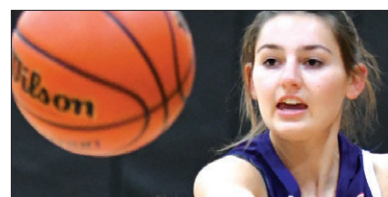


The unmerry side
of Christmas, 1922



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WILMINGTON, IL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

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Snowman captures a Kodak moment

Photo by Eric Fisher

IT'S TYPICALLY the snowman on the other side of the camera when it comes to photo taking, but that wasn't the case on Saturday with this family who gathered under the gazebo for a snapshot with Santa. With no other person nearby, Santa's assistant, Frosty the snowman, offered to take their photo using a cell phone. When was the last time your family had a photo taken by a snowman? It was all part of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's Christmas parade and tree lighting featuring nearly 30 entries. Check out additional photos from this year's holiday event on page 2 of this edition.

Last call for fall waste cleanup

STAFF REPORT

Whether the leaf vac will or will not return to the City of Wilmington has been the topic of conversation all throughout autumn.

But, while the leaf vac won't be making a pass through city streets any time soon, this week is last call for yard waste pickup along with regular pickup of trash and recycling.

The last day for yard waste collection is Friday, Dec. 2.

The city of Wilmington contracts with Homewood Disposal for collection of yard waste from April through November.

The leaf vac program has been discussed several times this year by the members of the City Council, most recently in September.

Wilmington's leaf vac program first began in the late 1990s. The council originally purchased the leaf vac to give residents an alternative disposal method after burning

leaves was banned.

The program was suspended in 2016. The City Council officially scrapped the service in September of 2017. Until 2016, residents inside the city limits could rake their leaves into piles at the curb, and the leaf vac would take them away.

The issue was briefly brought up for discussion in 2021, and again this fall to gauge the potential to bring it back.

The program works by allowing residents to rake their leaves into rows at the curb, and the leaf vac, operated by two public works employees, would work their way through town sucking up those leaves.

If it were readopted, the city estimates that the program would run for six weeks throughout the fall months, and the leaves collected would be disposed of at a city location and then hauled away to a

SEE WASTE, PAGE 2

City earns grant funds from IPRF

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The city of Wilmington has been working on additional funding sources local needs.

Earlier this month, city administrator Jeannine Smith said city staff has been able to capture additional grant funds to help out public works and emergency responders.

"Next year we're getting a grant of \$13,619 from the Illinois Public Risk Fund (IPRF), which typically will go to ESDA, public works and police," Smith told city leaders during the November meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

IPRF's Grant Program provides agencies with funding for "safety inspired products" that will assist in reducing injuries and/or illness on the job.

Items eligible to be purchased with those safety grant funds include personal

protection equipment, work site tools and equipment, vehicle safety accessories and equipment, traffic control safety equipment, work zone safety equipment, and safety and wellness training programming.

Those funds will be added to the fiscal year budget for 2023-2024.

Meanwhile, the city's public works department has undergone a busy fall season.

Director of Public Works James Gretencord provided the committee with an update on projects this fall, including the following:

- The Water Treatment Plant building is complete and awaiting an inspection. Crews

SEE COW, PAGE 2



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Waste

compost supplier. But, the equipment would need servicing prior to use. Necessary repairs would include replacement of eight tires, radiator, wheel bearings, suction tube, hydraulic cylinder, hydraulic actuator with wiring harness, hydraulic and a mesh filter screen. The cost to the city to revitalize the program would include \$61,190 initially, and approximately \$52,000 annually to run the equipment. Those costs would have to be added to the next year's fiscal budget. While the program was popular and has received several calls to return by residents, local leaders said there are downsides. Most notably, leaves swept to the curb can often be blown into the street and gutters before the truck gets a chance to come through. Maintenance and repairs on the truck can also be costly. Mayor Ben Dietz has also noted that yard waste collection is included in the city's existing contract with

Homewood Disposal, which means bringing the leaf vac back would essentially be charging tax payers twice for the same service. The city's current contract with Homewood Disposal runs through April 30, 2026. Residents currently pay \$24.41 per month per household for the waste collection service, with increases over the next several years, culminating in a total of \$26.67 per household for the 2026 fiscal year. For this week's last yard waste collection, yard waste materials should be placed in kraft paper bags or in yard waste carts, and should be placed on the curb alongside regular trash by 6 a.m. Branches and brush must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled with string or twine. Each bundle must not exceed 50 pounds. Unbundled brush will not be collected. Whole trees and limbs greater than 4 inches in diameter and stumps are not included in the weekly pickup. Sod, whole trees, stumps, and dirt are not part of the weekly yard waste program. Yard waste pickup will resume on April 6, 2023.

COW

have begun the removal of scrap steel from the old building and Clennon Electric is working to finish the electrical work. The Sewer Department has completed its compiling of influent and effluent data for Geosyntec and the NARP Study. The staff has been attending quarterly Kankakee River Watershed Stakeholder meetings to keep communication open between Water

Reclamation and Soil Conservation Groups to share and report NARP Study findings. The Street Department completed 43 work orders in the month of October, including three water service leaks and approximately 400' of sidewalk replacement from our Sidewalk Share program. All 13 of the Street Department vehicles that require DOT safety inspections have been completed and do not expire for 6 months. The Water Department replaced over 50 meters in the month of October; 16 of which were larger commercial meters. The number of estimated accounts is now down to approximately 45.

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

Welcome the holidays in Wilmington!



Photo by Eric Fisher
THE WILMINGTON LIONS entered this float in the Christmas parade on Saturday. Just like in the movie "A Christmas Story" it features characters from the "Wizard of Oz".



Photo by Eric Fisher
GINGERBREAD FLOAT - Grundy Bank with branches Wilmington and Morris entered this trailer featuring a gingerbread house with steeple in Saturday's parade. Walking at left is Grundy Bank president and CEO Kevin Olson.



Photo by Eric Fisher
THE WHS SHOWCATS, under the direction of Alyssa Lesch (left), performs under the gazebo at Claire's Corner Park as part of the Wilmington Chamber's annual Christmas Parade and tree lighting held Saturday.



LISA MARIE'S STYLING SALON and Jason Hendron Construction LLC teamed up to present this lighted float during Saturday's Wilmington Chamber of Commerce. An estimated 1,500 spectators lined the parade route on a perfect 45-degree evening.

Wilmington Township makes audit available for public viewing

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Audit Report of Wilmington Township
Wilmington Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated November 1, 2022 has been filed with the County Clerk of Will County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 151/01 et. seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 120 N. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481. Please contact Jonathan Jones, Supervisor, Monday through Friday, from 8:00am to 3:30 pm at (815) 476-9272 or email him at supervisor@wilmingtontownship.us.
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 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 Tyron 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.



THE GRINCH hitches a ride on an UTV during the Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade.



Photo by Eric Fisher
FROSTY THE SNOWMAN and Santa Claus arrive on a pair of SeaDoo watercraft belonging to the Wilmington ESDA as part of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas parade held Saturday.



Photo by Eric Fisher
THE WHS MARCHING BAND, under the direction of Ellen Georgeff, walks the parade route on Saturday playing Jolly Old St. Nicholas. Several band members got into the spirit of things by donning Santa hats and lighting up their instruments with Christmas light.



Photo by Eric Fisher
SANTA REACHES OUT to welcome a first-timer who wasn't that happy to be sitting on his lap for a quick photo during the Wilmington Chamber's annual parade and tree lighting held Saturday. Don't worry, giver her a couple of years and she'll be buddying to the guy with the white beard and red suit telling him all she wants for Christmas.

Vote early, often for your favorite Christmas Elves in Wilmington

Those doing their holiday shopping will notice Chamber of Commerce's Elf Contest donation boxes at 40 local business checkouts. The boxes are decorated with photos of local children who are helping raise money for the Christian Help Association. The CHA is helping over 1,000 needy people this Christmas. Proceeds from the Elf Contest go to the CHA to use for 350 families who are less fortunate in the 60481 zip code. Elf box donations purchase fresh produce and meat for Christmas food bags and any presents needed to complete the gift tag project. The CHA is thankful to the elves' parents

for teaching them that children of any age can help raise money for a great cause. Donations may be placed in the boxes. Everyone is encouraged to vote many times and stuff the boxes. A penny counts as a vote and the three elf boxes containing the most money will generate prizes in Chamber gift certificates. Residents are asked to give spare change now through Jan. 5 to help make a local impact. The goal is to raise over \$6,000 this year, surpassing the all-time high goal set in 2007. Photos of elves and their sponsoring business appear on page 14.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Marney Simon, editor

December 1922, not all was merry and bright

One of the terms used to describe the 1920's is "roaring." It means that things were going "swell" and "everyone was happy." But were they? While going through the Wilmington Advocate that month, I found very little substance locally. It was all who visited who, and who was who's guest, etc. But the national scene was a whole different matter. Set the wayback for December 1922. Ironically, the first major news story of that month was a public invasion of the United States Capitol building. Now where have I heard that before? "Congressional investigation of published reports that the Ku Klux Klan had invaded the United States Capitol building and in full regalia staged an initiation ceremony."

"Representative John W. Rainey of Illinois introduced a joint resolution providing for an investigating committee of 3 senators and 4 members of the House. The committee would inquire also into assertions that the State, War and Navy government buildings have



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

been made use of for Klan ceremonies." And along the same terrifying vein, the following week we read, "The Dyer Anti-lynching bill passed by the House empowering the Federal government to intervene to punish lynchers and local governments which fail to enforce the law against lynchers was termed a "force" bill and unconstitutional by its bitter southern opponents."

That same week a photo showing men turning shell casings left from WWI into letter boxes for the Post Office department.

The war was indeed over, but not for about 250 American citizens and their families who were rescued by the U. S. government. "About 250 American citizens stranded in Europe were sent home by various organizations on the steamship President Adams. The stranded Americans were chiefly ex-service men with their wives and families, who, owing to the high cost of living and low salaries paid on the other side were unable to make both ends meet and were

obliged to apply to Uncle Sam for aid."

During the second week sad news came from Florence Township. "Charles Hazzard, aged 83, a well-known farmer of Florence, died last Monday from injuries received when he was crushed against a barn door by a colt. Mr. Hazzard had resided in Florence since 1852."

The fishing enthusiasts' news was good that week, "Fifty million fish will be put in to the lakes and streams of Illinois annually as a result of the building of a new fish hatchery and aquarium in Lincoln Park, Chicago."

"Wisconsin entertains about 400,000 fish fans from outside of the state each year. These fish fans spend from \$7,000,000 (\$117,500,000) to \$10,000,000 (\$168,000,000) there during fishing season. A large part of this is Illinois money."

Good news for the farming community and those who serve them was a proclamation given by Governor Len Small in a rain-soaked corn field under the shadow of Starved Rock which gave the order to proceed with the connecting link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi.

"He approved the plans for the five great locks - two

with a greater lift than any in the Panama Canal - 123 feet in the sixty miles which will raise and lower vessels between LaSalle and Lockport."

"The Governor said state engineers figured the waterway would save Illinois farmers from 5 (84 cents) to 7 (\$1.18) cents a bushel on every bushel of grain shipped to market and that it would save the people of Chicago \$1 (\$16.80) a ton on all coal brought up by boat."

"Between locks the channel will have a minimum width of 150 feet on the bottom and 200 feet at the surface, with a minimum depth of nine feet."

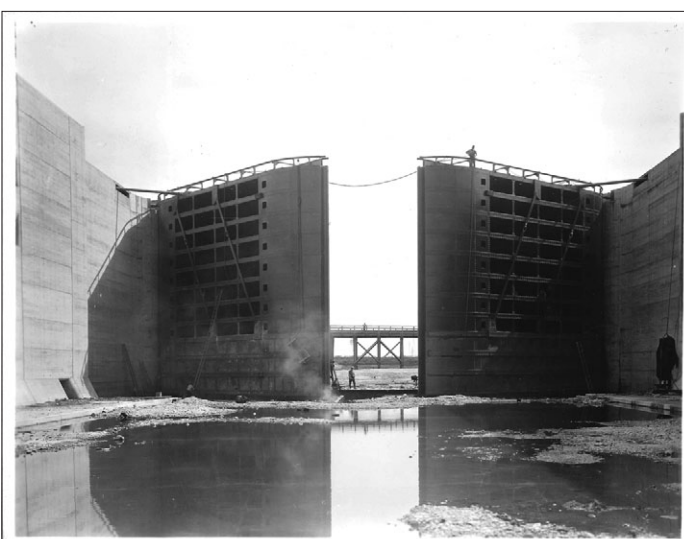
And during the final week, one last reminder of the cost of war. "Senator William M Calder of Brooklyn, speaking at the memorial services in the Brooklyn Army Base for the 1,000 bodies brought home on the S. S. Cambrai - last of the American war dead to be brought from France. At the left is Corp. Frank Abramson, marine corps war veteran, who marched in the parade. He has two artificial arms and suffers from severe internal injuries. Yet, with his 13 honorably won war and valor medals, he marched."

At the left is Corporal Frank Abramson, Marine Corps veteran, who marched in the parade. He has two artificial arms and who also suffers from internal injuries. Yet with his 13 honorably won war and valor medals, he marched."



U. S. Senator William M. Calder of Brooklyn, speaking at the memorial services in the Brooklyn army base for the 1,000 bodies brought home on S. S. Cambrai—last of the American war dead to be brought from France. At the left is Corp. Frank Abramson, marine corps war veteran, who marched in the parade. He has two artificial arms and suffers from severe internal injuries. Yet, with his 13 honorably won war and valor medals, he marched.

THE LAST WWI dead coming home.



THE LOCK GATES of the proposed new waterway which is still in use today.

WHS names Students of the Month



WILMINGTON SENIORS Michael Catlin (left) and Allison Meyers were among eight students selected at Wilmington High School as Students of the Month for October. The staff and faculty nominate two students from each class who perform random acts of kindness or help out with a project in a big way.



WHS SOPHOMORES Brooklyn Flores and Sara Falcon are the students of the month for October.



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH representing the junior class are Yael Rodriguez and Brian Baker.



WHS FRESHMEN Austin Deitz (left) and Paiton Fritz were named Students of the Month for October for performing random acts of kindness.

209U Lunch menu

Mon., Dec. 5: chicken patty on bun, broccoli cheese rice, applesauce and choice of milk

Tues., Dec. 6: chicken alfredo, romaine salad, roll and butter, mixed fruit and choice of milk

Wed., Dec. 7: italian beef w/mozz., cheese hash browns, peach cup and choice of milk

Thurs., Dec. 8: mexican straw hat, corn, salsa, pears and choice of milk

Fri., Dec. 9: sweet and sour chicken, vegetable fried rice, fortune cookie, pineapple and choice of milk

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

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.

IMPRESS YOUR FRIENDS WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY!
Read Time Was... by Sandy Vasko
EACH WEEK IN THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE

THANK YOU & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

I would like to thank the following individuals and groups for helping to make the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's annual Christmas parade such a huge success:

The City of Wilmington, Adam Zink & Wilmington Police Dept., Todd Friddle & Wilmington Fire Dept., James Gretencord & Public Works Dept., Kirstin Van Duyne & Wilmington Park District, Marty & Veronica Orr, Eric Fisher & the Free Press Newspapers, Wilmington Rotary Club, Dennis Housman & Rich Princko from the Wilmington ESDA and all the ESDA volunteers, Kevin Kirwin, Sarah Krohn, Band Director Ellen Georgeff and the WHS marching band, and to the ShowCats and director Alyssa Lesch, for performing under the gazebo and getting everyone into the Christmas spirit.

Thank you, Steve Evans
President, Wilmington Chamber of Commerce

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(815) 476-2105

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Made the town proud

BRAIDWOOD—To the Reed-Custer Varsity football team. I heard a senior say the other day that you let the town down. Let me tell you from the bottom of my heart you did not let this town down. Yes, we are so proud of the wins and records you set but that's not why this town was behind you. We were behind you because you are all amazing men who truly cared about this community. Your kindness to youths, contributions to society and dedication to football has set a standard I'm not sure anyone will be able to reach again. I only hope you all know how much you have meant to this town. Hopefully the upcoming football players realize how much work they have ahead of them and start right now getting ready for next to continue to make us proud.

What's the purpose?

WILMINGTON—I have a question for any gun owner. Of what purpose does an assault weapon in the hands of anyone except a military or law enforcement person have? It is a mass destruction weapon intended to kill many people quickly when used. I agree that Americans have the right to own weapons to protect their property, family, and to hunt. But can't a rifle or handgun be sufficient for those purposes, not an assault weapon?

25 mph please

COAL CITY—Coal City has a real problem with patrolling the streets of the city during the daytime hours. It seems that the private service vehicles own the streets. Just the other day I saw a local company's big red service truck file in behind a car on west Spring Road and get within eight feet of a car. Traveling all the way down to Carbon Hill Road on the poor driver of the car's tail. This was about the time the little kids school gets out. I know this is a rush hour time. But geez Louise, let's get a grip. 25 mph means 25 mph. I guess the knuckleheads driving these trucks, don't care about you and me or the traffic rules.

We're the pawns

SHADOW LAKES—Well, with voter season over, we can sit back and look at the results, and how the game is played. Close your eyes and imagine the government is played like a chess game. The pieces are colored black against white, or Democrats against Republicans. The pieces are King, Queen, etc. Knowing how the pieces move you can give them all names. Remember this, chess is a game of power. All the power pieces can be compared to members of the government. They are your president, senators, representatives, and judges. For the states, you have the same players. They are all maneuvering to win the game of power. What piece are the citizens? We are the pawns. Do they ever win the power game? No, the pawns are expendable, this is how the game of power is played.

Always, Margot Lane

Violence will rule

BRAIDWOOD—Five dead, 25 injured in a club in Colorado. Regardless of what you may think, Trump's announcement to run in 2024 is dangerous for all of us as violence will be the rule of life. His new campaign slogan will be MAHA. Make America Hate Again. This should be obvious to all.

Grab a rake

WILMINGTON—Regarding everyone wanting the leaf vac back and they don't know what they did with the leaves. The truth is if you talk to some older city employees the leaves were dumped down by the old finishing pond by the river and they were burned by the city. And that engulfed the whole woods down there with smoke from the leaves. It's not green. If they are too lazy to pick up their leaves and put them in bags God forbid they are just some lazy sons of guns. I've been taking care of my leaves, I'm 76 years old and I still take care of them. Hire somebody if you can't do it yourself.

For the future

WILMINGTON—Whatever happened to the Celotex park plan on North Kankakee Street. Years ago when I first heard about it I thought it was a good idea because we need to

plan more activities for our kids' future. That property is the perfect spot because there is enough room for a mix of ballfields, soccer field, fishing away from the dangers of the dam. The city should look into that property again and see if something could be worked out with the park district as a place to put its all inclusive park.

Share the holidays

BRAIDWOOD—As the holiday season approaches I hope your readers remember to share some time with an elderly neighbor or friend. It can be hard on especially widowers during the holidays. I know our family has invited over our neighbor friend since he lost his wife a few years ago. We love sharing our day with him because he appreciates it so much. I can't imagine how lonely it would be not having to share the holidays with family or friends. I encourage others to go out of their way to make an senior citizen's holiday a little brighter this year.

Be thankful

WILMINGTON—As we reflect on the upcoming holidays and spending time with family, be thankful there are not bombs being dropped on our community like in the Ukraine. Imagine what it would be like to have daily missile warnings as the town is slowly destroyed. Ukrainians are being left without food, shelter, warmth and electricity, all things we take for granted here in America. As those poor people become refugees of war, they have nothing to return to in their town. Be thankful we are safe from war. Keep the people of Ukraine in your prayers and if you are asked to support them, give generously.

Know what's happening

WILMINGTON—I totally agree that the township needs to be investigated. Last year when the person ran for supervisor he was unopposed so he would have won regardless. After two months he suddenly resigned saying he didn't understand the duties which made no sense. In choosing his successor, there was no discussion or a list of possible candidates. The person who now serves as supervisor was the only person considered. After four months five people were forced out or resigned from the board. Do you know who the current assessor is? No, because he was hand picked by the assessor and road commissioner because of his name. He's not qualified for the position, no experience or qualifications, works a full and part-time job so when does he have time to be in the office for assistance like the previous assessor did? The supervisor and road commissioner make all decisions for their own interest. As citizens we need to start asking questions.

Tired of it

COAL CITY—Is anyone else tired of the way the juveniles in this community act?

A good pick

WILMINGTON—I want to congratulate the Wilmington Chamber for their choice for the Business Person of the Year. Rich Quigley does a lot for the community and goes out of his way to help people. He is just one of the reasons why I do my business in town and give him all of my locksmith business.

Great parade

WILMINGTON—The Chamber of Commerce Parade and all the fun things that went on in our town last Saturday was wonderful. I haven't seen so many people downtown in a long time. Kudos to the chamber and its members. The Christkindlmarket was a real nice addition thanks to the Park District. What a fresh breath of activities the Park District has become.

For the record

WILMINGTON—Dear Mr. Hill, this is a sincere request that you get a dictionary and look up the definitions of Communism, Socialism and even Capitalism. For the record, I am not now, nor have I ever been, a member of the Communist party. I identify as a Progressive Liberal with some Socialist leanings like public schools, roads and even the military paid for by redistribution of the wealth by way of taxes. I have never sent in a Soundoff "Workers of the world unite," so stop calling



this proud Biden voter a communist. Now, after analyzing your Soundoffs one could conclude you are a bit of a racist and a fascist. Be sure to look up those words too comrade.

What's wrong here?

COAL CITY—Our law enforcement people do a great job of bringing these psychopaths shooting at innocent people. Once arrested the news media gives them more attention than they have had since birth. You would think they had won the Nobel prize. Then the lawyers and judges are like sharks to get the case depending on prestige they will obtain. Then it will be a circus in court for who knows how long. Once sentenced we house, feed, clothe, doctor and study them until they die a healthy old age in prison at our expense. The public has enough responsibilities with being burdened with this also.

Seeking service

COAL CITY—What ever happened to customer service? There is certainly a lack of that in this town.

The ones you love

BRAIDWOOD—I understand Braidwood is a close city, everybody knows everyone. I just really hope that no matter how high your standards are, you remember where you came from and who brought you up. No one is better than anyone! My family learned this when we lost one of the most important people in our lives, but yet the family still has divided themselves. Everyone should live like every day is their last and every breath is their last. None of us will last forever so spend every moment you can with the one's you love. Everyone has arguments but it is up to you if you want them to last forever. You never know, if you let one stupid argument get to you, you may never get to say good-bye.

Have faith

Do you believe in signs such as a sign on a pop machine or rest room door - out of order? Did you ever feel that way - out of order? I'm sure all of us have felt like we don't function well. But life does go on and we must adjust to our living, like little children, that faith, hope and love will see us all through these tough times. I realize that so many people are concerned about the poor, the needy, sick and lonely but faith is a wonderful thing. Just when we come to the conclusion we can't do it all. Before Christmas I heard this saying that put it in perspective for me: "When you can't do it all, do what you can." And trust other to help out and be a blessing also to everyone. A Merry, blessed Christmas to all.

All are suffering

DIAMOND—We, as Americans, whether Conservative or Liberal, are experiencing the same rising gas prices, bloated inflation and massive prices on everything. Unemployment and labor shortages make no sense but it's what's going on. Devastating supply chains,

backlogs and empty store shelves, rapidly rising interest rates could soon crush the housing market and stock portfolios. Mass filings for personal and business bankruptcy while home foreclosures continue to increase every month. Although Socialists propagandize and slander conservative efforts to save our republic from destruction you and I will continue to suffer the same consequences of the Biden administration's blunders. While I disagree strongly and dispute every hateful claim you make, I will fight to the end your right equal to mine to say it. My only deduction is both sides will continue to suffer equally as well. The remedy to this Biden created path is relatively simple. Immediately open the spigots to produce more American oil and gas. Allow permitting the pipelines and refining. All that would reduce prices, promote jobs and economic growth. Also a reduction in the welfare state and for supply side business tax cuts to become permanent in these very simple yet critical actions. If these actions are taken inflation would crash, the economy will soar and our mutual suffering would cease to be.

Sharon

Need a break

MORRIS—My tax assessment from Grundy County just keeps going up. They are skyrocketing. Like so many other people on a fixed income in Grundy County this is outrageous. I don't think the city, county employees or the school teachers in Grundy County should get a cost of living raise next year. Everyone should hold the line. Why are property taxes going up so high in Grundy County? The county board should do something about this. They need to give the taxpayers a break. This is outrageous.

Appreciate community

LAKEWOOD SHORES —Good grief. There are way too many people living in Lakewood Shores complaining about everything on social media. Be happy and grateful for what the town does have. Enjoy the river, parks, library, gardens, shops and city events. Take care of the river, parks, library, gardens, shops and participate in the events. Have pride even though you may not live in the city limits, your address is Wilmington.

A sad fact

BRAIDWOOD—Too many families do not have health care coverage or not enough coverage. How good is your dental plan? What will happen to our children when it becomes time for them to acquire health or dental coverage? Will they be able to afford it? Will it still even be available in the next 15 years? This is such a sad fact that nobody can afford to be without insurance and now is the time to sign up for Illinois's affordable health insurance coverage. We checked it out for our family and it was cheaper for us to join it than for private insurance. It's worth looking at.

It's been 20 years since first AMBER alert

The Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the first America's Missing Broadcast Response (AMBER) Alert broadcast in Illinois. The first AMBER Alert broadcast took place at 5:35 p.m. on Nov. 26, 2002 in LaSalle, IL.

The AMBER Alert System is named after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was abducted and later found murdered in 1996 after playing near her home in Arlington, Texas. In response to community concern, the Texas Association of Radio Managers and law enforcement created the first AMBER Plan. Today, all 50 states have similar plans.

The goal of the AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and safe return of missing children. The Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force is a voluntary partnership between law enforcement agencies, broadcasters, the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois Tollway, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Lottery, and the National Weather Service, to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.

The Alerts are broadcast

through TV, radio, road signs, cellphones, and other data-enabled devices.

Since its inception, the Illinois AMBER Alert System has been used to broadcast 118 critical messages of abducted children with the Alert accounting directly in the recovery of 67 children and indirectly for 22 more.

Since its inception, AMBER alerts have aided in the successful recovery of more than 1,100 children nationally.

To receive AMBER Alerts on your cell phone, visit www.amberillinois.org.

Automatic extensions for driver's licenses to end this week

If you've been avoiding the DMV to renew your Illinois driver's license, time is running out as the automatic extensions that have been given since COVID end Dec. 1, 2022.

To avoid lines at Secretary of State offices it's best to conduct business online at ilsos.gov.

Secretary of State Jesse White initiated the extension in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. To address the high customer volume caused by the pandemic, White's office

also expanded online renewals for expired driver's licenses and ID cards and continues to mail letters to eligible customers.

The letter provides driver's license and ID card holders with a unique PIN to renew online instead of visiting a facility. Customers may call 217-785-1424 to confirm their eligibility for online renewal or to obtain their PIN.

In addition to driver's license and ID card renewals for those who qualify, online

services include obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, ordering a driver record and purchasing license plate stickers.

Customers visiting a Driver Services facility to renew their driver's license or ID card have the option to make an appointment in Joliet.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

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Spice up the Holidays with a Homemade Wassail

Love and joy come to you, and to you your wassail too! We all know the song, this week we will meet the warm cider behind the song as we prepare for the 2022 edition of the “most wonderful time of the year”.

Wassail, also referred to as Mulled Wine is a holiday tradition that can be traced back hundreds of years. It is warm, festive, and delicious, and literally was once served to anyone who appeared at your front door asking for it.

The term “wassail” is an Anglo-Saxon greeting meaning “be in good health”, which was commonly used as a toast when serving cider or ale. Generations passed and the term wassail would come to refer to the drink in the glass instead of the toast.

Wassailing refers to the practice of going door to door offering songs, and occasionally gifts in exchange for a drink from the wassail bowl. Most houses in Victorian-era England kept a Wassail bowl full of warm cider throughout the winter.

In exchange for a song, wassailers were invited in from the cold for a cup of Wassail, and perhaps a few minutes next to a cozy fire. The practice has largely been replaced by

caroling, but there are pockets of revelers steeped in Christmas tradition that still enjoy an evening of wassailing.

It’s unlikely that anyone will come a-wassailing to your door demanding a cup of Mulled Wine, but in pockets of Scotland and Northern England the practice is very much alive and occurs on New Year’s Day as part of the “first-foot” celebration. The “first-foot” refers the first person to enter a home in the New Year and is seen as a bringer of good fortune.

Think of the Wassail Song as the European version of We Wish You a Merry Christmas, both emphasize blessings in the New Year.

Fast forward to 2022, and you will find that the Wassail bowl over the fire has been replaced by the slow cooker.

There are hundreds of Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes available online, and who knows how many handwritten recipes are tucked away in drawers and recipe books around the globe.

The common thread in



Brian Rung

most contemporary Wassail recipes is that most are wine based, specifically calling for red wine. Red wine has richer fruit notes and is darker in color than white wine, making it a perfect base for Wassail.

Any number of “Christmas spices” can be used in your Wassail, but the essential spice is cinnamon which is commonly added via cinnamon sticks. Using cinnamon sticks serves two purposes: impart the cinnamon flavor into your Wassail, and each stick can be used as a garnish when serving.

If you have a party of 8, be sure to drop 8 cinnamon sticks into your slow cooker so that each guest receives a cinnamon stick garnish.

Fruit is also a Wassail essential. The fruit juices (apple cider and orange juice) impart most of the flavor notes, but the sliced fruit brings a festive visual element to your Wassail. Be sure to use the apple and orange slices when garnishing your servings of Wassail.

Good Wassail takes time, but this is not a negative! After about an hour in the slow cooker you will be treated to the authentic holiday aroma that only scratch-made Wassail can add to your holiday gathering.

Speaking of slow cookers, you will want to take it slow. Wassail can be made on a “high” setting, but remember

that this warm Christmas punch is bursting with flavors, and those flavors need time to come together. Don’t rush this one, and you will be rewarded.

Many Wassail/Mulled Wine recipes call for non-descript red wine, I find that Pinot Noir is the best fit for Mulled Wine recipes. If you have a favorite Pinot Noir, use it, but don’t break the bank buying bottles for batches of Mulled Wine. You don’t want the stuff in the box, but keep it at or below \$20 a bottle.

Feel free to add and subtract from this recipe, your Wassail should reflect your personality and your tradition. If you are preparing Wassail for the first time, the recipe below is a great starting point that is sure to please.

Wishing you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

Homemade Wassail is best prepared in a large slow cooker.

Combine in slow cooker:

- 2 750 ml bottles red wine (Pinot Noir or rioja)
- 4 cups apple cider
- 2 1/2 cups orange juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 cups frozen pitted cherries
- 1 large apple, sliced thin
- 1 large orange, sliced thin
- 1 piece fresh ginger, sliced
- 8-10 cinnamon sticks
- 1 vanilla bean, cut open
- 1 teaspoon cloves

Cover and heat on high for 3 hours, or on low for at least 5 hours. Ladle into glasses, garnish with fruit and cinnamon sticks.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.



Courtesy photo by: Ken Murp

A SHORT-EARED OWL flies over the Group 63 Trail at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The trail is located near the Iron Bridge Trailhead.

“Owl Watch” photo tours will take place at Midewin Prairie

“Owl Watch” is on now at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, where, in recent years, short-eared owls, Northern harriers and more native grassland birds of prey have been seen in colder months in the area where bison graze at Midewin.

Twenty-seven bison – four bulls and 24 cows – were introduced at Midewin as a conservation experiment in 2015. USDA Forest Service volunteers, partners, and staff are monitoring to see if the grazing, wallowing and other natural tendencies of the bison is helping to increase and improve habitat for grassland birds and other native Illinois prairie species.

The bison could be helping short-eared owls and other grassland birds at Midewin in multiple ways. They help to maintain more varied heights and diversity of grasses and forbs.

The bison also reduce shrub encroachment and create disturbed patches for foraging owls to catch prey. This is particularly important for short-eared owls, which are one of the only species of ground-nesting owls in North America.

What’s more, short-eared owls eat only meat: voles, mice, etc., which are drawn to where the bison graze.

Short-eared owls and other native birds of prey are not always visible, but they have been seen most frequently along the Group 63 Bunker Trail on the East side of Highway 53.

“The best time to look for owls at Midewin is in the late afternoons, just before dusk,

during the colder months of the year,” said Will County Audubon Society Vice President Greg Dubois.

Greg will guide two “Owl Watch” photography tours at Midewin in December, sharing his knowledge of owls and photography. Both tours will meet at the Iron Bridge Trailhead (directions and information: www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/midewin/recarea at 3 p.m.

- Saturday, December 3

U.S. Military veterans and family members: This tour is tailored to connect U.S. Military veterans and family members with nature through Brushwood Center’s “At Ease” Nature Platoon at Midewin.

- Saturday, December 10

General Public: This tour is open to anyone who loves nature and photography and wants to connect with other great outdoors enthusiasts.

To register to participate in an “Owl Watch” Photography Tour at Midewin, please call 815-423-6370 or email sm.fs.Midewin_RSVP@usda.gov.

Whether you participate in an “Owl Watch” tour or look for owls on your own, here are some key characteristics to help identify a short-eared owl:

- Wingspan = 35 to 40 inches
- Length = 15 inches
- Heavily streaked wings and body, overall; white to tan-colored underwings and body with dark striping, and dark colored bars on their wings;
- Round, cream-colored facial disc with dark eye patches; yellow eyes.

Forest Preserve to host “Sensory Sundays”

The Forest Preserve at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon will be hosting a Sensory Sunday event Sundays, Dec. 4, Jan. 8 and Feb. 5 from 11 a.m. to noon.

This independent program is for guests with sensory-processing needs, social anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and those who would benefit from a small-group experience.

The center will be open only to registered participants.

Buddy bags with sensory gadgets and a limited supply of noise-canceling headphones will be available for use. Seven handheld audio units providing a narrative of the All-Persons Trail will be available for checkout. Free, all ages. Registration is required by the Saturday before each program.

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

Deer harvest up in first half of firearms season

With the second half of the Illinois firearm deer season set for Thursday through Sunday of this week, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources noted that hunters harvested 52,354 deer opening weekend, a 7% increase over the year before.

The split firearms season first opened Nov. 18-20 when hunters bagged the highest number of deer over the past three years.

Hunters in Grundy (172) and Will (134) counties harvested more deer than the year before while in Kankakee County there was a decline from 140 deer to 114.

Other deer hunting opportunities in the weeks ahead include:

- Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 9-11
- Late-winter antlerless-only and Chronic Wasting Disease deer seasons (in select counties only) Dec. 29-Jan. 1 and Jan.13-15
- Archery deer season continues through Jan. 15.

Gas price lowest in nine months

Gas prices dipped under \$3 per gallon in the western parts of Illinois as average prices in the state declined 19.0 cents per gallon in the last week.

Locally, gas prices are near the \$3.78/g, average according to GasBuddy’s survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 35.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 26.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.89/g Monday while the most expensive is \$5.87/g.

“As millions of Americans hit the road for Thanksgiving, we saw gasoline prices continue dropping coast to coast last week, and a new record was set for the largest single day decline in the national average. In addition, 47 of the nation’s 50 states have seen diesel prices falling as well, providing well-needed relief ahead of the holidays and helping to stem the rise in inflation,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

Braidwood stations were charging \$3.73/g Monday while in Wilmington stations were charging \$3.74 to \$3.85 per gallon depending on which side of town you are on. Coal City stations were priced at \$3.95/g to \$4.05/g on Monday.

“All the metrics look very positive for motorists as this week is likely to continue seeing falling gasoline prices, with many areas falling to the lowest level since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February. It’s entirely possible the national average price of gasoline could fall under \$3 per gallon by Christmas, which would be a huge gift to unwrap for motorists after a dizzying year at the pump.”

The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.20 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports.

The national average is down 22.7 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 14.1 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy.

We would like to thank the Wilmington Fire Department for the quick response and the life saving effort they performed on my wife.

May God Bless,
Dave Czys & Family

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THANK YOU

Thanks so much to everyone who was so kind to us during our recovery from my wife’s hospital stay and all the food we received after she returned home. Thanks to everyone!

Bill & Georgia Phelan

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, and donations and the kind expressions of sympathy shown to us during Jim’s illness and passing. Your support at this difficult time was deeply appreciated and a great comfort for all of us.

Many thanks to Matt Baskerville and his staff at Reeves Funeral Home for the excellent services rendered to our family during our unexpected loss. The Celebration of Life video tribute was truly beautiful.

Sincerely,
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Navigating the home sales slowdown

BY ZETA CROSS
THE CENTER SQUARE

High interest rates have pushed monthly mortgage payments in Illinois up by 40% in the past few months. The residential real estate market is starting to feel the impact.

"Prices have gotten so high. I expect them to start coming down," Professor Daniel McMillen of the Stuart Handler Department of Real Estate at the University of Illinois Chicago said. "With interest rates as high as they are, it has to be the case that the housing market has to slow up."

This fall, higher-priced homes are still selling for high prices, but the market has entered a transition phase, McMillen said.

"Now that residential mortgage rates have hit the 7% range, the cost of owning a home is much more expensive," he said.

One sign of a slowdown is that it is getting harder to find homes under \$250,000.

"The low-priced homes start to drop out of the market. Higher-priced homes will often continue to sell," McMillen said. That was what the market saw in October, he added.

Meanwhile, plenty of buyers who qualified for a mortgage payment of \$1,200 a month can't afford to buy now that interest rate increases have driven payments for the same house up to \$2,000 or more per month. Those buyers have dropped out of the market and sales have slowed down, McMillen said.

"Think about buying less house," McMillen said. "Instead of buying a \$500,000 house, look at \$400,000 houses. Lower your expectations."

First-time buyers should consider a 2 bedroom/1 bath home instead of holding out for a three-bedroom house with a garage.

"If it is a house that you are willing to live in for a while, it gives you a chance to build up equity in it. That way, you avoid the big rent increases that apartments are charging," he said.

"Corporations are adjusting rents much more rapidly than they used to. Because they own lots of units, they are willing to risk losing tenants to get tenants who can afford to pay higher rents," McMillan said.

Sellers normally see a slow down during the winter, McMillan said. The smart move may be to wait it out and see if interest rates come down in the spring.

"We may never see mortgage rates in the 'outrageously low' 3% range again, he said.

"I'm talking about an adjustment back to the 4% to 5% range," McMillan said.

Light Up Your House contest returns to Custer

The 14th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's.

Entry forms are available at Santa's mailbox at the Custer Park Fire Department, or use the one below, and return it to the mailbox by Friday, Dec. 15. Judging will be done that weekend.

For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.

Lighting Up Your House for the Holidays Contest

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



THE NATIONAL CHAMPION Joliet American Legion Band will be performing its "Sounds of Christmas" concert Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet. Admission is free with a generous food donation to help families in need.

Free 'Sounds of Christmas' concert to feature American Legion Band

The 2022 National Champion Joliet American Legion Band will be holding its 39th annual Sounds of Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the Rialto Square Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet.

A special tribute to Tom Drake (1936-2022) Director Emeritus will be held during the performance as well as pre-concert entertainment by "The Dixie Bandits" in the Rotunda at 1 p.m.

Under the direction of Mike Fiske and assistant directors Rick Ellenberger (Army Major, retired), Jillian Kohler and Jim Kreuz, the selection of musical arrangements during this performance will not only be an addition to the holiday spirit but will also be a benefit to those less fortunate.

Tickets will be available at the Joliet American Legion Post 1080 located at 2625 Ingalls Ave., Joliet, on Friday, Dec 2, from 5 - 8 p.m. and also

at the Rialto Theatre on Dec 5, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Dec 7 and 9 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. with remaining tickets available at the door prior to the concert.

Tickets are free in exchange for a generous donation of non-perishable food and/or paper products or if preferred, monetary donations are also appreciated with all donations going directly to Daybreak Center in Joliet to assist residents in need,

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CCW invites all ladies of the parish to feast

The St. Rose C.C.W. would like to invite all the ladies of the parish to join us for an evening of feasting, fellowship and fun. It will be at the Christmas Potluck on Monday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m. in the school gym.

There will be a main courses and beverages. St. Rose asks the members or guests to bring a side dish or dessert of their choice.

There will be a \$15 gift exchange (with steals) for anyone who wishes to participate. There will also be games and Christmas bingo.

If you need a ride, please call Laura at (630) 302-2681 or Pat at (815) 476-6199 to make arrangements.

At the time of the delivery of the Boxes of Joy to the central delivery station on Nov. 10, St. Rose was leading all other deanery participants with 131 boxes in addition to monetary donations of \$197.00.

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

December 2nd & 3rd

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OBITUARIES

Dale Kane

WILMINGTON—Dale Kane, 80, a life-long resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.

Born in Joliet on April 12, 1942, he was the son of Donald and Frances (Weyant) Kane. As a boy, Dale had fond memories of time spent with his grandparents in Custer Park, hunting and fishing on the river. As a teenager, he worked part-time at Kahler's Gas Station on Route 66 while attending Wilmington High School, from where he graduated with the class of 1960. On Nov. 4, 1961, Dale married his high school sweetheart, Faye Klepk and they recently celebrated their 61st anniversary together still as best friends.

Dale began his working career following his father's footsteps at Argonne National Laboratory. He worked on the initial construction of the Accelerator Ring before joining Local 174 Carpenters Union. It was then that Dale returned to the rivers working on barge piers, river shorelines and the Lock & Dam Systems for John D. Simpson Construction Co. He eventually retired from Brieser Construction in 2000.

Known for his smile, quick wit and sense of humor, people loved to be around him. Throughout the years he enjoyed camping, motorcycles, snowmobiling and riding horses with his family and friends. After retirement, he spent time with his family and on the farm, working on tractors and equipment while working hay fields with his youngest son, Aaron.



Dale was the beloved husband of his wife, Faye; loved and cherished father of Duane (Debbie) Kane, Rich (Lisa) Kane, Missy Kane and Aaron (Amanda) Kane.; proud grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of six; brother of Dean Kane and brother-in-law of Sippi Shell.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Dick Kane and his sister, Donna Shell.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Dale's wishes.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 from 3 p.m. until time of memorial talk at 5:30 p.m. Those wishing to participate in the memorial talk virtually online are welcome to join the live stream or watch at a later time on-demand by following the link available on Dale's memorial page.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Intensive Care Unit and their outstanding staff at Riverside Hospital.

Family and friends are encourage to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dale's memorial page through social media.

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

Wilma L. Ingalsbe

COAL CITY—Wilma L. Ingalsbe, 97, of Coal City, and formerly of Danville, IL passed away peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022 at Heritage Health of Dwight.

Born in Clay County, IA, Wilma Lucille was a daughter of Clyde Earl and Mildred Dora (Rhodes) Smith. She was raised in Minnesota until moving with her family to the Danville, IL area during her early grade school years.

On Feb. 25, 1945, Wilma married Harvey Alfred Ingalsbe in Danville and together they made a home and raised their family. She worked as a book binder for various publishing companies in Danville, as well as Champaign, and was a former member of Old Union Church of Christ in Danville. Following the death of her husband, Wilma spent many years living in Peoria, Arizona and most recently Buckeye, AZ before returning back to Illinois.

She was currently a member of First Christian Church in Wilmington, and will be remembered as a woman of strong faith. One of Wilma's most cherished pastimes was reading the Bible, and she loved to sing. She knew hundreds of hymns and played the piano for enjoyment. Wilma was known for her sugar cookies and homemade rolls, and was an exceptional storyteller who captivated the attention of her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Gone from our sight, Wilma leaves behind a legacy of positivity, an unforgettable smile, and priceless memories with those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra (Earl) Durbin, of Coal City; daughter-in-law, Gloria Ingalsbe, of Buckeye, AZ; three grandchildren: Nathan (Rachel) Durbin, of Lake in the Hills, IL and Kim (Brad) Reilly and



Shannon (Jason) Biddle, both of Arizona; 11 great-grandchildren: Matthew, Andrew, Grace, Samuel, Eleanor, Erin, John, Calyne, Luke, Abby and Nala; two sisters-in-law, Joan Smith, of Pennsylvania and Ella Bales, of Arkansas and numerous nieces and nephews.

Wilma was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Harvey A. Ingalsbe on Sept. 6, 1983; son, Harvey Duane Ingalsbe and five siblings.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022 between the hours of 3 and 7: p.m. Funeral services will follow on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the funeral home with Pastor Jason Pace from First Christian Church of Wilmington officiating.

Burial will be in Sunset Memorial Park in Danville, IL, where Wilma will be laid to rest with her late husband. Those wishing to attend are welcome to assemble at the cemetery chapel on Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. for committal services officiated by Pastor Greg Boldt.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Wilma's memory to First Christian Church, 1824 Church St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guestbook, upload photographs and share Wilma's memorial page online through social media.

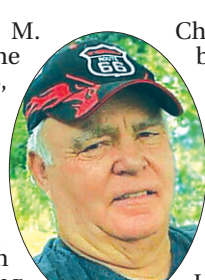
Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Marvin M. Manegold

WILMINGTON—Marvin M. Manegold, 81, of Wilmington, went home to be with Jesus on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022. He had been surrounded by family and was in the presence of his loving wife at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Oct. 27, 1941 in Joliet, Marvin was a son of John William Sr. and Edna (Wren) Manegold. He was raised in Carbon Hill and spent his career working for the railroad. Marvin retired in 2002 from Norfolk Southern, following 36 years of service. He was a man of unwavering faith, which only grew stronger throughout the years. He was a member of Harvest Worship Center Church in Wilmington, and in his free time enjoyed nearly anything related to horses or trains. Marvin had a great sense of humor, and beyond his tough reputation proved to be a selfless individual who would give anything to anyone. Gone from our sight, Marvin leaves behind a wonderful example of peace, love and salvation.

Survivors include his wife, Marcia (nee Carr), who he married June 25, 1988; daughter, Cindy Steinhaus, of Arkansas; one son, Marvin M. Manegold Jr. of Alabama; grandchildren: Cheryl (Tony) Blowers, Christina (Ryan) Johnson, Marvin M. (Rachel) Valentine, Stephanie (Ryne) Eickmeyer, Nikki Nichols and Tim (Alexa) Steinhaus; many great-grandchildren; his sister, Barbara (the late Gill) Billings, of Florida; father-in-law and mother-in-law,



Charles and Angie Carr, of Wilmington; brother-in-law, Don (Yolanda) Carr, of Arizona; numerous nieces and nephews, including his special nephew, David (Dana) Manegold, and his special companion, Tiki.

Marvin was preceded in death by his parents, son, James Manegold; brother, John Manegold Jr.; two sisters, Elizabeth Ann Ashton and Debbie Hastings, and three nephews: Joseph Vargas, Walter Nonanburg and Richard Carr.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Pastor Sam Carr from Harvest Worship Center officiated.

Burial was in Oakwood Sunset Cemetery in Wilmington. Pallbearers were: Marvin M. Valentine, Trenton Valentine, Tony Blowers, David Manegold, Kendall Lamb and Rick Lonergan.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Marvin's memory to his family for their distribution.

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

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

John T. Cavanaugh

WILMINGTON—John T. Cavanaugh, age 84 of Wilmington, IL., passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family, on Wednesday morning, November 23, 2022.

John T. was born on May 5, 1938, the firstborn of Dan E. and Mary A. (nee McGrath) Cavanaugh on the family farm. He grew up in rural Wilmington, helping his father farm and later as a farm hand to local farmers. Shortly after marrying Shirley on November 21, 1959 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington, he gained employment with Caterpillar in Joliet to ensure a more reliable income and better benefits for his family. Early in his Cat career, there was a significant steel industry strike causing Cat to shut down. As his firstborn was on the way, John went to work as a laborer with the Ray J. Benoit Construction Company of Kankakee, later transitioning into a carpenter. Once the strike was resolved he returned to Cat, retiring after 35 years of service. Cat wasn't ready to let him go however and convinced him to return as a contractor several times over the next few years to assist with special projects at Joliet, South Carolina and Italy, with Shirley accompanying him to Italy for a couple of weeks. He maintained his membership in the Carpenters union allowing him to go back to construction work to support his family during the annual Cat summer shutdowns and strikes at Cat in the 60's and 70's.

A natural handy man coupled with his construction experience, John built the family home himself 57 years ago to accommodate his growing family. He continued to hone his building skills assisting his special brother in law and constant "partner in crime" Don Cuning, with weekend side jobs, the two were like brothers. Later, as Don got busier with his fulltime business endeavors, John, would bring his eldest son Kelly into the "side business" taking on a near constant stream of remodeling/light construction jobs to supplement his income and pass on his knowledge. He would often go straight to the side job from Caterpillar, his wife Shirley would bring a hot homemade supper and Kelly to the job, they would eat and work until time to go home to bed. His workmanship was of the highest quality and his pricing fair, personal recommendations and word of mouth from satisfied customers kept him as busy as he could be.

While he worked many hours, he always made time for his family which had grown to 4 children, never missing one of their events. He and Shirley purchased the first of many campers to facilitate an annual family vacation every year, they literally travelled the country, 2 weeks at a time every summer. The campers evolved from a used "pop-up" to a tandem axle travel trailer and finally a motorhome, which was in near constant use through the summer at the local recreation clubs. He was a devoted father and doting grandpa and "papa" to his grandkids.

John also felt the obligation to serve his community as well as his family, he assisted with Little League, became the Official Scorer "keeping the book" for the Custer Park Grade School basketball games. This led to his 25 plus years of service on the local School Boards, starting on the Custer Park Elementary School Board he assisted in the formation of the Reed Custer Unit School District and went on to serve on that Board, many years as Secretary. He joined to Custer Park Volunteer Fire Department, became a member of the Board of Directors guiding the planning for and hands on assistance building the current Fire Station. When the Custer Township Fire Protection District needed a new Trustee, John retired from active firefighting and his position on the Fire Department Board and served as a trustee for

the Fire Protection District. Upon his retirement from the Fire Protection District, he was recruited to be on the newly formed Custer Township Planning Commission. He served his church, St. Rose of Wilmington as an usher for 30 years and even came out of retirement to work as a volunteer laborer on the addition to the St. Rose School, becoming the official "mortar mixer" for Dave Rampa's bricklaying crew. On that job he suffered a failure, the crew asked him to make coffee, after one taste Dave advised him to "stick to mixing mud".

He was a charter member of the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge #241 of Wilmington. While he wasn't as active in the Moose as he was in some of his other endeavors he promoted and supported its charitable work for life, bringing his 2 sons and 1 grandson into the fraternal organization.

In 2002 the residents of Custer recognized John's years of community service in multiple roles by naming him; Grand Marshal of the annual Memorial Day Parade in Custer Park. He and Shirley were honored to be so recognized and led the parade with pride.

He kept busy during retirement maintaining the 2-acre rural homestead, mowing the yard and maintaining his "fleet" of lawn tractors. Shirley always had a home improvement project in mind, and he helped/directed the construction of homes for 2 of his children. When his 2 youngest grandsons received a couple of chicks for Easter, it resulted in "Papa John's chicken farm", with a flock in excess of 20. The old farm boy was back to his roots tending the chickens rain or shine year-round, collecting the eggs to be given to family & friends. A raccoon wiped out the flock while he was assisting in the construction of a cabin in Missouri. Upon his return and after verifying that the offending critter had succumbed to a terminal case of lead poisoning, he finally retired from farming, content to just keep the yard in good shape at home.

There was no such thing as a stranger to John, he loved to visit and make friends wherever he went. The Cavanaugh home was the location of numerous parties when Kelly was still at home, Mr. C was right in there "one of the boys" enjoying a beer and comradery with his "younger buddies".

He is survived by his wife of 63 years and 1 day, Shirley Cavanaugh; his children, Kimberly Cavanaugh of San Antonio, TX, Kari Cavanaugh of Braidwood, John "Kelly" Cavanaugh of Custer Park and Chris (Tonya) Cavanaugh of Braidwood; his eight grandchildren, Angela (Brian) Julian, Amy (Wayne) Howard, Kristin (Ryan) Doherty, Melissa Gillis, Luke Borth, Jake Borth, Ryan Cavanaugh (Aliyah Reyes) and Bret John Cavanaugh; his six great-grandchildren, Elijah, Kylie, Logan, Jayla, Aidan and Jackson; his sister, Mary (the late Jack) Schott of Kankakee; his brothers, Francis (Joanne) Cavanaugh of Braidwood, Bill (Kax) Cavanaugh of Kankakee and Ray (Kay) Cavanaugh of Ord Valley, AZ; special brother-in-law, Don Cunningham of Sebring, FL; special cousin, Dick Lehman and special friends, Jim and Carol Shenk of Wilmington.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Dan and Mary Cavanaugh; his sister, Kathleen Gatlin and his niece, Marney Cavanaugh Wyatt.

Memorials may be directed to the Ronald McDonald House Charity.

Burial in the family plot at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com



Michael E. Parcell



DIAMOND—Michael E. Parcell, 75, of Diamond, and formerly of Lincoln Lake, Morris, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022 at Heritage Health of Dwight.

Born Dec. 20, 1946 in Mishawaka, IN, Michael Edward was a son of Richard Dean and Edna Bunch (Lavine) Parcell. He was raised and educated in Mishawaka; graduated from Penn High School and went on to attend Purdue University. Mike honorably served in the United States Navy during the Vietnam Era from Feb., 3, 1970 until April 1, 1977.

On Aug. 28, 1970, Mike married Kathy Marie Durkee in Winona Lake, IN and he went on to make his career with ComEd, where he retired as a Nuclear Operator from the Dresden Station.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy; daughter, Jennifer Parcell-Ealey; grandsons, Anthony Baudino and Alex Baudino; siblings: Barbara Manges, Norma Fitzmaurice and James Parcell;

sisters-in-law, Kay Shorb and Kris Durkee and brother-in-law, Mark Durkee.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial visitation is being planned for 2023.

Mike will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mike's memorial page online through social media.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Mike's memory to Lightways Hospice, 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or to the Heritage Health Activities Department, 300 E. Mazon Ave., Dwight, IL 60420.

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



Edna Riggs

BRAIDWOOD—Edna Marie Riggs, 67, of Braidwood, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born March 16, 1955 in Joliet, Edna Marie was a daughter of Angelo and Hazel (Boswell) Cassineri. She was raised and educated in Joliet, and her employment entailed working in various capacities at the nursing home in Wilmington; managing the Minuteman in Wilmington, and most recently managing the Casey's in Braidwood and Diamond.

Family was everything to Edna. Nothing meant more than her title of "G-Ma," and she truly cherished her grandchildren. Edna, in years past, enjoyed drag racing with her former husband, Bud, and contrary to the fast pace of racing, she took pleasure in any or all of the Hallmark or Lifetime movies she could watch.

Survivors include her three children: Stacey (Anthony) Slush, of Seymour, TN; Sharie Riggs (Patrick Dettman), of Braidwood and Buddy (Jennifer) Riggs, of Mazon; She was "G-Ma" to 11: A.J. (Erica) Slush, DeAnna Riggs, Brandon Slush, Marrisla Slush, Philip (Ramona) Riggs, Alexis Riggs, Kylee Lindner, Alex Smith, Brendan Smith, Kaylin Smith and Scott Smith, as well as

Aubree Mathena and Georgie Bell, who were her bonus grandkids; three great-grandchildren: Hunter, Grayson and Briella; her grandpups, Talon and Bailey; one sister, Angie Cassineri, of Friendsville, TN and numerous nieces and nephews.

Edna was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, Joseph Cassineri and her former husband and the father of her children: Harold P. "Bud" Riggs Jr.

Funeral services were held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2022. Rev. Dr. Roy Backus officiated.

Cremation rites were accorded following the services.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Edna's memory to her family for their distribution.

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

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



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OBITUARIES

JoAnn Friddle

TULLAHOMA, TN—JoAnn Friddle, 83, of Tullahoma, TN, and formerly of Wilmington, passed away Friday, Oct. 21, 2022.

Born March 8, 1939 in Duluth, MN, JoAnn was a daughter of Joseph Charles and Donna Margaret (Robert) Nacey. She was raised in the Morgan Park area of Duluth until moving to live with her grandparents in St. Paul when her father went away to serve in WWII. Upon her father's return from war, the family relocated to Wilmington, where she attended the local schools and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1957.

In that same year, on Nov. 16, 1957, JoAnn married Donald Friddle in St. Rose Catholic Church, and together they made a home and family. She initially worked for the Joliet Arsenal before staying home to raise her family. JoAnn did obtain her Illinois Beauticians License and worked alongside her mother and sister, Jinnie. She later relocated with Don to Florida where she acquired her Florida Real Estate License, which she utilized until retiring to become a full time grandma.

JoAnn was an accomplished seamstress and enjoyed quilting. In her earlier years, she worked with horses, and even showed them on the state level. She was a great cook and baker; had a love of camping and took great pleasure working in her flower gardens, tending to her roses.

When reflecting on the life of JoAnn Friddle, it is easy to see that her focus was never on material things, rather, it was on creating meaningful relationships and experiences with those she loved. She gave everything she did her all, and she was someone who knew what she wanted and made sure others did as well. A more devoted wife and mother would be hard to find, and JoAnn's heart only grew more full when grandchildren came into her world. Life will never be the same without her here, but she leaves behind a timeless legacy that her loved ones will proudly carry on in her footsteps.

Survivors include her loving husband, Don;



four children: Lori (Mark) Osborne, of Tullahoma; Donna (Dave) Cervantes, of Wilmington; Don Jr. (Tracy) Friddle, of Bells, TN and Sheila (Bryan) Long, of Tullahoma; grandchildren: Garrett (Ali) Osborne, of West Virginia; Rachel Osborne, of Tennessee; Erin (Dan) Olsen, of Wilmington; Drew Chitwood, of Elwood; Courtney (Jacob) VanDiver, of Canada; Emily (Mirza) Alag and Olivia Friddle, both of Tennessee; Leah Friddle (fiancé Jake Murphy), of Texas; Anna Kate (Nolan) Vaughan, of Mississippi and Nathan Craig, Makayla Long and Tyler Long (fiancé Jacob Johnson), all of Tennessee; 15 great-grandchildren; brother, Paul (Rita) Nacey, of Braidwood; sister, Jinnie (Richard) Parrish, of Wilmington; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Melba "Sis" McCarville, of Wilmington; Chuck (Joyce) Friddle, of Englewood, FL; Kathy Friddle and Karen Friddle, both of Wilmington and Mary Hairald of Dwight and numerous nieces and nephews.

JoAnn was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Donna; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Melvin and Josephine Friddle; sister-in-law, Faye Hansen and brother-in-law, Dale Friddle.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and JoAnn is being laid to rest with her parents in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Dec. 3, 2022 between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m.

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

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

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

Grundy Bank coat drive a huge success

Grundy Bank kicked off its annual coat drive on October 17 with a successful turnout, collecting over 350 new and gently-used coats along with winter accessories to families in need in Grundy County and

Wilmington.

Coats were dispersed to We Care of Grundy County in Morris and Our Caring Closet in Wilmington.

"The Wilmington Branch of Grundy Bank was pleased to

participate in the Grundy Bank Coat Drive. We are proud to say we donated over 60 coats to Our Caring Closet to help keep our community warm this winter," said Stefany Mickelson, branch Manager & assistant BSA Officer of Grundy Bank.

Grundy Bank is thankful to all community members who donated and look forward to continuing this annual event for years to come. With this winter season quickly approaching this coat drive was perfect timing.

"We want to thank the community for all their donations at both our Wilmington and Morris branches. We are beyond grateful to have such great support for this cause and couldn't be more excited to have a partnership with We Care of Grundy County and Our Caring Closet in Wilmington," said Christine Mendez, Grundy Bank's Marketing and Sales Director.

Grundy Bank is a leading community bank in Grundy County that is dedicated to providing hometown service while offering big bank products to their clients. Grundy Bank is proud to say they have served Grundy County and southern Will County for over 155 years with their financial needs. For locations and information on Grundy Bank call 815-942-0130 or visit grundy.bank.



SPECIAL DELIVERY - Stefany Mickelson, branch Manager & assistant BSA Officer of Grundy Bank in Wilmington, drops off 60 winter coats at Our Caring Closet in Wilmington last week. Accepting the new and slightly used coats with lots of gratitude are Debbie LaVigne and Debbie Altiery from Our Caring Closet.



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Cookies with Santa Dec. 4

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 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.

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INSURANCE

Overturning Roe v. Wade changed outcome of recent election

The Illinois Senate Republicans' new leader John Curran told Capitol News Illinois the other day that there was nothing left to do on the abortion topic in Illinois.

"The reality is, what else can we do here in Illinois?" Sen. Curran said. "The laws of Illinois are more weighted towards guarantees of the rights to have an abortion than any other state in the nation. There's no further to go."

However, House Speaker Chris Welch strongly indicated recently that a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing reproductive rights was a very likely prospect.

"Right now, we're a single Legislature or a single Supreme Court away from losing [abortion] rights," Welch told KSDK TV.

Welch will soon have more members of his party than any Speaker since the state constitution was revised to reduce the chamber's membership by a third. He said there were a number of explanations for his caucus' expansion, but the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade was "monumental."

"It changed everything," Welch told me. "And the Republican Party, not just here in Illinois, but across the country, is wrong on those issues. They're just wrong. Until they get it right on those issues, I think they're gonna create opportunity for us to continue to expand."

Welch said he's never seen Democratic numbers like this before, calling the onetime Republican bastion of DuPage County, "BluePage." The county, he said, is "one of those areas where our message resonates more than the Republican Party," and predicted the GOP would continue

losing ground if they don't change. Most every pre-election poll claimed that voters ranked abortion low on their priority lists. Yet, the abortion issue seemed to drive voters to the polls this year. What happened?

Senate President Don Harmon told me it been a couple of things.

"Across the country, Democrats did about three points better than they were polling. And I think it's in part because of the way voters responded to [the repeal of Roe v. Wade]. This is the first time in a long time a long-held right has been taken away in such dramatic fashion. I think that did motivate voters, but not necessarily the voters we were calling because they weren't part of the turnout model. So I think when we unpack this, I think you're going to see some voters, younger voters, younger women in particular, but not just women, who said, 'I'm not giving up my rights that easily and I'm going to go vote.'"

"And I also suspect, and would love to prove it with the analysis of the numbers, something we saw anecdotally going door to door, that women who would traditionally be considered Republican women weren't thinking about voting Republican because of that issue. And they might have been lying to their husbands, they might have been lying to the pollsters, but they weren't lying once they got inside the voting booth."

To sum up, Harmon said, "I think voters we didn't think

were going to turn out, turned out. And I think that voters who would traditionally vote for Republican candidates turned out and said 'I've had enough of this nonsense. I'm going to vote for a Democrat, or I'm certainly not going to vote for the crazy Republicans' and skipped a race."

The newly chosen leader of the powerful and successful pro-choice group Personal PAC told me she would "absolutely" work with legislative Republicans to recruit pro-choice candidates.

However, Sarah Garza Resnick told me it was "too early to tell," when asked if she expected the Republicans to work with her. "But I think that any smart political strategist would need to read the tea leaves of what is going on and what the voters are sending a very clear message on. And if you want to stay relevant and get the other important issues that you care about discussed, then I think it would make sense to recruit and run pro-choice Republicans."

Garza Resnick stressed that she hasn't yet had a chance to talk with all other stakeholders about a possible constitutional amendment.

Even so, she said, "If you look at what happened in Kansas, and if you look at what happened where [abortion] was on the ballot in five states ... on November 8, the people of this country overwhelmingly want choice to be protected and codified and they don't want it to be dismantled."

So, considering all that, "codifying on the constitutional level would make sense," Garza Resnick said.

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



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Rich Miller

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Illinois lawmakers return this week amid calls for changes in the SAFE-T Act

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois lawmakers return to Springfield this week as state's attorneys and law enforcement officials await changes to the SAFE-T Act.

The controversial justice reform package eliminates cash bail on Jan. 1, making Illinois the first state to do so.

The legislation has been criticized by many, including dozens of state's attorneys around Illinois who have filed lawsuits to have the SAFE-T Act thrown out.

Before the election, Democrats promised to take up the legislation during fall veto session, but have vowed not to make major changes to the bill.

"Our opponents tried to use misinformation and fearmongering to scare voters, but the reality is that people from around Illinois understand the inequity and arbitrariness of weighing on wealth instead of evidence when deciding to lock people up pretrial," state Sen. Robert Peters, D-Chicago, said at a rally outside the state capitol.

Not only have state's attorneys and law enforcement officials spoken out against the

SAFE-T Act, but mayors and county boards have gone on record blasting the legislation. Tinley Park Mayor Michael Glotz said the legislation sets a dangerous precedent for public safety.

"It's real and it's coming," Glotz said during a recent news conference. "The name of this act is an absolute joke, because the only people it keeps safe are the multitudes of criminals it protects."

The consolidated lawsuit against the SAFE-T Act, which was combined from 58 separate lawsuits filed around the state, will be heard in Kankakee County with opening arguments scheduled for Dec. 7.

The lawsuits allege the state legislature violated the state's constitution in the manner the act was presented and approved. State's attorneys are asking the court to declare the act unconstitutional.

Bond County State's Attorney Dora Mann said in a statement "the implementation of the SAFE-T Act, as currently enacted, will have a detrimental and immediate impact on our ability to ensure public safety."

A ruling on the lawsuits could come as early as Dec. 15.

Extra patrols resulting in fewer shootings

During the holiday weekend, the Illinois State Police (ISP) increased patrols on Chicago area expressways to

deter criminal activity.

Last year during the holiday weekend, there were nine shootings, including two homicides, on Chicagoland expressways: six the day after Thanksgiving, another that Saturday, and two more on

Sunday.

Expressway shootings are down more than 40% and homicides more than 80% compared to this time last year thanks to extra patrols, automated license plate readers and air support.

Man pleads guilty to illegally importing live catfish into Will County

An Indiana man has pleaded guilty to importing more than 2,600 pounds of live channel catfish into Illinois without a permit from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the agency announced.

Importing fish or other animals without permission poses a risk to the state's native wildlife populations.

Michael Sullivan of Griffith, Indiana, entered a negotiated guilty plea to one count of importing live fish without a permit. The case was filed in Will County, following an investigation by the Illinois Conservation Police Invasive Species Unit. The Illinois Attorney General's Office and the Will County state's attorney prosecuted the case.

Investigators determined Sullivan imported the fish into a Plainfield lake during three separate occasions in 2021. The fish were purchased in Mississippi and Alabama.

IDNR staff reviews and provides free importation permits to importers with tested and disease-free fish. Channel

catfish are one species that is susceptible to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), which can decimate fish populations.

"While VHS has been found in the Great Lakes, currently we have not detected this disease outside of Lake Michigan in Illinois," said Kevin Irons, assistant chief of fisheries at IDNR.

Most people within the fish transportation industry comply with IDNR regulations, said Conservation Police Officer Brandon Fehrenbacher, who works in the Invasive Species Unit.

"Importing and stocking untested fish significantly increases the risks to our resources and undercuts others within the industry abiding by the law," he said.

Sullivan received 24 months court supervision and \$227 in fines and court fees. He was ordered to perform 30 hours of community service and pay \$10,500 in restitution to the IDNR Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund.



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Concerns on the shortage of batteries

Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that a shortage of batteries is slowing down the development of solar and wind power here in the U.S.? If so, what are we doing to ramp up battery production if anything?

-- J. Wilson, Chicago, IL

As the climate crisis worsens and public outcry can no longer be ignored, policymakers are tasked with ramping up the production of renewable energy. The Biden Administration has announced its desire to decarbonize the grid by 2035.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), United States electricity production emits 25 percent of total greenhouse gas pollution, just behind transportation at 27 percent of the country's emissions.

Renewable alternatives are starting to garner more support for both electricity

production and manufacturing of zero-emission electric vehicles. With these potential solutions to the climate crisis, a new problem arises: Both rely on lithium batteries to store energy.

For the renewable energy industry to grow and ultimately take prominence, energy storage will be a critical piece to the puzzle.

As critics point out, without an effective method to store energy, renewables like solar and wind are only good when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. The most common way that energy is stored now is through the use of lithium batteries.



Fluence, a global leader in energy storage technology, says that the cost of a lithium battery has begun to soar up to 20 percent higher than last year. This cost increase can be attributed to the increased price of the lithium and nickel needed to make the batteries, as well as bottlenecks in transport and labor.

Renewable energy projects are also reporting difficulties procuring lithium and nickel due to having to compete against the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers.

EV companies have proven to be a formidable competitor in the market due to their consistency and predictable ordering patterns which make them a favorite for battery manufacturers to work with.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is left to piece together a solution other than lithium batteries to achieve their lofty goals. One route they may take to avoid competition with EV producers is to use an alternative method of energy storage altogether.

A Finnish company, Polar Night Energy, has developed a sand "battery" that is able to store heat in sand tanks up to 500 degrees Celsius, allowing that heat energy to be used later on.

This is not to say that the future of American energy is sand, however it is a valuable example of how investing in innovative ideas can pay off in the form of creative solutions for the nation.

While we wait for the next



LIMITED BATTERY storage capacity remains a bottleneck to the widespread application of solar and wind power.

big innovations, the DOE has identified a need for the U.S. to develop a domestic supply chain for energy storage and aims to put an emphasis on recycling lithium batteries.

Presently only five percent of lithium batteries are being recycled globally; if the DOE is able to mandate battery recycling, then they hope that will bolster the domestic supply of lithium batteries while putting less stress on harvesting raw materials which will in turn bring the prices down.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earth-talk.org.

Will County increases focus on attracting green industries

One of the first counties in Illinois to permit battery energy storage

WILL COUNTY – Will County leaders are calling attention to an increased focus on attracting green industries to the local economy. This follows several coordinated initiatives to attract the clean energy industry to Will County, including energy storage and transportation.

"We recognize that green jobs are the future," said County Executive Bertino-Tarrant. "Will County elected leaders and local stakeholders have been working hard over the last few years to attract industries to our communities. We're positioning the county for a clean energy revolution that will significantly boost our economy."

The Will County Board recently voted to allow for battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas,



Photo provided by the Clean Grid Alliance

WILL COUNTY now allows battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas, which store energy produced by renewable energy sources to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power.

empowering a growing clean energy industry to grow in Will County. Battery energy storage facilities store energy produced by renewable energy sources during periods of low-cost or over-production, to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power.

This zoning amendment makes Will County one of the

first local governments in Illinois to allow for these facilities. The amendment to the zoning ordinance classifies battery energy storage facilities as minor utilities that are permitted in industrially zoned areas.

"This simple change in zoning helps keep Will County at the cutting edge of the clean energy industry," said Will County Board Land Use and Development Committee Chair Tyler Marcum. "I'm excited to see more and more energy companies opening their doors or moving to Will County in the near future."

Companies specializing in energy storage are projected to grow following the 2021 State of Illinois Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, which calls for the state to move towards 100% clean energy by the year 2050. The State of Illinois has also initiated a Coal-to-Solar Energy Storage Grants Program to provide incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants.

The County has also recently initiated an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan to build upon state and regional initiatives to create transition plan to zero emission vehicles. The plan aims to identify locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and to support the increased demand for electric personal, commercial, and freight vehicles.

The plan will identify a strategy to address barriers for electric vehicle ownership, including for residents and communities with lower incomes, lower levels of home ownership, and gaps in charging infrastructure.

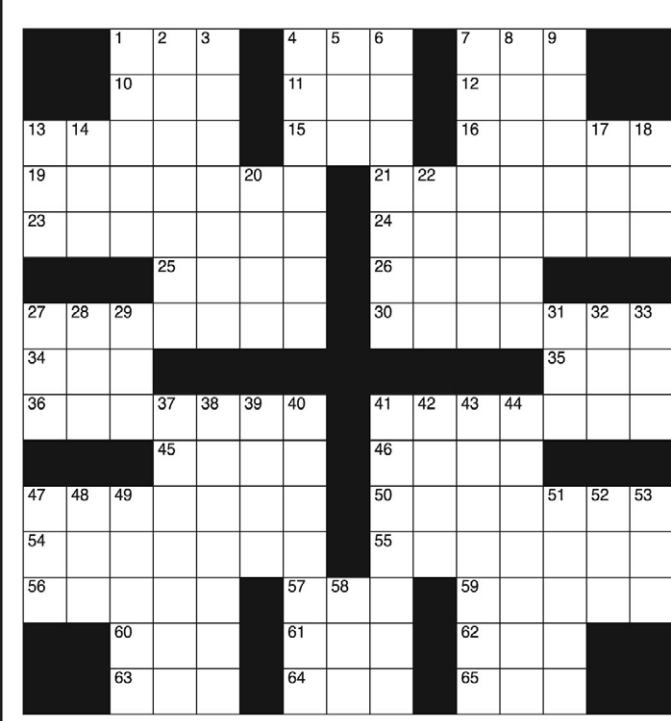
"The Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan is a significant step to ensure that Will

County's infrastructure is prepared for the green economy," said Will County Board Public Works and Transportation Chair Joe VanDuyne. "Our coordinated efforts are creating forward-thinking opportunities to bring new jobs to Will County and prepare us for a more energy-efficient future."

These initiatives coincide with an increased effort by the Will County Center for Economic Development (CED) to attract green industries to Will County. The CED has noted recent successes, including the growth of energy efficient production companies opening their doors in Will County. Both Lion Electric in Joliet and Hyzon Motors in Bolingbrook are projected to bring nearly 1,500 jobs to the region.

"Green energy is a strong, growing cluster in Will County that supports future economic growth," said Doug Pryor, President and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. "Our talented workforce and robust education system create a base of skilled labor that will allow these businesses to thrive. Companies like Lion Electric and Hyzon Motors provide a great foundation that will attract more companies in related sectors looking to invest in the region."

The CED has also spotlighted the growing interest of energy companies in Will County communities. This includes the state-of-the-art G&W microgrid project in Bolingbrook that utilizes automated power generation and storage. Will County is also home to two of the largest rooftop solar arrays in the Midwest, the Magid array in Romeoville and the IKEA array in Joliet.



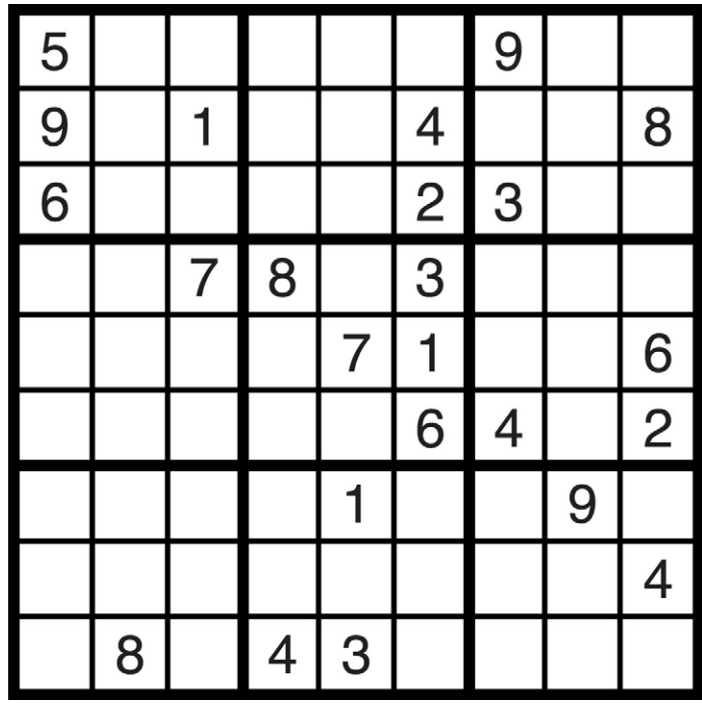
CLUES ACROSS

- Single Lens Reflex
- People of southern Benin
- One who is learned (abbr.)
- Neckwear
- Solid water
- A way to work the soil
- Inspiring
- Pick up
- It wakes you up
- Parcel
- Popular dog breed
- Lets out a sigh
- Embedded into the surface
- Hard liquors
- One from Scotland
- Satisfy
- Used to introduce a contrasting statement
- Antidepressant drug type (abbr.)

- Similar
- Winged horse
- Soft drink maker
- One who doesn't live up to expectations
- Nursemaid
- Inheritor
- Hot, often dusty wind
- Serves as an introduction
- Earned top billing
- Mansion
- A partner to a carrot
- War-horse
- Midway between northeast and east
- It checks the heartbeat
- Aquatic salamander
- CNN's founder

CLUES DOWN

- Pinochle trick
- A system of connections
- Emblems of royalty
- Work with a soft hand
- Plant cultivated in Peru
- A timid man
- Lacking intellectual depth
- A way to order
- Intoxicating
- Mimic
- Surfers use it
- Small Eurasian deer
- Popular Miller beer
- Finds out about
- Unusual
- Small European viper
- Useful keyboard key
- Letter of the Greek alphabet
- Edible mollusk
- Stitched up
- Utilized
- ___ in tradition
- A way to get through
- Let off
- Fashionable source of shade
- In due time
- Printing speed
- A major division of geological time
- Nocturnal, cat-like mammal
- ___ de la ___
- After B
- ___



Mountain lion removed from residential area, transported to rescue center

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), after several days of tracking and observing a mountain lion on the west side of Springfield, made the decision to tranquilize the animal and transport it to a sanctuary specializing in the care of large felines earlier this month.

Wildlife experts and public safety officials from IDNR, the Illinois Conservation Police, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDA WS), and the Springfield Police Department determined that the mountain lion, or cougar, that had strayed into residential and business areas of Springfield posed an imminent threat to residents and property and therefore needed to be removed.

The animal, which is wearing a GPS collar and has made its way to Illinois from Nebraska, was detected by satellite in western Springfield. IDNR officials conferred with their counterparts at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, who declined an offer to send the mountain lion back to their state.

USDA WS staff tranquilized the mountain lion and transported it to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, a 260-acre feline sanctuary in Center Point, Indiana, that provides homes and veterinary care for large and exotic cats.

"Thank you to our hard-working wildlife staff and con-

servation police and our partners across federal, state, and local agencies for handling this difficult situation with the professionalism and care that this beautiful wild animal and concerned residents deserve," said IDNR Director Colleen Callahan. "I am confident that the mountain lion will be protected and cared for at its new home."

IDNR had notified residents living west of Veterans Parkway in Springfield that the mountain lion was detected on the western edge of the city and was being tracked by researchers.

The cougar is a young male that has been moving through central Illinois the past couple weeks. It was captured and fitted with a GPS collar by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in November 2021 as part of an ongoing research project. IDNR continues to cooperate with biologists and researchers in Nebraska. It previously was detected in McDonough and Cass counties.

Although classified as an animal of "least concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature on their Red List of Threatened Species, mountain lions are protected in Illinois, and it is unlawful to harm, harass or kill them unless they pose an imminent threat to a person or property, which rarely occurs. While cougars can travel great distances, they tend to avoid conflict with humans.

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Wildcats looking to 'carve their own path' under Krop

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

With a program that has won just 56 games in the last nine seasons, the Wilmington basketball team is looking to make their mark this season with a goal of finishing above .500 under first-year coach Doug Krop.

The Wildcats last reached that feat in 2010. "Since being 10-16 last year I feel that being .500 or better is a reasonable goal," said Krop.

"We lost one of our main contributors from last year (Tysen Meents) so we have the majority of our kids back."

Krop spent the last four years as an assistant coach at Joliet Junior College where he learned daily organization and the process of becoming a good team.

"Being a good team doesn't happen overnight so patience is important."

He was drawn to Wilmington for many reasons and says it's a dream come true to be a small-town varsity basketball coach.

"Wilmington gave me that opportunity and I will always be thankful for that. Also, the opportunity to really grow the program."

"I think with the talent we have/coming up we can turn the program around from what it's been in the past. I heard that Wilmington was supportive of their sports and really



THE WILMINGTON VARSITY boys basketball team for the 2022-2023 season includes (from left, front) Joey Cortese, Darren Morris, Ryan Nelson, Ryder Meents and Cade McCubbin. Second row: Lucas Rink, Brysen Feil, manager Spencer Parrish, Kyle Farrell and Reid Juster. Third row: Assistant coach RJ Van Duyne, Danny Sanders and head coach Doug Krop.

cared about their community. That was huge for me. So far everyone has been great and supportive." His top returners are senior guard Ryder Meents (5-11, 180) who averaged 12.7 ppg, 3.4 rpg and 1.8

apg, junior guard/forward Reid Juster (6-2, 190) 11.7 ppg, 8.7 rpg and 2.4 apg along with junior guard Cade McCubbin (5-11, 175) who recorded 4.2 ppg, 3.6 rpg and 1.6 apg.

The top newcomers are all sophomores who saw limited varsity action last season in guard Kyle Farrell (5-10, 175), guard/forward Lucas Rink (6-0, 165) and forward Ryan Nelson (6-1, 185).

"I think the key for us this year is to try and get better every day. Being a young team we have to play harder and execute better than the other teams," said Krop.

"A lot of games are won and lost through effort and execution. We want practice to be harder than the games."

"This year I would love to get the program in the right direction. We are young with only one senior but I believe in our players that we should be competitive this season."

In looking at the Illinois Central Eight conference, Streator and Reed-Custer lead the way and Krop hopes to finish in the top half of the ICE.

The Wildcats will be tested right out of the gate as they host Manteno (2-2) Friday at 7 and then rival Coal City (1-3) Tuesday at 7.

"Our program motto now is 'Carving our own Path.' I think that the future of Wildcat basketball is bright and we can make our own mark on the program from what it has been like in the past."

A new season underway for Lady Wildcats



SKYLAR ROSSOW passes the ball for the Lady 'Cats during the season-opening game against Reed-Custer.



GOING TO SCORE a basket for Wilmington who helped its season last week is Lexi Liarmatis playing against Reed-Custer.



ALEXA CLARK passes the ball to another Lady Wildcat during Tuesday's game against Reed-Custer.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR WILMINGTON COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 209-U

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209-U for 2022 will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:15 P.M. at the Wilmington High School, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois 60481.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Matt Swick, Superintendent of Schools, 209U Wildcat Court, Wilmington, Illinois 60481. Phone: 815-926-1751.
- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$8,533,189.29.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$10,666,486.61. This represents a 25.00% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were \$2,448,331.23.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are \$2,447,350.00. This represents a .04% decrease over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were \$10,981,520.52. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are \$13,113,836.61. This represents a 19.42% increase over the previous year.

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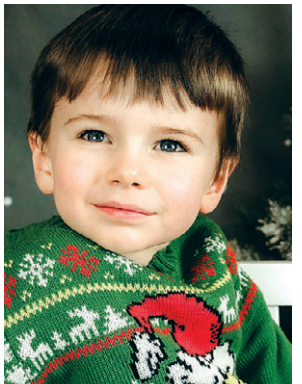
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