May Schmucker, bride and groom's Cockapoo; she was wearing a white and eucalyptus flower collar.

Best men were Ryan Ruzich and Neil Ruzich. Groomsmen and usher were David Wallen, John Kerulis, Joe Kerulis, Richard Heintz, Jason Wilhelmi, Doug Lopez, Stan Czajkowski, Alex Hoffer, Matt Talley and Nick Gavalick. Ring bearer was Tam Kerulis, bride and groom's Cocker Spaniel, He was wearing a burnt orange bow-tie collar.

A reception was held at the home of John Kerulis, brother of the bride. A large wedding tent and accessories were rented from Castle Party Rental in Saint Charles, IL.

Amy has her PhD in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY. She currently is the director of an Industrial-Organizational Master's program at Touro College in New York, NY.

John obtained his B.S. in Political Science from Illinois State University. He is currently enrolled in a M.S. in Secondary Education program at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, FL.

The couple are on their first honeymoon to Key West, FL and then in 2021 they will travel to Turks and Caicos.

FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 17 & 18th, 2020
9am-5pm 11am-4pm

In Store Savings on Fall & Halloween Decor and More!

REGISTER TO WIN A GIFT BASKET VALUED AT \$125

Pop Up Market on Saturday ONLY 9am-2pm

Specialty Food Vendors
Local Farmers
30+ All Handmade Artisans & Crafters
Wine Samplings

CDC guidelines will be followed. No Pets.

COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE
1540 N. Division • Braidwood, IL • 815-458-2191
15 miles south of Joliet on I-55 & Rt. 113. Exit 236
countrysidevillagegifts.com

Facebook and Instagram icons.

Mobile food pantry to be held Oct. 19

On Monday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m., Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Road in South Wilmington, in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

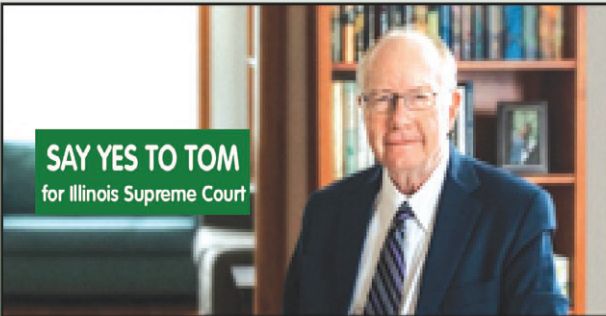
Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food, meat, produce and nonperishable items, to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

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



SAY YES TO TOM for Illinois Supreme Court

PROUDLY ENDORSED BY GRUNDY COUNTY JUDGE, SHELDON SOBOL

Paid for by Judge Sheldon Sobol

Scheduling your mammogram is just as important as EVER.



One thing the COVID-19 pandemic hasn't stopped or postponed is cancer.

That's why you can't stop getting routine cancer screenings, including mammography.

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.

We are pleased to offer 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.



HOW CONVENIENT!

Your debit card doubles as an ATM Card!



- Mastercard® Debit Card
- TeleBank 24
- Free Online Banking & Bill Pay*
- Mobile Banking



Bank of Pontiac

Pontiac • Odell • Dwight • Forrest • Fairbury • Coal City
Toll FREE 855-844-6151
www.bankofpontiac.com



Member FDIC

*Must pay at least one bill online each month to qualify for free bill pay. Inactive accounts will be charged \$4.95 per month.

New Will County Courthouse up and running

Will County officials on Friday, Oct. 9 cut the ribbon on the new state-of-the-art courthouse and justice center, which replaces the smaller and outdated facility on Jefferson Street in Joliet. The courthouse will be open to the public starting in early November.

"With this courthouse, we have invested in the future of Will County," said Will County Board Speaker Mimi Cowan. "This LEED certified building will give visitors, employees, and jurors a safer, more efficient path to justice and public

safety. With 38 courtrooms, in 10 stories, our courthouse provides space into which our growing county can expand."

In August 2013 the Will County Board first approved a comprehensive plan for major capital improvement projects throughout the county. This plan included the construction of the new courthouse following the new Public Safety Complex, which was completed earlier this year.

"We began planning for this courthouse years ago and now we see the results of those

plans," said Capital Improvements Committee Vice Chair Ray Tuminello. "It's our job as county board members to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure a stable future for the next generation. I'm confident that we've done that with this building."

The new justice center was built on the former First Midwest Bank site, on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Jefferson streets in downtown Joliet. The county purchased the property in 2014. In October 2018, the county held a topping off ceremony when the final piece of steel was placed atop the building.

"Every detail was gone over during planning to ensure that future generations will continue to be served well by this courthouse," said Capital Improvements Committee Chair Herb Brooks Jr. "In addition to being on time and on budget, I'd also like to thank all of the men and women who built this building with no injuries or accidents."

The new 370,000 sq. ft. building cost \$215 million and was designed by architecture firm Wight & Co and is a LEED certified building. In addition to the courtrooms, the courthouse will house offices for the state's attorney, the circuit clerk, and more.

"This new courthouse is part of the county's largest capital campaign in our history," said Will County Executive Denise Winfrey. "In recent years, we've opened our new Public Safety Complex, Animal



Photo by Marney Simon

THE NEW WILL COUNTY Courthouse will house 38 courtrooms on 10 floors. The \$215 million courthouse took three years to complete. The late Larry Walsh, who served as Will County Executive throughout most of the construction, said the building was part of "the rebirth" of downtown Joliet.

Control Center, Emergency Management Center, and just this year, a new state-of-the-art Health Department."

"This new courthouse will serve the people of Will County very well for decades to come. It will ensure that justice matters are handled smoothly and efficiently inside state-of-the-art facilities," Chief Judge Richard Schoenstedt said.

Circuit Court Clerk Andrea Lynn Chasteen added, "As the primary recorder of all legal proceedings and court filings

in Will County, my office handles and extraordinary amount of information which will now be streamlined and more easily created and maintained thanks to our new courthouse."

As they enter the building, jurors will be greeted by a two-story lobby filled with natural light from large windows. The first floor will also have a larger jury commission room to accommodate residents called to perform their civic duty. Lower level floors will contain

offices and courtrooms for high-volume courts, such as criminal misdemeanor, civil small claims, and adult probation courts.

The fourth and fifth floor will hold criminal felony courts, the public defender's office, and a small cafe. Floors six and seven include high-volume family courts, the eighth and ninth floors include additional courts, and the tenth floor will hold a grand jury.

We have homegrown pumpkins!

Jim Gourman's MICHIGAN APPLES

ALWAYS CALL for available apple varieties and days open.

Route 53 and New River Rd — Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 6PM

Closed Mondays 815-476-7514

Thanks!

Route 53 and New River Rd — Wilmington, IL

10AM OPEN 6PM

Quality

Follow us on Facebook

BIKES WELCOME

GOOD FOOD COLD DRINKS GREAT FRIENDS

ROUTE 66 BAR AND GRILL

113 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington IL 60481 815-476-6000

- Mark Your Calendars -

10-17-20, 10-24-20, 10-31-20

OKTOBERFEST SPECIALS ✓

Warm Pretzels, Juicy Brats, Cold Beers!

10-17-20

"GRISTMILL NOMADS" ✓

Let's welcome them to their first show ever in Wilmington, IL!

10-31-20

"THUNDER ROAD BAND" ✓

A Wilmington Favorite.

10-31-20 PULLED PORK, AND WENDELL'S BIRTHDAY

Chef Jerry's famous Pulled Pork, If you live in Wilmington, you know who Wendell is!

Halloween Masks and More Styles

4 layer cotton for all seasons

"We love Halloween all year!"

Stay Safe and Healthy

Odds N Ends

Downstairs/Booth 1414 815-579-6802

121 N. Water St., Wilmington

COAL CITY DENTAL CENTER

Our priority for over 25 years has been to provide top-quality dental care in the most comfortable, friendly way possible!

Back Row: Debbie RDH ★ Esme ★ Robin Trevison, DMD ★ Lisa
Front Row: Tracy ★ Natalie ★ ChyAnne, EFDA

Evening and Weekend Appointments

Whitening/Cosmetic Procedures

Nitrous Oxide (Laughing Gas) Relaxant

815.634.4999

645 E. Division St. (Rte. 113), Coal City ★ www.CoalCityDentalCenter.com

Sound-off, continued from page 4

unemployment benefits. Would he extend free tuition if there's no money in the budget to pay for it? Plus the cost of room, board and fees is not free. On average that costs is \$15,000 per year. Plus, colleges have no problem raising those fees every year. This is just another "feel good" campaign promise for a government program we cannot afford unless governor raises taxes. It will kill all of our wonderful private colleges in the state. For a student that wants a small college experience, want to stay close to home, or dreams of playing a college sport, you don't get the free money. Trade-offs are a fact of life, and higher education is no exception. Illinois cannot afford free tuition, we need a better grant program to help students achieve higher degrees.

A few facts

BRAIDWOOD—Responding to Margot's "Weather changes." Weather varies daily and climate refers to overall weather during an extended time period. But climate is changing faster than earth's ecosystems can adapt making earth barely habitable for humans and symbiotic life forms. The term global warming was used initially because increasing warmth throughout the earth caught the attention of experts, but now scientists see more complexity. Global warming causes weakening of the Gulf Stream which makes some areas colder, examples of which are the polar vortex winters we experienced several years ago. Right now the weatherman reminds us about the record-breaking number of tropical storms we've had in recent years due to ocean warming. We're literally cooking in a stew of acidic waters that kill the fish we eat. But these few facts merely scratch the surface. Sadly, young people worry about climate change whereas the elderly scoff because they'll be dead when catastrophe hits. Please, if you care about future generations, the denials of climate change aren't appreciated.

FOIAs cost time, money

BRAIDWOOD—To the newer Braidwood resident who has been filing FOIA request, after FOIA request. How much are your requests costing the taxpayers? The city administrator has been very vocal about how much money and time it has cost the city to fulfill the FOIA requests submitted by the former city clerk. How about he do the same with everyone else? Why do we, the taxpayers, have to foot the bill for this lady's desire for information to quench her troublemaking thirst?

Another insult

WILMINGTON—The men and women who serve our country have been insulted and used as scapegoats by President Trump over and over again. Trump calls the military "scoundrels" and "losers" and has refused to address the bounties on the heads of American soldiers. Now Trump claims Gold Star families infected him at a special ceremony at the White House. Another insult and another day in America.

Kidnapping plot

WILMINGTON—Many sound-off letters complain about law and order violations by blaming the left. But armed right-wing militias threaten civil war throughout the country and 13 men in the Wolverine Watchmen of Michigan were recently apprehended with six arrested and seven arraigned for conspiracy to kidnap Michigan Governor Whitmer, a Democrat. President Trump's tweets, including "Liberate Michigan" encouraged these vigilantes by criticizing Whitmer. Some of these men are the same who threatened the safety of Michigan state legislators in the state capitol in May to such an extent that government business was shut down. The Wolverine Watchmen has ties to the same militia group advocating white power, anti-government sentiments which resulted in the Oklahoma City tragedy in 1995 where 168 died at the hands of Timothy McVeigh. The past several years include an extreme level of nationwide violent white nationalist activity which could be attributable to Trump's words, including "stand back, stand by" which the Proud Boys consider to be an endorsement.

Success

WILMINGTON—Responding to "Open up Illinois." You have some valid points. You seem to be saying that the elderly are the only ones at risk (5.4 percent death rate) and we don't mind losing them. But you are forgetting that many middle-age people have serious health problems such as my husband whose survival would be questionable. Should we go the way of Sweden? But their GDP fell 8.6 percent in the second quarter, more sharply than their neighboring countries which imposed restrictions. You can argue this until the cows come home. But then you look at New Zealand or Japan or South Korea who've had great results fighting the pandemic and realize that success depends on hard work, efficiency and good leadership.

What we need

BRAIDWOOD—When we hear news that the Navy is planning to increase its force to 500 ships, the people ask the question, can we, the people, have good health care, please, instead of more big ships? We already have the greatest military force in the world and our Navy currently has 293 ships. Do we really need 500? We definitely need a better health care system as other countries already have throughout the world. Twenty million Americans will lose their health insurance if the Supreme Court strikes down Obamacare and approximately half the country, over 100 million people, will lose preexisting condition coverage through their private insurance as well. And then we'll be back to where we were 10 years ago when we stood in line for hours for medical service through charity.

The cure

COAL CITY—Pro-life advocates have said no to stem cell research throughout the years despite the pleas from those struggling to stay alive who would benefit. Since entering politics President Trump has strangely adopted whatever evangelicals think and repeats whatever they say. Lo and behold. Suddenly evangelicals don't mind that Trump's recovery is based on Regeneration which was developed from cells used in abortion. I'm Christian but not of 'evangelical' denomination because evangelical leaders have traded their conscience for political power derived from their association with Trump. And now the hypocrisy of evangelical leaders has revealed itself once more by their acceptance of Trump's use of Regeneration. Power corrupts.

Stuck with the bill

BRAIDWOOD—In response to the theory that Democrats raise taxes. I'm happy to have taxes raised on the wealthy so they pay their fair share, Joe Biden included, who didn't do right using that tax loophole. If I admit to Biden's mistake, will you, Dan Hill, admit to President Trump's tax mistakes and massive tax fraud, his 20,000 lies, the pandemic debacle, his abuse of our military and the admission by Senate Republicans that Trump is guilty about impeachment charges but preferring to forgive him? Of course not. Even before the pandemic, our national debt was at \$23 trillion due to President Trump's tax cuts for the benefit of the wealthy and for the benefit of corporations who pay no taxes at all. Somebody has to foot the bill and when the wealthy don't pay the middle class gets stuck with the bill.

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

Exact measurements required for The Fog Cutter

There are a few cocktails by which every tiki bar or Polynesian restaurant is measured, and three of them were created by "Trader" Vic Bergeron in the 1940s. His most famous creation was the Mai Tai, followed by the Scorpion, and don't forget the curiously strong and complex Fog Cutter.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

The flavor of the Fog Cutter is unlike anything else in the realm of Polynesian drinks. It is a large volume drink served in an oversized tiki mug, and is meant to be sipped slowly. Think of the Fog Cutter as the "Long Island Iced Tea" of the tiki bar. A little bit of everything into a large, high octane drink. How strong is the Fog Cutter? The Fog Cutter is so strong that Trader Vic enforced a strict two drink limit per customer.

About 10 years into service of the Fog Cutter, Trader Vic took pity on his customers and developed a lighter version of the cocktail which he called the Samoan Fog Cutter. The "Samoan" version was less potent, and was also more approachable due to the dilution that came from blending with crushed ice.

The Fog Cutter concept spread throughout the Polynesian bar scene, and by the 1970s most of the established tiki bars were serving their own version of the Fog Cutter. Perhaps the most popular variant of the original was the Fog Cutter from iconic New Orleans tiki bar, Bali Hai at the Beach. Bali Hai added an extra "g" to the name to differentiate the drink from the Trader Vic original.

What is the difference between the Bali Hai version and the original Fog Cutter? For starters, both the original Fog Cutter and the Samoan Fog Cutter were topped with a float of cream sherry, a dessert wine that declined in popularity after the end of the 1950s. Also, the crucial almond notes in the Bali Hai version are from almond extract whereas the almond in the WWII-era version uses an almond-based orgeat syrup.

The Fog Cutter is an 8-ingredient cocktail (not counting the ice). Be sure to use exact proportions when preparing this drink to maintain balance and complexity. You may "eyeball" your Gin and Tonic portions, but you will want more exact measurement when small amounts of some of the ingredients are used.

Speaking of small amounts, even if the recipe below is halved you will still have a delightful drink in the glass.

Despite the blending of four types of spirits, the drink comes together quite well. The fact the drink has been served in one form or another for nearly 80 years is a testament to

its reputation as a tiki bar standard.

Let's fire up the blender and make our very own Fog Cutter.

Some cocktails benefit from expensive, top shelf spirits. This is not one of those cocktails. Do not break the bank on spirits for this one, there is so much going on in this drink that shelling out extra money for higher quality spirits will not produce a better drink.

The Fog Cutter calls for two types of rum: light Puerto Rican rum and dark Jamaican rum. For the light rum, Bacardi, Cruzan, or Flor de Cana will get the job done. When it comes to dark Jamaican rum, stick with Myer's, Appleton 12, or Coruba.

Use your favorite gin, and if you don't have a favorite gin, use Beefeater.

You should keep a bottle of brandy in your home bar, even if you only use it as a mixer. Korbels is always a popular choice as it is also used in the Brandy Old Fashioned, but standard Christian Brothers and E&J will also perform well as mixers.

The almond extract used in the Fog Cutter is the same stuff that you will find in the cooking section of your local grocery store. Be careful with almond extract, this is some strong stuff! A little goes a long way, you will literally need only a few drops if you are cutting the recipe below in half.

The simple syrup used in the Fog Cutter is the standard 1:1 cane sugar/water simple syrup, but if you prefer your drinks on the sweet side you can certainly make your sugar syrup a bit richer.

Always use crushed ice in your blended drinks. It's easier on your blender and the end result will be a smooth drink, free of large chunks of ice.

This is a short blend, five seconds at most.

If you happen to have a bottle of cream sherry laying around and would like to taste something closer to the original version, pour a 1/2 to 1-ounce float on top of the drink after you pour the blended drink into the glass.

By the way, a "fog cutter" is a type of dive knife used in scuba applications. I am not sure exactly how that ties in to the name of the drink, we can only hope that the nobody was handling sharp objects when this drink was created.

The New Orleans Fog Cutter is built in a blender and served in a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass.

- Combine in blender:
- 2 oz. orange juice
 - 1 1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
 - 1 1/2 oz simple syrup
 - 1 oz. light Puerto Rican rum
 - 1 oz. dark Jamaican Rum
 - 1 oz. brandy
 - 1 oz. gin
 - 1/2 tsp. almond extract
 - 8 oz. (1 cup) crushed ice
- Blend for 5 seconds
Pour unstrained into a Fog Cutter mug or tall glass, garnish with mint sprig
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

FUNNEL YOUR DEBT & SAVE

PERSONAL LOANS

MEDICAL BILLS

CREDIT CARDS

TITLE LOANS

5.99%^{APR*} ON

VISA BALANCE TRANSFERS

FOR THE LIFE OF THE TRANSFER

+ No Transfer Fees
+ No Annual Fees

*All Visas subject to credit approval. The 5.99% APR promo rate will be in effect for the life of the balance transfer. Limited time offer. Promotions cannot be combined. SOCU is federally insured by the NCUA.

SOCU
SOCU.ORG
815.416.1170
1544 CREEK DR
MORRIS, IL 60450



Call now to schedule your free consultation.

Trust and Estate Planning for your family's future

If the unthinkable happened, would your loved ones be left financially secure? Talk to us today about a plan that will protect your assets and ensure your tax planning is still sensible given the changes to law.



FISHER BERARDI LAW

Call 815-476-7635

207 S. Water St., Wilmington • www.fisherberardilaw.com



The merchants of Winchester Green Shopping Center welcome the Valle Family and the Valle's Produce Market Corp. as new owners of Belletini Foods.



Based on the reputation of excellent produce & top-quality meats at your three other stores, we are excited to have you as our new neighbor and wish you the best of luck



Belletini Foods

1085 S. Water St., Wilmington
815-476-7966

OBITUARIES

Bruce Boward

WILMINGTON—Bruce Boward, 59, of Wilmington (Ritchey), passed away Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020 at Landmark of Richton Park.

Born June 13, 1961 in Kankakee, Bruce Farley was a son of Theodore "Ted" and Janalyn (nee Farley) Boward. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1980. Bruce held employment for several area establishments as a bouncer. He was a member of the Kankakee Jaycees, the Lions Club, and was a volunteer with the Kempton Fire Department. He took pleasure in fishing and racing, but was especially fond of stock car racing. Bruce enjoyed swimming, wolves, pool, football and was an avid Chicago Bears fan. He will be remembered for his annual Santa Claus impersonation.

Survivors include his mother, Janalyn "Jan" of Wilmington; daughter, Lacinda White; grandson, Owen Boward; sisters, Elizabeth (Paul) Rossi and Thea (Brian) Coplea, both of Wilmington; half-siblings, Renee Torres, of Bourbonnais and Chad (Marla) Greene, of St. Anne; step-siblings: Ted (Renee) Boward, of Dover, DE; Rusty Boward and Raymond Boward, both of Lincoln, IL and Karen (Gail) Liesman, of Atlanta, IL; nieces and nephews: Shane Rossi, of Wilmington; Sarah Rossi, of Mercer, WI; Erica (Jacob) Bolatto, of Braidwood and Haiden and Ava Coplea, both of Wilmington; six great-nieces and nephews, and several cousins, as well as the mother of his children, Teresa Boward.



Bruce was preceded in death by his father, Ted on Dec. 23, 2008; children, Bruce Jr. "BJ" and Angel Boward and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 between the hours of 3 and 7 p.m. Face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

A private family service will be held Friday, Oct. 16, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home. Those wishing to participate in Bruce's services are invited to watch the live stream on Friday morning starting at 11 a.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

Burial will be in Wesley Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bruce's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bruce's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Bruce-Boward

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

Virginia Hill

COAL CITY—Virginia Hill, 91, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020.

Born May 28, 1929 in Coal City, Virginia was a daughter of Jasper Gus and Cecelia (Gervase) Vitale. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1947. On Sept. 5, 1948, Virginia married Robert "Buster" Hill in Assumption Catholic Church and together they made their home and raised their family in Coal City.

Virginia worked in various secretarial positions and throughout the years held employment with Coal City Elementary School, UniRoyal and Stepan Chemical, from where she retired. She was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, was a founding member of the Coal City Junior Women's Club, which originated the kindergarten program in the community. In addition, Virginia and Buster were long time members of the Coal City Area Club.

Virginia loved to dance, and was active with the County Line Kickers. She enjoyed playing cards and in years past bowled on a team. Being on the pontoon at the area club was a favorite pastime, and together Virginia and Buster took pleasure traveling and visiting relatives in Sicily. She loved her grandkids, and truly enjoyed being a grandma.

Survivors include two children, Greg (Kathy) Hill, of Morris and Claudia (Tom) Powell, of Coal City; five grandchildren: Lisa Hill, Burgundy (Chuck) Lander and Lyndsay (Jeff) Mills, all of Morris; Mona (Paul) Thurston, of Chicago and Eric Powell, of Coal City; great-grandchildren: Andrew Glastetter (fiancé, Sabrina Bergeson), Nick Glastetter (fiancé,



Sadey Brewer), Madison Lander, Cameron Lander, Avery Powell, Jayda Mills, Logan Mills, Ava Mills, Abigail Mills, Thomas Thurston and Ella Thurston; two great-great-grandchildren: Keagin Lowe and Maverick Glastetter, with another expected; brother-in-law, John (Pat) Hill, of Coal City and sister-in-law, Pat (the late Ralph) Hill, of Arkansas, and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as cousins.

Virginia was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Buster; granddaughter, Erika Bauermeister and three sisters: Bernice (Don) Lowery, Catherine (Roy) Wills and Sarah (Edward Sr.) Vitko.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.

Burial followed in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Virginia was laid to rest with her late husband, Buster.

Pallbearers were: Eric Powell, Chuck Lander, Paul Thurston, Cameron Lander, Drew Glastetter and Nick Glastetter.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Virginia's memory to the Assumption Catholic Church Building Campaign, 195 S. Kankakee St., Coal City, IL 60416 or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

John J. Dzuris

COAL CITY—John J. Dzuris, 95, of Coal City, passed away Oct. 7, 2020.

Born Feb. 20, 1925 in Streator, IL, John Jacob was a son of John and Susan (Kolesar) Dzuris. He was raised in the Streator area, educated in the country school, and graduated from Streator High School with the class of 1942. Following graduation, John was drafted into the US Army, and honorably served during World War II with the Army Corps of Engineers linking the Ledo Road with the Burma Road to China. Following 32 months in the service, he returned home to enroll at Illinois State Normal University in the fall of 1946 under the G.I. Bill. He earned his bachelors of science in education in 1949, and later attained his master's in education from the University of Illinois. John was an excellent athlete his entire life; played baseball all through his school years, including four years of Redbird Baseball, and even tried out for the Chicago Cubs.

On June 11, 1949, John married Freda Thomas in the First United Methodist Church in Maroa, IL, and together they made their home, raised their family and made their careers in Coal City. In 1950, John was hired at Coal City High School as a business teacher, instructing typing and bookkeeping. For the following 37 years he coached baseball 25 years; basketball 20 years and sponsored Scholastic Bowl. In 1964, John took the position of head guidance counselor and retired from the Coal City School District in 1987. He was an active member of the Coal City Lions Club, as well as the Coal City United Methodist Church, where he was involved on many committees, and served as treasurer for 20 years.



In his free time, John enjoyed golf, tennis and bike riding. He was an avid reader, took pleasure in gardening, and enjoyed many memorable travels with his dear wife, Freda.

Survivors include his wife of 71 years, Freda; two daughters, Lauri Dzuris (Alan Long), of Aurora and Carol (Rick) Swearingen, of Mahomet; grandchildren: Fana Dzuris Long, of Aurora; Matthew Swearingen, of Peoria and Kate (Andy) Nelson, of Champaign and two great-grandchildren, Madilyn Swearingen and Ivy Nelson.

John was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, George and three sisters: Lena, Catherine and Ann.

A funeral service was held Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 in the Coal City United Methodist Church with Reverend Brad Shumaker officiating. Burial followed in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in John's memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church Building Fund, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., Coal City, IL 60416; the Coal City Firemen's Association, 35 S. DeWitt Place, Coal City, IL 60416 or to Unit #1 Educational Foundation (for a scholarship which will be established in John's memory) P.O. Box 177, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Judith K. O'Bert

COAL CITY—Judith K. O'Bert, 74 and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away Tuesday, October 06, 2020 at Amita St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born September 26, 1946 in Joliet, Judith Kay was a daughter of Anton and Theresa (Vercellotti) O'Bert. She was raised and educated in Coal City, graduated from Coal City High School, and went on to attend Joliet Junior College. Judith worked as a secretary for an engineering firm; was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, and in her free time enjoyed crafts and working crossword puzzles.

Survivors include her brother Thomas (the late Virginia) O'Bert of Shorewood; sister, Debbie (Dan) Altiery of Braidwood; nieces: Stephanie O'Bert of Shorewood and Catie (Jake)



Furgason of Joliet, and nephew, Michael (Trish) Ellsworth of Seattle WA.

Judith was preceded in death by her parents, and sister-in-law, Virginia.

The family received friends for a visitation on Saturday, October 10, 2020 until the time of funeral service at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 North Broadway (one block north of Illinois Route 113) in Coal City.

Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Judith's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Judith-Obert Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Anthony Plese

WILMINGTON—Anthony L. "Tony" Plese passed away at his home in Wilmington on Friday, Oct. 9, 2020 after a courageous two-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Tony was born the fifth of Dean and Judy Plese's six children on Aug. 15, 1967 and grew up in the family home on Widows Road while attending Wilmington area schools and later in Upstate New York after moving there with his family in the mid-80's. During his high school years, Tony played football, was a member of the (NY) national honor society and he developed an interest in the Beatles and their music, remaining a fan for the rest of his life. He was even fortunate enough to fulfill a personal dream by going to see Paul McCartney in concert with a few of his brothers a few years back, something that he reflected on happily.

Tony obtained a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University and worked as a graphic designer in New York, Chicago and San Diego before returning to Illinois in 2003 to pursue a new career path in healthcare. After obtaining a degree in nursing from Loyola University in Chicago, Tony spent the remainder of his working years in the Chicago area hospital community serving the needs of others before his own illness made it impossible for him to continue in early 2019. A loving and devoted son, Tony's sole regret was that he did not get to use the degree and experience he'd gained for the initial purpose for which he intended, to care for his parents later in life when he anticipated they would need it.

A born artist, Tony began doing sketches of homes in the Wilmington area whose unusual architectural details caught his eye as a young boy. Elma O. Barnes of the Wilmington Advocate immediately noticed Tony's natural talent and made his artwork a feature in her regular column about Wilmington's historical landmarks when he was still in elementary school.

Along his life's journey, Tony traveled the U.S. and later France, he bought a home, got married and continued to feed his artistic nature by creating a prolific body of illustration work and watercolors. His art did not go unnoticed as he consistently sold pieces, showed competitively and he received a treasured letter of encouragement when he needed it most, just after his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, from a personal hero, the artist Jasper Johns. Tony also developed his own original characters, collectively known as Chachkees, which he marketed right up until the week before his passing.



Anyone who knew Tony would have no doubt that he began working on his next masterpiece as soon as he crossed heaven's threshold.

An excellent conversationalist, Tony's intelligence, modest nature and sly sense of humor endeared him to all who were lucky enough to know him. The friends he made along the way, he kept and he maintained those relationships no matter the passing time or distance involved. Despite the many serious health challenges Tony faced starting in 1989 with a diagnosis of chronic leukemia, Tony met the challenges that life gave him with his head up and a great sense of hope and dignity. He kept going, he kept achieving, he kept trying, he kept living. He was an inspiration to his beloved family and friends all the days of his life. Tony will be terribly missed by all who knew and loved him; the world is now a little darker and a little colder without his sweet light in it. Our loss is truly heaven's gain.

Tony is survived by his life partner and caregiver, Gabriel Rodriguez; his devoted mother, Judith Benson Plese; his siblings: Dean (Stacy), David (Angela), Martin (Maureen), Maria, and Eric (Christine); many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends with whom he greatly enjoyed spending time, and by his beloved dogs, Chico and Sally, who were his constant companions.

He was preceded in death by his beloved father, Dean E. Plese in June of this year and by his grandparents, James and Ellen Benson and John and Margaret Plese.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A private visitation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2020 followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington. Those wishing to participate in Tony's services are invited to watch the live stream on Wednesday morning, starting at 11 a.m. by logging onto his memorial page.

In lieu of flowers, Tony's family asks that donations be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Tony's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Anthony-Plese

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

John Heck

JOLIET—John Richard Heck, 78, of Joliet, passed away Monday, Aug. 10, 2020 at Amita Health Saint Joseph Medical Center.

John was raised and educated in Wilmington and later proudly served in the United States Navy as a Sea Bee. After his time in the service he made a home in Joliet and worked as a union carpenter for Local #174 until retiring after 35 years of dedication. John didn't stay retired for long. He worked at different places just to make sure he always stayed busy. His final place of employment was with Best Hybrid.

John was a man of faith and always put his love for God first. He was a long time parishioner of Joliet First Assembly. In his free time, John enjoyed traveling with his wife, Sandy. They would go on cruises together and John would go on motorcycle trips when he could. His favorite time was always spent with his grandchildren. John will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandy (Benco) Heck, of Joliet; son, Donald (Genevieve) Heck, of Georgia; daughter, Julie Pehlke; five grandchildren: Denise Heck,



Diandra Heck, Jack Pehlke, Cole Pehlke and Grace Pehlke; four sisters: Mary Ruth Bullock, Dora (Dan) Wilson, Marlene Akins and Jodi (Glen) Schwartz and two brothers, Art (Carol) Heck and Larry Heck.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Alpha Heck, and one sister, Anna Ward.

A note from his wife Sandy: "I miss you John, but I know that you are with our Lord and are happy. A place you have wanted to be for years. Rest in peace. I've loved you dearly for 37 years."

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

The family will receive relatives and friends for a memorial visitation on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2020 from 2 p.m. until time of memorial service at 4 p.m. at Tezak Funeral Home, 1211 Plainfield Rd. in Joliet. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, masks and social distancing practices are required inside the funeral home and a capacity of 50 guests will be allowed in at a time. Guests are encouraged to visit, but be brief in their stay to allow for more attendees.

Tezak Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



pregnancyresourcecenter

All of our services are offered at no cost to the client:

- Free on-site pregnancy testing
- Ultrasound Scanning
- Options education
- Confidentiality & caring support
- Parenting education for new & expectant mothers
- Post-abortion mentoring

410 N. Broadway St. Coal City, IL 60416 v Phone: 815-709.0920

E-mail: grundywill@hopeforafuture.com v www.pregnancyresourcecenter.org

Daniel Welter Jr.

CABERY, IL—Daniel David Welter Jr., "Danny Boy," 66, of Cabery, IL, passed away Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2020 at his home.

Born Sept. 22, 1954 in Joliet, Danny was a son of Daniel Sr., and Lorraine (nee Schultz) Welter. He was raised and educated in Joliet and worked as an auto mechanic for most of his life. Danny took great pride in working on cars and loved any fast car or motorcycle.



Survivors include two children, Daniel D. Welter III (Hope Ames) and Iris Welter; numerous grandchildren, as well as two brothers and one sister: Raymond (Catherine) Walls, Christine Cravens, and Matthew (Kerri) Welter.

Danny was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Robert Walls and two sisters: Jacqueline Stewart and Sherrill Mueller.

Per Danny's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and there are no services planned at this time.

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

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

OBITUARIES

Charles J. Butcher

WILMINGTON—Charles J. Butcher, 69, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly and alongside his canine companion, Sammy, as the result of a motor vehicle accident on Oct. 12, 2020.

Born Oct. 28, 1950 in Joliet, Charles James was a son of James and Thelma (Plager) Butcher. He was raised and educated in Wilmington, and went on to honorably serve in the United States Navy. On June 12, 1982, Charles married Catherine "Cathy" Hooper, and together they made their family and raised their three daughters in Wilmington.

Charlie was employed with ComEd, and worked as a Troublemaker out of the Joliet and Bradley facilities before retiring after 30 years of service. He loved to power parachute, and took pleasure in the outdoors, animals of all kinds, and spending time at the family Circle B Farm. Charlie enjoyed traveling, especially to Arizona, and will be remembered for his love of family, his children, and not to forget his eclectic style.

Survivors include his wife, Cathy; three daughters: Desiree (Matthew) Burris, of Batavia;

Jessie Butcher (fiance' Colin Shepley), of Bourbonnais and Olivia (Chad) Bumpous, of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Huntley and Monte Burris, Castiel Lemke, Landyn Shepley and Parker and Brayden Bumpous; one brother, Harry (Eyvonne) Butcher, of Wilmington and one sister, Susan (Louis) Matusiak, of Arizona.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents.

A private family visitation and funeral will be held. Charlie will be laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery, Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Charlie's memory to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Charles memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Charles-Butcher

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



Garden Club to meet Oct. 21

The Wilmington Garden Club's next meeting is planned for Oct. 21 at 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.

New members are always welcome. For more information call Carol at 815-476-2469, or Judy at 815-476-1875.

Dispose of prescription drugs safely

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 24.

The Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs from 10 a.m. to noon in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St. Wilmington

Items to be accepted include outdated and/or left-over prescription drugs.

- ALL vegetables are locally grown on our farm -

PERKINS FARM

37048 Zilm Road, Custer Park
815-714-4913

Vegetables for Sale

New-Fresh Honey, Butternut, Buttercup, Spaghetti & Acorn Squash, Bell Peppers & Corn Stalks (Corn Stalks are free)

INSURE CAREFULLY, DREAM FEARLESSLY.

CALL TODAY TO SEE HOW WE CAN HELP PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, St. Louis, MO
American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783
008441 - Rev. 11/15 ©2015 - 8504912

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

Robert Rader

WILMINGTON—Robert "Bob" Rader, 65, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Oct. 12, 2020 at his home surrounded by his family.

Born Oct. 12, 1955 in Joliet, Robert Delanee was the son of Robert and Deloris (nee Fridde) Rader. He was raised and educated in Wilmington. Bob was a former volunteer and a trustee at the Wilmington Fire Department and was an active member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge. On July 28, 1979 Bob married Elizabeth Boyd in the Ritchey United Methodist Church. Bob was always extraordinarily proud of his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered for his love of motorcycles, Elvis Presley, and old country music.

Survivors include his wife of 41 years, Beth; three children: Nicholas (Kathleen) Rader and Jacqueline (Craig) Mark, all of Wilmington and Candace (Russell) Toler, of Braidwood; 10 grandchildren: Jacob Rader, Ashlei Rader, Austin Rader, Jordan Rader, Braydon Mark, Landon Mark, Adrianna Mark, Taylor Toler, Morgan Toler, and Ryland Toler; brothers, Donald (Debbie) Shewmake and Richard Shewmake; sister, Judith (Red) Hall; numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his canine companion, Sassy.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents,



brother, James Shewmake and sisters: Delores Shewmake, Patricia Welter and Dorsalee Miley.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation on Sunday, Oct. 18, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 3 p.m. At the family's request, face masks requirements and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order, and the funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bob's name to Joliet Area Community Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431, Joliet Oncology-Hematology Associates Ltd., 2614 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60435, or to the Wilmington Fire Protection District, 501 N. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Bob's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Robert-Bob-Rader

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

Prison movie night

The Rialto Square Theatre and Joliet Area Historical Museum are teaming up for a supernaturally spectacular outdoor movie night fundraiser, Fall Flicks in the Yard featuring two spooky classics from the 1980s. Beetlejuice (1988) will be shown on Friday, Oct. 23, followed by Ghostbusters (1984) on Saturday, Oct. 24. Films will be shown on large outdoor screen inside the walls of the museum's Old Joliet Prison historic site.

The event will include opportunities for self-guided tours throughout the prison, local food vendors, special merchandise, beverage bar, and photo ops and more. In adherence with Phase Four Guidelines of the State's Restore Illinois Plan, event seating is a numbered, demarcated circle in the grass. Each circle comes with two admissions, and up to 4 additional tickets per circle may be purchased. Circles will be spaced at a minimum of eight-foot intervals to provide for social distancing.

Admission is \$50 for a two-person, 8 foot circle. Additional admissions are \$20 per person with a max of four additional admissions per circle. Masks are required and must be worn at all times when outside of your circle. To register go to www.joliet-prison.org or www.jolietmuseum.org or call 312- 978-1282

Patricia A. Schmetter

WISCONSIN—Patricia A. Schmetter, 84, of Elkhorn, WI, and formerly of Wilmington passed away Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020 at Ridgestone Gardens of Elkhorn, WI.

Patricia was born on May 28, 1936, daughter of Francis and Rita (Kennedy) Bell. She married Dr. Roger Louis Schmetter on Oct. 15, 1960. He has since past in 1985.

Patricia worked at many different places in her younger years, where for a time she was a dental hygienist for her husband and also a bookkeeper. She was an amateur interior designer, and was skilled with the ability of taking on home projects, such as drywalling her entire garage by herself. She also took joy in participating for many years with the Lakeland

Players. Patricia is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Eric (Michelle) Schmetter, of Elkhorn, WI, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, parents and step-mother, Frances.

A private memorial service will take place to honor Patricia.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in Patricia's name to a charity of the donor's choice.

Haase-Lockwood & Associates Funeral Home and Crematory of Elkhorn is assisting the family. An online guest registry can be found at www.haaselockwoodffhs.com.

Grace Lutheran offers three ways to worship

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is now offering three ways to worship each Sunday at 9 a.m.

Inside the Sanctuary: The church has put together careful protocols that must be followed, which include: wearing masks at all times when in the building; taking temperatures as people enter; entering and exiting through certain doors and sitting in specific places as directed by the ushers, and others.

A special disinfectant machine has been purchased for cleaning the sanctuary between services. One issue might be available seating: this will be very limited because of

the need to sit at least six feet apart (spots are marked, please follow them). Please do not choose this worshipping option if you are part of a high-risk population.

In cars: Simply park in the church parking lot, and tune your FM radio to 91.7. You can then listen to the whole service. This worship option would be good for those who cannot watch online because they do not have internet access, but are also in a high-risk group and cannot risk worshipping inside (or, if we have overflow from limited seating inside).

Communion will be taken out to each car, and ushers will collect offerings if you turn

your hazard lights on!

Live online: If you are unable to attend worship inperson, you can still view and participate in the service live online. Remember that everything you need for Sunday worship is on the front page of the church's website, including a link to find the video ("Worship with us!") and a link to the worship bulletin for you to download and print beforehand ("Bulletin PDF").

Grace Lutheran Church's website is www.gracellum.org. Be sure to have a little bread and wine/grape juice ready.

IL State Police involved in fatal shooting

An investigation is ongoing into the shooting of a Harvey man who pulled a gun during a traffic stop by Illinois State Police on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at approximately 12:28 a.m.

An Illinois State Police (ISP) District 15 Trooper conducted a traffic stop at 147th Street and Halsted Avenue in Harvey, IL for an ILCS equipment violation, no headlights.

At the request of the trooper, the female driver, 21, of Chicago, stepped out of the vehicle for further investigation. A second trooper who was also on scene was positioned on the passenger side door of the vehicle. At this time, the front seat male passenger, Darren Green Jr, 30, of Harvey, IL moved into the driver's seat.

The Trooper, who was located near the driver's side

door of the vehicle, announced that he observed a firearm and a brief struggle ensued to gain control over the firearm. As the trooper was attempting to secure the firearm, Green began driving the vehicle. Two additional rear female passengers, a 29-year-old of Dolton, IL and an 8-year-old juvenile of Matteson, IL, were able to exit the vehicle.

The vehicle was driven forward by Green while dragging both troopers before striking a bus shelter and coming to a stop. During this time, the firearm discharged, and Green was struck. Neither trooper was struck by gun fire nor did any trooper discharge their duty weapon. The other passengers were not injured. Both troopers were transported to a local area hospital where they were treated and released. Green was transport-

ed to another local area hospital and was pronounced deceased at approximately 4:25 a.m.

Green did not have a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card (FOID) or Conceal Carry License (CCL).

The trooper on the driver's side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 years. The trooper on the passenger side of the vehicle has been employed with the Illinois State Police for 11 months.

In accordance with the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act (50 ILCS 727) and the Department of State Police Law (20 ILCS 2605), Special Agents of the Division of Internal Investigation are investigating these events.

WE KEEP OUR PATIENTS SMILING WITH TRUSTED FAMILY DENTAL CARE



Front Row: Grace Smith, Dayna Vargocko, Samantha Olson.
Back Row: Sherry Yakima, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Sara Daniels and Kelly Olson

DR. GARRETT B. SMITH D.D.S.
220 S. Main St. • Wilmington
815-476-9715

- Crowns
- Bridges
- Exams
- Cleaning
- Fillings/Sealants
- Cosmetic Work
- Implant Restoration
- Zoom 2 Whitening

WE ACCEPT CARE CREDIT

Most Insurance & All Credit Cards accepted

- 27 years of gentle family dentistry -

Forest preserve board takes action leading to dam removal

Action taken Thursday, Oct. 8, by the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Board of Commissioners will lead to the removal of the Hammel Woods Dam in Shorewood.

Semper Fi Land Services Inc. was hired to remove the dam, WBK Engineering LLC will oversee the work and the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition has agreed to pay for the removal.

The removal process cannot begin until permits for the work have been approved by all necessary regulatory agencies.

The work will take place in two stages with half the river water at the project site being drained during each phase using water storage cofferdams, said Andrew Hawkins, the Forest Preserve District's director of planning.

If the permits are in place this fall, the work could take around a month because water levels are lower, Hawkins said. If the permits are delayed and work begins in the spring, the project could take longer due to higher water levels, he explained. Other factors also could affect the timeline.

The portion of the stone dam that rises above the river bottom will be removed, but the stone footings below the river bottom will remain. After the dam is taken out of the river, natural river rocks will be added near the banks to create "riffles" that will oxygenate the water. In spring 2021, native vegetation will be planted to stabilize the riverbank.

The work will return the river to a more natural, healthier state, and it will make the river safer for paddlers because they will no longer have to portage around the dam, Hawkins said. While there were objections in the past to removal of the dam for



THE LOWHEAD DAM at Hammel Woods will be removed under safety concerns by the Will County Forest Preserve.

sentimental reasons, that no longer is the case, he explained.

"Now people seem to recognize the environmental, health and safety benefits of removing the dam," he said.

While the dam is being removed, a new canoe/kayak launch will be built downstream of the current launch on the DuPage River. The old launch will then be removed.

The Hammel Woods Dam was built in the 1930s by Civilian Conservation Corps workers. The 4-foot-high concrete and limestone dam was built to create a pool of water for recreational purposes during a time when the DuPage River had a much lower volume of water than it does now.

In 2003, The Conservation Foundation studied five dams along the river, including the Hammel Woods Dam, looking

for ways to improve the ecology of the river. The study concluded that removal of the Hammel Woods Dam would allow aquatic species to move upstream and improve safety. In 2011, the foundation completed a two-year watershed-based plan for the DuPage River, which led to the creation of The Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition in 2012.

The coalition's goal is to preserve and enhance water quality in the river and its tributaries. The coalition also looks for ways to help communities along the river comply with more stringent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements related to wastewater treatment plants discharging into the river. The Forest Preserve District joined the coalition, which is made up mostly of municipalities that discharge into the river,

ranging from Bolingbrook in the north to Channahon in the south.

In 2017, the coalition paid for a study of the pros and cons of either modifying or removing the Hammel Woods Dam. Dam removal was recommended, but the amount of funding needed was not yet available to move forward with the plan.

In February 2019, the city of Naperville received a new wastewater discharge permit from the EPA and as part of that process, it had to pay fees to the coalition for river-related enhancements. That money was earmarked for the Hammel Woods Dam removal and the planning process began in spring 2019.

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

Learn about the essential role of snakes on Oct. 22

How are snakes involved in the world's food chain and in restoring prairie? Find out on Thursday, Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m. during a virtual interpretive program that will be presented by Grace Wu, biological science technician at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

Wu is in her final year in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Master's program in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. For two years, she collected data for her thesis, which focused on tallgrass prairie restoration effects on snake communities. On Oct. 22, she will talk about the differences in snake communities in Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie restoration areas. She will tell about prairie restoration effects on those communities.

"I wrote my thesis hoping to shed some fascinating and surprising light on snakes, which don't always so readily get the credit that they deserve," Wu said. "What a lot of people don't know is that

snakes are special and vital animals in the food chain. They are a mid-level predator, meaning they eat prey, but also can become prey. This special role means they could be good indicators of land health and may be able to shed light on prairie restoration success."

At Midewin NTP, Wu is involved in a variety of restoration activities, including prescribed burning, which is an essential restorative tool.

For two weeks this past summer Wu was on a wildfire assignment in Colorado. She was part of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources-sponsored inter-agency wildland fire crew that helped fight the Pine Gulch Fire in Grand Junction, Colorado. The team included other USDA Forest Service employees and staff with The Nature Conservancy and IDNR.

To register for Grace Wu's virtual presentation on Oct. 22, email: SM.FS.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call: (815) 423-6370.



Courtesy Photo by Nick Budde

USDA FOREST SERVICE'S Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Biological Science Technician holds a fox snake on the west side of Midewin NTP. Wu will talk about the importance of snakes to the world's food supply and to prairie restoration in a virtual program on Oct. 22, 7 to 8 p.m.

Donate blood to help those fighting breast cancer

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to band together to provide hope and healing to patients fighting cancer by giving blood or platelets.

In appreciation, those who come to give Oct. 15-Nov. 11 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, courtesy of Suburban Propane.

Donors are asked to make appointments by downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Donors of all blood types are urged to help ensure a stable supply for cancer patients and others this fall. To thank those who come to give in October, the Red Cross is also offering a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card to five lucky winners.

Blood donations play a crucial role in

cancer treatment. Cancer patients undergoing surgery and chemotherapy may require red blood cell or platelet transfusions. In fact, patients fighting cancer need more blood than those with any other disease, using nearly one-quarter of the nation's blood supply.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to this coronavirus, regardless of whether an individual developed COVID-19 symptoms. Red Cross antibody tests will be helpful to identify individuals who have COVID-19 antibodies and may now help current coronavirus patients in need of convalescent plasma transfusions.

Convalescent plasma is a type of blood donation collected from COVID-19 survivors that have antibodies that may help patients who are actively fighting the virus.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions - including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff - have been implemented. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities include:

Bourbonnais
Oct. 15, Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5, noon - 6 p.m. at the Annex, 1690 Newtowne Dr.

Oct. 30, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Bourbonnais Fire Department, 1080 Armour Rd.

Oct. 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Riverside Medical Center, 350 N. Wall

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-733-2767.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

When: **October 24th from 10 A.M. to NOON**

Where: **CVS Parking Lot, 1101 S. Water Street, Wilmington, IL**

!! PITCH THOSE PILLS SAFELY !!

DON'T BE THE DEALER



Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.



www.wilmington-coalition.org
815-476-1660

Funded by O.N.D.G.P. and SAMHSA.

Thank you to WPD & CVS for partnering with WCHC for Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Come take a seat



The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce believes it's the little things that can make a difference. That's why we recently completed a campaign to bring benches to the downtown shopping district. It's an investment we believe will make for a more friendly shopping experience, especially for those poor husbands with aching feet waiting for their spouse to come out of a store.

Look for our benches and take a seat. We're proud of the project and want you to know there is more beautification to come.



P.O. Box 724, Wilmington • 815.476.5991

Community calendar of events

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

Thursday, October 15

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

Friday, October 16

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

Saturday, October 17

• noon to 3 p.m., Braidwood Historical Society Museum open to the public, 111 N Center St., Braidwood.

Monday, October 19

• 4 p.m. Mobile food pantry distributing food to those in need, St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington.
 • 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., St. Vincent's Table offering carryout meals to anyone in need at Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W. 1st St., Braidwood

Tuesday, October 20

• 10:30 a.m., Crafts and Conversation at Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington. Open to public, wear a mask.
 • 6 p.m., Wilmington Finance Administration & Land Acquisition Committee meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St., third Tuesday of each month
 • 7 p.m., Wilmington City Council meeting, Wilmington City Hall, 1165 S. Water St.
 • 7 p.m., Coal City Park Board meeting at the Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

Wednesday, October 21

• 1 p.m., Wilmington Garden Club meeting at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water Street. Special guest speaker will be Nancy Kuhajda, Will County director of Master Gardening, and Master Naturalist.
 • 5 p.m., Godley Public Water District meeting, Godley Public Water District Treatment Building, 440 S. Center St., Godley
 • 6 p.m., Custer Fire Protection District Board meeting, Camelot Education cafeteria, 35445 S. Washington St., Custer Park, third Wednesday of each month

• 6:30 p.m., Reed-Custer Board of Education meeting, Reed-Custer School District Administration Center, 255 Comet Drive, Braidwood

Thursday, October 22

• noon to 1 p.m., Grace Wu talk on snakes, virtual presentation, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Register by email to sm.fs.midewin_RSVP@usda.gov or call 815-423-6370

7 p.m., Wilmington Island Park District board meeting, 315 N. Water St., Wilmington

Friday, October 23

6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Godley Ghost Ride, ages 2-12, enter south entrance off Smith Road for drive through Halloween event.
 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Saturday, October 24

• 10 a.m. to noon, Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community and the Wilmington Police Department will offer free safe disposal of prescription drugs in the CVS parking lot at 1101 S. Water St.

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wilmington Lions Club Spook, North Island Park, Wilmington. Park on South Island and ride the haunted shuttle.

Sunday, October 25

• 7 a.m. to noon, Essex Lions Club breakfast, Essex Community Hall, 217 Paris St., Essex

Tuesday, October 27

7 p.m., Braidwood City Council meeting, city hall, 141 W. Main St.,

Wednesday, October 28

6 p.m., Coal City School Board study session at the administration center.

6 p.m., Wilmington Area Historical Society meeting, updates in museum, 114 N. Main St.

7 p.m., Coal City Village Board meeting, Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway.

StateFarm "Over 27 years of Hometown Service"
Jerry Hallahan - Agent
 1350 E. Division St., Diamond
 (815) 634-2222
jerry@jerryhallahan.com

Warren's Collision Center
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

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

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry
 - New patients
 - Emergency visits welcome
 - Cosmetic veneers
 All forms of insurance accepted

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

Utilities extend shutoff moratorium to winter 2021

BY RAYMON TRONCOSO
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Several state-regulated utilities have voluntarily extended a moratorium on disconnections into next year after requests from the Illinois Commerce Commission.

The ICC announced that Nicor Gas and Liberty Utilities have agreed to halt shutoffs due to missed or late payments for all residential customers until March 31, 2021.

Ameren Illinois, Aqua Illinois, Illinois American Water, Commonwealth Edison, Peoples Gas/North Shore Gas and Utility Services of Illinois have agreed to delay disconnections to the same date for residential customers who qualify for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and those financially

impacted by COVID-19.

MidAmerican has extended its moratorium on shutoffs for LIHEAP-qualified residential customers until March 31, 2021 as well, and is considering other options, according to ICC.

To qualify for LIHEAP, residential customers' combined household income for the 30 days prior to submitting an application must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for their family size. A spokesperson for the ICC said it is strongly encouraging all residential customers of the participating utilities to call their utility to check their eligibility. The LIHEAP application period runs from July of this year to June 30, 2021, or until funding set aside for the program is exhausted.

According to the ICC release, residential customers

who have been impacted financially by the COVID-19 pandemic and cannot pay their utility bill do not need to fill out any forms or provide paperwork to qualify for the moratorium. They just need to "make the phone call and verbalize" their situation to receive a delay on shutoffs if their state-regulated utility is participating in COVID-19 related moratoriums.

"This action will ensure a continuation of utility service. Deferred payment arrangements are also available for both residential and small business customers needing help managing their utility bill obligation during these difficult times," according to the release.

On June 18, the ICC approved a COVID-19 utility agreement with state-regulated utilities that included the

first moratorium on shutoffs that some utilities have since voluntarily extended. The agreement also included consumer protections aimed at protecting utility customers during the coronavirus pandemic, such as deferred payment agreements, temporary waivers for reconnection fees and new deposit requirements.

"Illinois citizens are facing extraordinary challenges due to the pandemic. Low income families and those impacted by COVID-19 should not have to fear losing basic services like electricity, heat, or fresh water," Carrie Zalewski, ICC Chairman, said in a news release. "The voluntary actions by these utilities will provide our most vulnerable citizens with some peace of mind, especially as cold weather approaches."

In Loving Memory

Jennifer M. Cowie
 10-06-81 - 12-25-19

We miss you and think of you every day.

Love, Mom and Dad



Crafts and Conversation at the church

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH in Wilmington invites the public to join in Tuesday morning Crafts and Conversation. From left, Diane Creed, Pastor Kyle Johnson, Cindy Filas, and Margaret Bungo talk over how to make a tied fleece throw. If you want to get out to a safe place to chat and work on your craft, stop in at Grace any Tuesday morning at 10:30 AM. Coffee's on!

Deadline Wednesday, Oct. 28

Saluting Our Veterans

and those currently serving!

We need your photos of Veterans and Soldiers

We invite you to share a photo and name of local Veterans and Soldiers in honor of Veteran's Day!

We will be remembering the brave men and women from this area who have fought to protect our country's freedoms at home and overseas. We will be featuring soldiers past and present including those on active duty.

Please note:
 If you have submitted a photo and name in previous years you do not need to submit it again unless something has changed.

Published on Wednesday, November 11th
Deadline: Wednesday, Oct. 28

If your veteran or soldier was included last year, you do not need to re-submit the photo. Those featured last year will be automatically included.

Your Name _____
 Your Phone _____
 Veterans Name _____
 Years Served _____
 Branch of Service _____
 *Town _____

Send photo and form by email to the following:
news@fpnusa.com
 or deliver to:
 Coal City Courant
 271 S. Broadway
 Coal City, IL 60416
 Free Press Newspapers
 111 S. Water Street
 Wilmington, IL 60481

For more info call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315

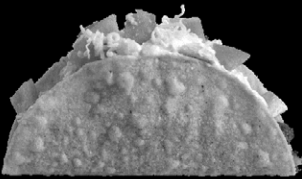
Wilmington Moose Family Center

32050 S. West River Rd • 815-476-6472

- OCTOBER EVENTS -

Fri., Oct. 16 5-8 p.m. **Fish Fry**
Sun., Oct. 18 Noon **Moose Riders**

Carryout Orders & Limited Indoor Dining
Call ahead for a table please.
815-476-6472



EVERY WEDNESDAY
5:00-8:00 p.m.
TACOS & NACHOS

Come and Play Our Machines!

Members & qualified guests

— WI-FI Available —

Madigan created this environment, yet refuses to cooperate

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin is a former prosecutor, and that outlook on life has never really left him.

He's not big on a lot of criminal justice reforms, even standing up to his party's president to oppose the early prison release of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich. He was staunchly opposed to legalizing cannabis. I'm sure that House Speaker Michael Madigan's highly public legal troubles grate on Durkin to no end, as they would on almost any former prosecutor.

So, even though Durkin's petition which triggered the creation of the House Special Investigating Committee to look into the allegations against Madigan is steeped in the politics of the moment (for the obvious campaign reasons, but also to satisfy the demands of some of his members and some major GOP campaign donors who want him to get much tougher on Madigan, Gov. Pritzker and other Democrats), I would argue that his main thrust is legitimate from his own perspective.

Even if Madigan didn't directly engage in "conduct unbecoming a legislator," as

the petition alleges, people under his control most certainly did say and do some things that, if not all illegal, are certainly distasteful and displeasing.

Madigan created this environment and yet says he cannot and should not be held responsible for those acting within the confines of that environment; and refuses to cooperate with a committee that is enshrined in the very same rules that Madigan insists must be approved by his members every two years.

Leader Durkin held a press conference last week to express his outrage that the investigatory committee's chairman, Rep. Chris Welch (D-Hillside), had delayed all future hearings until after the November election.

"Citizens of Illinois must know what the single most powerful person in the state's role is in this scandal, this ever-growing scandal," Durkin said.

"Illinois residents deserve so



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

much better and they deserve the truth."

"He needs to stand up and answer those questions," Durkin quoted Gov. JB Pritzker as saying about fellow Democrat Madigan, then called on Pritzker to "immediately demand those answers he has been requesting from Speaker Madigan or demand that he resign immediately."

But Durkin's answer to the press conference's very first question demonstrated how the demand for Madigan's testimony is far more about putting Madigan in a bad spot than it is about an actual investigation.

Durkin was asked: "What would the speaker say that he has not already said in writing?" a question which referred to Madigan's long, single-spaced letter denying all allegations and explaining why he would not cooperate with the committee, which he said was nothing more than a political

stunt. "Well, based on what I know," Durkin replied, "I think the speaker at this point, the only thing you can say is that 'I take the Fifth Amendment.'" "This isn't politics," Durkin insisted later. But the Leader's answer gave up the ghost. He essentially admitted that this demand for testimony is about political advantage and not a search for truth. Yes, I know, it's all so very shocking. Politics in a legislative committee during an election year? My goodness, that's simply unprecedented.

"Remember," Durkin told reporters, "the committee's name is the Special Investigative Committee. The committee has a duty and an obligation to investigate."

OK, but forcing a televised spectacle where almost everyone including Durkin himself believe that Speaker Madigan will take the Fifth would be more akin to a show trial than an actual investigative hearing. Yes, such a thing would undoubtedly be immensely satisfying for everyone who despises Madigan (and that's a very long list), but that's about it. Durkin is doing a good job of

keeping Madigan's name out there and putting the Democrats on defense, but don't hose down my shoes and tell me it's raining.

The committee's Republicans have requested documents from ComEd specifically related to testimony by the company's compliance officer during its last hearing. Fulfilling that request should be simple and relatively quick.

Chairman Welch, on the other hand, has requested what could be thousands of documents containing correspondence between the company and just about everybody

under the Illinois political sun going back years. That's the ostensible reason for the hearing's delay, along with the claim that Republicans are playing politics. Welch says it shouldn't take long to fulfill his request, but I still have my doubts.

Hopefully, the Republican request can be fulfilled and the ComEd documents released soon. Maybe we can get some actual substance out of this process going forward.

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

Illinois gas prices falling

Illinois gas prices have fallen 2.9 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.20/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations.

Gas prices in Illinois are 1.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 49.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.81/g today while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g. The lowest

price in the state Monday is \$1.81/g while the highest is \$2.89/g, a difference of \$1.08/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.16/g. The national average is down 1.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 47.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices: Peoria- \$2.33/g, down 0.9 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.34/g. St. Louis- \$1.95/g,

down 1.5 cents per gallon from last week's \$1.96/g, Champaign- \$2.17/g, down 1.4 cents per gallon from last week's \$2.18/g.

"Average gasoline prices largely remain rangebound as the tug of war between market forces continues to keep prices confined near current levels," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"On one side, the coronavirus situation would be pulling prices down as year-to-date gasoline demand stands

some 13% lower than last year, but on the positive side is the possibility of economic stimulus that could boost households ahead of the election if the two parties can manage to agree. For now, with little action on either issue, oil markets are seeing a good amount of speculation and seesawing, and that will continue until we have a clear answer on whether Washington will deliver more economic aid to hard hit Americans."

CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

- BOB BOLSER

815-476-2884
201 N. Main St., Wilmington

Insurance offerings include auto and recreational, renters and personal property, farm and crop, life and health, business and specialty products. Bob lives and works in the community where he does business. Call or visit the website for a quote.

<https://representatives.countryfinancial.com/robert.bolser>

Remember to SHOP LOCAL

www.wilmingtonilchamber.org

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

JOHNKE TREE SERVICE

No Job Too Big Or Too Small!

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

Veterans, Military & Senior Discount

Fully Bonded & Insured

815-791-5146

We Have

More Fabric

Spins & Needles

Sewing Machine Cleaning & Repair

Custom Wind Spinners

614 Davy Ln., Wilmington
815-592-1183

LAWN WORKS

- Yard/Leaf Cleanup
- Snow Removal/ Salting
- Hedge Trimming
- Mowing

815-278-0626

Cullenlawnworks@gmail.com

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

PROTECT-YOUR-DECK

DECK BUILDER

Deck, fence maintenance & house painting

- Ext. wood restoration
- Power washing vinyl siding & concrete

Free Estimates

Insured & Bonded

815-935-9949

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

We Deliver!

www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

SHORKEY PAINTING

(815) 546-1321

Interior/Exterior
Est. 1989

VIKING ROOFING

Specializing in Tear Offs
 Fully Insured
 State Lic# 104002993

10 FREE vents & 100 sq. ft of lumber

815-476-6010
 Over 40 Years Experience

Mini Storage

CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS

515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

This space could be yours!

Call 815-476-7966

MIDWEST BETTER BUILT CONSTRUCTION

**EXTERIOR/INTERIOR REMODELS
 NEW CONSTRUCTION
 CARPENTER CONTRACTOR**

(815) 530-0630 *Free Estimates Fully Insured*

Brandon

FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY NEEDS

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS

from the Free Press Newspapers
 Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE

**Pumping - Repairs New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties**

Ed Bonnavier
Goal City • 634-4691

SISTEK RENTALS

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

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

AJ's

Promotional Products and Apparel

Adidas®
Oakley®
Champion®

Koozies®
Bic® Pens
Sharpie®

815-263-5990

Janet Fisher-Schatz

EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net
 WEB: ajsprint.esppwebsite.com

TIRE ZONE

Tires & Alignment

Hours: Monday-Friday, 8-5; Saturday, 8-12

Shocks/Struts • Batteries • Wheel Alignments
 Tire Balancing • Oil & Lube

24 Hour Towing - 815-353-8511
85 N. 1st Ave., Coal City • 634-3000

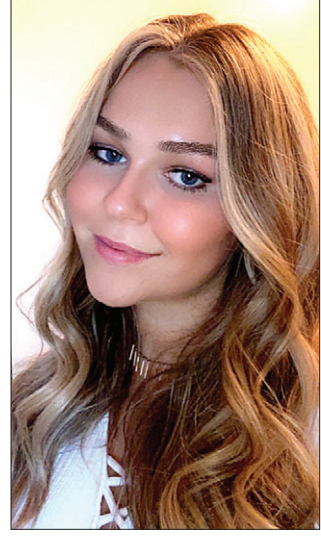
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 724 • (815) 476-5991

WHS senior of the week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features Wilmington seniors from the Class of 2021. Wilmington senior highlighted this week is Payton Koopman, Payton Koopman



PAYTON KOOPMAN

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan to go to college and become a physician assistant.
Do you have a hobby you're good at? I love to show my horse and plan to be on an equestrian team in college.
What is one thing most people don't know about you? I failed my driving test before I made it out of the parking lot.
During the home quarantine I did a lot of... home improvements.
What is your favorite thing to eat? Anything seafood
I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Ivanoff because he is just one cool cat.
Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Ruth Bader

Ginsburg because I need legal advice.
If you could create a class, what would it be? Marrying rich 101
Funniest memory from high school? When the boys in my grade wore cheerleading uniforms and did a routine in front of the whole school.
What advice would you give to underclassmen? If you don't enjoy what you do, it's time to make a change.

'More than 4' fundraising campaign to end Saturday

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

September and October are used to recognize childhood and breast cancer. Childhood cancer only receives four percent of the money raised for cancer research.
Last year, Wilmington High School's Volley for a Cure fundraiser made nearly

\$16,000. This year, in place of the Volley for a Cure fundraiser, the school is hosting an online fundraiser.
Items available in the fundraiser include t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, hoodies, and baseball tees. The purchase of these items will help support this cause. One hundred percent of the profits will be donated to Children's Cancer Therapy Development institute.
You can find the link to the online

website in the news section of the high school's website. The deadline to purchase an item is Saturday, Oct. 17 at midnight, and the items will be delivered on Nov 4.
The school hopes to spread Megan Bugg's message of "More than 4," which refers to the fact that childhood cancer only receives four percent of the money raised for cancer research.

Band's performance uploaded to YouTube

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

On Friday Oct. 2, the WHS band put on a performance at the high school practice field for close friends and family.
Did you miss the performance? The video is posted on youtube for anyone to watch.

Search Wilmington CUSD 209u video channel on youtube. The video is titled Marching Band 10/2/2020.
The band performed Wilmington's school song, *Sweet Caroline*, and *Uma Thurman*. They were led by drum majors Eren Overmyer and Emily Dooley.

Breakfast at school

- Mon., Oct. 19:** Cocoa Puffs, Cinnamon Goldfish, fruit punch, choice of milk
 - Tues., Oct. 20:** Banana Muffin, Mandarin Oranges, choice of milk
 - Wed., Oct. 21:** Froot Loops, Honey Grahams, grape juice, choice of milk
 - Thu., Oct. 22:** Parfait cup (yogurt, blueberries, granola), choice of milk
 - Fri., Oct. 23:** Cinnamon Pop Tart, Keebler Grahams, grape juice, choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.

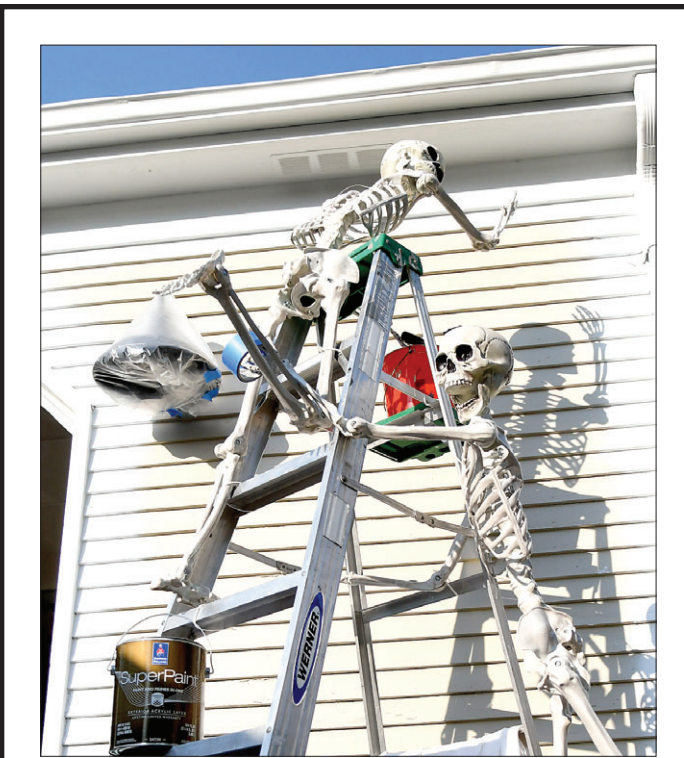


Photo by Eric Fisher

GUARANTEED NOT to go on strike, a new paint crew showed up last week at the home of Gerald and Kim Jansen in the 600 block of County Road., Wilmington. The Halloween decorations are in contrast to the live crew painting their house.

Skeleton crew

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

Neighbors near County and Shakespear streets may have been puzzled last week when driving by the home of Kim and Gerry Jansen.
One day there were workers up on ladders painting their Wilmington home. The next day there were skeletons on the ladders, holding paint buckets and brushes, finishing the job.
Their impromptu Halloween display created a few laughs, especially for painter Bill Shorkey who was contracted to do the job.
Was it a hint that he was taking too long to do the job or just a timely display in the spirit of Halloween?

"It was done strictly with Halloween in mind," Kim chuckled. "Honestly, I saw it on Pinterest and it was perfect since we were having the house painted."
She said it was fun seeing the reaction from those passing by. Even little kids on bikes were stopping to take a peak.
Kim said the skeletons were a recent purchase (note: no skeletons in the closet here) and she had yet to give them a name.
"We haven't gotten that attached yet but they've been fun so far," she said.
The Jansens used the skeletons a couple of weeks earlier on their front porch when one was dressed as a Cubs fan, the other a Cardinals fan, each waiting for a World Series championship.

Attorney Lynch files Newcomb estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Steve E. Newcomb, Deceased; No. 20 P 721
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Steve E. Newcomb. Letters of Office were issued to Gary R. Newcomb, whose address is 2730 Flora Hills Drive, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, 63701, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Steve E. Newcomb, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Day estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BONNIE DAY, Deceased; No. 20 P 723
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Bonnie Day. Letters of Office were issued to Amelia L. Johnson whose address is 20 Abbeywood Drive, Romeoville, Illinois 60446, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Bonnie Day, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Schulte estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GLEN W. SCHULTE, Deceased; No. 20 P 727
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Glen W. Schulte. Letters of Office were issued to Gregory S. Schulte whose address is 26442 Melissa Drive, Channahon, Illinois 60410, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Glen W. Schulte, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Lunch this week in 209-U

- Mon., Oct. 19:** mexican straw hat, refried beans, salsa, pears, choice of milk
 - Tues., Oct 20:** cold roast beef wrap, cheese hash brown, mandarin oranges in Jell-o, choice of milk
 - Wed., Oct. 21:** pizza, veggie/Ranch, mixed fruit, choice of milk
 - Thu., Oct. 22:** chicken noodle, romaine salad, roll and butter, strawberry cup, choice of milk
 - Fri., Oct. 23:** teriyaki chicken, garden veggie rice, sugar snap peas, pineapple, choice of milk
- Daily milk choices are fat free milk and 1% white milk.

SEND SCHOOL NEWS TO
news@fpnusa.com

Village of Elwood's annual treasurer's report

Village of Elwood Annual Treasurer's Report April 30, 2020				Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/20	
General	Deer Run TIF	Capital Construction Bond	Non-Major Governmental Funds	Gross Earnings under \$25,000	Gross Earnings \$25,001 - \$50,000
5/1/2019	2,306,730	(106,577,738)	7,338,905	2,166,923	
Revenues	3,882,615	9,978,163	3,538,331	105,974	
Expenses	(3,618,584)	(26,744,583)	(1,013,728)	(1,018,301)	
Transfer In/(Out)	659,243		(1,579,227)	920,034	
4/30/2020	3,230,004	(123,344,158)	8,284,281	2,174,630	
Revenue Summary				Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2020	
Taxes				11,723,698	
Intergovernmental				532,313	
Charges for Services				941,278	
Licenses & Permits				3,773,851	
Fines & Forfeits				210,975	
Interest Income				210,774	
Miscellaneous				112,194	
Total				17,505,083	
Compensation for Personnel				Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/2020	
Gross Earnings under \$25,000	Gross Earnings \$25,001 - \$50,000				
Bechtold, N	Crane,	Paris, T	Rodgers, M		
Berscheid, J					
Bertucci, J					
Compensation for Personnel				Vendor Payments over \$2,500 Fiscal Year Ended 4/30/20	
A & A Attractions	\$ 12,452.00	Currie Motors	\$ 76,174.54	Lower DesPlaines Watershed Group	\$ 12,322.50
Aaron Flood	\$ 4,000.00	Dearborn Life Insurance Co	\$ 4,371.39	Mad Bomber Fireworks Prod.	\$ 5,000.00
Aclara Technologies LLC	\$ 6,273.04	D'Orazio Ford	\$ 15,507.86	Mahoney, Silverman & Cross Ltd	\$ 192,537.03
AFLAC	\$ 23,709.20	Dyneegy Energy Services	\$ 100,703.49	Marino Truck & Equipment	\$ 22,524.03
Allegiant Fire Protection	\$ 3,351.98	Elan City Inc	\$ 5,829.00	Menards Inc	\$ 14,940.75
ALM Lancare	\$ 3,873.00	Elwood Fire Protection	\$ 10,839.42	Mesirov Ins Services Inc	\$ 2,602.00
Altforer Inc	\$ 13,844.01	Elwood School	\$ 9,619.41	Metaline Inc	\$ 7,956.00
Amalgamated Bank	\$ 967,484.80	F.N. Cuthbert Inc	\$ 4,179.97	Metropolitan Alliance of Police	\$ 3,268.00
Anixter Inc	\$ 16,652.64	Feece Oil Co	\$ 54,980.80	Minit Mart LLC	\$ 146,500.00
Anthony Foth	\$ 4,574.90	Fleet Safety Supply	\$ 18,804.13	Morton Salt Inc	\$ 19,247.53
Applied Concepts	\$ 15,086.00	Full Circle K9 Solutions	\$ 2,560.80	Nationwide	\$ 8,473.38
Austin Tyler Construction Inc	\$356,111.54	GFC Leasing	\$ 2,785.55	Neofunds	\$ 7,000.00
Axon Enterprise Inc	\$ 5,596.40	Glafteller Public Practice	\$ 95,780.00	Nicor	\$ 15,451.58
B&F Construction Code Service Inc	\$ 338,575.77	Grainger	\$ 3,328.53	Nitel Inc	\$ 6,593.80
Bank of New York	\$ 9,883,505.70	Hawkins Inc	\$ 2,824.20	Northwestern University	\$ 4,000.00
Bank Card Processing	\$ 83,721.41	Health Care Service Corp	\$ 256,978.22	Northwalk Tank Co	\$ 3,460.22
Baxter & Woodman Inc	\$ 255,509.75	Hinckley Spring Water Co	\$ 2,993.56	Paychex	\$ 4,794.03
BNSF Railway Company	\$ 16,866.00	Honda of Joliet	\$ 6,763.45	Pest Outpost LLC	\$ 6,565.40
Bond Trust Services Corp	\$ 330,435.00	Illinois EPA	\$ 10,000.00	Poehner, Dillman & Mahaik Inc	\$ 132,222.50
Bruns & McDonnell	\$ 3,000.00	Illinois Public Risk Fund	\$ 54,872.00	Pomp's Tire Service Inc	\$ 6,870.89
CallOne	\$ 15,219.00	Illinois State Police	\$ 137,263.75	Pr-Cise MRM LLC	\$ 4,150.00
Camz Equipment Inc	\$ 10,315.00	IMRF	\$ 216,101.49	Practical Life Insurance	\$ 17,544.74
Cargill Inc	\$ 46,317.04	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 4,108.80	PT Ferro Construction Co	\$ 34,237.54
CDS Office Systems	\$ 12,514.00	J Lucas & Sons Paving	\$ 36,565.60	Public Safety Direct Inc	\$ 3,859.70
Christopher Rocha	\$ 2,500.00	Jarson Corporation	\$ 3,000.00	Ray O'Herron Co Inc	\$ 9,174.04
Civic Systems	\$ 10,099.00	JCM Uniforms	\$ 4,139.55	Reasonable Tree Experts	\$ 6,275.00
Commonwealth Edison Co	\$ 67,301.63	Kiesler's Police Supply	\$ 2,619.39	Reinders	\$ 3,681.74
Concentric Integration	\$ 40,354.78	Kuypers Brothers Inc	\$ 5,620.00	Rental Max	\$ 2,825.73
Construction by Camco	\$ 75,295.00	Lakeshore Beverage	\$ 4,306.75	Road Safe Traffic Systems Inc	\$ 3,137.12
Copperfield Communications	\$ 36,473.80	Lauterbach & Amen	\$ 19,750.00	S&P Global Ratings	\$ 12,250.00
Core & Main LP	\$ 2,501.59	Lexipol LLC	\$ 5,718.00	SA-SO	\$ 16,111.89
Cresecent Electric Supply Co	\$ 6,042.08	Lori Jenco	\$ 5,365.20	Sherwin Williams	\$ 15,224.54

St. Rose C.C.W. meetings

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women resumed its regular meeting schedule on the first Monday of each month this month. The next meetings are scheduled for Nov. 2 and Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. in the school gym.
Please enter at the rear outside door of the gym for check-in procedures. All current safety precautions will be observed and enforced.
The 2021 dues of \$5 and Silent Smorgasbord donations are due now. If unable to attend, your dues and donation can be dropped in the collection basket or mailed to the parish office cleared marked C.C.W.

Attorney Lynch files Spotofora estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JACK SPOTOFORA, JR, Deceased; No. 20P724
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Jack Spotofora, Jr. Letters of Office were issued to Candice Selina whose address is 1506 Catherine Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 7th day of April, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Jack Spotofora, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, October 7, October 14 and 21, 2020.

Attorney Lynch files Stonitsch estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Diane L. Stonitsch, Deceased; No. 20 P 728
CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Diane L. Stonitsch. Letters of Office were issued to Rita Saxon, whose address is 425 Apollo Drive, Joliet, Illinois, 60435, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Jennifer M. Lynch of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 14 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of March, 2021, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Jennifer M. Lynch
For the Estate of Diane L. Stonitsch, Deceased
BY: Jennifer M. Lynch
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Atty No.: 06275404
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, September 30, October 7 and 14, 2020.

Sports with masks are better than none at all

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois High School Association sports medicine advisory told the Chicago Tribune Thursday that it's possible that basketball players will have to wear masks in order to have a 2020-2021 season.

The reaction from local coaches is that if masks have to be worn in order to get the season rolling, then so be it.

Reed-Custer girls basketball coach Shelby Zwolinski said her players are strong-willed and have been wearing

masks every day during school. "Our girls have been working hard with masks on after school," said Zwolinski. "They have done a great job and put in a lot of effort. It will definitely be difficult playing in a game with a mask but it's doable. If that's what it is going to take to let our student athletes participate in athletic contests, then they will commit and play their hardest."

Coal City boys basketball coach Glenn Pacek said he won't be surprised if there is a mask mandate.

"If they're forced to wear masks all day, I can't imagine

them saying, 'take off the mask to play the game,' said Pacek.

Pacek notes that games played while wearing a mask will end up different than under normal conditions.

"You've got to be in really good shape to play the game. If you have to wear a mask, it becomes even more challenging on you as an athlete," Pacek said. "But wearing a mask is better than not having a season at all. Even if I have to substitute players more often, which is probably what it's going to take, I'd like to have a season and so would the kids," the coach said.

"I can understand the discomfort for kids in wearing masks that are only going for an hour. Basketball is not an easy sport to play cardiovascular-wise even without having to wear a mask."

Wilmington girls basketball coach Eric Dillon says his players are getting used masks just by attending school. Still, he's not worried of them going too far.

"I'm not really worried about that," said Dillon. "The girls know their bodies and if they feel like they're at that point, they're going to say something and they're going to

sub themselves out. So I'm not really worried about them running themselves into the ground."

In the Tribune article Dr. Prestin Wolin said the idea is currently being considered by the Illinois Department of Health, who still has restrictions on high school and youth sports.

Basketball is considered as a medium risk for virus transmission which means schools can compete against one another but competitions against other teams is currently prohibited.

This poses a problem for

the basketball season set to start Nov. 16.

In four neighboring states, fall high school sports were allowed with reduced schedules. Illinois bumped fall sports, with the exception of golf, tennis and cross country to spring. So far there has not been a ruling for how winter sports will be handled.

Illinois High School Association Executive Director Craig Anderson told the Tribune he prefers that masks be optional for players.

A decision may be known within a couple of weeks.

For the Record: WHS best at boys basketball

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

With 706 wins over 72 years, the Wilmington boys basketball program is highlighted by five regional championships, two in the last 20 years.

While many will argue that Wilmington's sport of choice is football over basketball, it

doesn't mean basketball hasn't had its share of standout athletes.

This week, The Free Press Advocate unveils the best basketball players who made the record book.

The Wildcat to score the most points in a season is Dan O'Leary, who put up a jaw-dropping 611 points during his senior year, making him

Wilmington's leader during the 2000s.

O'Leary finished his Wildcat career with 1,040 points, becoming one of eight Wilmington athletes, male and female, to reach 1,000 points.

O'Leary was one of the big reasons the 'Cats won 12 games that year. He had a long string of games where he had over 20 points and some when

he tallied 30. His best game was 34 points.

Behind him on the list is Matt Russell, who played over 100 consecutive games in high school and in that time, he scored 963 points, just shy of a spot in the 1,000 Club.

Russell was an important part of a 2009 team that went 16-13 which was their best record since Mike Cluver had control of the team during the 1987-88 season when Wilmington won a regional title with a 17-11 record.

In 2008-09, the 'Cats were just outside of a regional title victory, dropping a tough game to Herscher, 44-42.

Russell's highest scoring game was when he put up 22 points.

A teammate of Russell's, Ty Anderson, is third on the points list, scoring 728 points from 2008-11, including 368 in his senior season.

Anderson had a big part in a 2009-10 Wildcat team that went 19-8, losing to the Bishop McNamara Irish, 63-51 during the regional championship game.

Anderson's highest scoring game was when he put up 27 in his junior year.

Joey Flannery comes in fourth on the points list as he put up 708 points from 2016-2018, including 377 points during his senior season.

Flannery aided a Wilmington team that won seven games.

Flannery's best game was a 34-point game during his junior season.

Behind him is teammate, Matteo Lombardi, who played with Flannery for both seasons, and the two were a one-two punch in a lot of cases.

During their time together, they won 11 games.

Lombardi finished his Wilmington career, pouring in 602 points over a two-season span. He put up 318 points during his senior season to finish it off on a high note.

Also mentioned on the points list for the 2000's are: Nick Anderson (539, 2009-12), Andy Crutchfield (499, 2007-10), Jake Van Duyne (453, 2007-10), Pat Sweeney (440, 2004-06) and Robert Van Duyne (315, 2016-18).

Best at rebounds

Who was the best overall rebounder at Wilmington?

That would be Flannery, who averaged a double-double a game during his junior season on into his senior season. He picked up over 260 boards during his junior season, the best mark.

The second best mark was from O'Leary, who didn't average a double-double like Flannery did but he still pulled down rebounds left and right, scoring over 20-30 points a game in the process.



DAN O'LEARY is Wilmington's point leader after putting up over 1,000 points from 2011-13.

O'Leary finished the 2012 season with 143 boards. O'Leary's best rebounding game was when he collected 18 boards in a double-double effort.

Crutchfield also pulled down 133 boards during the 2009 season, including a three-game stretch where he corralled at least 10 rebounds.

Behind him is the Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher and former Wildcat point guard Tanner Roark, who corralled 127 rebounds during the 2005 season.

Josh Bluidzius collected 77 rebounds during the 2006 season to round out the top

rebounders.

Best perimeter shot

Russell had the best three point shot for Wilmington as along with his near 1,000 points, he drained 155 three-pointers.

He had multiple games where he drained three treys in a game and a handful where he hit four threes during a single game.

Just to illustrate how good that number is, the next guy behind him was Ben Kreitz, who sank 41 three balls from 2018-20.

Behind him was Del Lacy, who knocked down 24 from 2005-07 to round out the list.



WILMINGTON 2012 GRADUATE Nick Anderson is fifth on the all-time points list, scoring 559 from 2010-12.

What parents need to know about the proper conditioning of their pitcher

Pitchers are a special breed, and as such they require preparation that is quite different from other athletes.

But while the arm is the main focus of attention for everyone watching the pitcher, the whole body and its development goes into every pitch that leaves his hand. Young pitchers, in particular, along with their parents often face confusion when deciding how to properly condition the pitcher's body.

Many who pitch don't go about their conditioning the correct way, and common misconceptions about it can stop pitchers short of their potential, says Ron Wolforth, a long-time pitching trainer who is founder of Texas Baseball Ranch and author of "Pitching with Confidence: A Parent's Guide To Giving Your Elite Pitcher An Edge."

"Parents need to educate themselves and their athletes on proper conditioning and training specific to pitchers," Wolforth says. "There are important things they and their kids can learn about how conditioning for a pitcher needs to be markedly different relative to athletes in other sports."

"Unfortunately, most baseball training falls way short in terms of being tailored to specific skill requirements. For example, too many are thrown in the weightlifting room with everybody else, and little attention is paid to the balance and structural alignment necessary."

Wolforth offers these points that parents need to know about the conditioning of their pitcher:

Assessment—Before beginning conditioning, Wolforth recommends finding a well-qualified physical therapist

for an assessment of the pitcher.

"Seek out a PT who is certified to perform a Functional Movement Screening," Wolforth says. "You as a parent want to know where your athlete may have possible limitations. How is their flexibility, stability, and other physical factors? After the assessment, request corrective exercises to take home regarding any limitation they find."

Strength and mobility/flexibility—"You want to create a very specific type of strength and mobility/flexibility," Wolforth says. "Every sport is unique in its requirements. A pitcher's strength, balance, symmetry and structural alignment are absolutely critical. Because pitchers have to decelerate, developing parts of the pitcher's body that slow down the arm actually may be more important in

some cases than developing parts that speed up the body."

Weightlifting—"Over 75 percent of high school players that I have witnessed were not ready for squats in the weight room," Wolforth says.

"Over 80 percent of all athletes who I observe can't do 10 consecutive perfect pushups. Yet we funnel all these athletes into the same weight room, give them the exact same workout, and attempt to build strength. Adding strength in the wrong area is a bad idea. Follow the assessment and steer clear of any outside person who, without assessing the athlete, offers definitive answers on your athlete's strength development."

Running—Wolforth says long-distance running for conditioning reduces mobility and is a wrong fit for pitchers, yet many do it.

"Baseball pitchers need strength and stamina, but they will not get the specific strength and stamina they need by running long distance," Wolforth says. "The physical act of pitching a baseball is accomplished in less than two seconds. The athlete then has roughly 20 seconds to recover before repeating the explosion. Short sprints of 10-25 yards with 20-60 seconds of rest between reps are far superior to long, slow jogging."

"Remember, pitchers don't need the endurance of a marathon runner or an aerobics instructor," Wolforth says. "They don't need to focus on bulking up their arms. Proper conditioning is about bringing harmony to all the body parts combined in pitching, and it's a process that evolves as the young pitcher's body changes."



Photos by Shawn Long

PUTTING FOR THE Wildcats is Colin James during a home match at Cinder Ridge Golf Course.



Photos by Shawn Long

WATCH IT GO—Wilmington freshman Jake Castle watches his ball after teeing off during Thursday's match at High Point Golf Course.



Stefany Gumm (center) and the employees of Grundy Bank welcome you to bank with them.

If Your Bank Is Closing, We Would Love To Be Your New Bank!

While many larger banks are closing some branches in smaller communities, Grundy Bank continues to stay committed to the communities we serve in and around the Wilmington area.

If your bank is closing in the near future, we want to welcome you to the friendly local Grundy Bank where we have been serving communities in the Grundy-Will County areas since 1864.

Come by and get to know us and our friendly, professional staff...and when you call us, there's no 800 number nor automated answering machine to greet you...one of our employees will be there to answer your questions and direct your call.



120 S. Main St., Wilmington • 815-476-7460
201 Liberty St., Morris • 444 Bedford Rd., Morris
www.grundybank.com



Wildcat golfers just strokes away from sectional qualification

BY SHAWN LONG
STAFF WRITER

The Wilmington golfers had their season come to an end on Wednesday as they were unable to advance further than the Grant Park Regional.

As a team, the 'Cats (2-8) placed sixth with an overall score of 399.

Despite the loss, Wildcat coach Mike Wilson was proud of his golfers.

"It was a great season and it was a pleasure coaching this group," said Wilson. "They improved every step of the way."

Reed-Custer was fifth with 398 points while Beecher won the competition, boasting a score of 347.

Colin James was Wilmington's best overall golfer, shooting a 93 and he was just two strokes outside the score needed to advance.

The Wildcats also had Jake Castle shoot a 97, leaving him six strokes shy of the magical number.

Zach Welsh rounded out Wilmington's top golfers as he shot a 102.

The 'Cats finish their season with two wins, getting past their plateau as a year ago they were without a win.

Wilmington's top golfer was James as he stayed consistent, averaging a score of 43 all season.

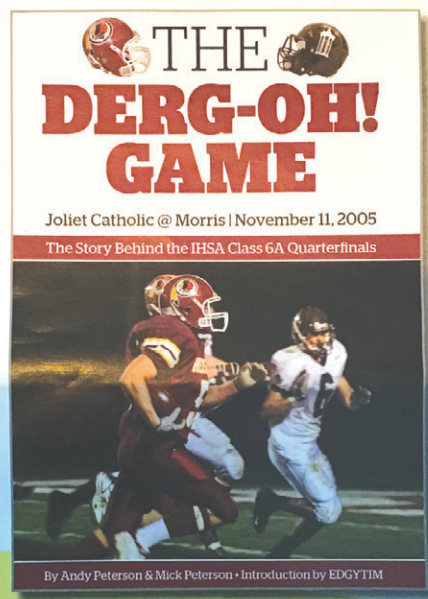
Behind him freshman Jake Castle averaged 48.

Zach Welsh was just behind Castle, averaging a 49 in his time at the golf course.

Taden Yakima rounded

out the top four high shooters, averaging a 52 in 2020.

BOOK COMING THIS OCTOBER!



Get Behind The Scenes Accounts From Players & Coaches
For Pre-Orders Contact Andy Peterson Via Facebook
Or
Send Email To: TheDergOhGame@gmail.com



START DELIVERING SMILES

Make someone's every day near you.
Immediate hourly roles available at amazon.com/apply



Amazon is an equal opportunity employer.