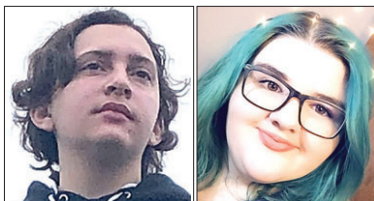
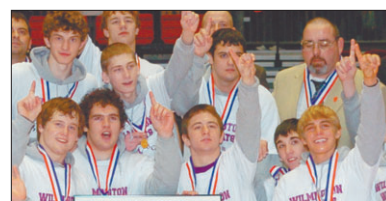


Meet the WHS Seniors of the Week



Wrestling dream team selections



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Elion Logistics Park set to add new warehouse

Logistics provider will occupy new building on Kavanaugh Road

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Elion Logistics Park at I-55 and Lorenzo Road is set for more growth.

The Wilmington planning and zoning commission held a special hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 24, regarding the proposed annexation and rezoning of properties into the industrial park. The property in question sits adjacent to the current border of the park, on the northwest corner of

Kavanaugh and Murphy Roads. The annexed property includes just under 47 acres of land, west of Kavanaugh Road and north of Murphy Road.

Elion is owned by Adar Ridgeport Industrial Partners.

Michael Stellino, the managing director with Elion Partners which serves as the developers of Adar Ridgeport, said the logistics park currently houses 6.4 million square feet of industrial buildings fully developed, with a 100% occupancy rate. The most recent project was an 810,900 square foot building that they were able to lease during the pandemic

"Since that time, we've been out on the market actively looking for additional tenants," Stellino told the

commission. "We were fortunate enough to sign a 500,000 square foot lease for a build-to-suit with a company called Dynamic 3PL. They're currently located in two facilities north of us, they're consolidating, growing into one facility, so they will be joining us in October of [2021]."

Dynamic 3PL is a warehouse-based logistics provider. The plan for the Dynamic 3PL site will be a phased construction, with a proposed build out from the original 500,000 square feet to an approximate 1.1 million square feet total.

"We are also in talks with other tenants that we are actively perusing to join us at Ridgeport and in Wilmington," Stellino said. "We're excited about that, we're excited about our neighbors and what they

have planned as well as continuing efforts with the department of transportation and others to continue to grow the project, as well as additional infrastructure to come to I-55 and adjacent properties."

The public hearing was held virtually over the teleconferencing website Zoom. While there were no public comments during the hearing, one comment was submitted prior to the meeting via email. City administrator Joie Ziller said the comment came from a resident who lives near the industrial park.

"She said she just wants to not be forgotten about," Ziller said. "She's still waiting on Elion to make her an offer on her home."

That resident, Stacey Johnstone, lives on Kavanaugh Road, south of

Murphy Road.

Stellino added that Elion Partners have been in contact with Johnstone as well as other remaining residents near the industrial park.

"For the record, we reached out to this homeowner in October 2019, made an offer, we revised that offer in December 2019... the homeowner did not respond. They ended up responding in May of 2020 with a significantly higher demand price. We've gone back and forth," he told the commission.

Per the development agreement with the city of Wilmington, Adar Ridgeport is required to make an offer to property owners within one half mile of development at 125% of the

SEE ELION, PAGE 2

Thanksgiving over Mother Nature



Photo by Joyce Readman

BLACK FRIDAY may have been hectic for some residents out shopping for holiday deals but at the Readman household in rural Wilmington it was peaceful and quiet as a pair of bald eagles roosted on a branch of a dead tree. Joyce and Larry Readman discovered the eagles perched outside the front their Kankakee River home on Friday morning, prompting Joyce to grab her camera. "We've seen bald eagles before and I've taken photos of them, but never have we seen a pair sitting so close together in that tree," Joyce commented. Larry said they marvel over watching the eagles, especially when one swooped down to the river and caught a fish. They expect the pair to be around a while as they tend to winter along the open water. "The older we get the more we appreciate what Mother Nature has to offer," Larry commented.

Governor: Thanksgiving likely to have a negative effect on COVID numbers

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

Tier 3 resurgence mitigations continue to stay in effect across the state.

On Monday, Gov. JB Pritzker said the state would evaluate any effects of the Thanksgiving holiday before making any changes regarding the current resurgence mitigations.

"I spoke to [National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director] Dr. [Anthony] Fauci to get his input about Illinois' situation," Pritzker said during a press conference with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) on Monday. "He said the massive number of indoor gatherings by people visiting family and friends across the nation will very likely bring a post-Thanksgiving surge, and he believes this is no time to pull back on mitigations."

The entire state of Illinois entered Tier 3 mitigations on Nov. 20.

Per those mitigations, bars and restaurants continue to be restricted from offering indoor service. Additional mitigations include capacity limits at grocery stores and pharmacies of 50%, funerals are

limited to 10 guests, and all other meetings/gatherings, including weddings and private parties, are prohibited.

Additionally, health and fitness centers, personal care services, malls, and retail stores outside of grocery stores or pharmacies are limited to 25% capacity.

Masks and social distancing remain mandatory in all public spaces.

When asked about enforcement of those mitigations that are supposed to close down indoor service at bars and restaurants, Pritzker said local officials should be stepping up.

"It isn't just up to state troopers to enforce the law. That's the job of states attorneys, that's the job of local law enforcement, that's the job of mayors and city councils and county executives and so on... and our departments of public health," Pritzker said. "So, we're asking everybody to do what's right, to follow the law."

Local departments in Wilmington and Braidwood have not been patrolling or enforcing for masks or indoor service at local bars and restaurants. But, Wilmington Police Chief Phil Arnold did

SEE COVID, PAGE 2

Wilmington fire district adding new engine to its fleet

BY MARNEY SIMON
EDITOR

The Wilmington Fire Protection District covers 104 square miles out of two fire houses.

The district is now in the process of adding a new engine to its fleet of vehicles.

Fire Chief Tim Zlomie oversees the district, which includes two full time chiefs, nine full time fire medics, one full time administrative assistant, six contract fire medics, and around 20 part-time fire medics.

Station 2, which opened up in August at the Elion Logistics Park at Lorenzo Road, the department is currently staffing eight firefighters plus the chiefs per day. The department includes three ambulances, one new purchase and another which was re-chassis'd this year. The third is slated for a new chassis next year.

This fall, the department put a bid out for a new engine.

"Probably roughly Thanksgiving or Christmas time [in 2021], we'll receive the new engine to add to the fleet," Zlomie said. "That new engine

will stay at Station 1, another one of our rigs will go out to station 2. Right now at Station 2 we have an engine and an ambulance, and in town we have an engine, a ladder truck, and a water hauler."

Department equipment also includes boats, an ATV, a brush truck, and other specialty units, all of which are housed at Station 1 near downtown Wilmington.

The new engine, plus the department's other apparatus, is both a need and an investment for the department.

"Unfortunately it is very expensive, because even our

ambulance, our latest new one by itself was about \$215,000," Zlomie explained. "Then, the cot, because now with back injuries and we're trying to do more with less people, so now we're sending two people on the ambulance, so they're all hydraulic and electric... That cot and the unit in the ambulance, that's \$52,000. Then our heart monitors, the EKGs, that machine alone is about \$32,000. So, with all that added up, before we even turned a wheel with a brand new ambulance, it's about \$300,000. It's crazy to think that, and we get about seven years out of them.

Then we have to re-chassis because of our amount of calls we have."

Zlomie is anticipating the cost of the new engine to come in around \$700,000, which is an average price for such a hefty piece of equipment.

The department will customize the vehicle for its needs.

"It's nothing fancy, it's just a normal fire truck," he said. "We basically spec it from ground up, and that's how they'll build it. Because our needs in Wilmington might be a little different from the needs in Braidwood or Coal

City. So, they're pretty brand-specific for what we need for our community."

Zlomie said each call out for the department represents about 15 miles round trip, and, thankfully, Wilmington is centrally located to hospitals in Joliet, Kankakee and Morris.

Meanwhile, the department spent some time on live fire training this fall, burning

SEE FIRE, PAGE 2



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Elion

property value as of 2010, plus 2% for each year after. Stellino said the Johnstone residence does not fall in that half mile zone, but said Adar Ridgeport would continue to try to work with local residents.

homeowners we made an offer, again, we actually made three offers," he told the commissioners. "We will continue to speak with this homeowner, we understand our obligation, and we will make sure that we continue to follow the guidelines of our agreement." As far as the annexation and rezoning before the City Council, the developers said these first approvals are part of the clerical work needed to clear the way for the construc-

tion to begin. "It's really quite simple, we have an annexation agreement with the city, and under that annexation agreement, we have certain obligations and the city has certain obligations... one of which is, when we acquire property that is adjacent to the current holdings that are within the city, we're required to come to [the city] because we have to submit a petition and have the property annexed into the

city," said attorney Benjamin Schuster, a partner with Elrod Friedman, LLP which represents Adar Ridgeport. "This is the zoning piece, so, we're just looking for the property to come into the city to match the zoning of the rest of Ridgeport." The zoning change will annex the property into the city and zone it as I-5 Large Scale Planned Industrial Zoning District.

Fire

vacant homes near Elion Logistics Park that were slated to be razed as part of the expansion of the park. "We can only teach our guys so much via the classroom and so much in simulation and even our training house," Zlomie said. "This gave us a lot of opportunity, because now we're literally lighting the structures on fire and our guys are actually going in, doing searches, extinguishing, doing their job in a live structure with real fire, real smoke." "Even though it's a controlled environment, they're still getting the heat, the smoke, and the training out there has been just unbelievable. We have a lot of young and newer members, and even our older members, since we're fortunate enough not to have a lot of fires in our community, which is good, they still get the training they need so when that time does come we're prepared and they know

what to expect." The department has been unable to work on specific public outreach programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "We've always tried to be out in our community," he said. "This year is so different because we're not at the Friday night football games like we normally are, and we're not going to have that open house, and we're not going to have that interaction like we wanted during fire prevention week with the schools and the younger kids in those grades, where we used to let them come out and look at the trucks and spray some water and get involved. So, that will be definitely something our guys miss going out doing, as well as those guys getting the interactions with the kids." But, Zlomie said, hopefully those events will begin to start back up in 2021. "We're going to try, hopefully things get somewhat normal by next spring and then we can have something then," he said. "We like to interact with the community as much as we can. This year has been tough."

Zlomie also noted that the community itself plays a hand in keeping the district safe. "Our community has been doing a great job," Zlomie said. "We haven't had, back in the day we would be running like crazy for brush fires and that because on windy days people were burning. And, even house fires. I don't want to jinx ourselves, but, we don't get a lot of them here in town. So, our community is, in my opinion, really safety conscious. We don't have a lot of crazy calls." Zlomie also encouraged the public to keep utilizing the department when they need, even for something that seems like less of an emergency, like needing help getting up. "We've never closed, obviously, with COVID-19. That's not an option with us," the chief noted, adding that all fire companies have rigorous polices for keeping their equipment clean and sanitized. "We just had to heighten our awareness to our employees, and reiterate what we were doing all the time," he said.

Covid

The governor also pushed personal responsibility when it comes to slowing the spread. "Part of it is, let's make sure we're taking care of our hospitals and our health-care workers so they can do the jobs that they need to do," Pritzker said. "Part of it is, we've got to get people to wear masks and remind everybody of the importance of it. And part of it is, we want to make sure we get the vaccine out as fast as we can, particularly to health care workers so that we can keep our hospitals going." As of Tuesday afternoon, the IDPH had announced 12,542 new cases of COVID-19 in Illinois and 125 additional deaths, including two in Will County, a male in his 50s and a female in her 70s. The test positivity seven-day rolling average in Will County as of Nov. 28 is 17.4%. Since the start of the pandemic, Will County has 49,092 positive cases, and 539 deaths. The total number of cases in the 60481 zip code, which includes Wilmington, Shadow Lakes, Symerton, and surrounding areas is 647. The total active cases in the city of Wilmington as of Tuesday afternoon is 109. In the 60408 zip code, which includes Braidwood, the total number of cases since March is 343.

note in November that the IDPH had been in the area, and has the authority when it comes to enforcement. Asked on Monday if he was considering a second stay-at-home order, Pritzker said the state isn't there just yet. "When we put the Tier 3 mitigations in place, it's short of a stay-at-home order, because we may be able to avoid a stay-at-home order," he said. "That's our goal, that's our hope, if everybody follows the mitigations and if we don't see as big a surge as is being discussed nationwide, we'll be able to avoid a stay-at-home order." Pritzker said should another stay-at-home order be implemented, it won't be an exact repeat of March. "A stay-at-home order is about the furthest that one could go. It wouldn't be exactly like the one in the spring if it did happen. But, it's not something right now that we think we're going to have to do. What we're worried about is, you see the hospitalization numbers. We're at a peak that we haven't seen before... If we got a surge like we've had over the last three to four weeks come on top of where we are now, that would be something that was extraordinarily worrisome for all of us."

Crew keeps WHS well-fed despite COVID pandemic

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Tina Brownlee, the person responsible for giving students at WHS their favorite foods like macaroni and cheese and mini corn dogs, has more to her job than most people know. In between working with the Will County Health department, organizing each month's menu, making around 1,500 entrees a day, among many other things, Brownlee and kitchen staff members have had to make adjustments to keep students and staff safe during the COVID 19 pandemic.



AIMEE MOORE wears a mask and stays socially distanced from others as she waits in the lunch line inside the WHS cafeteria.

At the high school, the two lunch lines have been combined into one to allow staff to hand out fruit and drinks, which is something students would normally do themselves. "We didn't want any cross contamination with one student on to the next student," Brownlee commented. Instead of crowding everyone into the cafetorium, this school year they are spread out

into the gym and cafetorium to allow remain socially distanced. Only two students are allowed to sit at each table during breakfast and lunch. Remote students are given the option of picking up meals from the school. "We have

approximately 12 students right now that participate on a regular basis," Brownlee commented. These students receive the same meals as in-person students. Preparing meals for in person and remote learners is

a big task. The kitchen staff makes around 1,500 entrees per day. Some meals take a lot more effort to make than others. Most students' favorite meal, macaroni and cheese, is one of the hardest meals to make. The kitchen staff spend lots of time over a period of two days, cooking 100 pounds of pasta and 70 gallons of cheese sauce. "It's just a lot of prep," said Brownlee. It takes lots of strength to stir and carry so much pasta. This year, all students are able to receive free lunch and breakfast. Brownlee said "from kindergarten through fifth grade, we see a very big group of kids that are eating and utilizing that program, so that's kind of nice." Even though the circumstances are different than normal, the Wilmington kitchen staff puts so much effort into making lunch as normal as possible for the students in Wilmington schools. And they're doing a terrific job.

IDPH to conduct COVID testing in Coal City

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), in conjunction with the Grundy County Health Department, will host a COVID-19 mobile testing site on Sunday, Dec. 6 in the parking lot of Coal City High School, 655 W. Division St., Coal City. The site will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or while testing supplies last. IDPH is also conducting testing this week in Joliet and Kankakee. Testing is available weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mission Boulevard Soccer Complex, 640 Mission Blvd, Joliet. A mobile site will be available at the Kankakee County Health Department, 2390 W. Station St., Kankakee, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3.

Letters for Santa to be answered

Letters to Santa that are dropped in the North Pole Post on the Chamber of Commerce Santa House will receive a response from the jolly old elf himself. The Santa House will be located on the North Island Park as part of the Wilmington

Lions' Christmas walk. Letters must include a return address. Only one response per child will be sent. Letters to Santa can also be emailed to santaclaus60481@gmail.com - Santa's response will come by email.

Join in our mission to help others in Wilmington

To Free Press readers, This year has no doubt brought tremendous challenges to you and your family. These unforeseen challenges have affected us all.

While we continue to struggle for a sense of normalcy in our lives, that struggle can be especially difficult for the families that were barely getting by prior to the COVID-

19 pandemic. As the Christian Help Association continues to navigate these challenges, our mission continues and remains our focus. The struggling fami-

lies of Wilmington need a bright spot this season. Some of our normal fundraising events have been cancelled or down-scaled, but we still have many ways for you to help.

Kuzma Care Cottage, 625 S. Main Street, Wilmington. So we ask you to consider, during these difficult times, to give a gift to those most vulnerable. Your support matters more than you might ever know and your gift will allow us to continue to bring the Christian Help Association mission of Purpose, Privacy & Dignity to each person we

serve. Thank you so much for your support. Please know we are incredibly grateful for you. Thank you for being a part of this mission and supporting the people we serve. Cynthia J. Ragain CHA volunteer

Gift Tag Trees are set up at 30 Wilmington businesses. Please select a tag (or 2 or 3), purchase a gift for a child and leave the unwrapped gift at any tree location. Another easy way to help is by contributing to the Chamber of Commerce Elf boxes. Look near checkout counters for these bright colorful boxes and deposit your change, a few dollars, or a check. All proceeds will be used to cover CHA expenses to supply food and Christmas gifts to approximately 250 families in the Wilmington area. All donations of non-perishable food, unwrapped toys, new winter clothing and monetary donations can be dropped off at

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 2020 will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020 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 2019 were \$8,178,256.29. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$10,223,166.00. This represents a 25.00% increase over the previous year.
- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2019 were \$2,446,478.38. The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2020 are \$2,448,400.00. This represents a .08% increase over the previous year.
- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$10,624,734.67. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$12,671,566.00. This represents a 19.26% increase over the previous year.

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Let us entertain you, December 1920

It was a time of general happiness. The war was over and most of the men were home. It was Christmas and the holiday spirit was apparent where ever you looked. For a time, the serious matters of joblessness and homelessness were left behind. Or were they? Not every one was nice, some were very naughty.



TIME WAS...
Sandy Vasko

We read, The Kankakee Democrat of Dec. 2, says: "The investigation of the Deselm church fire is being continued this week. Deputy State Fire Marshal, George P. McNally is examining witnesses in the Deselm town hall.

One theory, which was that several Wilmington people had set fire to the Latter-Day Saints church, has been proven false. McNally was in

Wilmington several days and after a thorough investigation was convinced that no one in that city is guilty of the crime. Several people in the neighborhood of Deselm are now the only suspects in the case."

And, "According to the Joliet Herald News an attempt was made Sunday last to burn the barn and other buildings of Edmund Hayden who resides on a farm south of Symerton. According to reports the barn, corn crib and tool house were splashed with kerosene and a match applied. One of the farm employees saw the flames and rushed and put same out before they had a chance to spread."

"Shortly before the discovery of the blaze a strange man was seen on the premises. Mr. Hayden cannot understand why such an attempt should be made to destroy his property as he says he has no known enemies. Authorities are inclined to believe that it was the work of a person mentally unbalanced."

Despite these few problems, things were moving along in Wilmington. Work was still going on in the interior of the newly remodeled Commercial National Bank.

"Workmen are rushing the finishing touches on the interior of the new Commercial National Bank building, corner of Water and Jackson streets. (Now the Corner Tap) The structure is modern in every known respect and is fitted up throughout for the convenience of the public. The offices on the second floor are now being occupied by Attorney M.

F. Henneby, Dr. B. R. Jones and F. Keeley. Dr. H. J. Ketchum of Joliet, will occupy one of these modern rooms shortly."

Holiday parties were the word of the day. "Mrs. Mabel Marshall entertained the Presbyterian choir, last Thursday evening, at her home on Baltimore St. The first part of the evening was spent in singing the new music lately acquired for the use of the choir. Later in the evening a bountiful oyster supper, of the old fashion kind, with cake and fruit, was served by the hostess and her mother, Mrs. Higby, in honor of Mrs. Marshall's birthday."

Modern 20th century products were being sold in the ads of the day. Lucky Strike cigarettes, very popular with the fighting men during the war, came out with a new gimmick - toasting.

The ad shows a piece of bread on a toasting fork and says, "Think of the delicious taste of a slice of fresh toasted bread! That's the real idea back of the success of Lucky Strike cigarettes. Toasting improves tobacco just as well as bread."

And for Christmas, what better gift to give than the sound of music. Two merchants in town were selling phonograph players and the new "flat" phonographs by hosting special events.

The Osburn Diamond Disc Shop on Jackson Street was hosting a concert in the Opera House. Edison, who previously made cylinder style recordings had just come out with the flat record, the brand name chosen was the Diamond Disc. He hired the contralto Marie Morrisey to travel the country, stopping at every retail outlet that sold the records.

The audience was asked if



MARIE MORRISEY IS COMING!

The celebrated contralto will appear in person at an invitation concert--in the Opera House

TUESDAY EVENING,
DECEMBER 7

She will be assisted by Walter Chapman, Pianist, and by "The Phonograph with a Soul."

This appearance of the great contralto in Wilmington is the event of the season for lovers of good music.

FREE TICKETS

Call, write or telephone us for free tickets of admittance. They will be issued in order of application.

Osburn Diamond Disc Shop
Jackson Street.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT FOR Marie Morrisey invited the public out to see her perform at the Opera House in December of 1920.

they could tell the difference between a live person and the recording. Most could not. You may remember this selling technique only using the phrase "Is it live or is it Memorex?"

Meanwhile at T. J. Gunning's Confectionery store a offer to beat all offers was made. Gunning sold the Pathe phonograph machines. He offered \$25 (about \$325 today) of new records free if you bought the top two models. Such a deal!

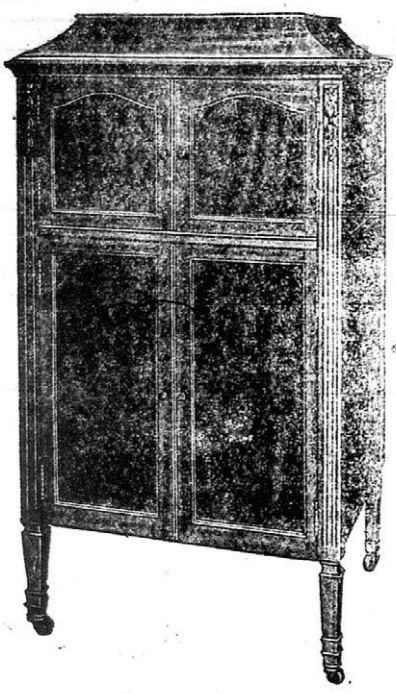
We will give
You \$25
Worth of
New records
FREE

If you buy your
Phonograph
now

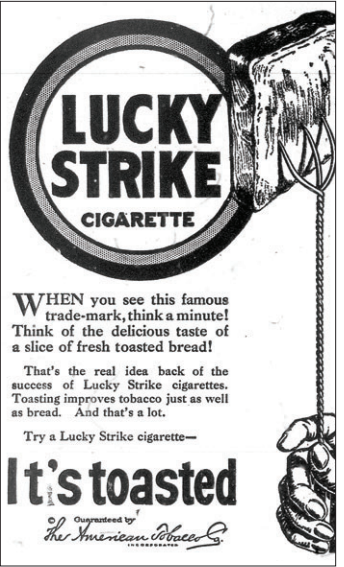
COSTS NO MORE
THAN the ORDINARY
PHONOGRAPH

THERE'S no string to this offer; no joke in it. \$25 worth of Pathe or Actuelle records; FREE if you buy a Pathe Phonograph (except the small models 3 and 6, which are not included). The \$25 worth of records will be delivered with the instrument as quickly as you make your selection.

FOR SALE AT
T. J. Gunning's Confectionery.



WHAT A DEAL! T.J. Gunning's Confectionery offered \$25 of free records to folks who purchased a new phonograph in 1920.



LUCKY STRIKE CIGARETTES and their modern "toasted" taste were all the rage in 1920.

WHS seniors of the week

BY BRIDGET KNOWLES
WHS STUDENT REPORTER

Each week the Free Press Advocate features seniors from the Class of 2021. Wilmington seniors this week include Eren Overmyer and Ashlei Rader.

Eren Overmyer

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan on majoring in musical theater in college.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? I'm pretty good at drawing!

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I'm left handed and I have a tattoo on my left shoulder.

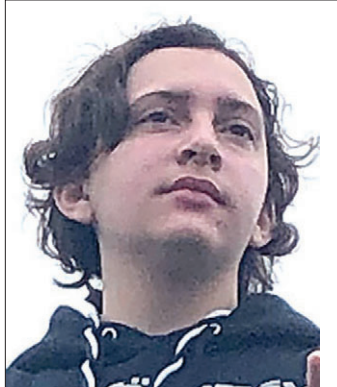
What is one skill you wish you had but don't? I wish I could knit really fast.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Sushi

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Mrs. Georgeff, Ms. Carey, and Mrs. Mosier.

Famous person (dead or alive) you would like to meet and why? Sutton Foster and Misha Collins, both of them are huge inspirations to me and I would love to have a conversation with them.

If you could create a class, what would it be? Some sort of



EREN OVERMYER

drama class.

Funniest memory from high school? Everything from band camp, and the time I filled my locker with egg rolls.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Take APUSH, don't do stupid things, and it's okay to cry.

Ashlei Rader

What do you plan to pursue upon graduation? I plan on going to college to major in anthropology at Rice University in Houston, TX and later become a forensic anthropologist.

Do you have a hobby you're good at? Creative writing, I'm starting to turn it into a job.



ASHLEI RADER

What is one thing most people don't know about you? I'm surprisingly good at interior design, reorganizing and making a space look nice is easy for me.

What is one skill you wish you had but don't? To have a good sense of time would be nice.

What is your favorite thing to eat? Baked chicken and steamed veggies, best dinner ever.

I want to give a shout out to (favorite staff member)... Mrs. Mosier for keeping it real and Mrs. Morrison for keeping it fun. I'm going to miss you ladies.

Famous person (dead or

alive) you would like to meet and why? Kurt Cobain, his music had a strong impact on me when I was growing up and still does today.

If you could create a class, what would it be? A life after school class; it would start with going through different careers and interning in that field until you find a good fit, then learn about finances and family life.

Funniest memory from high school? Any football game I went to, those were always fun.

What advice would you give to underclassmen? Take mental health days when you need them, not when you want them, there's a difference.

WAHS seeking decorated homes for Dec. 18 event

Is your home beautifully decorated for Christmas? Do you go all out and decorate in every room of the house?

Then the Wilmington Area Historical Society wants to get to know you as it plans for a Holiday Housewalk that will hopefully become an annual fundraiser for the non-profit organization.

The WAHS is inviting Wilmington homeowners, especially those homes of historic significance, to consider joining in the Friday, Dec.

18 event. From 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. the WAHS intends to host a Christmas house walk under COVID-19 guidelines.

Homeowners would open their houses up to walk-through visitors, sharing some of the history of the property and structure.

Homeowners interested should call Gina Wysocki by Sunday, Dec. 13 at 815-575-5624. The event will only take place if there is enough interest to generate donations for the Wilmington museum

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Hang on America

SHADOW LAKES—Just heard your president-elect China Joe, make a statement, and it sure sounds like he is really not for "America First." Get ready for the ride of your life...always, Margot Lane.

Potential for lawsuit

BRAIDWOOD—There is a Braidwood resident who needs to learn the definitions for defamation of character, slander and libel. This person is making an awful lot of accusations and statements in public forums along with a bunch of finger pointing. Hopefully this person has actual proof and evidence to back up their claims because what they think they know and what is actually the truth are very possibly two different things. Lawsuits of this nature can cost a person a ton of money if they are on the losing end.

Who's next?

SHADOW LAKES—Rumor has it China Joe is going to pick Whoopi Goldberg as "Secretary of Intelligence."

Always, Margot Lane

A good choice

WILMINGTON—Congratulations to Robert Bolser for being named the Wilmington Chamber's Business Person of the Year. He is a polite and helpful young man. I remember several years back I was shopping at what was then Wilmington SuperValu when, in the pouring rain, I discovered a tire on my car was flat. Not knowing what to do (never changed a tire before) or who could help (no cell phone back then to call) it didn't matter because a young man working at the store came up and offered to change the tire for me. I later found out his name was Bob Bolser and he refused to take my offer of money. He became my Good Samaritan that day and I will never forget the kindness he showed to a stranger. I have heard other people praise Bob for his kindness too. He is an asset to our community.

Janet Fisher

Pay attention

BRAIDWOOD—To the citizens of Braidwood. Pay attention to what is going on with the finance commissioner who is continually being influenced by members of the past administration. One of them is trying to get a relative a position in public works. Not just any position but the supervisor of public works. The only way this can be accomplished is by moving the part time person to full time per the union contract. They had all applications sent to commissioner Smith's home. When FOIA'd nothing was produced. By sending applications to Smith's home personal information of applicants is compromised. The city now has to fill the temporary position of commissioner of public health and safety and these members of the past administration are working together to try and manipulate who is put in that position. If anyone has doubts about what the previous administration did to the city please FOIA the budget from then and now to see the difference. Their ridiculous behavior has to stop. After hearing them berate Fay Smith outside

after a city council meeting in which Fay approved a new business they wanted him to vote no to and after hearing conversations in the hallway after meetings between them and much research it is my belief they are continuing to try and destroy our city. Please be aware and research the facts on this previous administration.

Ignoring our safety

COAL CITY—I don't understand how people can just blatantly ignore the mask requirement in businesses. It has gotten really bad at our Dollar Store to the point I hate to even go in there any more. The signs are clearly posted on the entry door. What gives you the right to just ignore it? The employees are all wearing masks as are most of the customers. Come on people, get with the program or stay home.

Attacks unmerited

BRAIDWOOD—This whole personal vendetta of a newer Braidwood resident towards a few members of the Braidwood City Council needs to stop. This person is causing so much trouble in our town right now, not just for them, but for so many others as well. By doing outright attacks of these people visible to the public on social media and then become argumentative when others stand up against these attacks is just childish. It might be tough being the new kid on the block, but earning a reputation for being a troublemaker is just going to get you alienated from the rest of the town.

The new normal

WILMINGTON—According to ABC news, Sarah McBride, will become the nation's first openly transgender state senator with her election day victory in Delaware. In all there are eight transgender, gender non-conforming and non-binary candidates won election to state legislatures in six states. Our new normal.

No science background

SHADOW LAKES—On the news it was stated that Joe Biden has picked John Kerry as the climate czar. But John Kerry does not seem to have any scientific background to determine if the climate change theory is real or not. So why has someone been put in charge of anything scientific if the individual does not have the proper credentials to perform their duties in a specific area? But maybe John Kerry will work with his step son and Joe Biden's son so they can determine how to waist the taxpayers' funds in the name of science. Since their sons seem to be tied with John Kerry on who has less scientific knowledge so it will be like having three blind mice trying to find a piece of cheese somewhere in the galaxy. But their salaries would be given to them because they showed up at their place of employment to discuss what days it is going to rain and the taxpayers lose again.

It's their right

WILMINGTON— I am confused by the whiny, cry baby conservatives claiming their free speech is being censored by social media or, as they call it, Big Tech. You must of been



absent the day your civics teacher taught the Bill of Rights including the first amendment or you would know that it only protects you from the government not the private sector. When the Dixie Chicks said they were ashamed that George Bush was from Texas the back lash was instant. They were banished from country radio and endured death threats from the right. Free speech has consequences. Conservatives supported the baker who refused to bake a cake for gay people citing his First Amendment right as a private business. Well Google, Twitter, Facebook are all private businesses and if they don't want right wing propaganda and lies on their social media platforms they have that right. Maybe you should start your own social media so that you can control the content you could call it Gargle or Nit wittier or how about fascist book. There is just subjective truth in the world and you should acquaint your self with it. You will never get it from Trump, Fox news, Newsmax or OAN. Remember the truth will set you free, stay safe. Penny Lane

Freedom lost

COAL CITY—Joe Biden has plans to revert everything President Trump has done for America. He is no longer going to recognize the America First policy but he will do as much as possible to aid the foreign countries with employment while the American citizen gets lost in the shuffle. So people that voted him to be the next president can now look forward to seeing their relatives and friends lose everything to foreign workers. A lot of our great movie stars do not care about Americans, they only want the money from foreign lands and don't look to any Big Tech corporations to aid any citizen. So the people that wanted Joe Biden in office may regret their decision when their bank books decline with all the new taxes that will be imposed for The Green New Deal which is nothing but an excuse to collect funds for the politicians and their friends' wallets. Everyone enjoy your future of restricted lives and good luck trying to survive.

Capping refugees

WILMINGTON—I read President Trump thankfully put a cap on the number of refugees that could enter the country over the next fiscal year to 15,000, less than anytime during the program's 40-year existence. The historical average is 95,000 refugees yearly. For decades, America accepted more refugees than the rest of the world combined. That's not counting the illegals. Refugee resettlement has become a racket with state department sanctioned charities such as World relief and Catholic Charities getting paid by the head to find refugees, bring them here, settle them in apartments, sign them up for welfare and then move onto the next batch. Under President Trump only truly needy people were being admitted.

It's unforgivable

WILMINGTON—With billions of our tax dollars at stake, the drug companies, like Pfizer's COVID vaccine, announced their vaccine six days after the election, not before the election. Pfizer picked their candidate, that's unforgivable and that's what power will do, as they wish. Trumpism is not going away any time soon...73 million of us say so.

Taking control

SHADOW LAKES—Right now people are beginning to discover just how far some Democrat leadership will go for control over the American citizens' lives. If Joe Biden really becomes the next president there will be so much government control that we'll be living in a global economy and USA could be controlled by the United Nations where communism will take over the solvent laws and the American citizens will no longer have any voice in determining an election and many people will become political prisoners since there will no longer be free speech. Free speech is already being denied in colleges and across social media and also some people have already been denied the right to have an opinion about the Democratic party by being beaten and it will continue. Beware of promises by Democratic leadership that will not happen for the American citizens. Censorship will take control and there will no longer be transparency from the government leadership. Happy trails to you.

Political corruption

WILMINGTON—Most people are aware of the fact that in Washington, D.C. there is so much corruption that many people have continually allowed the corruption to continue by turning their backs on the truth. Lies seemed to have become more important to many people. It really doesn't matter which political party anyone prefers because corruption has forced a lot of people to look at the future elections and how the American citizens will be able to live whether under freedom or socialism. It is possible that a lot of people do not understand the real meaning of socialism. So all you have

to do is look at China or Cuba and you may discover that government control with socialism does destroy all legal rights for every individual. The people that voted for Democrat leadership to take control may discover they have destroyed their lives and the lives of family and friends unless you are a government employee. All the nuts are not in the cake.

I miss it

WILMINGTON—I was wondering if anyone else misses the leaf vac truck like we do? It was a good service for older people like us who have a hard time bagging up the leaves and can't really afford to pay to have someone else do it. It's a shame the mayor and the alderman didn't see the value of it.

Makes no sense

WILMINGTON—Do I have this right? All states Trump won had valid and legitimate ballots. All states he lost had invalid and fraudulent ballots?

Doing it all

WILMINGTON—What's next with the city? First they cut down and remove dead trees in some areas of the city. Last week they came by to remove the tree stumps. What's next? Will they be out in spring to remove mulch and replace with black dirt and grass seed? If you do all this please water also for residents. Maybe the industrial park can pay for the lost revenues?

Blind eyes?

WILMINGTON—Who is in charge of enforcing the regulations on indoor eating and sitting at the bars? Mayor? Chief of Police? People, the virus is spreading everywhere. In Wilmington, Will County, states? Some people stated the virus was going away after the election. Well it's not going anywhere. Please do your part to protect others.

Eddie

Preparing for spread

COAL CITY—With the COVID-19 rising, Florida is open and their numbers are rising. Their governor sees their economic needs with the snowbirds. The infected states are flooding to Florida. It won't be long before their beaches and economy sees the effects of opening up. I see from the Thanksgiving weekend Chicago hospitals are getting ready for tourists that flooded to Florida for the holiday weekend.

Thanks for the laugh

WILMINGTON—To the person who wrote "Shut the heck up" in the Sound-off column, I literally laughed my "blank" off. I just wanted you to know you're right, you're right, you're right. PS. Go Joe.

Hard enough to breathe

WILMINGTON—Driving through the South Island Park on Sunday afternoon I noticed three people up next to the ball diamonds raking leaves into piles and burning them. City ordinance states no open burning of leaves in city limits. Residents of Wilmington rake and bag leaves all fall season while this goes on. Please remember there is a pandemic going on with everyone supposed to wear masks. It's hard enough to breathe now and these people are burning leaves. Let's use some common sense please.

Watched, did nothing

SHADOW LAKES—I have a neighbor who has a Biden/Harris sign on his house and next to it is Back the blue. My question with that is when Antifa and BLM were burning cities, destroying businesses and these Democrat controlled cities and governors had the police stand down, I cannot understand how someone could be for Biden/Harris when they did nothing to step in on this and quell the riots. I would like someone to reply to this because these people have to be very messed up in their minds. You can't have Antifa and BLM destroying businesses, hurting people and rioting when Trump offered to send in the militia and they stood back and wouldn't allow it. And what did Biden and Harris ever say about this? Nothing. Dan Hill

Beautiful island

WILMINGTON—A big thumbs up to the Lions Club and their hard work in creating the Christmas walk on the island. Took the family through there Saturday and enjoyed it. Was sad to hear this may be the last year for doing it. want you to know it's appreciated.

Can't afford it either

WILMINGTON—They want us to give more money to help support the church. I think they need to give us a more itemized bill so we can see where the money is going. Maybe the churches need to cut back. People can't afford any more money and with the economy the churches need to cut back.

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Thanks Bob for making the town better

SO MANY TO THANK - Bob Bolser (center), agent for COUNTRY Financial in Wilmington, accepts a plaque from Steve Evans (right), president of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, for earning the Business Person of the Year title for 2020. At left is Bob's wife, Alicia, who he thanked for encouraging him to be involved in the community and his secretaries who hold down the office "and keep me in-line some of the time." The presentation was made Saturday under the Claire's Corner Park gazebo in front of a crowd of about 40 people. Bolser said he is thankful for growing up in a small town which allows for him to be a contributor of volunteer time and help make the community a better place to live.

An under-appreciated spirit and a fascinating story

There are cocktails that are popular on both sides of the generation gap, think Martini, Manhattan, and the venerable Old Fashioned. Some cocktails aren't so lucky, and two of those cocktails are made with one of the most under-appreciated spirits on the planet, sloe gin.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Shake ingredients with ice, then strain into an ice-filled glass and add the "fizz" in the form of soda water. Note that this gin fizz does not call for the use of egg white, as other gin fizzes do. The fizz here is 100% soda water. Make sure that you use actual soda water, not tonic water, and that your club soda is fresh. I buy the small bottles of Fever Tree club soda, and I always have fresh soda when I need it.



There is a bit of confusion among casual imbibers as to what sloe gin is, and what it is not. Sloe gin is not gin. Sloe gin is a "gin-based" liqueur made by simply adding "sloes" to gin, and allowing the sloe berries to dissolve into the gin. The sloe is a relative of the plum, similar in color and flavor. Authentic British sloe gin producers use the native sloes, but domestically produced sloe gin often uses either beach plum or aronia berries. Despite its labeling as a "gin", sloe gin is sweet and approachable, without the harsh ethanol burn of lower quality gin.

Standard gin is bottled at 40% ABV or higher, whereas sloe gin is typically bottled between 15% and 25% ABV. Also, beware that some commercially available sloe gin is made from grain alcohol infused with sloe berries as opposed to a proper gin. If you want to be absolutely sure that your sloe gin is made from a proper gin base, you may prepare your own sloe gin at home.

The Charlie Chaplin is an easy to remember equal parts mix of sloe gin, fresh lime juice, and apricot brandy. Classic preparation for the Chaplin, shake with ice and strain into chilled cocktail (Martini) glass.

affairs, look into to a biography of Charlie Chaplin. He lived an absolutely fascinating life, and the excitement didn't stop when he died on Christmas Day in 1977. A few months into 1978 he was the victim of one of history's most famous cases of body snatching, with the body snatchers demanding ransom from his family in Switzerland.

The practice of preparing homemade sloe gin remains popular in the UK, not so much on our side of the pond. If you can get a hold of the right berries, at the right time of year, I suppose you could make your own sloe gin. The rest of us will have to make the trip to our local spirits retailer.

The availability of sloe gin in the US marketplace is a good news/bad news situation. The good news is that sloe gin is just popular enough to maintain a presence on US store shelves. The bad news is that you may have only one or two options depending on where you shop.

The drink was one of the most popular pre-prohibition cocktails, but was not able to regain popularity after the end of prohibition. That is unfortunate, because the drink is downright delicious and deserving of a reboot.

The ransom was never paid, the snatchers were caught and convicted, and Mr. Chaplin was returned to his rightful resting place. You'll have to read about the rest. The Charlie Chaplin is built in a shaker and served in a chilled cocktail glass. Combine shaker: 1 oz. sloe gin 1 oz. apricot brandy 1 oz. fresh lime juice Shake with ice, strain into chilled cocktail glass Garnish with lime wheel

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

By the way, if you are staying home and looking for some reading material to pass the time during the current state of

the current state of

Get raffle tickets now for C.C.W. quilt

The St. Rose Council of Catholic Women are selling tickets for its annual quilt raffle. Each year Mrs. Anonymous, a parishioner and talented quilt maker, donates one of her creations to the C.C.W. to use as a fundraiser. The raffle and drawing normally take place during the C.C.W. annual card and game party luncheon in May. Unfortunately that event could not take place this year. Therefore, all parishioners now have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win the bright and beautifully made quilt. Tickets are being sold at all weekend masses through

Dec. 20 with the drawing taking place after the 11 a.m. mass.

For ticket information contact Pat Stromquist at (815) 476-6199.

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Braidwood Lions to collect used Christmas lights

The Braidwood Lions Club will be collecting used/non-working strands of Christmas lights starting Sunday, November 15th. Collection bins will be located inside Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood and Coal City, and inside Braidwood City Hall until January

31st. The strands of lights will be recycled by the Lions of Illinois Foundation with proceeds to benefit the foundation's sight & sound services provided to local Lions Clubs. A collection bin will also be available during the club's annual Christmas Tree Sale fundraiser.

Exelon generation's 'fishing for a cure' raises \$41,000

Charity purchases wheel-chair accessible bus

Braidwood Station's 'Fishing for a Cure' charity bass fishing tournament was canceled earlier this year due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop employees at the Exelon Generation nuclear plant from giving generously to a local charity.

Employees at the power plant held virtual fundraising events and raised \$41,000 for Special Connections of Grundy County, a charity that serves special needs individuals throughout Northern Illinois.

"We are overwhelmed at the generosity of Exelon, the employees at the plant and those who run the fishing tournament," said Kelly Thompson, executive director of Special Connections. "I cannot express how grateful we are for this donation. It's more money than our charity raises in a year, probably two years."

Two years ago, Special Connections suffered a "huge loss" according to Thompson when the charity's bus was destroyed in a car accident. The bus frequently transported Special Olympics competitors and other events across Illinois.

Thompson said in recent years volunteers have carpooled with multiple vehicles traveling to events, but that Special Connections clients have missed traveling together. Considering this year's Exelon donation, Special Connections decided to use donations from Exelon's 'Fishing for a Cure' to purchase a wheelchair-accessible bus for the charity.

"We have needed a new, accessible bus for a long time and all of our folks are all



HOLDING THE \$41,000 donation check are (center, from left) Kelly Thompson, executive director of Special Connections of Grundy County, and Jeremy McNabb, a Braidwood Station employee. Special Connections board members Rob Fisher (left), Jennifer Price (second from right) and Jeff Rzasa (right) were there to express their appreciation.

ecstatic to once again be able to travel together to and from events once the pandemic ends," Thompson said. "Seeing their happiness and watching them interact with each other, it makes you feel great too."

'Fishing for a Cure', Braidwood Station's signature


charitable event, has now raised nearly \$670,000 since it began in 2002.

Braidwood Generating Station is one of six Illinois nuclear plants owned and operated by Exelon Generation producing carbon-free, reliable electricity for more than 11 million homes

and business in the state. Together they provide more than \$2 million each year to local charities through corporate philanthropy and employee donations. Braidwood is located 20 miles southwest of Joliet, Ill.



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Pritzker intends to borrow \$2 billion from federal program

BY SARAH MANSUR
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. JB Pritzker announced Wednesday the state would give notice to the federal government that it plans to borrow \$2 billion from a federal program created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in an effort to fill the state's budget deficit.

That figure is less than the \$5 billion in short-term borrowing authorized by the Illinois General Assembly in May when it passed legislation allowing the state to tap into the Federal Reserve's Municipal Liquidity Facility program. The program permits the central bank to buy the debt of state and local governments that are in need of funds.

The MLF program was approved as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security, or

CARES Act, which is a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package passed by Congress in March.

Pritzker said the \$2 billion will be used to cover revenue losses and unforeseen COVID-19 expenses for this current fiscal year.

The state previously borrowed \$1.2 billion from the Fed's MLF program to cover losses from the last quarter of the previous fiscal year, and is the only state that has borrowed from the MLF thus far.

The state has paid \$200 million toward the first \$1.2 billion federal loan, according to Pritzker's spokesperson. The interest rate incurred on the \$1.2 billion loan was 3.82%.

Since the announcement Wednesday was only for a

notice of intent, the interest rate on the \$2 billion would not be known until the actual sale is finalized. As of Nov. 23, the website for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showed a sample rate of roughly 3.37-3.41% for municipalities with Illinois' investment grade, which is one notch above what is referred to as "junk status."

"Although the General Assembly authorized as much as \$5 billion of borrowing from the Federal Reserve, I am very reluctant to saddle our state with that large amount of short term debt. I believe it would be irresponsible to borrow that entire amount, given the persistent fiscal pain it would cause over the next

three years, as we would struggle to repay that entire amount," he said Nov. 25. "Our collective intention is to repay this line of credit as early as possible, after either the awarding of stimulus by Congress or a sufficient recovery of state revenues."

Pritzker said the goal of the short term borrowing is to continue managing the state's massive bill backlog, which has reached more than \$7 billion as of Nov. 25, according to the Illinois Comptroller's Office.

The governor's comments on the state's financial situation came during his daily COVID-19 briefing, which he and members of his administration delivered remotely

Initial COVID vaccine shipment may be smaller than expected

Ezike says Illinois may only get 80k doses at first

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD — The first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines to the state of Illinois may be less than one-quarter of what officials had originally been told to expect.

Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said Nov. 24 that the latest word from federal officials is that the first shipment may contain only about 80,000 doses, or one-fifth of the 400,000 doses that state officials were expecting as recently as last week.

"We know that even if everything goes through smoothly in the next couple of weeks and the vaccine is shipped, there won't be many doses," Ezike said. "I know I had originally quoted 400,000 doses because that's what we've been told. That number has already been downgraded to something like 80,000. Again, all of these numbers are constantly in flux and so we are staying very nimble in order to adjust. As the feds give us more information, we adjust and tweak our plans."

Ezike spoke during Gov. JB Pritzker's daily COVID-19 news briefing which was held entirely remotely due to the Tier 3 mitigation order that went into effect Nov. 20. Before then, they were mainly held at the James R. Thompson Center in Chicago with a limited number of

reporters present while other reporters observed by streaming video and asked questions online.

Interest in how the state plans to distribute a vaccine has heightened in recent days as a number of pharmaceutical companies have announced plans to apply for emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Pfizer and BioNTech recently announced they had submitted an application for two vaccines the companies

are developing jointly, and the FDA said it would put those applications on a fast track for approval, which means a limited number of doses could be publicly available by the end of December. Moderna Inc. has also said a vaccine it is developing a vaccine that has shown promising results in clinical trials.

Ezike said the first people in line to receive the vaccines will be frontline hospital workers who treat COVID-19 patients and other first responders.


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Now is the time to spot owls at Midewin

Think cold weather is for the birds? If you're a bird watcher, it sure is. With annual migration and leafless trees, now is a perfect time for spotting owls, harriers, kestrels and other elusive birds overwintering at the USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Here are a few ideas about where to look and what to look for.



KESTRELS, COOPER'S HAWKS, great horned owls, barred owls and more active now at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

In recent days, the fence along the pasture on the east side of the Group 63 Trail has been lined with the long lenses of dedicated bird watchers. In late afternoon hours, just before sunset, short-eared owls and northern harriers have been competing in the sky for voles on the ground.

The east pasture is where bison graze, creating shorter grasses and the perfect feeding ground where birds can more easily spot prey. Grazing also stirs rodents, which is why coyotes follow the herd and can be heard yipping and howling way off in the distance starting at about 4 p.m. nightly.

Both northern harriers and short-eared owls are native grassland birds in Illinois, and they can possibly be seen throughout the year at Midewin NTP. However, both species are rare here during the nesting season, and the timing of the recent sightings suggests that these are winter migrant birds that are using the expansive grasslands of Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to forage," said Midewin NTP Restoration Team Leader Michael Redmer.

Short-eared owls are known for being able to travel great distances, with recorded migrations as long as 1,200 miles. You can identify them by their yellow, piercing eyes and beige-colored faces.

Northern harriers have white on their back sides and their tails are longer than the tails of short-eared owls. Like owls, they rely on hearing as well as vision to capture prey. Their disk-shaped face looks and functions much like an owl's face, with stiff facial feathers helping to direct sound to the ears.

There were more owls and harriers seen on Saturday, November 28 than on other days, and there were kestrels and even a Cooper's hawk spotted flying.

With the dark and rainy weather all day on Wednesday, November 25, owls and harriers started showing up earlier than on other days. At 2 p.m., a short-eared owl swooped past bird watchers as it headed west from the bison pasture and flew low over the Group 63 Trail.

On Sunday, November 29 at 4:30 p.m. an obscure American kestrel flew into trees near a bunker on the west side of the Group 63 Trail, just north of the open bunker. The kestrel rested in the trees for a time before dashing through the sky in search of more food.

On the fourth of July this year, two barred owls were spotted in a tree together at

Midewin NTP. On June 14, a barred owl was photographed flying over Midewin NTP.

Two great horned owls were spotted perched together in a tree in the <<https://tinyurl.com/yne779r>>South Patrol Road Prairie restoration area. If you are looking for owls in this area, there are many photo opportunities: Prairie Creek is about a 15-minute walk north Boathouse Road from here.

Across from the northwest corner of the restoration area stands a white oak tree that was instrumental hundreds of years ago in establishing Wilmington Township boundary lines. Parking: 41°20'32.2"N 88°10'16.5"W.

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OBITUARIES

Irene Jeffries

WILMINGTON—Irene Kay Jeffries (nee Highbaugh), 63, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at her home.

She was born Dec. 30, 1956 in Key West, FL. She was a member of the First Christian Church in Wilmington. Irene graduated with the class of 1975 from Joliet West High School. Soon after graduation she married the love of her life, Kenneth Jeffries on June 7, 1975 in Wilmington. She was an avid Chicago Cubs fan and had a passion for bargain shopping, finding "treasures" and antiquing. She also had a love for camping and always looked forward to taking the family trips to Hayward and the Gulf Shores. If you were lucky enough to know Irene, you knew she loved to talk and had the gift for gab. Her one of a kind personality will never be forgotten. The world lost a beautiful soul that had a heart of gold, and will always be remembered.

Surviving are her parents, Robert and Darlene (nee Koca) Highbaugh, of Joliet; husband of 45 years, Kenneth Jeffries, of Wilmington; three children: Marissa (Greg) Hall, of Wilmington; Stuart Jeffries, of Carmel, IN and KaraLynn (fiancé, Matt Morris) Jeffries, of Wilmington; six grandchildren: Cameron and Angelina Bergman, Benjamin and Lucy Hall,



Annie Bergman and Addy Morris; four brothers: Randy (Sharon) Highbaugh, of Shorewood; Steve (Kim) Highbaugh, of Wilmington; Kenny (Lynette) Highbaugh, of Braidwood and Bobby (Heather) Highbaugh, of Crest Hill; honorary daughter, Heather Davis, of Coal City; sister-in-law, Sharon (John) Crichton, of Apache Junction, AZ; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends and her beloved four-legged companion, Walter.

Preceding her in death were her mother-in-law and father-in-law, Lydia and Charles Jeffries and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Chuck and Sue Jeffries.

Memorial visitation was held Tuesday, Dec. 1 at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood. Cremation rites have been accorded.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Juvenile Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Claudia Karn

BRAIDWOOD—Claudia Karn, 63, of Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee.

She was born Sept. 30, 1957 in Chicago to Harold and Carol (nee Melzer) Maunter. Claudia is now home with the Lord in Heaven. Her family and many friends are so blessed to have loved and been loved by her for all those years. Claudia enjoyed the fall and winter holidays and she had a love for scrapbooking, photography and being at the place that centered her most, her love in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Surviving are her husband, William Karn, of Braidwood and his family; one sister, Doreen and her family; many friends, especially her long time close friends: Erin, Jane, Jen and Nicole and of course the many doctors that



cared for her.

The family would like to thank the many doctors, nurses, and support staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee for their compassion and care they gave her and the family.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Private services will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to: smokiesinformation.org, under the membership tab, there is a place to donate.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com.

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

Karen J. Neste

HOMER GLEN—Karen J. Neste, 77, of Homer Glen, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020 at Park Pointe Healthcare and Rehabilitation in Morris.

Born May 23, 1943 in Chicago, Karen Jeanne was a daughter of John and Jeanne (Dennett) DePyssler. She was raised and educated in Mt. Greenwood and graduated from Morgan Park High School. Karen worked as a custodian, and retired from the Orland School District. In her free time, she enjoyed playing cards, cooking, baking, shopping and watching her soap operas, particularly General Hospital.

Survivors include her four children: Kim (Mike) Budz, of Channahon; Sheri (Billy) Dowling, of Dade City, FL; Jeff (Kim) Neste, of Morris and Terry (Nikki) Neste, of Michigan; grandchildren: Amber (Ryan) Denato, D.J. Crook, Riley Neste, Arayah Neste, Shaydon Neste, Izabell Neste, Aryonna Neste and D.J. Neste; two great-granddaughters, Payten and Harlee; one brother, William (Suzie) DePyssler,



and one sister-in-law, Jeri Goss.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, granddaughter, Valorie Crook and her former husband and the father of her children, Ken Neste.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a Memorial Mass will be planned for a later date at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Karen's memory to the Immaculate Conception Building Fund, 514 E. Jackson St., Morris, IL 60450.

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

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

Margaret A. Keigher

JOLIET—Margaret A. Keigher, of Joliet, passed away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, at her home in Joliet.

Margie was born on Sept. 7, 1931, the daughter of Leo and Veronica (née Haley) Keigher. She was born in Chicago and soon after moved to Joliet, where she attended St. Patrick's Grade School and graduated from St. Francis Academy, where she was the editor of the school paper and the lead in several school plays. She was a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church and the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus.

After graduation, Margie was involved in the Catholic Social Club of Joliet, worked as a counselor with the YMCA, and then worked at the Joliet Correctional Center on Collins Street in Joliet. It was her interactions with those entering the prison that led to her life's work of helping those in need. Margie then joined the Daughters of Charity, founded in France by St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Louise de Marillac to help the poor and sick. Margie took the name of Sister Leo after her father, Leo. She began teaching at St. Vincent's Grade School in Perryville, MO, close to the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, for which the Daughters of Charity are renowned. While in Perryville Margie continued her education on weekends and summers at Marillac College in St. Louis. Her brother, Francis (Brother Leo) served as a Vincentian brother in Perryville while Margie lived there.

After Margie's time at Perryville, she taught at grade schools in Birmingham, AL; Milwaukee, WI; St. Louis, MO and New Orleans, LA. After her father and brother passed away, Margie returned to Joliet to help her mother. After serving as a Daughter of Charity for 23 years, she continued her work as a teacher in Joliet at Hufford Jr. High School, Washington Jr. High, Joliet Junior College (Adult Learning Program), and also at the Spanish Center in Joliet.

Margie was such a kind and loving person and made an impact on so many lives. As a teacher, she had a gift for making learning fun, which made her a favorite with her students. She was always finding ways to help the poor and lonely both during her years as a Daughter of Charity and afterward in the Joliet area. She reached out to strangers she chanced to meet with a smile and a kind word, and would often say good-bye with a gesture upwards and the words "See you at the Party." She kept contact with her classmates from St. Patrick's and St. Francis Academy, enjoying the many reunions



over the years.

Margie loved her neighbors on Glenwood Avenue, often calling them "her angels." She really enjoyed their visits and was grateful for their friendship. She loved her parish, St. Patrick's Church, where she was a volunteer at liturgies and events throughout the years. She especially enjoyed their annual St. Patrick's Day party.

Margie loved and was devoted to her large family. She always looked forward to the many parties, reunions, events and vacations which she enjoyed so very much. She loved playing the piano, especially the old songs like Easter Parade, Doodley Doo and Till We Meet Again. When it was someone's birthday without fail she would call up and say "I have a singing telegram for (So-and-So). Please hold..." and after settling herself at the piano she would play and sing "Happy Birthday."

Having such a positive attitude and strong faith, Margie inspired her family to count their blessings, be generous to others, and stay close to Jesus. She led a sparing and sharing life, denying herself what most of us take for granted and giving very generously to charities, especially Food for the Poor. Margie set an example, day in and day out, of what it means to love one's neighbor, and the lessons she taught us will live on for generations. Her family loved her so much and she will be dearly missed by all.

Margie is survived by her siblings: Francis "Bro. Leo" Keigher, C.M.; Theresa (the late Jerry) O'Connor, Rita (the late Glenn) Keenan, Eileen (Tom) Schiltz, Jim (Joyce) Traina, Patrick (the late Carroll) Keigher and Kathleen (Warren) Lindsay and her brother-in-law Tom Flavin. Numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins also survive.

She is preceded by her parents, siblings: Mary (John "Buddy") McGrail, Lois Flavin and Mike Keigher; niece, Sheri Schiltz and great-niece, Marina Schiltz; as well as several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated. Interment followed at St. Joseph Cemetery in Manhattan, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in her name to St. Vincent De Paul Society appreciated.

For more information visit her Memorial Tribute page at www.fredcdames.com. Fred C. Dames Funeral Home in Joliet was in charge of arrangements.

Roger E. Melvin

COAL CITY—Roger E. Melvin, 81, of Coal City, passed away Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at Morris Hospital.

Born Aug. 9, 1939 in Bloomington, IL, Roger Earl was a son of Earl Laverne Melvin and Edith Eva (Pittman) Melvin. He was raised and educated in Streator, and on Oct. 16, 1960, Roger married Brenda Kaye Brady in the Presbyterian Church in Chenoa.

Roger worked as an automobile mechanic in Coal City for several years before gaining employment with Material Service Corporation, where he retired as the Superintendent of Maintenance following 35 years of service. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club, and was a lifelong member of the A.F. & A.M. Braidwood and Wilmington Masonic Lodge where he served as Grand Master (1985). Roger loved spending time outdoors, boating and fishing with his family. He enjoyed traveling with his brother to fish all across North America from Florida to Canada, and he took great pleasure in vacationing at the family home in Friendship, WI.

Roger will be remembered as a cherished and devoted husband to his wife, Brenda. He was a loving father and grandfather who always had a story to tell in his own unique way; always with a smile and some laughter. He will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Brenda; three children: Dean (Marianne) Melvin, of Coal City; Darren (Heather) Melvin, of Wilmington and Jennie (Art) Johnson, of Crest Hill; son-in-law, Todd Schumacher; eight



grandchildren: Heather (Derek) Davis, Matt Melvin, Brian Popovich, Katie Cialone, Julie Popovich (fiancé, Hunter Sayers), Amy Popovich, Douglas Johnson and Brady Johnson; five great-grandchildren: Emily Popovich, Braxton Davis, Kade Melvin, Jace Cialone and Ella Popovich; one brother, Michael Melvin, of Oglesby; one sister-in-law, Mary Ann Melvin, of Streator and numerous nieces and nephews.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, daughter, Debra Schumacher and six brothers: Randall (Mary) Melvin, Ronald Melvin, Gregory Melvin, Dennis Melvin, Richard Melvin and Roland Melvin in infancy.

Per Roger's wishes, green flameless cremation rites will be accorded, and a memorial visitation and celebration of life will be planned for a later date.

Roger will be laid to rest in Woodlawn Memorial Park in Joliet.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Roger's memory to the Coal City Food Pantry.

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

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

Billy W. Pittman

WILMINGTON—Billy W. Pittman, 66, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at Amita Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Jan. 31, 1954 in Chattanooga, TN, he was the son of Henry and Willie H. (nee Farmer) Pittman. He retired from Big Bay Lumber after 30 years of employment. Billy enjoyed living the lake life at Shadow Lakes and was a member of the fishing club. His main hobby was fishing, but he also enjoyed traveling, shooting guns, and gardening, which he was known to have grown the best tomatoes.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Mary (nee Mucci) Pittman, who he married April 21, 1990 in Melrose Park, IL; five children: John (Chiara) SanFilippo, of Naperville; Billy Girard, of Chicago; Dena (Edward) Siears, of Chicago; Jamie (Joseph) Allen, of Naperville and Joseph (Ben Brooks) Pittman, of Yorkville; eight grandchildren: Jesse, Jeremy, Alyssa, Alex, Olivia, Audriana, Ella and Conor; one great-granddaughter, Mackenzie; two brothers, Wesley



(Wanda) Pittman, of Seymour, TN and Gary Capps, of Alba, MO; one sister, Vickie (John) Lester, of Charlotte, NC and several nieces and nephews and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, step-father, Virgil Capps and six siblings: Debbie, Brinda, Cricket, Terry, Larry and Jerry.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020. Cremation rites were accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the All Clear Foundation supporting first responders, www.allclearfoundation.org.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log on to www.rwpatterson-funeralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

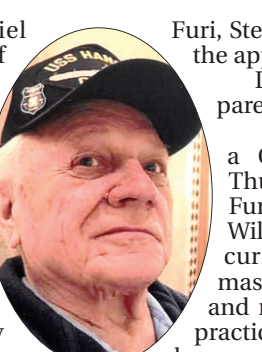
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was in charge of arrangements.

Daniel E. Sedlachek

WILMINGTON—Daniel E. Sedlachek "Dan," 83, of Wilmington passed away peacefully Monday, Nov. 16, 2020 at his home.

Born Sept. 5, 1937 in Pipestone, MN, Daniel Edward was the son of Edward Sedlachek and Florence DeBates. He was raised and educated in Pipestone, and graduated from Pipestone Area High School with the class of 1956. Dan served honorably in the United States Navy until his retirement in 1976 after 20 years of service. He was a member of the VFW Malcom J. Mayo Post 5422 in Wilmington and served on the Honor Guard. Dan also held membership with the Wilmington Masonic Lodge 208 and Loyal Order of Moose Lodge 241, as well as the Elks. He attended First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington. Dan's biggest passion was spending time with his family and friends in various settings. He enjoyed golf and was an avid bowler in his younger years and continued to bowl as much as he could in his later years.

Survivors include his life companion, Helen Ziller, of Wilmington, who he married on April 23, 2016; special families members: his loving step daughters, Debbie (Kevin Sao) Marion and Veronica (Marty) Orr; grandchildren: Brian (Nicole) Furi, Isaac Orr, Erica Orr, Jay Mashburn and Jessica (Jeremy Penfield) Kahler and great-grandchildren: Gavin and Mia



Furi, Stella, Jeremy Jr. and Adam who were the apple of his eye and made him laugh.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents and sister-in-law, Alice Ziller.

The family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 3 until 6 p.m. Due to current pandemic guidelines, face masks will be required for attendees and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

A private family service will follow Friday morning with Masonic Rites officiated by the A.F. & A.M.

Dan will be laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery with military honors provided by the Wilmington VFW Honor Guard.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Dan's name to the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, 301 N. Kankakee St. in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, or share Dan's memorial page by logging onto: www.BaskervilleFuneral.com/obituary/Daniel-Dan-Sedlachek

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



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OBITUARIES

Viola Starmann

WILMINGTON—Viola Hebert Starmann, 96, of Wilmington, and formerly of Joliet, passed away Saturday, Nov. 28, 2020 at Alden Estates of Shorewood.

Born Oct. 30, 1924 in Watseka, IL, Viola Mae was a daughter of Leslie and Ona (Peters) Allain. She was raised and educated in the St. Anne and Kankakee area and graduated from Kankakee High School with the class of 1942. Viola retired from Joliet Junior College as the assistant comptroller in 1982. She was a former member of the Kankakee Moose Lodge, belonged to the Joliet VFW Auxiliary and served as an officer with the Wilmington Senior Social Club.

One who was known for always willing to help others, Viola lived both fully and passionately. Traveling was a true joy, and she enjoyed traveling regardless whether it was in a motorhome, by plane, boat or in a car for fun. She especially took great pleasure in spending time with her children and grandchildren, and was proud to have been able to visit every place her family has lived both throughout the United States and abroad, including military bases. She will be remembered as an avid crafter, master angler, voracious reader and dedicated Chicago Cubs fan.

Survivors include her son, David (Kathleen) Hebert, of Joliet; son-in-law, Thomas Kohl, of Bourbonnais; grandchildren: Deborah (Todd) Groth, of Bourbonnais; William



“Stormy” Kohl, of Bradley and Kristine (Joseph) Zenkus, of Lake in the Hills, IL; great-grandchildren: Father Michael Groth, Lauren (Taylor) Oxner and Garret Kohl.

Viola was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, Robert Hebert in 1981; second husband, Charles Starmann in 1999; grandson, Michael Hebert in 1978; daughter, Judy Kohl in 2014, and one sister, Bernice (Phil) Gladu.

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

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 in Kankakee Memorial Gardens, where she was laid to rest with her parents and grandson. Viola's grandson, Rev. Father Michael Groth will preside.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Viola's memory to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease Research.

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

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

Barbara G. Smith

MORRIS—Barbara G. Smith, 61, a resident of Saratoga Towers in Morris, and formerly of Joliet, passed away Monday, Nov. 30, 2020.

Born Aug. 2, 1959 in Joliet, Barbara Gail was a daughter of Jean (Hannah) Stedman of Gardner, and the late James Thomas Stedman. She was raised in Joliet, and graduated from Joliet Central High School where she was active in ROTC and was an expert rifleman. Barbara enjoyed sewing and crocheting, and took pleasure in participating in craft shows throughout the years. Above all else, she was a wonderful mother who made her children her priority and loved them very much.

Survivors include her mother, Jean Stedman, of Gardner; daughter, Holly Smith (fiancé, Cody Kuehni), of Coal City; son, Jeremy Smith, of Bolingbrook; siblings: Dorothy Stedman (Linda), of Godley; Bob (Debbie) Stedman, of Tennessee; Mike Stedman, of Gardner and Debbie (Ken) Knepper, of Braidwood; numerous nieces and nephews, including Frank (Marissa) Staats, of Emington, IL and the father of her children, Keith Smith, of Bolingbrook.

Barbara was preceded in death by her father, James Stedman, and one son, James Smith on July 6, 2020.



The family will receive friends for a COVID observant visitation on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City from 10 a.m. until the time of private family funeral service at 12 p.m. Due to current pandemic guidelines, face masks will be required for attendees and measures of safe social distancing practices will be in order. The funeral home staff will assist the family not to exceed the safe number set forth for the visitation.

Those wishing to participate in Barbara's services online are welcome to join the live-streamed service beginning at 12 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 by logging onto her memorial page.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

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

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

Tier 3 mitigations: What it all means

STAFF REPORT

Tier 3 resurgence mitigations went into effect statewide on Friday. As with Tier 1 and Tier 2, masks and social distancing are required in all public spaces.

The resurgence mitigations include the following guidelines:

Gathering limitations

Indoor gatherings of more than one household are prohibited. Outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people.

Restaurant, Bars, and Social Events/Banquets

No indoor service. Outdoor service is permissible provided establishments follow social distancing guidelines of 6-foot separations between tables with parties of six people or fewer. Such service should be by reservation only. Tents/temporary outdoor structures may be used provided they have at least two of the sides open to provide adequate air flow, and patrons inside a temporary outdoor structure must be seated, and tables must be spaced a minimum of six feet apart. Such structures must also adhere to state fire marshal standards.

Patrons must follow the restaurant and bar guidelines in the establishment, including wearing masks when wait-staff approach and when they are not eating or drinking at a table.

All bars and restaurants should close by 11 p.m., and open no earlier than 6 a.m.

Meetings/Gatherings

Meeting rooms, banquet centers, private party rooms, country clubs, etc. may not host meetings or events – including weddings – under

any capacity.

Retail

Grocery stores and pharmacies can operate at 50% capacity. Retail and service counter stores that are not primarily engaged in the sale of groceries or medicinal drugs (pharmacies) are limited to 25% capacity. Big Box stores that sell both groceries and other items are limited to 25% capacity.

Malls are restricted to 25% capacity within each store as well as in common areas, and mall food courts are restricted to take away services only. The capacity limits do not include employees.

Flea markets and farmer's markets should operate at 25% capacity, or 15 people per 1,000 feet, with booths places the lesser of every third spot or 30 feet apart.

Sports and Fitness Centers

Health and fitness centers are limited to 25% of occupancy at any given time. No group fitness classes are permitted, but one-on-one personal training is allowed. Health and fitness centers should configure workout stations to be six feet apart, and locker rooms should be closed. Health and fitness facilities must use a reservation system to keep track of capacity as well as to assist in potential contact tracing efforts.

Youth and recreational sports

All indoor group sporting and recreational activities including youth and adult recreational sports are not permitted. One-on-one indoor sports are permitted. Teams may practice outdoors in groups of 10 or less, with proper social distancing. Competitive play is not per-

missible. Golf courses can continue to operate under the golf guidance. Professional sports and collegiate level sports teams are exempt from these mitigations.

Indoor Recreation

Movie theatres, museums, and bowling alleys are closed.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor recreational facilities, including outdoor exhibits at zoos and museums, can continue to operate at 25% capacity. Outdoor group activities limited to 10 people or less, participants/guests must wear face coverings at all times

Casinos

Casinos are not permitted to operate. All video gaming terminals in bars, restaurants and other locations must be closed.

Personal Care Services

Personal services facilities such as spas, hair salons, barber shops, nail salons, waxing centers, tattoo parlors, and similar facilities may be open but must cap occupancy at no more than 25%, and services that require patrons to remove face coverings are prohibited. Spa body services such as body scrubs, body wraps and other body treatments should not be provided. Nail services are permissible with face coverings at all times, and at 25% capacity. Pet grooming is permissible at 25% capacity.

Places of Worship, Funerals

Religious organizations and houses of worship are strongly encouraged to consult and follow the recommended practices and guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health, including providing online, outdoor, or drive-in services. Funerals are limited to 10 fam-

ily members of the decedents, not including staff.

Daycares

Daycares licensed by DCFS should continue to follow those guidelines. Day camps not licensed by DCFS can operate in group sizes of 15 or fewer.

The Illinois Department of Public Health will continue to track the positivity rates and hospital capacity metrics in regions over a 14-day monitoring period to determine if mitigations can be relaxed, if additional mitigations are required, or if current mitigation should remain in place.

In order to see a removal of Tier 3 mitigations and transition to Tier 2, a region must experience less than 12% test positivity rate for three consecutive days and greater than 20% available intensive care unit (ICU) and hospital bed availability and declining 7 day average COVID hospitalizations in 7 out of the last 10 days.

State and local law enforcement along with local health departments and the Illinois Department of Public Health are empowered to enforce the resurgence mitigations.

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Cheatgrass wreaks havoc on our ecosystems

Dear EarthTalk: What is Cheatgrass and when did it become such a big problem out west?-- William G., Portland, ME



Cheatgrass is an annual grass native to Europe and eastern Asia that European settlers brought to North America in the late 1800s as forage for grazing their livestock.

Little did they know at the time that this innocuous looking herbaceous plant would eventually wreak havoc on ecosystems across the American West, edging out native plants and creating conditions ripe for now all-too-frequent brush fires.

"It probably wouldn't have outcompeted with native vegetation if early settlers hadn't also introduced large numbers of livestock like cattle and sheep into sagebrush country," reports Mike Pellant, a retired Rangeland Ecologist with the Bureau of Land Management who volunteers for the non-profit Sage Grouse Initiative.

"Our palatable native grasses and forbs [herbaceous flowering plants] weren't adapted to those high levels of uncontrolled overgrazing by domestic livestock, which created a void that Cheatgrass

quickly filled."

And once Cheatgrass gains a foothold, it ups the risk around it significantly, in part because it sets seed in the spring and by the heart of fire season, in mid- to late-summer, its shoots have dried out and become like tinder that can spark into fire with the slightest provocation.

"Basically, cheatgrass is comparable to tissue paper covering the landscape-an easily-ignited fuel that carries fire quickly and spreads it rapidly," adds Pellant.

Native plants in the Great Basin have not evolved to handle such frequent burns-every five to seven years on average lately. As such, each Cheatgrass-fueled brush fire creates more open space for more of the weed to quickly colonize. And by moving into open territory before native

plants have a chance to set seed, Cheatgrass ensures its dominance over the desert ecosystems it inhabits.

The ascendancy of Cheatgrass is also a big problem for native wildlife as well as plants. The Greater sage grouse, Mule deer and Pygmy rabbit are just a few of the iconic desert species dependent on healthy sagebrush plants for their own survival. If sagebrush steppe landscapes go the way of the dodo thanks to Cheatgrass, so will these species and dozens of others which contribute to making the American desert such a special place.

That said, there is little we can actually do to effectively stop Cheatgrass' spread-it has already taken over some 50-70 million acres of desert across the American West.

Herbicides applied widely

have been effective at removing grown Cheatgrass plants, but these synthetic chemicals do nothing against the seeds already rooted in the soil-meaning the plant will sprout anew the next spring regardless.

Employing all-natural soil microbes to inhibit the growth of Cheatgrass' root system below the surface shows promise as a potential solution. But it could be years before we know whether it's feasible to use on such an epic scale given how much Cheatgrass has already spread across the sagebrush steppe.

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INVASIVE CHEATGRASS has taken over more than 50 million acres of desert across the American West.

Commentary

No good for taxpayers – Biden administration likely to tout more taxpayer-funded broadband

BY JOHNNY KAMPIS
THE CENTER SQUARE

President-elect Joe Biden's broadband plan indicates he will push for more government-owned (taxpayer-funded) internet networks, which would be bad news for taxpayers.

Biden's agenda on his website talks in detail about his broadband goals. That includes expanding broadband to every American, which could include wireless broadband through the deployment of 5G.

The most alarming part of the plan: Biden says he will task the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) "to support cities and towns that want to build municipally-owned broadband networks." This means that taxpayers will be on the hook for these systems.

A Democratic task force put together by Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) wants to empower the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to largely undo much of what was accomplished by Chairman Ajit Pai under the Trump administration, includ-

ing reversing the agency's stance on government broadband.

"Democrats will take action to prevent states from blocking municipalities and rural co-ops from building publicly-owned broadband networks, and increase federal support for municipal broadband," the recommendations released by that task force this summer state.

But the list of such projects that were tried and failed are quite long. The Taxpayers Protection Alliance highlighted many of them in its report "GON with the Wind: The Failed Promise of Government Owned Networks Across America." More follies are noted on TPA's "Broadband Boondoggles."

Jeffrey Westling, a fellow in innovation and technology policy at R Street Institute, told TPA that government can help usher in infrastructure growth in other ways, such as loosening regulations and offering incentives to private providers to aid expansion to high-cost areas such as rural America. That's a better plan than promoting municipal broadband, he said.

"There's a better way of doing this that doesn't put taxpayers at risk," Westling said.

Wish list for the Biden administration

U.S. Telecom: The Broadband Association agrees with Westling. In its agenda for the next administration's first 100 days, the organization lays out its wish list for the goal of connecting every American with broadband.

This includes addressing "antiquated policies" that harm broadband deployment and discourage competition. U.S. Telecom said the administration can work to eliminate high pole attachment rates, help expedite permitting processes and lift mandates that companies must sustain outdated networks rather than devote more resources to deploying the next generation of networks.

U.S. Telecom also said Congress should fund the Broadband Data Act so the FCC can create better broadband maps to ensure taxpayer resources are better targeted toward unserved and underserved areas. The group also rejects any proposal that would treat broadband as a government utility and the potential red tape that could ensue.

"All policies should be viewed with an eye toward

removing barriers that impede getting broadband to everyone," the U.S. Telecom agenda states.

Biden has indicated his desire to significantly increase spending on broadband infrastructure – a move not unheralded, if never implemented, under President Trump – including allocating an additional \$20 billion in rural broadband infrastructure.

As for a program to specifically fund government-owned networks, a plan touted by Democratic presidential candidate Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), is not likely if the GOP keeps control of the upper chamber of Congress.

"I don't see something like that getting past a Republican Senate," Brent Skorup, senior research fellow in technology at the Mercatus Center, told TPA.

Rather than push for the growth of government internet, the FCC under the Biden administration would be better served to leave the task of infrastructure growth to the private sector and remove any regulations that would impede that goal.

Johnny Kampis is a senior fellow and investigative reporter for the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

		1			5	9		8
						1	7	6
	2				7			
	9	8			3	4		1
1			5	2				
4					8	7		
			9		2			3
				4				
3		6						4

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13			14			
15					16				17			
	18				19				20		21	
					22	23			24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30						31						
32							33	34	35	36	37	
					38	39	40		41	42		
					43				44			
	45	46	47									
48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Opposite of west
- 5. ___ Caesar, comedian
- 8. Helps little firms
- 11. A way to censor
- 13. Expresses atomic and molecular weights
- 14. Chalcedony
- 15. Type of sword
- 16. A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
- 17. Attired
- 18. A sequence of winding turns
- 20. Pal
- 21. Expresses pleasure
- 22. Amendable
- 25. Clear
- 30. A way to cut off
- 31. Indigenous Thai person
- 32. Pale brownish yellow color
- 33. Aquatic plants genus
- 38. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- 41. Merchants
- 43. Fix a chair
- 45. Throws into disorganization
- 48. Famed German composer
- 49. Keyboard key
- 50. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 55. Partner to pain
- 56. Where golfers start
- 57. Jenny ___: weight loss program
- 59. Sailing dinghy
- 60. Suffix that forms adjectives
- 61. Speeds at which music is played
- 62. Body part
- 63. Fall back
- 64. Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One point south of due east
- 2. Wings
- 3. One point south of southeast
- 4. The shirts on our backs
- 5. One who works on the seas
- 6. Select jury
- 7. Small intestines parts
- 8. Plant of the heath family
- 9. Extrasolar planet
- 10. Creates more of
- 12. Before
- 14. Forms over a cut
- 19. Runs down
- 23. Exercise regimen ___-bo
- 24. Unkeyed
- 25. Principle underlying the universe
- 26. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 27. Residue
- 28. Company that rings receipts
- 29. Rugged mountain range
- 34. Commercials
- 35. NY footballer
- 36. They ___
- 37. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 39. Poked holes in the ground
- 40. Pitchers
- 41. Your
- 42. Diana ___, singer
- 44. Important document for inventors
- 45. Bangladesh capital
- 46. Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
- 47. Famed daguerreotype photographer
- 48. Where military personnel work
- 51. Play a role
- 52. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- 53. Unstressed-stressed
- 54. Type of palm tree
- 58. Judo garments

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to jewelry.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = R)

- A. 18 2 9 2 12 22 16
Clue: Personal ornaments
- B. 17 20 22 20 15
Clue: Measure of purity of gold
- C. 19 22 13 12 12 13 20 14 6 2
Clue: Intense brightness of light
- D. 22 13 14 10
Clue: Finger jewelry

Answers: A: Jewelry B: karat C: brilliance D: ring

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to jewelry.

LISREV

--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Silver

Guess Who?

I am an animal expert and conservationist born in Australia on December 1, 2003. I first came into the limelight when I appeared on my father's reality show. I followed in my famous parents' professional footsteps and co-host a television show about animals.

Answer: Robert Irwin

JEWELRY WORD SEARCH

O	Q	I	C	R	Q	P	F	M	A	R	Q	U	I	S	E	M	Z	H	O
N	S	H	X	C	N	X	Z	C	M	Z	F	R	B	P	G	O	Z	T	M
N	A	K	Y	O	L	B	Z	T	X	G	E	Y	E	N	O	T	S	T	
E	B	U	N	L	I	C	M	F	B	A	N	C	E	M	U	H	U	B	U
C	P	H	O	L	T	G	N	K	Q	R	I	A	T	Q	T	B	E	U	D
K	C	D	B	E	A	X	M	F	Q	H	T	P	T	U	S	F	Z	Q	E
L	F	H	B	T	L	Z	N	E	Z	I	T	S	E	A	K	F	N	G	S
A	G	D	Q	D	U	G	O	K	L	N	E	Y	U	R	O	Q	O	N	I
C	E	H	U	P	C	T	Z	U	T	E	S	G	G	T	I	E	I	I	G
E	T	Q	D	A	I	S	E	M	M	S	D	H	A	Z	T	B	S	R	N
P	Z	E	B	R	T	E	U	C	X	T	F	M	B	T	R	T	U	R	U
K	S	D	O	C	R	B	T	M	R	O	Z	I	E	O	F	R	L	A	Y
S	D	A	O	G	A	L	R	I	K	N	L	L	O	Z	M	R	C	E	T
O	U	I	I	D	A	D	A	N	X	E	O	C	R	Z	R	K	N	O	H
F	D	L	U	I	N	S	D	R	D	I	H	O	P	A	L	H	I	I	Z
D	I	Z	D	X	Y	D	E	N	R	U	E	L	G	N	A	B	U	E	R
F	A	U	Z	K	R	R	M	B	B	C	R	Y	S	T	A	L	M	M	I
P	H	O	E	L	K	H	A	D	N	O	M	A	I	D	C	L	C	D	D
P	E	A	R	L	S	Z	R	K	F	Q	M	D	C	L	K	L	U	Y	C
X	M	F	F	K	A	H	K	X	D	R	F	A	C	E	T	S	X	I	P

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ARTICULATION
- BAGUETTE
- BANGLE
- BRIOLETTE
- BROOCH
- COLLET
- CRYSTAL
- DESIGN
- DIAMOND
- EARRING
- FACETS
- FILIGREE
- INCLUSION
- MARQUISE
- NECKLACE
- ONYX
- OPAL
- PEARLS
- QUARTZ
- RHINESTONE
- SETTING
- SPACER
- STONE
- TRADEMARK

Illinois State Trooper squad struck on I-80

Motorist charged with reckless driving

On Sunday, Nov. 29 at approximately 11:34 p.m., an Illinois State Police (ISP) District 05 Trooper was conducting a traffic stop on Interstate 80 westbound at Francis Road in Will County.

The Trooper was seated inside his fully marked stationary squad car with the emergency lights activated on the right shoulder of the roadway. While conducting a traffic stop on a White Honda, the Trooper's squad car and the Honda were struck.

A silver Chevrolet failed to yield to the authorized emergency vehicle and struck the driver's side of the Trooper's squad car and continued forward striking the rear end of the Honda. The driver of the Honda was transported to a local area hospital with injuries. The Trooper did not sustain any injuries.

The driver of the Chevrolet, Cheyenne T. Payton, 21-year-old female of Naperville, also did not sustain any injuries. Payton was arrested and charged with



A 21-YEAR-OLD Naperville woman was charged with reckless driving after failing to follow Scott's Law by slowing and moving into the opposite lane, and thus hitting a Illinois State Police squad car that was making a traffic stop on Interstate 80.

reckless driving and was cited well as other Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) violations. The ISP reminds the public of the requirements of

"Move Over" (Scott's) Law. When approaching a stationary emergency vehicle with emergency lights activated, or any stationary vehicle with their hazard lights activated, drivers are required to slow down, change lanes if they can do so safely, and in all cases proceed with due caution.

"It is especially important now, as winter is fast approaching, to be aware of emergency vehicles and stranded motorists on the side of the roadway. Please avoid an

unnecessary tragedy by making responsible choices when behind the wheel," stated ISP District 05 Interim Commander, Lt. David Keltner.

"Emergency personnel risk their lives daily to protect others. We would like to remind the public to obey all traffic laws, including the "Move Over" (Scott's) Law, in order to protect the lives of our Troopers, other first responders and all members of the motoring public," he concluded.

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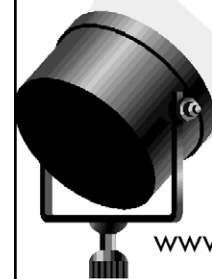
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Illinois gas prices at a stand still

Illinois gas prices are unchanged in the past week, averaging \$2.14/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations. Gas prices in Illinois are 3.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 41.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$1.78/g Monday while the most expensive is \$2.79/g, a difference of \$1.01/g.

The lowest price in the state today is

\$1.78/g while the highest is \$2.79/g, a difference of \$1.01/g. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.11/g.

The national average is unchanged from a month ago and stands 47.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"As the nation saw subdued traffic for Thanksgiving, gas prices have been mostly stable in the last week as gasoline demand plummeted to the lowest since spring as Americans stayed closer to

home," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"With oil holding near a pandemic high around \$45 per barrel, we may see additional upward pressure in the weeks ahead, but it's unlikely to be earth shattering. We're likely to remain in somewhat of a limbo until early 2021 or vaccines begin to see widespread distribution and Americans slowly start venturing back to their normal lifestyle- if they ever do."

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REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT COUNTY OF
GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLI-
NOIS US BANK NATION-
AL ASSOCIATION AS
TRUSTEE FOR AEGIS AS-
SET BACKED SECURITIES
TRUST MORTGAGE PASS
THROUGH CERTIFICATES
SERIES 2005-4; Plaintiff,
vs. DEBBIE MILLER; LAKE-
WOOD TRAILS HOME-
OWNERS ASSOCIATION;
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF REVENUE; MORTGAGE
ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION
SYSTEMS, INC UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA;
UNKNOWN SUCCESSOR
TRUSTEE OF THE JOHN C.
MILLER REVOCABLE TRUST
DATED MARCH 6, 2012; JOHN
C. MILLER REVOCABLE
TRUST DATED MARCH 6,

REAL ESTATE

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CLAIMANTS; Defendants,
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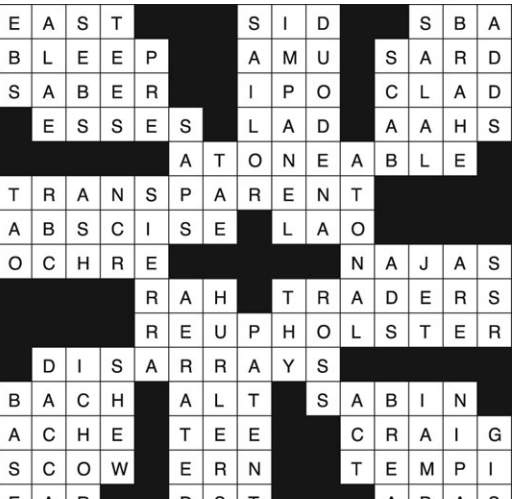
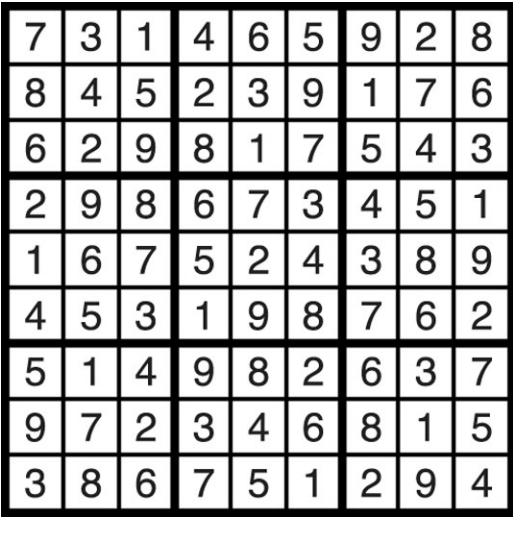
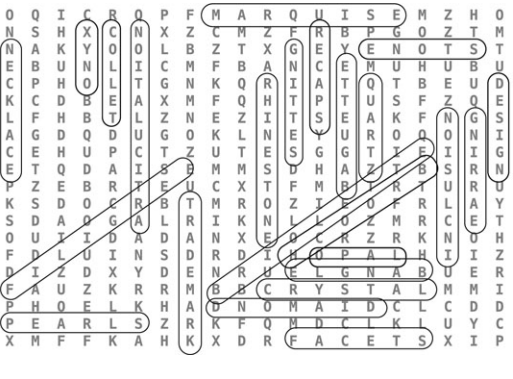
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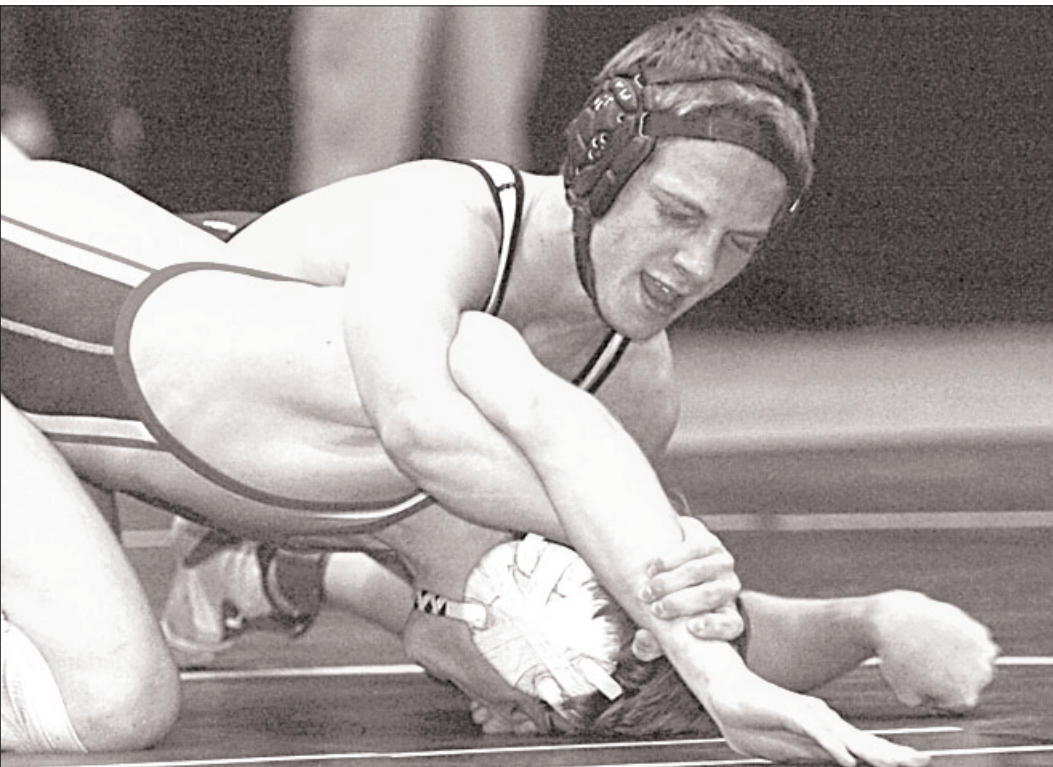
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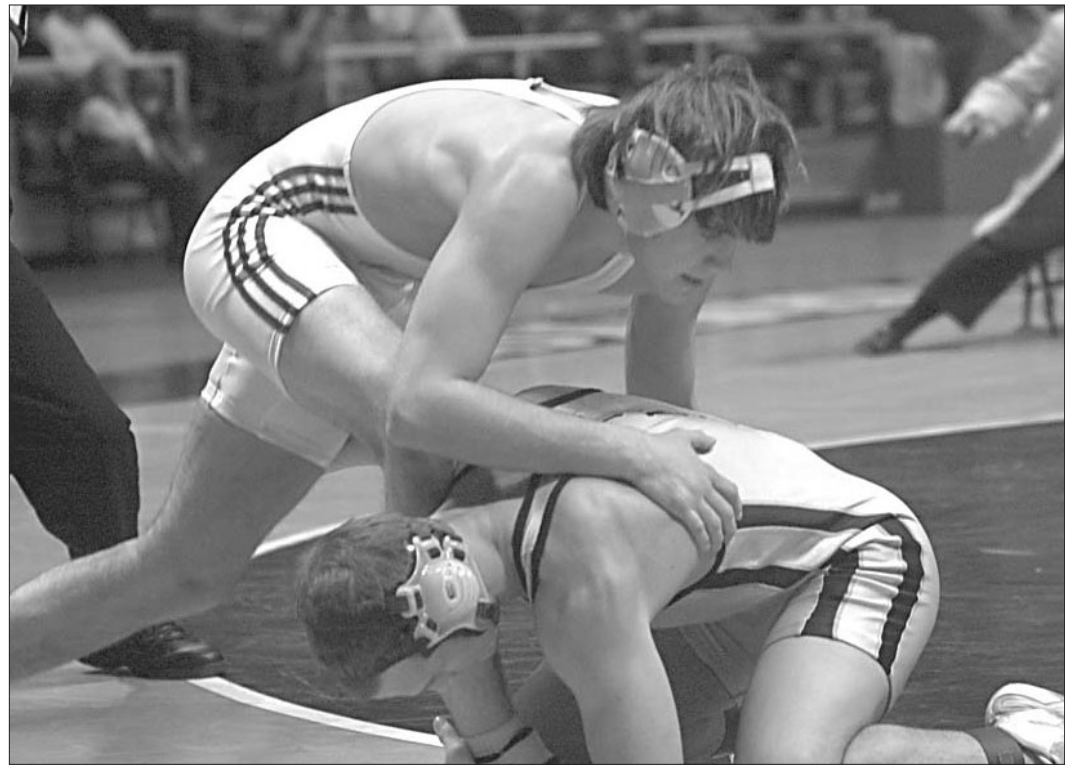


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WILDCAT SPORTS



File Photo
JOHNNY VANDUYNE was named to the Wildcat wrestling dream team. Van Duyne is the only Wilmington wrestling to place at state four years in a row.



File Photo
ROBBIE MURPHY is a lock for his dad's wrestling dream team as he won the state championship 15 years ago with a 38-1 record at 160 pounds.

Wrestling dream team

CONT. FROM PAGE 14

5-3 decision to finish 38-1.

He says his son was a very solid all-around wrestler.

"He was very good on his feet and very good on the mat," said Murphy. "He wrestled great his whole senior year and even better at State. I was very proud of his performance."

Rob hung up his wrestling tights and may have stopped wrestling but he came back to help his dad coach.

He was the first Wildcat to earn nine state medals. He also qualified for the Fargo Nationals.

Another member on the dream team would be Josh Peters, who captured another state title for the 'Cats a year later with a pin at 152 pounds to finish with a 43-3 record. He placed at state twice and in both years he was in the finals. He also was a three-time state qualifier.

Murphy notes he was simple but knew how to beat his opponents.

"Peters was a wrestler that could beat anyone at any time or place. He only had a few moves but he could execute them on anybody and they couldn't stop him. He was one of the most flexible wrestlers at Wilmington and so fun to coach."

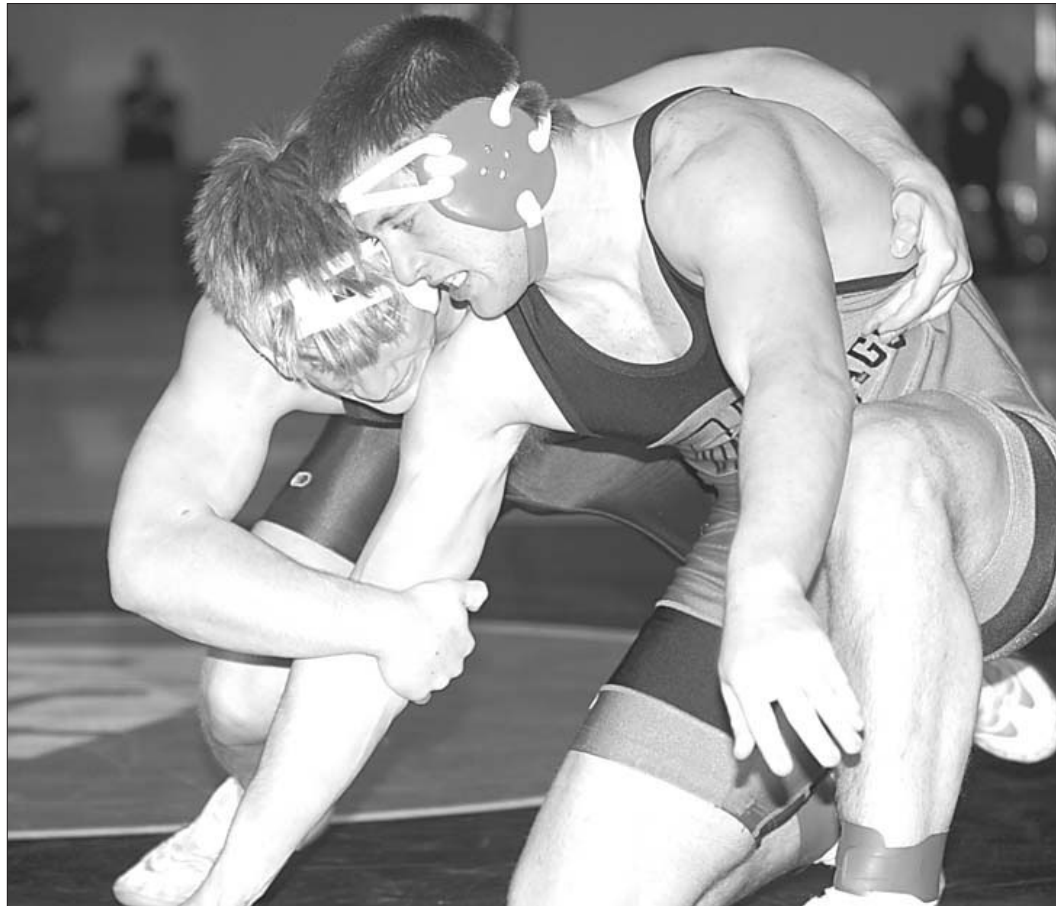
Peters helped the 'Cats capture the runner-up trophy in 2006. After that, he joined his former coach and helped out coaching as well.

Murphy's next member on the team would fill the 135 pound slot as Vince Vercelli captured another state title for the 'Cats in 2007, finishing with a 45-2 record after a 3-2 decision in the title bout.

Vince was determined and did whatever it took to win.

"He was very competitive when he wrestled. He worked very hard in the practice room and he was another one of those guys that was just so fun to coach. He helped us earn our first dual team state titles in his final two seasons."

In 2006, the 'Cats were 25-



File Photo
WILMINGTON'S TONY VERCELLI earns a spot on Murph's wrestling dream team, thanks to his state championship and perfect, 35-0 wrestling campaign in 2004.

3 and followed that was a 26-2 record to capture the title during Vince's senior year.

Tom Fritz captured another state title for the 'Cats at 171 where he had a record of 46-2, obliterating the title match with a 12-3 major decision. With that great performance at state and tremendous effort that year, Fritz became the only Wildcat to ever be named the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association Wrestler of the Year.

He was a two-time state place winner as he also earned fourth in 2007. During his time at Wilmington, he helped them to two state titles and a second place finish.

Fritz was another who came back to coach with coach Murphy and currently does.

Also winning in 2008 was Murphy's other son, Jake Murphy. Jake captured the

title at 145 with a 7-5 decision in the final. He also had a 40-6 record for the season and earned every last win especially the one leading up to the title match.

"The year he won state he beat a two-time state champion to make it to the championship match. He was very good in top, bottom and neutral positions."

Jake also wrestled on the Greco Roman dual team in Illinois that ended up finishing fourth in the nation.

Johnny Van Duyne was arguably the best wrestlers to step foot inside of the Wilmington High School matroom, capturing two championships (2008,2009), a second place (2007) and a third place trophy (2006) in his four state qualifying years. In the championship match during his senior season, Van Duyne earned a 2-0 decision to capture his second title in a row.

All the while, he helped the 'Cats to three state titles and a second place trophy.

He finished his high school career with a record of 166-8. Johnny is the only two-time state champion and four-time state placer in Wilmington history.

"He wrestled some great matches down at state."

Another wrestler to make the team was Andy Rodawold, who earned a state title in 2013 at 135 pounds after a 5-3 overtime win in the finals. Rodawold was one of the few to become a three-time state place winner and a four time qualifier as he also earned second in 2012, and third in 2011.

"Rodawold was a outstanding wrestler with a great work ethic. He was tough and wrestled tough."

Other wrestlers to make the team include: Jeremy Bailey, Alex Jones, Austin Headrick, Jack Narine, Trent Lyons, Bryan Flood, Louie Purrachio, Kyle Flood, Nick Dziuban, Steve Heino, Jeff Goodwin, Zach Skoryi, Blake Olson, Steve Liaromatis, Sean Liaromatis, Derrick Romano, Dexter Fierro, Ryan Berman, Kyle Hull, Robert Shields and Nick Pretto.

Bailey was a three-time state qualifier and a two-time state placer, earning third in 2009 and 2010.

Jones was another three-time state qualifier, earning second in 2009 and 2010.

Headrick earned sixth in 2014 and fifth in 2015.

Narine earned fifth in 2018 and sixth in 2019.

Lyons, who wrestled for the 'Cats his senior year, was a three-time state finalist, earning second in 2012, 2011 and first in 2010.

Bryan Flood was Murphy's first state qualifier in 1997 and came back to earn fourth in 1998.

Purrachio placed fourth in 2002. Kyle Flood was a run-

ner-up in 2002 while Dziuban earned third in 2006. Heino placed second while Goodwin placed third in 2008. Skoryi placed fourth while Blake Olson and Steve Liaromatis also placed third during the 2011 season.

Sean Liaromatis earned third in 2013 while Romano and Fierro also placed third that season.

Ryan Berman and Hull placed sixth in 2015. Shields and Pretto also place four and sixth, respectively.

"All of these guys are qualified enough to be on any dream team."

The WHS wrestlers have all been a part of their success including their 15 individual state championships and 56 state wrestling medals but more importantly, the team hardware.

•IHSA Dual team state champions: 2007,08,09

•IHSA Dual team runner ups: 2006, 17

•IHSA Dual team 4th place: 2010

•IHSA Dual team state qualifiers: 2002, 06,07,08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 17

•IHSA Individual State finishes: 1979-9th, 1977-5th

•IHSA Dual team sectional champs: 2002, 06,07,08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 17

•IHSA Regional champs: 1974, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 2002, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09,10, 11, 12,17.

•Conference champions: 1982, 2005, 06, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 13,15,16.

"From 2006-2009, this wrestling squad only had one loss to a Class A opponent and that loss happened during the 2006 state championship match.

Murphy assures the Free Press Advocate that this team is rock solid and would beat any team thrown at them.

Attorney Naughton files Jendrzejak 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
EUGENE A. JENDRZEJAK, Deceased;
No. 20 P 842

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Eugene A. Jendrzejak. Letters of Office were issued to Cora C. Stachyra, 15929 S. Lorel, Oak Forrest, IL 60452, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Michael R. Naughton, P.O. Box 10, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative of the estate, or both, on or before the 18th day of May, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 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.

Michael R. Naughton #06180774
P.O. Box 10
Manhattan, Illinois 60442
815-478-3933

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 18, 25 and Dec. 2, 2020.

Attorney Naughton files McGinnis 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
TERRY MAE MCGINNIS, Deceased; No.
20 P 864

CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given to creditors of the death of Terry Mae McGinnis of 430 S. Eastern Ave., Manhattan, Will County, Illinois. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on November 12, 2020 to David L. McGinnis, Jr., of 1249 Cardinal Dr., Bradley, IL 60915 as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Michael R. Naughton, P.O. Box 10, Manhattan, Illinois 60442.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, or with the representative of the estate, or both, on or before the 25th day of May, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, 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.

Michael R. Naughton ARDC#06180774
P.O. Box 10
Manhattan, Illinois 60442
815-478-3933

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 25, Dec. 2, and Dec. 9, 2020.

Illinois Department of Transportation



The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) invites you to learn more about and comment on the alternatives considered to improve the interchanges of Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois Route 129 (IL 129) in Will County. Instead of hosting a regular public meeting, IDOT will share details on the project and encourage public participation until December 14 through a new interactive website.

The website is available now through December 14, 2020 and can be accessed at:

I55LorenzoIL129Outreach.org

Purpose of the site is:

- To present and discuss the alternatives carried forward
- To obtain public input on the alternatives carried forward and potential impacts

At the new interactive website, the public can watch a video about the project, view exhibits, and leave comments. In addition to the website, IDOT's outreach efforts will include a newsletter mailed to impacted residents and the opportunity to ask questions to IDOT staff over the phone by calling (847) 705-4569. Comments received by December 14, 2020 will become part of the official public outreach record.

Individuals without internet access may contact Anna Kutryn, P.E., Project Manager, at (847) 705-4569 for more information about the project.

All written correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
Bureau of Programming
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Email: LorenzoIL129Study@gmail.com
Project website: I55LorenzoIL129Outreach.org

The conducted outreach will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact the Project Manager as noted above. Persons who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681. It may take at least five (5) days to provide accommodations.



STATE DUAL CHAMPIONS - Wilmington's wrestling squad made school history 13 years ago in DeKalb, capturing first place in the IHSA's Dual Team State Tournament. The Wildcats edged Vandalia, 30-29 to win the title. Squad members include (from left, kneeling) Bryan Evans, Ryan Nash, Marcus Dunkin, Alex Jansen, Nick Dziuban, Matt Lyday, Matt Combes, Mike Busby, Vince Vercelli, John VanDuyne, Zack Boyle, Steve Heino and Alex Jones. Second row: Justin Gruca, Kyle Aderman, Kyle Cragg, Jeff Goodwin, Garth Cartwright and Alfonso Dingillo. Back row: assistant coach Josh Peters, trainer Brice Davis, assistant coach Mark Shell, Tom Fritz, assistant coach Eddie VanDuyne, head coach Rob Murphy, assistant coach Robbie Murphy and Jake Murphy.

File Photo

State qualifiers, placers lead Murph's wrestling dream team

Y SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

When your history includes dozens of state placers and six state titles, it simplifies things when naming a Wilmington High School wrestling dream team.

Wilmington wrestling coach Rob Murphy, who has led the 'Cats to three state titles, two seconds and a fourth place state trophy, had a timeline ready to help him choose who he'd pick.

This is what he came up with:

He presented his 'dream team' as by the best overall wrestlers rather than by weight class.

The first four

From 1968-1995 under the late, great Howard Becker, there had been four state champions

The first of was Chris Nugent, who won his individual state title in 1977 with a 7-2 decision at 167. Nugent finished with a 34-5 record that season.

Murphy noted Nugent went on to wrestle at Olivet Nazarene University, who no longer carries a wrestling program.

The next member of his dream team would be 105 pound state champion Steve Marshall, who won it with a 38-3 record by way of a 7-6 decision in 1978. He became the first Wilmington wrestler to be a three-time state place winner.

He placed second in 1977 and 79. On top of that, Marshall qualified for state in four consecutive seasons. He also spent some time back at WHS to help his former coach.

The next wrestler to make the dream team would be Dave Gretz, who won state at 145 in 1986, finishing with a 36-1 record that year. He also

placed fourth the year before, becoming their third multiple year state placer.

Murphy liked the way Gretz fought for everything he got.

"He was one of the most physical wrestlers I have ever seen," said Murphy.

After Gretz, Murphy went with Stormy Tidmore, who created a storm in 1990, winning the title bout at 130 with a 4-1 decision. Murphy said Tidmore was all business and locked in.

"I watched Tidmore wrestle several different times that year and including at state where he was on a mission."

Not too far behind Tidmore on the team would be Dave Marshall. Dave placed at state twice, earning second in 1980 at 105 and third in 1981 as he became the second wrestler to do so.

First of many

Wilmington saw their first state place qualifier in 1968 when Walt Stanckiewicz made it to state at 138 with a 25-2-2 record.

Gene Sims was the first place winner as he placed fifth at state that same year with a 28-4-2 record at 154 pounds. They both would get spots on the team.

Honorable mention for the early years include: Mark Shell, Bob Burke, Stormy Granzig, Wally Jones, Randy Cooper and Marty Enz.

Shell qualified for state in 1974 at 119 pounds with a 22-4 record. Burke earned fourth at 145 in 1975 with a 21-11 record. Granzig placed third at 138 in 1977 with a 35-4 record. Jones earned fourth in 1979 with a 22-14 record at 105. Cooper earned fourth at state at 105 in 1982 with a 31-9 record. Enz also earned fourth in 1994 with 35-8 record.

25 years of dominance
Murphy started coaching

the year after Enz's fourth place trophy.

It didn't take him long after that to find his next dream team member Brett Lockwood, who became Murphy's first champion.

Lockwood was 40-1 as a senior at 135 and won in a 7-6 decision so he ground it out. Murphy notes he was dangerous in whichever position he was in.

"Lockwood was very tough on his feet and very tough on top. He became an All-American at the folkstyle summer Nationals in Virginia Beach."

The next year there arose the next state champion and the first to be slotted at 215 pounds on the dream team.

Tony Vercelli was a beast in 2004, capturing the state championship with a 2-1 decision to cap off a perfect 35-0 season. He was the first ever undefeated wrestler in Wilmington history. He placed three times at state including third in 2005 and fourth in 2003.

Murphy notes Tony was always good under the lime-light.

"Vercelli was one of the best in the big match always winning the tough ones."

He also became the first Wildcat to collect eight All-State certificates, earning two in football and three in basketball as well as another three in wrestling.

Vercelli became an All-American in Freestyle Wrestling at Fargo, North Dakota.

Murphy's son, Rob was the next champion and the next wrestler he'd place on his dream team.

Rob captured the title in 2005 at 160 pounds by way of a SEE WRESTLING DREAM TEAM, PAGE 13



The 38th Annual Operation
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Grundy Bank is honored to assist Operation St. Nick again this year by displaying some key Auction items in our Liberty St. window. We will also be distributing Auction brochures at both of our Drive-Up facilities, plus the brochure and photos of the beautiful decorated baskets will be available on our website.

Making Dreams Come True!

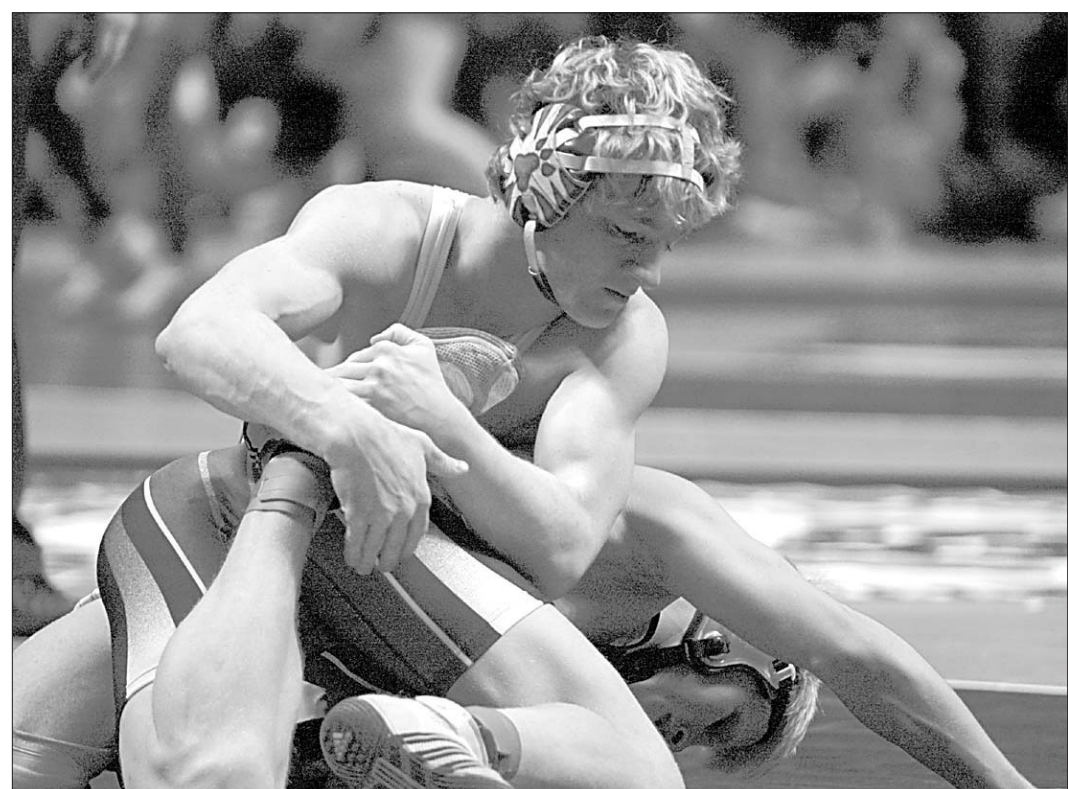
Member
FDIC



• 201 Liberty St. Morris

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File Photo

FORMER WILDCAT STATE CHAMPION Josh Peters was picked to be on Murph's wrestling dream team, filling the 152 weight class. He won the state title 14 years ago in 2006 when he had a record of 43-3.