

Teachers earn tips for WE-PTO



Cats ready for a week 1 re-match



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FAN FAVORITES

The Wildcat football team knocked off undefeated Tri-Valley Downs Saturday 42-14 to advance to the quarterfinal round of the Class 2A playoffs. Wilmington running back Kyle Farrell (8) ran for 219 yards including two touchdowns, one being celebrated here with quarterback Cade McCubbin. Wildcat fans McKenna Riley, Aubrey Bryant and Bryn Bianchetta (and others) may have had the best seats in the house on this play by standing in the south endzone. Wilmington will need all the fans they can get to make the trip to Seneca at 2 p.m. Saturday when they face the undefeated Fighting Irish.

Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

The "we are one" recipe

BY ELAINE FISHER-OHLUND
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The Wildcats continue to advance in the playoffs pressing on to round three on Saturday at Seneca.

Even though I have a son on the team, I'm not a big fan of football.

I don't know if it's just because it's completely against my tree hugging, hippie loving nature. Or maybe it's because it's so hard to get those damn pants clean after every game.

Right now the entire household is consumed with Wildcat football.

As the season goes on, the practices get longer and longer and my son comes home more tired than ever.

On Saturday my husband was driving me crazy with his pacing long before game time.

"If you're going to pace then can you at least vacuum," I suggested. To my surprise he vacuumed the entire house. (Hey maybe this football thing isn't so bad after all.)

As a mother I fear for players suffering injury from all the hitting going on. Is it really worth the risk of a big injury? Slowly I've come to accept it. It helped when I

SEE ONE, PAGE 2

Honoring veterans in Wilmington



Photos by Eric Fisher

TWICE A YEAR the Malcolm J. Mayo VFW Post in Wilmington treats veterans from area nursing homes to a homemade rib dinner. The VFW and American Legion Post 191 joined forces Monday in welcoming two bus loads of veterans and their escorts. Altogether about 65 meals were served including all-you-can-eat ribs, polish sausage and saurkraut, mashed potatoes, cowboy beans and dessert. Organizer Rich Princko said 150 pounds of ribs were prepared, enough for the veterans to have seconds if they wanted. Pat Nugent dished out the ribs making sure the meat didn't fall off the bone. Filling up the dessert cart with home-cooked pies, cakes and cookies is volunteer Jackie Siebersfa. The Wilmington VFW will honor all veterans this Saturday, Veteran's Day, serving free hot dogs and hamburgers to any veterans from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Park upgrades set to break ground in Spring

Grant funding award last piece for planning

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Children's Memorial Park in Northcrest is set for some upgrades in 2024.

But, the final details on just what those upgrades will ultimately include still have a few months before they are finalized, as the Wilmington Park District waits to hear from the state about some potential grant funding that could give the project a boost.

The plans to revamp the park were first discussed in 2022. The work would include a 1,000-foot U-shaped accessible asphalt walking path with a story walk around the perimeter of the park. Additional upgrades would include accessible equipment and landscaping.

Park district Executive Director Kirsten Van Duyn said that when the district was first planning out the upgrades, the plans also included adding a pour-in-place playground surfacing. Pour-in-place is a cushioned base for playgrounds made of polyurethane and recycled rubber that provides not just a soft surface but an all-inclusive one. But between the initial planning period and today, the cost of that surfacing has increased exponen-

tially, now more than two and one half times the original estimate of around \$30,000.

"We went through our summer of fundraising, the Rotary Club is raising funds for us, the beer garden at the 4th of July, all of those activities," Van Duyn said. "After all of those things we were ready to purchase, but the price is now \$78,000. And we haven't yet repriced that. It's just not necessarily the best use of the funds for 1,000 square feet. So, we're looking into turf options as well."

While the district currently has about \$80,000 available in its capital improvement fund for parks and facilities work, going through all those funds for one portion of a project wasn't the plan.

But, Van Duyn said, that doesn't mean the pour-in-place surface has been eliminated from contention as part of the upgrades.

This fall, the district applied for an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant through the state of Illinois.

If awarded, that would mean a matching grant of \$80,000, doubling what is available in capital improvements and giving the district

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