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## No Love Lost Over public objections, Love's Travel Center approved

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

An annexation agreement to allow a Love's Travel Center to be built at River Road and Route 53 narrowly passed the Wilmington City Council on Nov. 15, following a two hour public comment period where several members of the public asked for the city to reject the proposal.

Roughly 30 members of the public attended the hearing on Nov. 15, which was the second chance the

public had to voice their concerns over the project.

A public hearing was held earlier this month before the city's Planning and Zoning Board, which unanimously rejected the proposal.

Love's intends to develop 11 acres of the 32 acre parcel to include a 13,000 square foot travel center and fast food restaurant, car and diesel gas pumps, truck scales, 62 car parking spaces, and 71 truck parking spaces. The site will include construction of a private road into the new

development between Kankakee River Drive and River Road. The plan represents a \$15 million investment from Love's.

Commissioners with the Planning and Zoning Board and members of the public raised concerns over the project, including diesel pollution, traffic noise, air quality, light pollution, increased garbage, the potential to negatively impact property values for homes in Water's Edge, Northcrest and Foxtail Commons, negative affects on other

local businesses, the potential for added crime, and the potential to increase truck traffic in an area already saturated with trucks.

Representatives from Love's returned to the City Council to answer some of those concerns.

"People are always going to think about your existing product that they are familiar with," Love's Real Estate Project manager Chad Bruner said. "So, the discussion [before the Planning and Zoning Board] kept going back to our location at Bluff

Road and our location in Dwight. Those are interstate locations. Those are what we call a Tier 1/Tier 2 location. Those are full-on interstate truck stops. The proposal here is more like our Grant Park location about 30 miles east of here, which we are calling a Tier 3 or small Tier 2 location. At Bluff Road, for example, you have three restaurants, you have 100-plus parking spaces, you have a 12,000 square foot tire barn. You have 24

SEE LOVES, PAGE 2

## Dist. 209-U focuses on mental health of students

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The Wilmington School District is taking a closer look at ways to better support the social and emotional health of its student body.

On Nov. 14 during the regular monthly meeting of the Dist. 209-U Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Matt Swick told board members that the district is looking to add resources for those students who may be struggling, especially in light of additional stressors placed on students and their families during the pandemic.

"We've been exploring bringing in additional mental health resources here inside our school walls," Swick said. "We don't have anything set in stone. But, when I say exploring, Trinity Services has opened a new office here in town right on Water Street... and we recently met with a representative."

Swick said Trinity Services has expressed a willingness to work with Dist. 209-U on providing additional resources and services for students.

"It's not to replace services that take place outside of school, but to add to it," Swick said. "There are some kids who need it who don't get those services outside of school, whatever their issues are. So, we are exploring that."

Swick said as he obtains more information on the potential to bring services to students, he'll bring that information to the board, which would make a decision on how to proceed with a partnership.

"That potentially could come as soon as December," Swick added. "They are ready to begin servicing as early as January. It's a good thing, it's a positive thing for our kids. It's been a rough couple of years for social and emotional [needs] for our kids."

In other business before the Board of Education on Nov. 14:

- WMS Principal Adam Spicer gave a hat tip to stu-

SEE BOARD, PAGE 3



Photo by Eric Fisher

**RICHARD QUIGLEY** of Rich's Lock & Key in Wilmington has been named the **Wilmington Chamber's Business Person of the Year**. He will serve as grand marshal of the Christmas parade at 5 p.m. Saturday through downtown Wilmington.

## Quigley a lock for Biz Person of the Year

BY ERIC FISHER  
PUBLISHER

After 42 years of picking thousands of locks, Richard Quigley has a business philosophy that sometimes gets him in trouble, especially with his girlfriend.

The master locksmith and owner of Rich's Lock & Key in Wilmington admits he's a softy when it comes customers in dire need. Like the other day when he helped an woman who had locked her keys in the car. It was a rust-covered Buick that had seen better days. It took him just seconds to get inside.

Rich smiled at the gracious customer, sensed she was short of money, and announced she was lucky, it was senior citi-

zens day, giving her a generous discount.

"I see they can't afford something or they're really short on money so I give them a discount. I probably do that too often but in this day and age when I see someone down on their luck, I have a hard time charging them what it should be charged," Quigley commented.

"My girlfriend Kathy is always asking me why I do that. She says 'Richard you're never going to be a millionaire.' I don't plan on being a millionaire. I'm a millionaire in my heart when I take care of people, is how I feel."

It's exactly that business philosophy that influenced the Wilmington Chamber of

SEE QUIGLEY, PAGE 2

## Wilmington schools earn "commendable" designation

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

Students in Wilmington School District 209-U performed well academically in the 2021-2022 school year, according to the results of the annual school report card which listed each of the district's four schools as "commendable."

Assistant Superintendent Kevin Feeney reported on the annual report to the members of the board of education during their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 14.

The report measures academic performance and school environment factors from each public school in the state. The commendable designation for each of the district's schools is based on specific data points, including state testing, academic growth, and students on track. Students in grades 3-8 take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), while high school juniors take the SAT.

Elementary (K-8) designations are based on 50% student growth on the IAR from one

year to the next, 25% in math and 25% in English Language Arts (ELA). Other factors that contribute to the summative designation include math proficiency, ELA proficiency, and chronic absenteeism (students who miss 10 or more days of school).

At the high school level, 50% of the summative designation is based on the graduation rate. Additional factors include student proficiency in ELA and math based on SAT scores, 9th grade on track to graduate rates, and chronic absenteeism, among other data points.

The report shows that students in Wilmington have increased their academic gains, as districts across the nation work to recover from educational deficits due to the disruption of classroom time during the pandemic.

"The past two years have been tough on our schools as far as students being absent. You'll see across the state, the chronic absenteeism rate is up.

SEE GRADE, PAGE 3

## Wilmington preps for annual tax levy

BY MARNEY SIMON  
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington will pass its annual tax levy next month.

In preparation, city administrator Jeannine Smith gave a preview of the anticipated tax levy figures to members of the City Council on Nov. 15, during the meeting of the finance committee prior to the regular meeting of the aldermen and mayor.

The levy will go before the City Council next month for approval, and notice of that levy will be posted in advance of that approval.

Will County is a tax cap county, which means the cap limits the ability of taxing districts to levy property tax increases. Under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), property tax levy increases are limited to 5% or the increase in the consumer

price index for the year preceding the levy year.

Smith said the anticipated levy would ultimately mean an increase of around \$15 for the average home in Wilmington for the city's line item portion of tax bills.

Smith said the city's Equalized Assessed Value (EAV), which represents approximately one-third of the market value of all property within the corporate boundaries of Wilmington, is up approximately 11% over last year.

Last year's levy extension was approximately \$1.25 million, with a rate of .8321

The levy must be

SEE LEVY, PAGE 13



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# Loves

hours worth of truck traffic flowing through that thing.” Bruner said unlike highway locations that attract cross country interstate traffic, the location in Wilmington will address the trucks already traveling the corridor between I-55 and I-57, as well as existing truck traffic along Route 53 and Arsenal Road.

“We’re using these [smaller locations] to catch local traffic,” Bruner said. “Our customer base here is different. We’re not catching that guy who travels from Mexico to Canada. We’re catching that guy who is going from one interstate to the other one. Local guys.”

Addressing community concerns, Bruner said the site will offer between 50 and 60 local jobs, and added that negotiations with city staff has resulted in an annexation agreement that addresses traffic, lighting and landscape issues. He added that Love’s would be agreeable to add or help fund landscape screening for homes across the street in Water’s Edge.

Included in the agreement is a provision to conduct a second traffic study within the next 10 years, and for Love’s to contribute to the addition of a stoplight if traffic and IDOT require it.

The agreement will also require the addition of turn lanes on Route 53.

Bruner said a traffic study conducted in 2020, with a multiplier of 1.5 due to the pandemic, showed that during peak hours, 400 trucks roll through Route 53 between Peotone Road and River Road per hour. Love’s said the travel center would create revenue for the city by servicing the truck traffic that already exists.

“You have trucks in your town. You had trucks 10 years ago, you’ll have trucks 10 years from now, you have trucks today,” Bruner said. “What we’re offering essentially amounts to a natural resource. You have something in your town that you can benefit from. Today you are not benefiting at all from those trucks rolling though that intersection.”

But, members of the public said they weren’t impressed with the latest presentation.

The general tone of public comment during the meeting was that trucks and truck traffic are already wreaking havoc on the city and its roads, and building a truck stop only benefits those damaging trucks, not residents.

Residents said that the public hearing did not address concerns raised earlier this month, including plans to include showers, washing machines, video gaming, liquor

sales, and 71 truck parking spaces, which suggested to residents that the site will be a full service truck stop.

Residents said the city should look at other avenues to increase revenue, such as downtown development and tourism.

Water’s Edge resident Roy Surdej gave a lengthy public comment, reiterating concerns he brought up earlier this month on noise, pollution, and the potential to negatively impact the community overall. Surdej urged the council to table the issue until the public’s concerns could be addressed more thoroughly.

“I don’t know if people are realizing this, but the concrete jungle is becoming very prevalent on this way,” Surdej said. “If you go down 53, go down Manhattan Road. Look at that. And that’s what’s going to happen out here if we invite more trucks into this community. And maybe it won’t affect you guys, because you don’t live out by us. But it will affect the community, because eventually people are going to get sick and tired of coming in that direction. And it will attract trucks... There is an answer to this. There are better locations for this that will not have the direct negative impact on any part of the city as well as the community. We can still get the tax revenue and the jobs as well as divert truck traffic off of Peotone Road.”

There was no public comment in support of the development.

After some questions and answers were exchanged between the petitioner and aldermen, however, city leaders expressed their own concerns should the project not be approved. The issue of most concern—without the annexation agreement, the truck stop can seek approvals though Will County, meaning the truck stop is likely to be built regardless.

Alderman Jonathan Mietzner said his main concern was that if the city rejects the project, then Love’s or any other developer looking to build on that property or any property just outside the city limits likely won’t bother with an annexation agreement, especially if the city is viewed as unwilling to work on such a deal.

“The county is not going to sit there and ask for the specific things that the city, the staff, the mayor have gone through to get this,” Mietzner said. “I’m going to vote yes for this development. It’s not perfect, but I see it this way: The city receives some of the benefits. If we do not [annex], we’re going to end up with all the problems down the road, with no way really of resolving it.”

Mietzner also said that without annexation, the area will be patrolled by Will County instead of the Wilmington Police Department, meaning any issues that need the attention of law enforcement will likely have a longer wait time.

Aldermen also noted that the

truck traffic is here to stay, and will increase with or without a truck stop.

“If we don’t get in front of this, we’re going to get run over like Elwood,” Alderman Todd Holmes said. “I’m not willing to sit here and let that happen to the city... If we don’t take this and govern it, where we can police it and patrol it, we’re going to turn into another Elwood.”

Aldermen also noted that the addition of the travel center could help make up for some of the revenue that will be lost when D’Orazio Ford and Arnie Bauer Buick move out of Wilmington. Both dealerships have signed a development agreement to move to Braidwood by the end of 2024.

While members of the public expressed frustration that the issue was forwarded to the full City Council, the Planning and Zoning Board serves as a recommending body to the city, and are not the final say on any given project.

However, because the Planning and Zoning Board failed to recommend approval, the annexation proposal needed a supermajority—a total of six yes votes of aldermen—to approve the agreement.

The final vote was 6-1, with Alderman Kevin Kirwin the lone no vote. Alderman Leslie Allred was not present.

The truck stop is expected to break ground in spring, and be complete by late fall of 2023.

# Quigley

Commerce in naming Quigley the 2022 Business Person of the Year. He will be the grand marshal Saturday at 5 p.m. when the annual Christmas parade marches through downtown Wilmington, followed by a brief ceremony under the gazebo at Claire’s Corner park.

Quigley has been generous to his customers and as a behind-the-scenes contributor to community organizations. He buys the candy (\$700 annually) for the Toostie Roll drive by the Knights of Columbus where he serves as the committee director, gives to the annual Blue Santa when children get to shop with police officers for Christmas gifts and supports youth fishing contests. Those are his favorite events among many others.

“In my eyes if I can make my customers happy and give back to the community then each day I can walk out of my shop happy. You know what, there are a lot of business owners always worried about the bottom dollar. I don’t care. As long as it can pay my bills, I’m happy,” Quigley said.

**Humble beginning**

Wanting a career with stability, and something a little out of the ordinary, he took a correspondence course offered by manufacturer Foley and Belsaw, and learned how to pick and repair locks. From that, at age 25, Quigley started a business in his parents’ basement.

He was hired as a correc-

tional officer in 1981 and got caught up in the Illinois Department of Corrections’ first lay-off ever a couple months later.

Quigley didn’t give up on his job with the Department of Corrections. It took a year of calling and asking for it, but he did return to the big lock up. And if anything, lock work made him invaluable at the Joliet Correctional Center.

For the first 10 or so years Quigley was a correctional officer, working through the ranks to lieutenant, then became corrections locksmith, and closed his 28-year corrections career in 2008 as the acting assistant chief engineer/locksmith.

“I had a pretty good career there.”

Inside the limestone walls of the prison, Quigley did institutional-type work repairing gate locks, inmate cell locks — anything he does at the shop in Wilmington he did there, just on a bigger scale.

It was a pretty memorable career too, sometimes exciting, sometimes frightening, as it turns out — Quigley has a lot of stories to tell. He’s been shanked and shived, collected several such devices that were hidden inside the locks he maintained, and was nearly thrown from the eighth-floor gallery in the west cell house.

Quigley was at Joliet Correctional Center when it closed in February 2002, and had the honor of turning out the last inmate to leave the facility. After that, he transferred to Stateville.

Meanwhile, through all of the jailhouse hullabaloo, Quigley was a certified and

bonded locksmith, running a thriving business on his days off and after hours. His first public business location was in the courtyard at Winchester Green, in with Wilmington Overhead Door.

“They were a big help to me in my life. When I couldn’t be there, they ran my business ... They made sure my customers were taken care of, and I thank them very much,” Quigley said. “They did wonderful for me.”

Quigley later moved to a space all his own, the current location of Rich’s Lock and Key in the Faletti Plaza. After he retired from his regular job, Rich’s father, Ron, helped keep things going.

Quigley went through every course Foley and Belsaw offered, except the course on safe cracking. He admits it’s not his forte — although he has been known to beat one now and again. He’s still determined to learn how.

“I wasn’t good at that; I didn’t have time for it, that was the problem. So I don’t consider myself a safe cracker, but I do work on safes,” he said. “If they’re open, I work on them.”

Gifted with a mechanical mind and skilled hands, he loves the challenge of picking a difficult lock and making a new key. One recent challenge was a customer who lost the key to a jewelry box. Quigley had a blank on the wall, burned it black with a candle and gingerly inserted it in the box. After a few joggles the black rubbed off where the pins made contact. With a small file he hand-engraved a new key.

**Thankful for friends**

Two years ago Quigley

nearly lost everything, including his life, after contracting the COVID virus. He spent nearly four months in the hospital, first battling the virus and then infection which required four surgeries.

“They told me I was gonna die. I’m still trying to recoup from all that. I think the only reason I’m here today is the God up there and the power of prayers for me,” Quigley said. “It was a real eye opener in that I am surrounded by good people who really care about me.”

It was those people, most of them fellow Knights of Columbus members, who kept his Quigley Quality Cutlery knife shop on Main Street in Braidwood open.

“For not knowing the day-to-day operations for the business, they did wonderful. They had prizes for customers as an incentive and it was leading up to the holidays which is an important time for the sales. They were the best thing that ever happened for me,” Quigley said. “Even to this day when I think about what they did for me it brings tears to my eyes.”

After that experience he know he’s fortunate to still be conducting business.

“I love my money but money is nothing compared to friendships and your health after you almost died,” Quigley commented. “There are other business owners in this town who do more than I do. I try to help the community when I can because its been good to me. But it’s nice to be named the business person of the year, though. It’s just one thing more that makes me want to give back to my town.”

includes transportation to and from the theatre.

The regular price for tickets is double what we are charging, so this is a great opportunity. Payment is due at the time of registration, and the deadline for registration is Nov. 8th. Call the library at 815-476-2834 with any questions you have.

## Library offering trip to see the Nutcracker at the Rialto

The Wilmington Public Library District would like you to join them on a bus trip to the Rialto Square Theatre for a performance of the beloved Nutcracker on Sunday, Nov. 27. The bus will be leaving promptly at 12:45 p.m.

There are limited tickets available, so register early. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, which

## Library to host Genealogy Club

The Wilmington Public Library will be hosting a Genealogy Club on the first Monday of every month from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Library is looking for people who would like to meet on a monthly basis to share stories, research, strategies, and learn about new sources.

## Happy Thanksgiving



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## PETITIONS FOR ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Petitions will be available beginning on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, for any Resident Member of the Braidwood Recreation Club who wishes to be placed on the Ballot for the Position of Director. Petitions may be obtained at the Club Office during the regular hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday. The Office is closed between 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. on weekdays.

Petitions must be picked up and returned by the individual who is running for the position. All Petitions whether for Directors or By Law Changes must be turned in at the Club Office before the deadline of 1:00 p.m. Saturday December 3, 2022.

The Braidwood Recreation Club will hold its Annual Meeting and Election on Saturday January 14, 2023, at the Club Office at 7:00 p.m.

**Russ Toler**  
Administration Director  
Braidwood Recreation Club

# WMS first trimester honor roll

**Sixth grade honor roll**

Levi Beasley, Aubrey Becker, Aubri Christiansen, Evelyn Clark, Drew Daniels, Asher Dodd, Alex Egizio, Kevin, Jr. Eibell, Adelle Freeman, Lillian Govero, Payton Govero, Lesly Gutierrez, Trevor Haarman, Carsyn Hansen, Robert Jimenez, Tyler Johnston, Kaelen Kelly, Stephen Kinnett, Mariah Krand, Tanner Kutina, Dominic Lapuma, Rochelle Lefeviers, Lucas Leja, Khloe Longest, Jack Medlin, Johnathan Neese, Jayden Luis Ortiz, Julia G. Prescott, Lucas Reynolds, Axel Rivera, Kelsie Roeder, Shawn Schnittger, Bryce Shirley, Bobby Smith, Eli Spicer, Natalie Strohm, Emilie Strong, Autumn Tannhauser, Taylor Tenn, Saraeah Thompson, Colby Wengelewski, Roslyn Wengelewski, Abygail Winker, Kailyn Winkle and Alex Xolo.

**Sixth grade “A” honor roll**

Peyton Adams, Joseph Banas, Jaxsen Brockman, Madilyn Coyne, Isabelle Edgeworth, Matthew England, Chesnee Geiss, Lucy Hall, Tyler Hammett, James Jimenez, Tracy Jones, Weston Lancaster, Khyrell Liquid, Cainen Machalek, Joshua Meyer, Nicholas Pridemore, Elijah Strohmeyer, Violet Turcany, Phoenix Utte and Eli Van Duyn.

**Seventh grade honor roll**

Sophia Albright, Devin Alvarez, Liam Anderson, Leigha Bailey, Cole Boersma, Mollie Bohac, Cristopher Catlin, Bradford Christiansen, Cameron Corlett, Olivia Countryman, Evan Cravens, Cole Cutter, Jacob Dabulskis, AnthonyDamian, Brooklyn Davis, Katelynn Dedo, Sarai Duran,Honey Katrina Empedrad, Ariana Flores, Jason Guzier, Aubrey Hammett, Jaxin Hicks, Logan Hill, Colten Iwen, Kaiden Joos, Hunter Kaitschuck, Benjamin Kintz, Abigail Kirchner, Isabelle Larsen, Annabelle Lawson, Shyloh Lemons, Nolan Lindsey, Ryne Liva, Mickenzie Marquette, Parker Medlin, Logan Moore, Noah Morris, Reagan Mossell, Mackenzie Orasco, Haylee Ospavicus, Layla Reno, Madisyn Rossow,Makayla Sanchez, Chloe Sapp, Alli Stallings, Nekko Sterkowitz, Barry Switzer, Ian Turcany,Katilynn Wildenhain and Marybell Xolo.

**Seventh grade “A” honor roll**

Lailah Beck, Amara Rose Bown, Amy Chiappetta, Cecilia Corlett, Samantha Cutter, Holly Eighner, Haylee Fritz, Karissa Fritz, Taryn Gilbert, Cruz Hincherrick, Aubree Jandura, Abigail Kinnett, Finnegan Kruck, Hank Lindsey, Kayla Lopez, Chase Rabideau, Maecyn Rodriguez, Caroline Smith, Jadyn Sorensen, Colin Strong, Madilyn Strong, Kelly Tatera, Madisen Van Duyn, Ryan Van Duyn, Zander Vanduyne, McKenna Vantilburg and John Weitendorf III

**Eighth grade honor roll**

Camdon Allen, Alyson Allgood, Michael Baez, Jessica Baker, Alicia Bates, Bly Bianchetta, Gavin Biskupski, Veronica Boyer, Fynton Bryant, Nayeli Carrera-Vidales, David Castillo-Neese, Sally Clifford, Ali Daniels, Alexis Decker, Gabrielle Dempsey, Carissa Dennis, Caleb Dillinger, Ryan Donovan, Nina Egizio, Kaylyn Falcon, Ian Fruge, Lucas Galik, Kaylee Garcia, Nicolas Guajardo, Jacob Hartsell, George Hoffman, Cooper Holman, Hunter Johnson, Kayli Johnston, Stephen Krand, Raymond Kross, Dakota Kutina, Jimmy Lewsader, Braden Long, Aiden McCallister, Hayden Mitchell, Aiden Morenberg, Grace Mroz, Adien Myers, Tyler Nelson, Evan Ostheim, Michael Pardon, Preston Pet, Nathaniel Quesada, Syllas Riedstra, Nash Rink, Alexis Rivera, Oakley Rivera, Alexis Rodriguez, Makenzie Rodriguez, Bella Rowe, Mayah Sanchez, Addison Schlieper, Taylor Stickel, Brodie Strong, Miley Swarengen, Aidyn Taylor, Larkyn Thompson, Colin Van Duyn, Dane Van Duyn, Travis Van Duyn, Ashlyn Warriner, Gracie Wilkins, Anna Williams, William Wilson and Klaudia Zahora.

**Eighth grade “A” honor roll**

Addison Billingsley, Morgan Farrell, Noah Kerwin, Gabrielle Kluk, Samantha Liaromatis, Edward Martens, Brysen Meents, Declan Moran, James Neagle, Owen O'Donnell, Hailey Romano, Ryan Schraeger, Addison Vanduyne and Keeley Walsh.

## 209U Lunch menu

**Mon., Nov. 28:** chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll and butter, applesauce and choice of milk

**Tues., Nov. 29:** mini corn dogs, mac and cheese, baby carrots, strawberry cup and choice of milk

**Wed., Nov. 30:** cheeseburger on bun, smile fries, ice cup and choice of milk

**Thurs., Dec. 1:** bbq on bun, corn, peach cup and choice of milk

**Fri., Dec. 2:** pancake wrapped, sausage, hash brown, yogurt cup, mixed berry cup and choice of milk



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Marney Simon, editor



# High hopes for the holidays

The music is starting, the Black Friday ads are everywhere, and we have had some snow to remind us that Christmas is right around the corner, in case the kids in your family haven't already done so.



Sandy Vasko

Today is the first in our series about Christmas through the years in Wilmington. We start in a year of war.

1861 was early in the Civil War. Much as now, the flag could be seen flying everywhere, from businesses especially. Wilmington had sent many of her best and brightest to war. There was never a draft here, Wilmington citizens were the first to volunteer to do the right thing.

The 20th was at Bird's Point, Missouri, and was starting to understand the realities of war. For some it wasn't what they expected. We read in the Wilmington Independent, "Desertion - A young man named Jerry Weber was arrested in this town yesterday, by officer Baker, by order of Gen.

Grant, on a charge of desertion from Co. B, 20th regiment, Illinois Volunteers. He was taken to Joliet."

Those left behind did what they could. They had started the "sociables." These were a sort of dinner party hosted by a different family each week. Those attending paid for their meal as if they were in a restaurant.

All the money collected went to buy things for the soldiers such as soap, socks, blankets, and those little things that make life a bit more pleasant.

At the start of December, business in town started slowing down. On November 30th the I & M Canal had been drained for the winter, so shipping stopped.

Though there were plenty of ads in the newspaper in December of that year that advertised the latest quack medicine, fall and winter dry goods, and coal oil, none of them mentioned Christmas at all. There was not even an ad for one single toy. Makes you long for the good old days, doesn't it?

The holidays were mentioned only in passing. There was a notice that the sociable just held at Dr. Willard's was a great success and sociables would be suspended for three

weeks "as many of our citizens will, undoubtedly, be engaged in visiting and being visited during the holidays."

And so for the next few weeks the paper talked of folks coming back to town to visit friends and relatives.

But these gatherings of family and friends must have been subdued and quiet. The news from the war filled most of the newspaper.

The week before Christmas the paper told of a prisoner exchange of 250 prisoners. Down at Hilton Head 25,000 Union troops landed for an assault on Charleston and Savannah.

But the headline story the week before Christmas was truly sad and moving. A young man named Johnson could no longer take the horror of war and deserted his post, heading for home.

He was caught and he pleaded insanity. A medical commission found him sane. He was court marshaled and sentenced to death.

Gen. McClellan ordered the execution to proceed and 10,000 troops were mustered to witness the event. Johnson was lead between the regiments by twelve guards and three priests.

His eyes were bandaged. His coffin was brought up and he was made to kneel on it,

facing a firing squad, 6 paces in front of him.

The Provost Marshall dropped his handkerchief and they fired. Although shot in the heart he was found not to be dead yet, so they propped him up again. The remaining four guards who had not shot finally finished him off with shots to the head.

His last statement was reported to be, "Boys! I ask pardon of Almighty God, and of all you, for what I did. May Almighty God pardon me, and keep all of you from such sin." With stories like this one, Christmas 1861 went out on a sad note.

But in Wilmington there was still hope. Hope that the coming year would take the horror of war out of their everyday lives and bring back the sons and fathers of Wilmington safe and sound. So to celebrate their hope, they planned a New Year's Day ball to be held at Stewart & Henderson's Hall on New Years Day.

And though the temperature fell below zero that evening, the hall was crowded with people wearing their finest. They danced the new year in with high hopes that were not to be fulfilled.

## Board

dents for academic successes at the close of the first trimester of the school year.

"We had 79% of our kids make the high honor roll and regular honor roll for first trimester, we're very pleased with that," he said.

Spicer also noted that students had a visit via Zoom leading up to Veterans Day with a 94-year-old WWII and Korean War veteran.

WHS principal Scott Maupin noted that juniors will begin selecting their senior class schedules as soon as they return from Thanksgiving holiday.

Maupin also took a moment to congratulate the members of the high school football team for a successful season.

"Congrats to our football team on their 26th consecutive playoff

appearance. They had a good run, it was too short but nonetheless successful," Maupin said.

The district's principals said participation in parent teacher conferences was a positive sign this fall. At Bruning, there was 95% participation in parent teacher conferences this fall, and at SIS, the participation for those conferences was 94%.

Swick thanked the members of the Board of Education for their service to the district. Each year in Illinois, Nov. 15 is recognized as School Board Members Day.

"It's not a glorious job," Swick said. "We appreciate the service. We appreciate that you provide leadership and give us the support we need."

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is Monday, Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The district will hold a truth in taxation hearing for the annual tax levy at 6:15 p.m., prior to that meeting.

## Grade

Ours is too," Feeney said.

A "commendable" school is a school that has no underperforming student groups (subgroups of at least 20 students), a graduation rate greater than 67%, and whose performance is not in the top 10% of schools statewide.

Schools in the Top 10% are given a designation of "exemplary."

"Our district did well," Feeney said. "We're at the top end of that commendable, close to that exemplary range. One of the things that they look at here is the growth on IAR. Our growth was good, but you have to be in that 60% to 70% growth to put you over the edge to be considered exemplary. Because we've done pretty well in the past few years, that growth for us isn't that large. But we have quite a few students who meet or exceed [standards] on those assessments."

Feeney added that at the high school level, the SAT assessment sets a high standard for academic success.

"The SAT is the state test. So, it's a college entrance exam that's our state requirement. And it's a tough assessment," Feeney said. "You can see, this past year, in English we were at about 21%

meet or exceed [standards], the state was at about 29%. So, if you think about that, 29% of students in the state met or exceeded in the English portion, that tells you how difficult that assessment is when 70% of the students in the state do not meet or exceed."

Feeney said that while the high school scores are typically closer to that state level, the scores dipped a little in the 2021-2022 school year.

"It's a difficult assessment, especially when you have a percentage of your students taking classes at GAVC or Wilco and they're not getting the same curriculum daily. In K-8, everyone is taking the same curriculum daily.

In math, 18% of students at the high school met or exceeded state standard, with 33% approaching that level.

"Overall, the high school did some good things. The freshmen on track was at 93%," Feeney continued. "We did some good things at the high school. One of the things we'll look at in the upcoming years and this year is getting those SAT scores up."

Ninth graders on track to graduate on time was 94%.

At the middle school, the growth chart on the IAR showed 60% of students met or exceeded standards in ELA, and 52% met or exceeded standards in math.

District officials added that the percentages of students who met or exceed-

ed standards in third grade was lower than some of their peers in other grade levels, likely a result of the effects of the pandemic.

"That grade level, third grade, they would have been in kindergarten when COVID started," Bruning Elementary Principal Beth Norman said. "So, we went out in March of that year, and that's when they really learn to read. That grade level is the one that will see [the most effects]."

The report card was released in late October.

Statewide, the report showed high schoolers in Illinois reached their highest graduation rate in a decade, as students' academic growth outpaced pre-pandemic levels.

The graduation rate at WHS was 96%. "The 2022 Illinois Report Card data tell us that we are absolutely on the right track," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen I. Ayala. "We have challenges and work ahead of us, but the accelerated rate of learning that students achieved last year means that we're headed in the right direction. The ways in which we invested the federal pandemic relief funds are working. We can expect to see even more growth over the next couple years as these programs expand and reach even more students."

The state report card can be found online at [www.illinoisreportcard.com](http://www.illinoisreportcard.com).

# WHS seniors of the week

BY CHLOE PROFFITT  
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features members from the Wilmington High School class of 2023. Featured this week are Ally Meyers and Julia McCully who completed our questionnaire.

### Ally Meyers

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Behavioral Neuroscience

Favorite thing on the school menu? Mac and cheese

What is one thing you refuse to eat? Fish

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

What class would you create? Home Economics

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet? Adam Sandler, because I want to see if he acts the same as he does in his movies.

### Julia McCully

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? Early childhood education

Favorite thing on the school menu? Mac n cheese

What is one thing you refuse to eat? Cottage cheese

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

What class would you create? Bible education

Something that has made an impact on you and why?



ALLY MEYERS



JULIA MCCULLY

Track. Pushing my teammates and going through the rough practices where we all thought we were going to die then seeing it pay off towards the end of the season.

Teacher shoutout? JODY!!!!

What advice would you give to underclassmen? There is a quizlet for just about everything. Use your resources and enjoy every moment.

## Join the Oak Knoll teams in supporting the Christian Help Association, Kuzma Care Cottage, and Our Caring Closet.

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Bring the receipt from your doctor's office or the pharmacy administering the injections to the Oak Knoll office at 205 South Water Street in Wilmington, during business hours, by January 3, 2023. (We won't keep the receipts, we just need to see them.) A donation of \$5 per vaccination will be made to each of the above organizations to help with their financial needs to help Wilmington families.

In addition, this year Oak Knoll is challenging individuals and businesses to do a "match." When we post the numbers of those who have been vaccinated, we will encourage folks to make a donation...any amount you choose. Match our \$5, \$1 per shot, or 50¢. Or stretch for this worthy cause and do \$20! Send your donations to the organizations and mark them "Match 2023."

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Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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## Here's an idea

BRAIDWOOD—Why doesn't Diamond annex Braidwood? Diamond seems to be growing with new businesses all the time. Maybe then something good would come to Braidwood.

## Behind closed doors

WILMINGTON—Who's running the show? There is a lot of talk in the community on the Wilmington Township. Seems that behind closed doors the truth is not being told. The citizens of Wilmington needs to open your eyes and ears. Is the Wilmington Township feeding you what they want you to know instead of you knowing what's really going on. You pay taxes to the Township and have the right to know the truth. Start asking and FOIA the township. Look at what happened with Wesley Township. Do you want this happening in your town? Maybe it's time to call on the Watchdogs of Illinois. I am sure the citizens of Wilmington are being blindsided and being played as a fool. I guess you could say welcome to the Jerry Springer show. Wake up to the facts before it's too late.

## Sore losers

DIAMOND—Politically I am an Independent who in the past has leaned to the left and to the right depending on the agenda of that current administration at that time. I agree that after the 2020 election the Republicans were very sore losers and looked like cry babies. Although, after the 2016 elections on the day Trump was announced the winner there were cities burning down in protest. From an Independent's stand point, both parties look like cry babies when they lose an election. Can some of the readers please explain the difference in the two situations to me? Also, there was violence in both situations so I would like to hear other reasons.

## Just as guilty

WILMINGTON—I agree with the caller who said politicians never seem to have a plan to address their issues. I read where the House plans to prioritize investigating Hunter Biden and impeaching Biden as soon as everyone is sworn in. That's all fine and dandy but how does that improve immigration, gasoline prices, and inflation? It sounds more like revenge than helping the American people. Same thing when Trump got impeached. What legislation got accomplished to help the American people? Both parties are guilty of this.

## Deju vu daily

WILMINGTON—It's like the movie "Groundhog Day." Every morning I wake up and Donald Trump and Joe Biden are still political candidates. I can't wait for the morning I wake up and we have two new qualified candidates with actual leadership skills. Until then, it's the same incompetency day after day.

## Split up Illinois

The residents of Oregon, who reside in the western part of the state, made it clear with their votes that they want to become part of Idaho and let the crazy liberals run the rest of the state. Can't say I blame them. They don't agree with the liberal policies that have ruined Oregon and want to get as far away from them as possible. Pretty much the same thing is hap-

pening in Illinois. There are 102 counties in Illinois. Bailey won 89 counties (88%) while Pritzker won 13 counties (12%). Unfortunately, for the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey, they have to bow down to the destructive liberal policies that come from the left-wing liberal Chicago and collar county politicians. Perhaps it is time to split from the liberals in Chicago who want to tell the rest of they state how they should live. Let Chicago become the State of Chicago and let the rest of the state be the REAL state of Illinois minus all the left-wing liberal corruption and socialist agenda crap that comes out of Chicago and the collar counties. I think the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey would be a lot happier. I know I would.

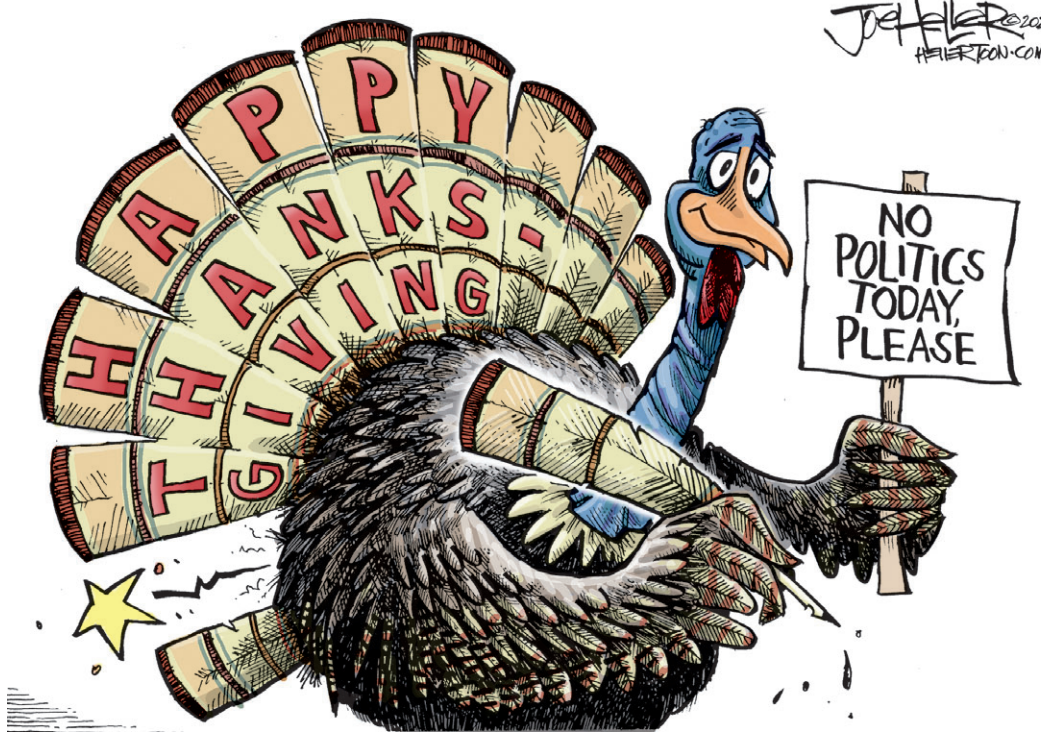
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lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

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being out-manuevered by the village of Diamond in yet another of their development wins, two front page articles helped Mr. Altieri, who clearly speaks for the mayor and a majority of the council, explain away their inadequate performance as a governing body. In the top story he stated that "new tax dollars" are coming but everything is "in a behind the scenes phase." Delays are due to "everything is in engineering and attorneys." Not a single mention of strapping us taxpayers with millions of dollars of bond payments that the auto dealers don't have to repay, or the waiver of all building fees and permits, or the rebate of sales taxes that we homeowners will be on the hook for. As to Ultimate Rides he said "They're still waiting for material on their building." No mention that three years ago when a former commissioner wanted a few days continuance for approval, we were told that material was already on its way. If that was not true back then how can we believe what they say now? No mention of that. The second article was regarding the city's alleged transparency. Keep in mind that Mr. Altieri is the one who stopped videotaping meetings to begin with. Only when citizen pressure became too hot did they start again. And if they are so transparent, why don't they publish, by print or social media, proposed ordinances and resolutions, detailed agendas, a status on current accounts and expenditures, or notice of the upcoming city election? And why have the details of the bond issue never been made public? Other taxing bodies do these things and more. But not Braidwood where the favorite phrase is "File an FOIA," and I, personally have been told exactly that. At this point in time, the terms "transparency" and "City of Braidwood" are not synonymous. But with an election coming up, they must make it appear that they are. In reality, with this city council, everything is always "behind the scenes." In summary, all Mr. Altieri can point to is bring gambling, liquor and semi-trucks to Braidwood. I don't think that's what the citizens of Braidwood are looking for. I know I'm not.

## A long wait

DIAMOND—Someone needs to notify IDOT about the lights by the Dollar Store. I don't know how they got onto the new timing but the wait time there is ridiculous for the lights to change.

## Learn from this

BRAIDWOOD—So Jewel/Osco, along with Starbucks is going to open for business in Diamond. As I understand it, the Diamond Village Board didn't even have to bribe them by giving them \$2 million worth of real estate that local taxpayers will have to pay for. And Diamond didn't even have a high paid city administrator to bring it all about. In fact, they have no administrator at all. What they do have is a mayor with professional credentials who knows how to get the job done. I realize that Braidwood is populated with hard-working individuals like myself who aren't well versed in such areas as finance, economic development and other areas of local government. That is why the mayors appoint city attorneys and engineers. The same should hold true for the city administrator. Hopefully Braidwood voters will learn from this. It is a new era folks. City officials hiring the guy whose only qualifications for office is that he is friends with the mayor just won't do anymore. We need some professionalism in Braidwood, a trait that is sadly lacking with the present administration.

## Cheap gas

WILMINGTON—Although gas prices have been low in Wilmington lately (thank you), Kankakee County has been ripping drivers off like there's no tomorrow. Why? Was it to anger voters at election time? I drive frequently in the western Chicago suburbs and I bought gas last week for \$3.69/gallon which is about 80 cents cheaper than everywhere in Kankakee County. Are politics so rotten that those with power will make people suffer just to influence their vote? Yes, I think so. But we can be grateful that our mid-term elections went fairly well. Democracy is hanging in there.

Irene

## Proud of your vote?

SHADOW LAKES—I need to ask three of my neighbors who voted for Biden and Harris if they are proud of what's going on in our country with gas, food, supply shortages and Ukraine. If they are proud of that I would like to know. Anyone who voted for those people definitely believe in Communism.

Dan Hill

## A person who cares

WILMINGTON—I would like praise Matt Baskerville for having the yearly memorial services at the funeral home. The families who lost loved ones during the year are able to come together and share and remember. He opens up the service to anyone in the community who wishes to attend. I have been honored and blessed to attend the services since 2011. I have gone every year and I've seen so many people that I know who lost someone during the year and I was able to go and remember Linda. Two years ago when Covid hit sadly he was not able to have the services and that was the year I lost Roger and really needed to be with other people. Matt still had the service online and I was able to see Roger's picture and hear his name read and take a moment to remember him. Every year Matt gives out a beautiful tree ornament and I know that brings comfort to the families as well as it has done for me for many years. Matt does so much for the community. He is a person who cares. He's not only a businessman but a member of your family. We are truly lucky to have him and his amazing staff to take care of our loved ones when we lose them. God bless them all.

Sheri Michaels

## Unit 1 Schools test results

DIAMOND—Coal City Unit 1 test scores are exemplary and commendable. Only 65 of Illinois schools had scores to equal those of Coal City Unit 1. These scores are after two years of classroom lockdown. As a retired teacher I consider this achievement to be astounding. Nothing can replace the interaction and inspiration between teacher and students in a classroom. I believe this to be the reason for third grade's lower scores. Because of Covid mandates they were denied this magical classroom experience in first and second grade. This is where the foundation skills in reading and math are mastered. With the devoted and skilled teachers plus the curriculum supervisor, this deficit will soon be remediated. I am so proud of these students, teachers, auxiliary staff, principals, superintendent and school board. They have all been under pressures and stresses during Covid. We should all stand firm and applaud their concerted efforts. It is most deserving.

Sharon

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## Thank you from St. Vincent's Table Monday Night Meals

St. Vincent's Table Monday Night meals would not be possible without help from our local businesses and pantries. We would like to take this time during the month of Thanksgiving to acknowledge our donors:

Top Fuel Saloon, Kaluzny Brothers, Babes Tap, Subway, Rosati's Pizza, Corleone's Italian Restaurant, Mustachios, Whistle Stop, Berkots, Assumption Food Pantry, Coal City Food Pantry, Braidwood Food Pantry, Coal City Lions Club, Help for Hope, Helping Hands in Joliet, and the Milano Bread Company.

We are thankful for the many private donors who contribute food and money, and for the drivers who deliver food to the food pantries, and those who deliver to the homebound.

We would also like to thank the 80 plus volunteers who joyfully work to make this ministry possible. Some of their duties include planning, prepping, cooking, serving, delivering, cleaning up, dishwashing and baking for our meals. We could not serve the 200 meals per week we prepare without the help of all of the volunteers and businesses that contribute to our ministry.

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# What to stock for the holidays

The 2022 holiday season is fast approaching! You may be ready to host friends and family, but is your home bar ready? A well-stocked bar is a cornerstone of entertaining and adding spirits to your home bar will not break the bank if you shop smart. There is still time to stock your bar for the upcoming holiday parties, let's get to work!

There are two key points to remember when stocking a home bar. First, start small. Your home bar is a work in progress and your entertaining needs will change with the seasons.

For example, don't load up on expensive rum, tequila, and tiki ingredients before the Christmas party. Make sure you have bourbon, gin, and scotch for a Manhattans, Martinis, etc. You can add the dark rum and tequila to your bar in the spring.

The second thing to remember, and this is perhaps the most important guiding principle to stocking your home bar is to stock your bar with spirits that YOU like.

Part of the reason that you keep a well-stocked bar is so that you can entertain your guests, but at the end of the day you don't want to be stuck with several expensive bottles that you bought only to impress your friends. Nobody should get more enjoyment out of your bar than you.

Okay, start small and buy stuff that you like. We're off to a good start. This round of bar

stocking will focus on the fall and winter bar, we will revisit this list for the spring and summer bar.

By the way, you will notice that most of the bottles on this list are around the \$20-\$25 price point or less. Stay around that price point when building your basic home bar.

All of the brands recommended this week are industry standard brands and will fare quite well as mixers and sippers. On the other hand if you already know that you love 18 year old single malt Scotch and have the \$150 to spend on the bottle, go for it.

Think of this list as a list of ingredients from which you will be able to build most of the classic cocktails. Pay special attention to the mixers. How many times (after the stores have closed) have you been missing a key ingredient to a classic cocktail?

Follow the guide below and that will not happen to you this Holiday season.

We will start with the primary spirits.

You will need a bottle of vodka. Not bank-breaking boutique vodka, but good vodka. I recommend Smirnoff Red Label or Tito's. Vodka and Tonic? Vodka and Cranberry? Vodka mixes with almost anything, and now you're covered.



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

You don't have to go whiskey crazy when you stock your bar, start with one bottle of bourbon. Jim Beam, Evan Williams, and Wild Turkey are all great mixing bourbons that can be sipped as well.

Every home bar needs a bottle of gin, and if you are only going to have one type of gin in your bar make it a London Dry. Beefeater is tough to beat for taste and value. It's great in a Gin and Tonic and holds its own in a Martini.

If you only keep one bottle of Scotch on hand, make it a bottle of Dewar's White Label. Dewar's White is a solid blend that is great in a Rob Roy and smooth enough to sip.

If you have a few Scotch lovers in your crowd, grab a single malt in addition to your Dewar's blend. Keep in mind that a quality single malt will set you back around \$40 or more depending on your state and local taxes, so only grab that second bottle of Scotch if you are sure that you will need it. My favorite "every day" single malts are Highland Park 12, Glenfiddich 12, and Glenlivet 12.

In addition to spirits, keep your "crowd favorite" beer on hand, and a few reasonably priced bottles of wine.

We're not done! Unless you are going to serve every-

thing neat, you are going to need mixers. This is by no means a complete list, but from this list you will be able to build most of the classics.

Bitters are a must have in any bar. No need to get fancy here, reach for the classic Angostura Aromatic Bitters.

You're not going to get very far without some club soda and some tonic water. Always have a bottle of each.

Have plenty of cane sugar on hand if simple syrup is required for any of your favorite cocktails.

You will also need some fruit juices, for the fall/winter bar you will need orange juice and cranberry juice.

Soft drinks such as Coca Cola, Sprite or 7-up, and ginger ale are also part of a complete bar. All are essential mixers and are much appreciated by the designated drivers and non-drinkers in the crowd.

If Martinis and Manhattans are on the menu you will need sweet vermouth and dry vermouth, one small bottle of each. I recommend Noilly Prat vermouth, Martini brand vermouth also performs well in the classics.

Last but not least, literally the cherry on top. Don't forget the garnish! Maraschino cherries, lemons, limes, oranges, cocktail and cocktail olives should get you started.

Take this list to your local spirits retailer...odds are they'll be happy to see you!

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

# Social media impacting users' mental health

Over the last decade, social media has become an important tool for connecting with loved ones, keeping busy, and staying informed on local and world events, with social media usage increasing even more during the COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, it is having a negative impact on the mental health of people across the country, causing an increase in anxiety and depression for many.

Studies around the world have shown the impact of social media on mental health, which brings along with it an increase in anxiety and depression.

"Right now, there are so many people who spend an inordinate amount of time on social media just because some people are stuck at home and kids are not going into schools. I think, in general, mental health can depend on what you are consuming on social media," explains Marybeth Evans, an OSF HealthCare licensed clinical social worker.

Evans warns to proceed with caution when scrolling through social media. Many people tend to highlight only the best parts of their lives which creates an unrealistic snapshot of their day-to-day lives. When others try to compare themselves to this unattainable perfection, it comes at a cost to mental health.

In fact, a documentary that came out during the pandemic called "The Social Dilemma" details a 5,000-person study finding that higher social media and screen time use correlated with self-reported declines in mental and physical health, and life satisfaction. So, how do we stop this spiral?

"Go through your apps. Make a list of what apps you feel better before you go on than after you go on. Figure out how much time you are spending on each app and be aware that apps can be addicting," Evans says.

Evans adds that it is also helpful to have mobile apps on your phone that are not strictly for social media use.

"Try to spend time on apps that are positive - maybe nature apps or something that you are interested in or develop a new hobby, learn a new language. But try not to spend much time on the apps that are just for the purpose of comparing one person to another."

Evans does not recommend avoiding social media altogether, but recommends taking the time to prioritize the apps on your phone and become aware of which ones tend to cause anxiety or stress so you can start to become mindful of this. If you prefer, you can even start a journal to track both the positive and negative feelings you experience when utilizing social media and other apps on your mobile device.

"Time yourself on apps that you spend an inordinate amount of time on and say, 'when my timer rings I'm getting off whether I'm right in the middle of something or not,'" Evans advises.

Allotting a certain amount of time each day for certain apps can be extremely beneficial for your mental health. Most importantly, do not let social media consume you. Set aside time each day to be "phone free."

"The more you click, the further into the rabbit hole you'll go - and I think we all can be free of that. Actually stay in the here and now. React to the people around us. Even in the cold weather, take a walk. Build a snowman. Do something fun that you maybe haven't done for a long time," encourages Evans.

If you or a loved one is struggling with mental health it is not an emergency, you can reach out to an OSF Behavioral Health navigator by calling (309) 308-8150. They can direct you to the right resource for what you're experiencing.

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## Morris Hospital Cardiology expands services

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has expanded its cardiology services with the addition of two new providers and the enhancement of a partnership with Loyola University Medical Center to provide electrophysiology care.

The Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' practice recently added cardiologist Dr. Hershel Wix and nurse practitioner Shere Pruss to a team that also includes board-certified cardiologists Dr. Syed Ahmed, Dr. Mary Menz, Dr. Sterling "Scott" Reese and Dr. Athar Saeed. Dr. Wix is seeing patients at the practice's Morris office at 151 W. High Street, and Pruss is assisting cardiologists at the Morris and Channahon locations. The additions give patients expanded access to all cardiology services.

Along with Dr. Wix and Pruss, Morris Hospital has also expanded its agreement with Loyola University Medical Center to further provide patients with heart rhythm conditions local access to electrophysiologists. Dr. Alexander Green and Dr. Sukit Ringwala, both board-certified electro-

physiologists from Loyola University Medical Center, are resources available at the Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' Morris office for the diagnosis and management of heart rhythm conditions and implantation of cardiac devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators and implantable cardiac monitors.

"These enhancements demonstrate that we are committed to delivering the very best cardiovascular care to the community," says Patrick Durkin, Vice President of Ambulatory Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "Between our team of board-certified providers, partnership with Loyola University Medical Center, and advanced capabilities through our Cath Lab, Morris Hospital is uniquely positioned to provide the best possible heart care experience."

Morris Hospital's comprehensive cardiology services include diagnostic testing and advanced treatment in the Morris Hospital Cath Lab, along with cardiac rehabilita-

tion to assure patients stay on the road to recovery.

As a cardiologist with more than 42 years of experience, Dr. Hershel Wix has expertise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, blood pressure management, heart failure, circulation problems of the lower extremity and cholesterol management. After earning his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Wix completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics - Pritzker School of Medicine. In 2018, he was named Physician of the Year at Presence St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. He is board certified in both cardiovascular disease and internal medicine.

Shere Pruss, N.P.B.C., a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology, brings more than 21 years of nursing experience to the practice, including 16 years as a nurse practitioner focusing on cardiovascular conditions. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of St. Francis in Joliet and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pruss is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

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# Tight supply to keep butter prices high

BY DANIEL GRANT  
FARMWEEK

Consumers will likely pay more for butter into the holidays and prime baking season compared to last year no matter how you slice it.

Butter prices rose 24.6% in August compared to last year while the overall cost of groceries increased 13.5%.

Cheese, milk and other dairy prices are expected to remain elevated as well due to tight supplies and strong demand.

USDA recently estimated average prices of \$2.88 per pound for butter, up from \$1.73 last year, \$2.10 for cheese compared to \$1.67 a year ago and an all-milk price of \$25.60 per hundredweight in October versus \$18.53 in 2021.

"The whole dairy price situation was generated from events starting the previous summer," said Peter Vitaliano, vice president of economic policy and market research for the National Milk Producers Federation.

"Milk production went through a rate of increase of 5% year over year, but then it started dropping and went negative," he noted. "Coupled with recovering demand, it drove the price of key dairy products up, but that didn't bleed through to the retail level until this year."

Butter prices averaged \$3.08 per pound through the



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

**BUTTER, CHEESE, MILK and other dairy prices are expected to remain high into the upcoming holiday season.**

week ending Sept. 10 as a reduction of milk output reduced the allocation of it to produce various dairy products, particularly butter.

The amount of butter in storage in August (282 million pounds) slipped 22% compared to the same time last year. But, while supplies are much tighter, Vitaliano doesn't foresee a "butter shortage" this baking season despite concerns to the contrary.

"When you say there's a butter shortage, to me it means that somewhere in the country you won't see it on the supermarket shelf," Vitaliano said. "That's not the case. Butter is available. It's just the price has gone up."

The cost of most dairy

products increased as milk prices climbed. USDA in October pegged average prices of \$21.90 per hundredweight for Class III milk, up \$4.82 from last year, and \$24.60 for Class IV milk compared to \$16.09 last year.

Issues such as record feed prices, challenges from ongoing drought in many parts of the country, the high cost of replacement cows and difficulty securing farm labor all contributed to the shrinking dairy cow herd and higher prices.

"There's a lot of constraints to expand milk production. We went through a year in which farmers were not expanding," Vitaliano said. "The cost of producing milk is

at an all-time high."

There were some positive signs, recently, though as milk output increased 1.6% in August. Milk cows on farms averaged 9.416 million head in July, 1,000 more than the previous month but 67,000 fewer than in July 2021, USDA reported.

And demand for dairy products remains strong, which is also bolstering prices.

"Consumption has been affected somewhat by higher prices, but dairy is generally price inelastic," Vitaliano said. "When the price goes up, people still buy it."

Meanwhile, the average price of a 40-pound block of Cheddar cheese recently declined by 12 cents.

"The U.S. the last several months has been the lowest-cost cheese supplier of any of the major exporting countries, so we've seen a big increase in exports," Vitaliano said. "I'm looking for exports to be a growing share of the total market, which is already approaching 20% of total (dairy) production."

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

## Church to hold soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a "Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving delicious homemade chicken noodle and stuffed green pepper soups. Each meal includes

your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12; and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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## Right to unionize amendment looks like it will pass

Ballot measure carrying 53% of total ballots

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois voters have approved a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing workers the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

Estimates compiled by multiple media outlets projected Nov. 15 that the ballot measure had support on an estimated 53% of the total ballots cast in the election, with more than 95% of the ballots counted. That's enough for approval under one of two paths to passage for a constitutional amendment in Illinois.

The amendment, which will be added to the Bill of Rights of the Illinois Constitution, states that employees have a fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively "for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."

It also prohibits state and local governments from enacting laws that interfere with that right, including passage of so-called "right-to-work" laws, which prohibit requiring mem-

bership in a union as a condition of employment.

On election night, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign declared victory, but media outlets were slow to confirm that due to the complicated rules in Illinois for passing a constitutional amendment.

The state constitution provides two pathways for passing an amendment. It must either be approved by 60% of all those voting on the measure or by more than 50% of all ballots cast in the election.

According to projections, the amendment received about 2.1 million "yes" votes and 1.5 million votes against. That's 58.4% of the votes cast on that issue but about 53% of all the ballots cast in the election.

"From day one, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign has been based on the simple idea that every Illinois worker deserves better. Better pay, stronger benefits, and safer workplaces don't just help workers thrive; they strengthen our state and keep us all safe," Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea said in a statement on election night.

The amendment will become effective once the Illinois State Board of Elections certifies results of the election. The board is scheduled to meet Dec. 5.

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# OBITUARIES

## Frances Cheshareck

CUSTER PARK—Frances Emily Cheshareck (nee Vigna), 82, passed away at her home in Custer Park surrounded by loved ones on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Nicknamed Franky, Frances was born on the Marco Polo Farm in Reddick, IL on Oct. 15, 1940. Her mother wrote in her baby book that Franky was a lively child, loved being called "sweet," and especially loved to cuddle with kittens they had on their farm. She graduated from Morris High School and moved to Joliet where she worked for Illinois Bell Telephone Company while living in the Hannah Harwood Girl's Home on Broadway Street with two of her sisters.

Frances married her high school sweetheart and upon his discharge from the Air Force, they lived in Channahon for 50+ years. They worked hard to give their daughters a fun and eventful childhood. Frances waitressed at The Lone Star restaurant, grew flowers and a large garden, and raced her daughters home from friends' houses at dinnertime. When her girls were in high school, Frances started a 20+ year career as a mail carrier at the U.S. Post Office in Joliet where she enjoyed walking her route and getting to know the people she served. Every holiday, Frances brought home gifts from her customers who appreciated her. She also had a passion for following politics and listened to Rush on the radio daily.

After retirement, Frances spent many years caring for her husband until his passing. As she



downsized in her final years, Frances desired to revisit her farm life and built a "Franny-pod" named 'Frankie's Hideaway' on the back of her daughter's home in the country where she watched horses, deer, dogs, cats, raccoons, possums, and a variety of birds that visited right outside her windows.

She is survived by daughters: Marie (Pete) Bohler, Manette Cheshareck (Mindy Walsh), and Mindy (Tony) Scott; grandchildren: Blake and Sabrina Bohler, Miles Field, Mike (Alexis), Sam and Gracie Scott and great-grandchild, Griffin Scott; sibling, Peter (Vikki) Vigna and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Thomas Cheshareck; parents, Frank and Emily Vigna; in-laws Anthony and Mary Cheshareck (nee Karpowicz); siblings: Josephine Pleshe, Carole Vigna, Kathryn Phelan, Frank Vigna, and numerous in-laws.

Interment with her husband was held Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood and a party to celebrate her life will be held Dec. 3 with details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Lung Association and Uplifted Care (formerly called Hospice of Kankakee Valley).

Arrangements are entrusted to Patterson Funeral Home.

## Sharon Colvin

WILMINGTON—Sharon Colvin, 78, of Wilmington, and formerly of Joliet, passed away on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at Aperia Care in Wilmington.

Born July 31, 1944 in Joliet, Sharon Elizabeth was a daughter of Thomas and Floss (Evans) Dwyer. She was raised in Manhattan and graduated from Lincoln Way High School.

An exceptional homemaker, Sharon will most be remembered for her love and family, as well as spending time with her kids and grandkids. Throughout the years she was a waitress at various restaurants and made many friends working at the restaurant in Bergner's, as well as serving at Babb's in Shorewood. Sharon was a great cook, however enjoyed eating out, particularly at Olive Garden, Merichka's and Applebee's. In addition, she took pleasure in playing bingo. Sharon was a shining example of faith and kindness, and she was always willing to go above and beyond to serve others. Though she will be deeply missed, Sharon leaves behind a memorable legacy that her loved ones will carry on in their hearts.

Survivors include three children: Rick Manfred (Sherry), Karen Manfred (Mickey) and



Bob Manfred, all of Joliet; three grandchildren: Craig (Angie) Kelly, Eric Manfred (fiancé, Sarah) and Courtney Floyd (fiancé, Niko); two great-grandchildren, Landon and Brynn Kelly; siblings: Pat Murdie, Peggy Murdie and Joe (Donna) Murdie; her partner, Jack Weaver, of Wilmington and dear friend and caregiver, Karen Fogg-Jackson, as well as several nieces and nephews, including Liz, Amy and Missy Cullen.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ralph Colvin; two sons, Tom Manfred and Dave Manfred and siblings: Junior Murdie, Jim Murdie and Sandy (Doug) Cullen.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and there will be no services.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Sharon's memorial page online through social media.

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

## Robert Grivetti Sr.

CUSTER PARK—Robert Joseph Grivetti Sr., 82, of Custer Park, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 12, 1940 in Aurora, he was the son of Albert J. and Magdalene (nee Pocus) Grivetti. Robert was raised and educated in Aurora, graduating from West Aurora High School with the class of 1958. He was a maintenance mechanic for Commonwealth Edison retiring after 29 years of employment. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood and Moose Lodge #967 in Morris. He enjoyed fishing and took great pride farming on the family farm. After retirement, he kept busy mowing grass for a local farmer. If you knew Robert, you knew he was happiest when he was riding a tractor.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Geraldine (nee Smrekar) Grivetti, who he married Nov. 4, 1961 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Joliet; four children: Robert (Julie) Grivetti Jr., of Braidwood; Jacqueline (Douglas) Dickison, of Minonk, IL; Michaelanne (John) Faurot, of Braidwood and Leann Grivetti, of Custer Park; 11 grandchildren: Matthew (Mindy) Grivetti, Hunter (Desiree) Grivetti, Robert and Dalton Dickison, Alyssa, Kaitlyn and Alexandra Faurot, Amber Grivetti-Housman, Brittany



(Dylan) Ackerman, Cody and Eric Housman; six great-grandchildren: Alex, Kaden, Madison, and Alison Grivetti, Madden and Ryder Jadron, and one due to arrive in May; two brothers, Martin (Diane) Grivetti, of Colorado and Albert (Mary) Grivetti, of Iowa; sister-in-law, Carol Grivetti, of Dekalb, IL and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, brother, Donald Grivetti and nephew, Mark Grivetti.

Visitation for Robert will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 from 9-11 a.m. Funeral services will immediately follow at Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Braidwood Lions Club would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

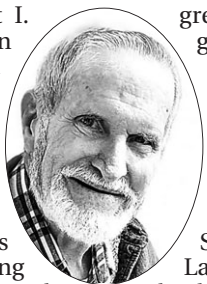
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

## Robert I. Kahler

WILMINGTON—Robert I. Kahler, 89, of the Wilmington area, passed away on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2022 at Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR.

Bob was born May 12, 1933 in Joliet, to Irving and Mabel Kahler. He was raised in the Wilmington area and enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father and many friends. After graduating Wilmington High School, he enlisted and served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War aboard the USS Henrico. When he returned to Wilmington after his service, he met the love of his life, Kathleen Nugent Kahler. They were married July 1957 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and together they raised four daughters in the Custer Park and Neosho, MO area. In both areas Bob and his family raised rabbits, poultry and huge gardens. He was a very hard working man in the construction field and he was very proud of the many buildings he had supervised in the local area.

In later years, Bob returned to the Wilmington area where he enjoyed many rides with his four daughters reliving his many childhood memories along Forked Creek, Kahler Road and the Kankakee River. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Wilmington where he made many friends and enjoyed his visiting time. Since May of 2020 he also worked together with his daughter to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Wilmington and Channahon area. This was a great source of pride to him. He loved to spend time with his grandchildren,



great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Bob also had a very loyal companion, his ever faithful dog, Lady. Bob had a wonderful love of life and found fun and happiness in daily activities and loved his practical jokes. He will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by his four daughters and their families: Kathy (Roy) Sabuco, of Minooka; Nanette (Bob) LaGrange, of Essex; Bobbi Kahler and her husband, Rick Fowler, of Bella Vista, AR; Suzette (Austin) Henderson, of Joplin, MO; grandchildren: Nicki (John) Mackinson, of Towanda, IL; Robert (Tasha) LaGrange, of Essex; Josh (Jen) LaGrange, of Montgomery, IL; Rocco Sabuco, of Eagle, CO; Dylan (Cody) Sabuco, of Thornton, CO; Ashlyn Henderson and Logan Henderson, of Joplin, MO; eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews survive along with his faithful dog and companion, Lady.

Bob is preceded in death by his loving wife, Kathy; his parents and his sister, Betty Bradshaw.

A celebration of life will be held in May on what would have been his 90th birthday in Wilmington, along his beloved Kankakee River.

Donations may be made to the Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR, or a hospice of the donor's choice. They were true angels in our father's final hours and we are forever grateful.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory.

On-line condolences may be made at [www.funeralmation.com](http://www.funeralmation.com).

## John "Jack" Nicol

WILMINGTON—John A. "Jack" Nicol, 95, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, with his family by his side.

Born June 30, 1927 in Morrisonville, IL, John Andrew was a son of Clyde and Mayme (Nagel) Nicol. He was raised and educated in Morrisonville and graduated from Morrisonville High School. Jack attended Illinois State University in Bloomington, and on June 14, 1947 he married Doris Evelyn Lamb in Bloomington. He served in the United States Army from 1952 until his honorable discharge in 1954, and then settled with his family in Wilmington.

Jack worked for the GM&O Railroad Company for nine years as a signal operator until he gained employment with the United States Post Office. He worked at the Wilmington Post Office for over 30 years until his retirement in 1988. Jack was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing cards and going bowling. He also took great pleasure in coaching both baseball and softball teams, and he will be remembered for being a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Doris Nicol and two daughters, Sandra (Mark) Mahalik and Barbara (Doug) Rink; five grandchildren: John Welsh, David (Kelli) Welsh, Kate



Welsh, Calvin (Jessica) Rink, and Jordan (Adam) Granger; seven great-grandchildren: Luke and Cole Welsh, Ryder, Myles and Vylene Rink, and Jett and Brynlee Granger; and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, son-in-law, Tom Welsh in 2014 and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alva and Helen Lamb; three brothers and one sister: Loren (Betty) Nicol, Harold (Rita) Nicol, William (Sue) Nicol, and Mary Louise (Bud) Miller; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dwight (Sarajane) Lamb and Joseph (Karen) Lamb.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding, and interment with full military honors followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Pallbearers were: John Welsh, David Welsh, Kate Welsh, Calvin Rink, Jordan Granger and Adam Granger.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jack's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Jack's memorial page via social media.

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

## Bernie Warriner

MAZON—Bernie Warriner, 80, of Mazon, formerly of Wilmington and Coal City, passed away peacefully at on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 at his home with his wife by his side.

Born Dec. 10, 1941 in Wilmington, he was a son of Carlyn and Della (Harding) Warriner. Bernie was raised and educated in Wilmington. After high school Bernie learned how to operate heavy machinery and began working with Harold "Hook" Cunning and after several years Bernie left and began working for himself. On Aug. 8, 1992 Bernie married Kaye Gilchrist Leasure and together they made their home in Mazon. He was a past member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge #241/781. Bernie truly enjoyed hanging with his friend Daryl Condon, and doing construction projects with his dear friend Chico Inocenio. He and Kaye loved traveling, especially to Ireland; as well as going out to eat with all their friends, including Everett Leasure and Carol Lavin. Bernie was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother who was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his loving wife, Kaye, of Mazon; six children: Bernard (Laura) Warriner Jr., of Houston, TX; Doug (Melinda) Warriner Sr., of Diamond; Kandi (Jay) Cockcream, of Morris; Everett (Shantel) Leasure II, of Coal City; Eric



(Tina) Leasure, of Coal City and Kelli (Dan) Campbell, of Bethesda, MD; 13 grandchildren, many great and great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Laverne (Linda) Warriner, of Pilesgrove, NJ; Gene (Christine) Warriner, of Wilmington and Suzanne (Jeff) Carlsrud, of Prairie Farms, WI; one brother-in-law, Richard (Robin) Surman, of Diamond; numerous nieces and nephews; and Earla Mae, the mother of Doug and Kandi.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents and Charlene, the mother of Bernard Jr.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City with Deacon Jay Plese officiating. Cremation rites were accorded following funeral services. Graveside services will take place on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at 10 am in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bernie's memory to Lightway's Hospice.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto [www.ReevesFuneral.com](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com) to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Bernie's memorial page via social media.

Funeral and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Home, Ltd. in Coal City.

## Nancy Tiedeman

WILMINGTON—Nancy Eileen Tiedeman, 88, of Wilmington, and formerly of Orland Park, passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, IL.

Born Oct. 31, 1934 in Chicago, Nancy Eileen was a daughter of Joseph Adam and Eleanor Lillian (Genske) Sarat. She was raised and educated in the city and on Feb. 19, 1955, Nancy married George Raymond Tiedeman in St. Priscilla Parish in Chicago. She was a dedicated homemaker who worked for Accents and Interiors in Frankfort before moving to Wilmington in 1990. Nancy then took a position with Eaton and Schultz Insurance in Wilmington, where she worked for the following 14 years. Nancy enjoyed playing the piano and crocheting. She had a love of playing cards, especially Kings Corner, and you could always count on her to have a bag of cards. She took pleasure in feeding the geese and ducks in the Wilmington Park and created many memories sitting alongside the river with her kids and grandkids. Family was always of utmost importance, and she will most be remembered for her time spent with family.

Survivors include her husband, George; four children: Ray (Cindy) Tiedeman, of Geneseo, IL; Cindy (Marty) Conry, of Crown Point, IN; Caroline (Brian) Wood, of Loda, IL and Cathy (Joe) Valone, of Manhattan, IL; 10 grandchildren: Megan Conry, Julie Conry, Alisa (Dan) Sloan, Adam Valone, Staci Wood (Mike Montalto), Christina (Jake) Brock, Max Valone,



Andy Tiedeman, Arlen Tiedeman and Shenne Tiedeman; four great-grandchildren: Isabelle Brock, Makayla Brock, Lillian Brock and Greyson Sloan; one sister, Jeanette (Wayne) Shust, of Palatine, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Doris (George) Formanski and one sister-in-law, Joydine Tiedeman.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022 between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 12 noon in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services, and she will be laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery in New Lenox on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 at 11 a.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Nancy's memory to St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Nancy's memorial page online through social media.

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

## Carol M. Gillette

GODLEY—Carol M. Gillette, 62, of Godley, and formerly of Silver Springs, FL, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 23, 1959 in Kankakee, Carol Marie was a daughter of Robert and Rita (Hurrell) Senesac. She was raised in Kankakee and attended Bradley Bourbonnais High School. On July 11, 1988, Carol married Lester Gillette in Las Vegas, and he survives.

Carol was a member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club, and most recently worked as a gate guard there, as well as at Coal City Area Club. In addition over the past years, Carol worked various seasonal retail positions, but her primary role was that of a wife and mother. Aside from her family she lived for her dogs; enjoyed collecting shot glasses and Yankee Candles, and will be most remembered as a selfless soul.

Survivors include her husband, Lester; one daughter, Cristine (Rich) Sinks, of Herscher; three grandchildren: Caleb Gudridge, of Herscher; Promise Hicks, of Danville and Dakota Bull, of New York; one brother, Vernon Senesac (Bonnie), of Bradley and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dale (Gayle) Gillette, of Chatsworth, IL; Linda Lemen, of Colorado



Springs, CO; Jeannie (Mike) Scott, of Fairbury, IL and Rita Scanlon, of Bloomington and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: David, Ronnie and Kenny Senesac and sisters-in law and brothers-in-law: Marilyn Verville, Pat Scanlon, Loren Gillette, Betty Gillette, Gene Lemen, and Mary Beth Gillette in infancy.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded, and inurnment will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carol's memory to the American Cancer Society.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Carol's memorial page via social media.

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



# Amber at AJ's Hot Dogs awarded trophy



THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently presented the Employee of the Month to Amber Heffner (left) who has worked at AJ's Hotdogs & Gyros for seven years. Presenting the trophy is Chamber Ambassador Wendy Hill from the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community. Heffner was nominated for her pleasant personality, great smile and friendly banter while serving customers. She appreciates the schedule flexibility the owner, John, gives her to be able to work and take care of her two children. However, "There are regulars that come in and wonder if I ever go home." Her favorite item on the menu is the Catfish.

# With flu season here, health officials urge public to get vaccinated

With flu season here and certain diseases attempting a comeback, Will County Health Department (WCHD) is encouraging residents to stay up to date on all of their vaccinations.

Parts of the United States are seeing a resurgence in some diseases that haven't been seen in a long time, including polio, a disease that paralyzed more than 35,000 people every year in the late 1940's. Polio has surfaced in a New York City suburb, resulting in the first case of paralytic polio in the U.S. in over a decade.

Vaccination efforts are ongoing and are meant to prevent exactly these types of situations. Pertussis (whooping cough), mumps, rubella and polio are just a few of the diseases that are easily preventable by following the recommended vaccination schedules set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The CDC has published recommended immunization schedules for both children and adults. These tried-and-true vaccinations have been

tested over great lengths and show that they're the best weapon in fighting the prevention and spread of diseases. The recommended vaccine schedules can be viewed at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/)

The WCHD is encouraging children (over six months old) and adults to receive their annual flu vaccination.

Last flu season, the CDC noticed alarming trends in a decrease of vaccinations in children and pregnant people and only 43% of adults (ages 18-49) with a chronic health condition choosing to get vaccinated.

The flu vaccine reduces the overall number of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths while also helping to protect those who are more vulnerable to serious complications from the flu.

WCHD reminds adults ages 50 and older, or adults ages 19 and older with a weakened immune system, to receive a shingles vaccination. Stemming from the same virus that causes chickenpox, shingles is a painful rash consisting of blisters that scab over.

After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus can stay dormant in the body and reactivate later in life causing shingles. For some, pain can

continue even after the rash clears up. The shingles vaccine has proved to be more than 90% effective at preventing shingles and long-lasting pain (postherpetic neuralgia), the most common complication from shingles.

"Making sure you and your family are current on all their vaccinations is one of the most important things you can do right now," said Lisa Carlson, Immunization Program Coordinator for WCHD. "Vaccines are critical to stopping resurgences of easily preventable diseases and protecting vulnerable loved ones."

Contact your health provider to schedule your vaccinations. The Will County Health Department Immunization Clinic also provides recommended childhood and adult vaccines.

All Will County residents are eligible to receive immunizations from the clinic. Medicaid and Medicare and limited private insurance plans are accepted. For those who are uninsured or underinsured, a low-cost immunization option is available. Vaccinations for all ages are available in Joliet on a daily basis. Call the clinic at 815-740-8143 to schedule your appointment.

# Apply for assistance in paying home heating bill

Low-income families in Illinois can now apply for state assistance on their natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, has \$300 million available. Families can apply by visiting [helpillinoisfamilies.com](http://helpillinoisfamilies.com) or by calling 1-833-711-0374. Information on other state assistance programs can be found on that website as well.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients.

Families who earn up to two times the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP. That works out to a 30-day gross income below \$2,265 for a one-person household, \$3,052 for a 2-person home, \$3,838 for a three-person home, \$4,625 for four people, \$5,412 for five people and \$6,198 for six people.

The level of assistance received is needs-based, and last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household, according to the governor's office.

Grundy County residents seeking assistance can call Kendall-Grundy Community Action at 815-941-3262 and Will County residents can obtain information through the Will County Center for Community Concerns at [wccccc.net](http://wccccc.net) or by calling 815-722-3262.

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# back to Bethlehem

a journey through Bethlehem on the night of the birth of Jesus

**December 2nd & 3rd**  
Friday 6:30-8:30 pm  
Saturday 5-8:30 pm

Island City Baptist Church  
120 Vine Street  
Wilmington, IL  
815.476.9750

ISLAND CITY baptist church

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Mon. | Tues Wed.Fri | Thur.  
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SATURDAYS 8-3

# Cookies with Santa to be held at St. Rose

A Cookies with Santa afternoon will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the former St. Rose School building at 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Cost is \$5 to pre-register or \$8 the day of the event per child.

To register email: [hoopie2012@gmail.com](mailto:hoopie2012@gmail.com) and include your family name and

the number of children attending.

Come out to see Santa and have some delicious treats! Special gifts for the first 50 children! Many surprises are in store for everyone! Stop by to visit Santa's workshop and visit local vendors for last-minute gift ideas. Several photo backdrops will be available for holiday pictures.

# Walk in. Feel better.

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1450 E. Division Street, Diamond

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**Channahon, Morris & Yorkville**  
For hours by location, go to [morrishospital.org/urgentcare](http://morrishospital.org/urgentcare).

**Goal: draw, color and create your own artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories.**

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**Drawing by Colby W.**

**Help us express kindness! Create!**

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**Sat., Nov 26th**  
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25+ VENDORS WITH HOLIDAY GOODS. SHOP YOUR LOCAL ARTISANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS! MIA BELLAS PIZZA TRUCK, HOT CHOCOLATE, PHOTO OP, KIDS CORNER AND MORE!

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815-458-2191

## Milksnake photo wins October prize

A snake basking in the warm autumn sun took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Winning photographer Meagan Crandall of New Lenox snapped the photo at Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, a place she frequents when she's out taking pictures.

"Hickory Creek is definitely my favorite of the Will County preserves," she said. "Its tranquil prairie area and pond provide the perfect stress relief."

She came across the photogenic eastern milksnake while walking along the trail at Hickory Creek Barrens.

"I just happened to stumble upon the snake sunning itself on the warm blacktop," she said. "I laid down to get the photo at eye level of the snake."

Crandall has been a regular entrant in the Preserve the Moment photo contest since she found out about it a couple of years ago. She first started getting into nature photography during the initial shutdowns of the COVID pandemic.

"I mostly started the hobby ... because it was something without any COVID risks that also allowed me to enjoy the outdoors and see something new every time," she said.

She said she has found nature photography to be a lot of fun, and loves that she is always learning something new about wildlife living in the area. In addition to Hickory Creek, she said she has had good luck photographing at Hadley Valley and Rock Run Preserve.

The four other finalists in this month's contest were:

Carlos Molano of Chicago for a photo of a colorful fall sunset at Hidden Oaks Preserve.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird in flight at Hidden Oaks Preserve and also for a photo of turtles sunning themselves on a log at Rock Run Rookery Preserve.

Byron Morgan of Crete for a photo of the colorful fall



Courtesy photo by: Meagan Crandall

**NEW LENOX RESIDENT** Meagan Crandall took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest with her photo of an eastern milksnake basking in the warm autumn sun.

scenery at Hickory Creek Preserve.

Two more monthly winners will be chosen before the contest concludes Dec. 31. All eight winning photos chosen since the contest began in May will then vie for overall contest honors via Facebook voting in January.

Monthly winners receive \$75 MasterCard gift cards. The top photos for 2022 will receive MasterCard gift cards of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

In addition, three contest participants chosen at random will receive \$75 gift cards. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County (Opens in a new window).

Participants must be 18 years of age or older and amateur photographers, and the photos must have been taken in the Forest Preserve District's preserves after the contest began on May 1.

To enter the contest, upload up to five of your best photos (Opens in a new window) for consideration before the conclusion of each month. Please read all contest rules and photo upload instructions (Opens in a new window) before entering the contest.

To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account (Opens in a new window).

## Museum holding Festival of Trees

The Grundy County Historical Society & Museum is hosting its annual Festival of Trees at the museum at 510 W. Illinois Ave., Morris.

Twenty-one raffle items and over 100 Christmas trees and décor are on display. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Museum.

The trees and décor are also on display, but can also be viewed at [www.richardaolson.com](http://www.richardaolson.com). Those items will be auctioned off through a silent auction that starts to end Saturday, Nov. 26.

Visit the Museum website for more information, or call 815.942.4880



Bring the family to the annual  
**Wilmington Chamber Lighted Christmas parade**  
**Saturday, Nov. 26**  
Parade steps off at 5 p.m. at Ryan and Water Street, traveling north on Water Street through downtown Wilmington  
Free hot chocolate will be available at various locations downtown. Following the parade, gather around the gazebo at Claire's Corner Park for a holiday performance by the WHS Show Cats. That will be followed by a presentation honoring the Business Person of the Year - Rich Quigley of Rich's Lock and Key. Santa visits will then be held under the gazebo until 6:45 p.m. before he departs for the North Island Park to turn on the lights. The Lions Club's Christmas display will be turned on at 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Nov. 26 and then continue nightly from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Support local families, buy a Christmas Parade button

Win over \$500 if you have the button with the lucky number. A split-the-pot drawing will be Dec. 16th with half the proceeds going to one winner and the other half to Christian Help Association. Buttons will be sold during the parade or buy one (\$3 each) while shopping at various Wilmington stores.



### Kuzma Care Cottage and the Christian Help Association need your help!

Demand from families in-need and senior citizens has increased. All families deserve to have food on the table during the holidays and with the food distribution planned for Dec. 16 we invite you to bring a sack of groceries to the parade to deposit in boxes at 216 N. WATER St. at the new parking lot. Be generous as the local food pantry is low on food. Let's make sure the holidays are joyous for every family.



# CLASSIFIEDS

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Mondays - noon

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

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

### Cost

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



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



### FOR FREE

Whirlpool electric slide in stove (works). Custer Park area. Call 815-476-2972. fr47-48

### HELP WANTED

Joliet and/or Dwight: In office Bookkeeper for bookkeeping and front desk. Optometrist Office. Wages\* are negotiable to Credentialed\*\* applicants with experience. Position requires at least two afternoons/evenings (7 or 8pm) and Saturdays (3 or 4pm). NO SUNDAYS. Health Care office and/or customer service experience preferred. Electronic records, professional office skills, Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, software use, etc; ordering, with basic billing experience, etc. \*Wages commensurate with \*\* Quickbooks experience and confirmed resume. Semi-Retirees Welcome. Call for interview 331-249-7549.

### HELP WANTED

Friends Over Fifty has an immediate need for Caregivers for shifts in Braidwood, Coal City, Wilmington, Minooka, and Joliet. Our Senior Care Company helps the elderly maintain their independence by providing in-home companionship and other non-medical assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Training is provided as well as a competitive salary, PTO and an employer matching IRA. Apply online today, call and we will send an application link to your phone 815-836-2635. cc46-49

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Window Repair Technician. We need One Person to fill one available position. This is a long-term career opportunity not just a temp job. We offer excellent starting pay commensurate to your skill set. However, we are willing to train the right person with the right attitude and mind-set. We are a Non-Smoking Company with zero tolerance for on premises smoking. There will be a drug test and a physical as well as a background check. You must have a clean driving record and a current valid driver's license. Duties include but are not limited to shop work such as cutting wood for window sashes, cutting roll formed aluminum, staining or painting window sashes. Also required will be field installations, deliveries, etc. Our shop is climate controlled and very clean; we like to keep it that way. There will be little to no supervision, we need someone who can manage their time efficiently and honestly. Experience with shop tools such as a tape measure, miter saws, table saws, drill press, planning machines is a plus but not required if you are teachable. We offer excellent health insurance, paid holidays, and paid vacation all through our parent company. Work hours are 7:30am to 3:30pm M-F with no weekends or holidays! Please fax resume and cover letter to 815-893-8001 or email to info@window-repairguy.com. cc44-52

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Wooden desk, oak finish, 68"x32"x19" with keyboard shelf, \$50. Can be seen at The Free Press, 111 S. Water St., Wilmington or call 815-476-7966. nc43-48

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Starting at \$50  
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50 year old disabled man looking for a room to rent in the Braidwood area. 815-374-0199. cc46-47

Looking for a garage to rent to work in and for storage. Braidwood area. 815-374-0199. cc46-47

**SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

Reliable caregiver needed in my South Wilmington home. Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm for a kind, elderly lady who needs assistance. 815-378-1186. cc45-48

Kitchen help and delivery drivers, also handy man. Apply at Fox's Pizza, 403 N. Main, Wilmington. ch47-48

Prairie Creek Logistics in Elwood is hiring a tire, chassis & trailer mechanic. Hours are Monday through Friday, rotating Saturday. 7am-5pm. Call Laurie at 815-423-1060 for more information.



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Why rent when you can own this 2 BR home right in the heart of small town Mazon. Lorie+ Owen Toler 715-5959. DC602

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Photo by Elaine Ohlund

**TURKEY EXPERTS** - First grade students in Dana Harris' class at Bruning School wish Free Press Advocate readers at Happy Thanksgiving for 2022. While these young girls and boys all raised their hands when it came to their willingness to help in the kitchen in preparing a Thanksgiving Day feast, we had second thoughts after reading their "How to cook a turkey" submissions. First graders include (from left, sitting) Marcos Arnold, Skylar Armstrong, Victoria Staton, Aerro Proffitt, Deacon Deninger, Bennett Langusch, Carter Hansen, Noah Machalek, Ryker Issert, Clayton Crutchfield, Declan Wilking and Elleigh Bute. Standing are Leonard Morgan, Anslee Delehanty, Owen Ortega, Nora Austin, Aaliyah Mugabonihela, Kate Dillon and Dana Servin.

# How do you cook a turkey?

Turkey Day is finally here, and this Thanksgiving students from Dana Harris's class at Bruning Elementary School submitted their recipe for a Thanksgiving turkey.

**How do you cook a turkey?**

First, We kech the turkey in a prkeng lot. Tak off the fethers. Next, pot grlik on it. stuf withe bred and apls. Last, pot it in the uvin. Kok it for 10 minis at 200 berges.

Dana S.

First, I biy a turkey Brcots. Next, put ron the turkey. put the turkey in the ufin for 100 min its at 5. Last, I eat it.

Declan

First, you buy the turey from womot. Next, I put sot and pepr on it. I stuf it wif blow be res. Last, I eat the turkey.

Aaliyah

First, Biey it at Ludowl. Go hoom and tac it ont uv the rapr. Next, Poot sot on it. Cook it fur 3 hors at 11 degrees. Last, set the tabl up. then aet.

Victoria S.

First, I get the turky from the farm. Tak the fethers off. Next, put it in the uvin at 5 degrees 1 awer. Last, I kut the turkey then I ett the turkey.

Ryker

First, I biy it at Brcost. Next, I put it ina pan and put it in the ovin for 2 hours at 5 degrees. Last, I eat the turkey.

Dillon

First, I chechit on a frm. Next, I put it in the ofin for 10 minis at 99 degrees. Last, I tak it out of the ofin for my famle.

Carter

First, I pid pepr on the turkey th in sprecllo sumsolt on it. Next, put it in the uvin. Cook it for fif minis at tin degres. Last, et the turkey.

Anslee

First, poot solt on it. Ad a bnana Next, I poot it in to uvin at 1000 degrees for 10 owers. Last, I tace it out of the uvin and eet it.

Deacon

First, I put solt on trkey and put ite in a pan. Next, I put it in the uvn and cook it for 8 minits at 60 degrees. Last, I etn turkey.

Elleigh

First, I git a turkey at trgit. Next, I put pepr on mi turkey. Last, Iprt the turkey in the uvin for 60 minis at 80 degrees.

Maleya

First, I bi it at trgit. Next, stuf it with masht ptodos. put it in the uvin. Last, kuk it Fr ten mis at 80 degres.

Clayton

First, I bii it at brcots. Go huma and tac it ot av the bag. Next, put stove in it. pat it in the uvin for 6 ars at 10 degrees. Last, set the table an ert it.

Nora

First, cech the turkey. and face off the fethers. Next, I pot peperony on the turkey. I pot the turkey in the uvin for 5 menites. Last, I ett it with mom and dad.

Skylar

First, I bey it at womrt. Next, I put butr on it. I put it in the evin I set it for 899 degres. for 500 mnits. Last, I eat it with crm bars sand cresint rles and sufin and famley.

Marcos

## Reasons to give thanks from WHS

BY CHLOE PROFFITT  
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

From making hand turkeys and recreating the pilgrims trip over on the Mayflower to giving thanks and seeing family. Thanksgiving has changed throughout the years for many but it brings even more reasons to give grace and be thankful.

I know personally for me, I used to look forward to Thanksgiving. I would get to see my cousins and make hand turkeys in class. My cousins

and I would create different plays to act out in front of family.

Today family is still a huge aspect of being grateful. Cousins coming home from college, catching up on the craziness of each others' lives. Eating good food, like my Grandma Ginny's three-bean salad or for my brother, Decklan, eating her delicious enchiladas.

This year I am thankful for many things. I am thankful for a healthy body who gets to enjoy Thanksgiving for the first time in a while, no longer fear-

ing food. I am thankful for my family and friends with all they do to support me! I am thankful running and my coach for helping me become the person I am today. I could go on forever giving thanks but I'll stop there so we can learn why others at WHS are grateful for this year.

*What are your reasons to give thanks?*

"For my family, friends and sports, my favorite part is getting together with my family and the food," commented Molly Southall

"Reasons to give thanks are my family and good friends. Traditions my whole family comes over for a big Thanksgiving feast and we spend the rest of the day together playing board games. My favorite part is the amazing food and mashed potatoes," commented Emily Cockream

"It is important to give thanks because you can recognize all the good things that

have happened in life. My favorite part is getting to help cook the food and being with my family. To me Thanksgiving is a time to appreciate all the good in your life and be surrounded by loved ones." Brooklyn Flores said.

Thanksgiving has a lot of good food. Many coming to a main consensus mashed potatoes is the best! For Ella Cooper she also loves her sparkling grape juice her mom or aunt gets her. It is one of her favorite traditions.

Enjoy the quick holiday break you deserve it! For those who may struggle around this time you are not alone, please never be afraid to reach out.

Whether it is family, traditions, no school or food, Thanksgiving is a day to be grateful. I hope everyone has an amazing Thanksgiving and don't forget to eat good food and give thanks to the ones you love!

## Levy

approved by the City Council and filed with the Will County Clerk by the last Tuesday in December.

In other business before the City Council on Nov. 15:

- The council approved a motion to add an additional sergeant and two new police hires to the Wilmington Police Department.

According to a memo to the council from Deputy Chief Adam Zink, the department is experiencing a staffing shortage due to several officers no longer working, including the retirement of Officer Jose Campos, the resignation of Chief Joe Mitchell, one officer on leave due to injury, one officer on light duty due to injury, and the anticipated retiring of a senior officer in 2023.

Zink said the department is currently at its minimum staffing levels.

- The council approved a motion to spend \$6,642 for repairs and an inspection for the city's bucket truck. That work will be completed by Marino Truck and Equipment Repair of Joliet.

The inspection is part of an OSHA-required annual inspection.

- The council voted to increase the pay range for seasonal employees. Season employees had been hired

previously at an hourly wage of \$15-\$17 per hour. Those workers will now be bumped up to a payscale of \$15-20 per hour.

Director of Public Works James Gretencord noted that the increase will make the city's wages for seasonal workers more competitive and help retain good seasonal employees.

- The council approved the accounting reports, including bill payments for a total of \$1,379,989. Included in the bills was a payment of \$797,125 for IEPA general obligation bonds for the city's water plant.

### Will County Township Assessors to hold annual meeting

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Title 3, Article 9, Section 15, of the Property Tax Code, the annual meeting of the Township Assessors with the Supervisor of Assessments will be held Monday, December 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Will County Office Building, County Board Room, 302 North Chicago Street, Joliet, IL.

The purpose of this meeting is to assemble all assessors and their deputies for consultation and instruction in uniformity of their functions for the 2023 assessment year.

SIGNED THIS 4th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.  
Dale D. Butalla CIAO-M  
Supervisor of Assessments

Published in the Free Press Advocate and Braidwood Journal on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

### Attorney Lynch files Ely 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 JOSHUA D. ELY, Deceased, No. 22PR696

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Joshua D. Ely. Letters of Office were issued to Linda M. Ely whose address is 1339 Saxon Lane, Naperville, IL 60564 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, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 23rd day of May, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.  
Jennifer M. Lynch  
For the Estate of Joshua D. Ely, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch  
1861 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-725-8000  
Atty No.: 06275404  
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.

### Attorney Lynch files Parrish 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 DARRELL D. PARRISH, Deceased, No. 22PR683

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Darrell D. Parrish. Letters of Office were issued to Virginia A. Wisniewski whose address is 25237 South Tyrone Street, Channahon, IL 60410 as Independent Executor, 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, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 23rd day of May, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.  
Jennifer M. Lynch  
For the Estate of Darrell D. Parrish, Deceased

BY: Jennifer M. Lynch  
1861 Black Road  
Joliet, IL 60435  
815-725-8000  
Atty No.: 06275404  
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.

## Breakfast at school

**Mon., Nov. 28:** Trix, animal crackers, fruit punch and choice of milk

**Tues., Nov. 29:** confetti pancakes, orange juice and choice of milk

**Wed., Nov. 30:** granola bar, yogurt cup, apple juice and choice of milk

**Thurs., Dec. 1:** waffles, orange juice and choice of milk

**Fri., Dec. 2:** frosted flakes, honey grahams, grape juice and choice of milk

Daily milk choices are fat free chocolate or 1% white milk.

### Attorney Meents files Shoemaker 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 LARRY JOSEPH SHOEMAKER, Deceased, No. 2022PR659

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of LARRY JOSEPH SHOEMAKER, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on November 3, 2022, to Christen Jane Longfellow, whose address is 2675 Hamstrom Road, Portage, Indiana 46368; whose attorney is Meents Law P.C. 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 28, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

CHRISTEN JANE LONGFELLOW  
Independent Executor of the Estate of LARRY JOSEPH SHOEMAKER, Deceased

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

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.

### Attorney Meents files Maticic 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 MARY MATICIC, Deceased, No. 2022PR557

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
Notice is given of the death of MARY MATICIC, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on November 3, 2022, to MARY DUBROVICH, whose address is 196 Sunfish Circle, Wilmington, Illinois 60481; whose attorney is Fisher Meents LLC, 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 28, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

MARY DUBROVICH  
Executor of the Estate of Mary Maticic, Deceased

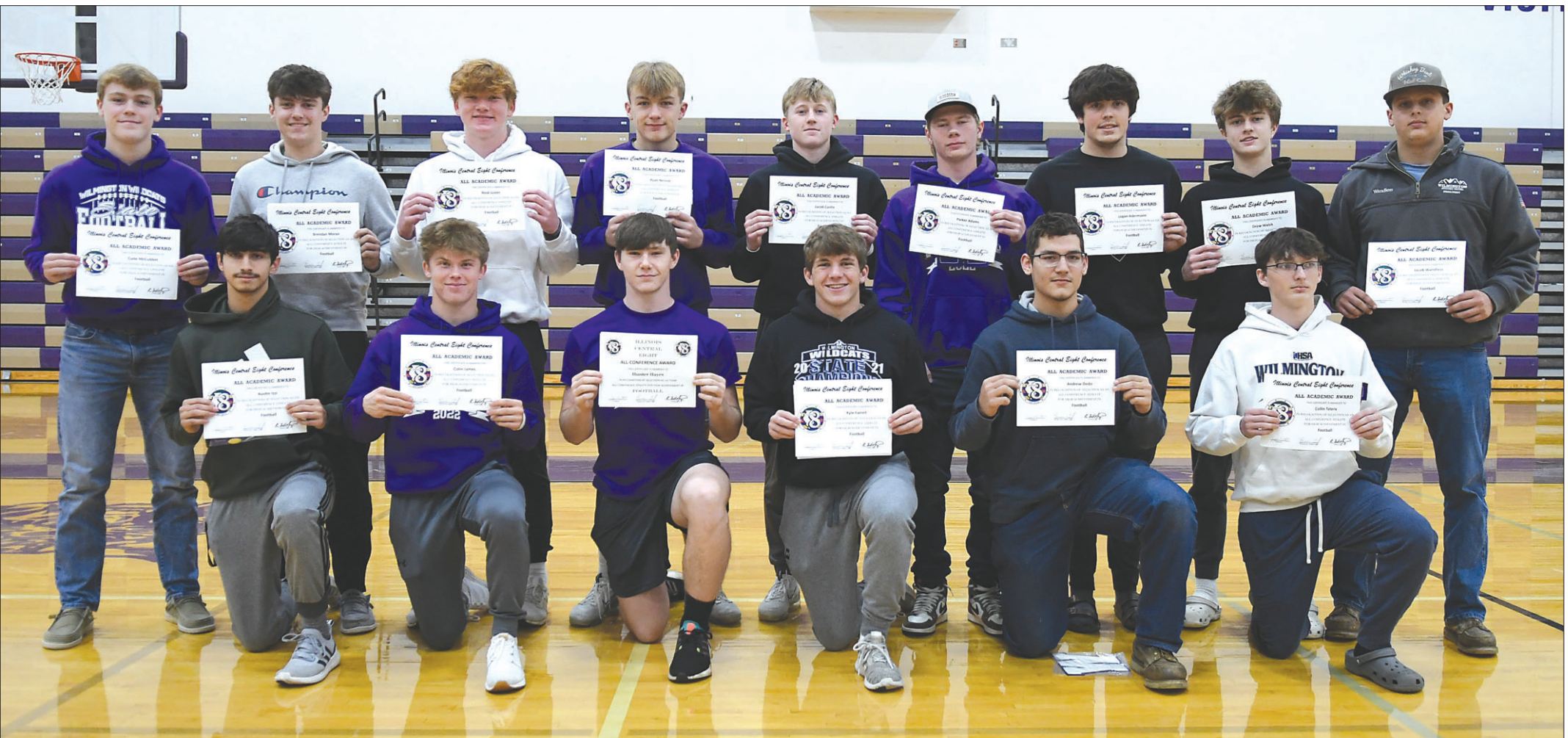
Frank J. Meents  
Fisher Meents LLC  
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A  
Channahon, Illinois 60410  
Telephone: (815)534-9515  
Facsimile: (815)534-9516  
Attorney Code: 06298859  
E-mail: [frank@fishermeents.com](mailto:frank@fishermeents.com)

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.



# WILDCAT SPORTS

## Wilmington High School awards best on the field and in the classroom



THE WILMINGTON FOOTBALL team had 15 players earn All Academic Awards from the Illinois Central Eight Conference. Recognized for earning a grade point average of 3.5 or better while participating in a varsity sport are (from left, kneeling) Austin Izzi, Colin James, Hunter Hayes, Kyle Farrell, Andrew Dedo and Collin Tatera. Standing are Cade McCubbin, Brendon Moran, Reid Juster, Ryan Nelson, Jacob Castle, Parker Adams, Logan Adermann, Drew Walsh and Jacob Wandless.

Photo by Eric Fisher



THE WILMINGTON FOOTBALL program held an awards night Wednesday to recognize players who led the Wildcats to a 9-2 season and 26th consecutive playoff appearance. Varsity players earning All Conference Awards by the Illinois Central Eight included (from left) Kyle Farrell, Joe Allgood, Brendon Moran, Colin James, Hunter Hayes, Ryder Meents and Kade Hopwood.

Photo by Eric Fisher



ALL-STATE PLAYERS - Wildcat running back Colin James (left) was named All State first team in Class 2A while Kade Hopwood was chosen All State honorable mention lineman.



TEAM AWARDS were presented to four Wilmington football players for their leadership during the 2022 season. Earning the Wildcat Award (from left) for perseverance and dedication to the team is Brandon Stahulak; the Most Valuable Player—Offensive award went to Colin James who ran for 1,508 yards and scored 21 touchdowns; the Most Valuable Player—Defensive went to linebacker Hunter Hayes; and earning the Special Teams Most Valuable Player was Joelle Greenidge.



ALL STATE, ALL ACADEMIC—Each season the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association recognizes those players who excel on the field as well as in the class room. Wildcats (from left) Coling James, Hunter Hayes, Brendon Moran and Kyle Farrell were named for team-leading performance on the field while earning a 3.5 or better GPA.



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Photo by Zade Sims

WILMINGTON LADY 'CAT Kaitlyn O'Donnell keeps the ball moving while being pressured by the Reed-Custer defender during last week's Lady Comet Classic tournament. The Lady 'Cats opened their season by playing four games in Braidwood and will play Monday at Herscher before hosting Manteno on Dec. 1.